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**Skamania County Historical Society and Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum**

Explorations

***Message from the President...***

Over the years volunteers have been at the heart of the Skamania County Historical Society and Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center. Helping make events like the car show and auction a success. Museum fans with a love of history and community would volunteer their time to catalog, and research local history, preserving it for generations to come.

*Once again, we would like to reach out to those of you that have a love for Skamania County and History to **VOLUNTEER!** Would you like to have a share in the preservation of the past? Are you free to help out at a function, or as a museum guide? Are you a young person looking for experience?*

If so please contact the Musuem and pick up a volunteer application at the front desk.

-Sincerely, Mark McCormick

***“The Next One”******A Retrospect Art Show featuring Marilyn Bolles***

Stop by CGICM throughout the months of April and May to see a lifetime in color by renowned local artist Marilyn Bolles. Marilyn is graciously kicking off the temporary gallery display for 2022 as it features local artists and photographers from the Columbia River Gorge. Join the museum for an evening of hors d'oeuvres and art as we get to visit personally with Marilyn and enjoy a collection of her work throughout the years.

OPEN HOUSE***“Meet the Artist Signing Event”***

Friday, April 8th, 6-8 pm

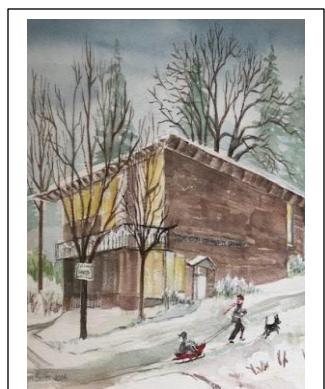
Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum

*Framed Art, Raw Paintings, and Posters
will be available for purchase and signature*



Marilyn has been an amazing part of the Gorge Community for over 30 years! Opening her first “River House Art Gallery” in Stevenson, WA in 1991 near the waterfront. Marilyn has spent the majority of her life not only as an artist, but also as an art teacher. She has taught Art in Germany, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Pennsylvania, and locally taught at the Skamania School for 30 years! Marilyn is still offering private lessons at the incredible age of 86 years old.

Best known for her use of color and light with watercolors, Marilyn’s art has been featured at Art Shows locally, as well as at Maryhill Museum, on The Fruit Co’s gift boxes sold at Costco and featured in Oprah’s O magazine, as well as in homes across the world. When asked about her personal favorite piece, Marilyn bashfully said, “The next one!” Why? “It is always going to be the best, the next one—that’s it!” So in honor of “The Next One,” stop by CGICM and enjoy a small glimpse into the life and work of Marilyn Bolles.



Marilyn’s work reflects the “plein-air” style, as seen above with the winter scene painting featuring Stevenson Community Library.

Message from CASS

Welcome Wally to CGICM

Community Art Studio of Skamania (CASS) sees everyone as an artist! CASS will use mostly recycled, repurposed and donated supplies and offer free art supplies to everyone, regardless of ability, socioeconomic background, age, and culture.

CASS and Wally the Mobile Art Van will:

- Provide FREE art material, experiences and inspiration
- Schedule regular visits to local schools and businesses, or stops in local neighborhoods for people to pick up art supplies, craft kits, or to borrow supplies from our lending library
- Partner/Collaborate with your program, school or nonprofit and set up tables with free art/craft activities for a “Pop Up” Community Art Studio event
- Provide Fee-for-service Art Workshops or Parties to your business, family, or community event to raise money for CASS programming

CASS is fiscally sponsored by Shunpike. Shunpike is the 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that provides independent arts groups in Washington State with the services, resources, and opportunities they need to forge their own paths to sustainable success.



Pic: 2016 Joseph and Chantel Espinosa Wedding, picture thanks to Northwest Hearts Photography.

WEDDING TIME IS HERE...

Have an upcoming wedding or rehearsal dinner? Come and tour CGICM's award winning facility! Help make your special event an unique and memorable occasion.

The museum is also a great location for Wedding, Graduation, and Family Photos.

A favorite photography location: the outside train exhibit and the viewpoint overlooking Rock Cove Pond to the east.

To schedule a venue rental please call 509-427-8211 for availability and pricing, and any questions. You can also write CGICM at info@columbiagorge.org for more information.

VISITOR'S CORNER

"We found BigFoot- Amazing Experience, I love this Museum."

-Manuel Macias, San Diego CA

"Best Museum around, EVER"

-John & Janet, PDX

"Great to see my Great, Great, Grandparents in the Photographs- Nix Family."

-Scott & Victoria Fultz, Gresham OR

January-March 2022 Visitor Count: 2117



(Wally Pictured above with Kim Puckett)

See our website/Facebook Page for current schedules:
www.communityartstudioofstevenson.org.

Our first test run on March 5th at CGICM was a success! Please join us again on **Saturday April 2nd, 12-2 PM at the Interpretive Center** in Stevenson. It is our goal to be present every first SATURDAY, from 12-2 PM at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center for the convenience of our community.

Looking forward to creating with you!

-Kim Puckett and the CASS Team

Picture: Camas Couple Excited to find BigFoot! As they enjoy the museum for the first time without it being a fieldtrip!



BIGFOOT

New Family Member Joins CGIC...



GIFFORD P. TWIGS!! After 2 long months of waiting, the Museum's new mascot has officially been named. Thanks to over 300 participants on Facebook and Instagram a list of possible names was collected and voted upon! Out of the 38 names submitted, the top 5 choices became: Twigs, Bartholomew/Bart, Gifford, Roy Bob (after Roy Craft of the Pioneer who reported on many Bigfoot Sightings and Bob Leick, attorney credited for Skamania's Bigfoot Law), and Frederick Foot. At the end of the day, Gifford and Twigs quickly became the popular favorites, and too perfect to not combine!

Winners and gift recipients of the “Name BigFoot Competition” were local residents: 5 year old, R. Dawson of Stevenson (Twigs admission/pictured above) and 8 year old, Rylan of Carson (Gifford P. submission /pictured right) CONGRATULATIONS!!!



CGICM would like to thank all involved for participating! Don't forget to visit and learn more about Skamania's local history with BigFoot, as well as find our “shy” Gifford P. Twigs that is hiding somewhere in the Museum. (He tends to move around the first of each month.) Feel free to take a selfie if you find him:
#FoundGiffordP.Twigs.

“Restroom Club” Remembered...

No, we are not referring to a club centered around a sink and a porcelain toilet! The 1920’s heralded “Rest Rooms” a place to sit down and relax (rest) after a long day of shopping, or a place to “check out a book” and read while you waited for your bus.



Photo: Margaret Kepner Pratt, taken in 1920 when she lived in Stevenson, WA

(Donated by Grandson, Jim Kepner)

Thanks to a phone call and a beautiful donation from James T. Kepner on behalf of his grandmother, Margaret Pratt, CGICM was spurred into action. Digging through files, phone calls, and thankfully well recorded history from Merna Debolt brought the Museum Staff to a fun piece of Stevenson’s past. Not just the existence of a “Rest Room Club,” but apparently the beginning of Stevenson’s first library.

In 1921, Margaret Pratt, Hattie Mokler, and Mrs. John Pamer were part of the Stevenson Women’s “Rest Room Club.” No, not a bathroom, but a place to “rest” your tired feet and read, perhaps after a shopping trip or to get out of the elements. This strong group of women were on their way to bringing Stevenson its first official library!

Q: What does Rosary’s and Poetry have in common at CGICM?
A: Don Brown

Any who have visited CGICM are very familiar with the Rosary Collection donated by local North Bonneville resident Don Brown in 1973, with almost 4,000 rosaries, it is the largest collection in the world. Don Brown also was influential with the forming of the first Skamania Historical Society in 1926 and again in its reorganization in 1959. Thanks to the recent donation from the Kepner/Pratt family it was discovered that Don Brown illustrated a book of poetry called “Skamaniakh” written by ancestor Margaret Pratt and published in December 1926. Margaret’s daughter Eda Pratt Cooper wrote, “Don would come up from Moffets...to type, edit, and organize my mother’s poems for publication.”

First, the women secured the Stevenson Garage (where Napa Auto sits today), as a location for their “restroom” at no cost! Open 2 hours a day on Wednesday and Saturday, Miss Eva Lundy would act as temporary librarian at \$1 a week. Margaret wrote to the Washington State Library and requested “them to hurry with a promised shipment of 150 books.”

It was not until 1932 that the industrious woman of Stevenson would start the process to raise money and build an official library. Built by Hans Skaalheim in the 1930’s for \$485 dollars! (Seen below with its first librarian Grace Jones.)



Pic: Grace Jones first official librarian of Stevenson, retired 1967.



Pic: Judith Morrison, in front of Original Library, today Farmers Insurance.

The library would even include a children’s room in the basement. “I would have older clients who remembered coming in as children, they would often tell stories of how they would warm up next to the fireplace when it was a library.” Stated Judith Morrison of Farmer’s Insurance, and current owner of the old library building at 25 SW Russell Ave.

As time went by, the Library moved and the original building became a switch board operated phone company, and eventually was even used as Stevenson City Hall. Judith purchased it from the county in 2007, “Many do not know this, but I walked by it everyday, and when I heard it was up for auction...I just had to have it, it was like the building picked me.” recalls Judith. “I even named the building Celeste, before I had any idea about it being built due to a Women’s Club.”

To be sure the Stevenson Women’s “Restroom Club” would be happy to see its preservation through the hard work of business women like Judith Morrison, and no doubt smile at Judith’s naming the building “Celeste.”

Margaret Kepner Pratt was not just an active part of the driving force that turned the dream of a Women’s “Restroom Club” into the first Library in Stevenson, but she was also a beloved member of the first Skamania County Historical Society. Margaret’s love of history, poetry and Skamania was beautifully recorded in her published poetry book “Skamaniakh” (see box below).

Due to health, Margaret returned to her hometown of Wheatland, PA by train, taking with her a petition signed by the “people of Stevenson” wishing her farewell, good health, and the simple closing statement: “come back to us.” Sadly, Margaret passed away in 1929, never to return to Skamania. Thanks to the donation from her family of her poems and letters, Margaret will forever be remembered for her literary impact on Skamania County thanks to a little, but mighty group called the “Restroom Club.”



27th Anniversary Museum Celebration...

The Skamania County Historical Society and Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum welcome you to the annual Anniversary Celebration Saturday, May 21st 11-3:00 PM! Invite your friends and family to join this FREE DAY full of activities for all ages. You can also join in for the annual General Membership Meeting, including the voting in of new Board Members. Enjoy the following activities...

Hamburgers/Hotdogs and Our Famous
Strawberry Shortcake

JOIN THE ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING
in DeGroote Theatre 1:15-2:15

Antique Equipment Club of Vancouver
Demonstrations

Arts and Crafts with Wally the Mobile Art Van
and Community Art Studio of Skamania!

Wool Weaving with locals:
Mary Davis and Barbra Robinson

Lots of fun for the whole family! Including a double feature of locally filmed "Charlie The Lonesome Cougar." Stop by and see part of the original Broughton Lumber Mill Flume as featured in Charlie's exciting ride!

Columbia Basin Basketry Guild Demonstrations

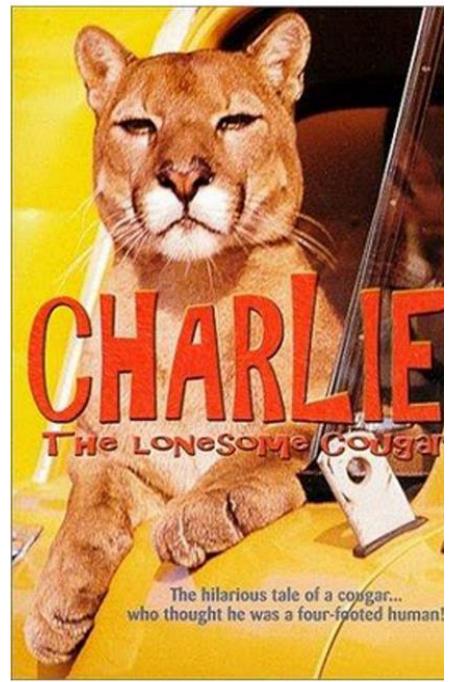
Make Old Fashioned Apple Cider

FREE CAKE AND POPCORN

AND

BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR
BIGFOOT...rumor is he is making an
appearance!

Featured Artist:
Marilyn Bolles



FREE MOVIE MAY 21st
CHARLIE THE LONESOME COUGAR
(Limited Seating so come early!)
SHOW TIMES: 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM



CGICM & SCHS
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Stevenson, WA 98648

Phone: 509-427-8211
www.columbiagorge.org
www.facebook.com/shewatches

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Forever!

*Explorations is sponsored in part by
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