WHAT IS THAT?

Continuing with efforts to provide new and varying exhibits, the staff of the Heritage Museum is excited to present A Cabinet of Wonders: Thingamajigs, Whatchamacallits, & Whozaphats.

This temporary exhibit is modeled after the concept of the traditional “Wonderr kammern” or wonder-rooms that were popular among the aristocracies and the wealthy of Europe during the late 16th century. These precursors to the modern museum were private collections of separate types of objects which would today be categorized as belonging to natural history (sometimes faked, i.e. Jake the Alligator Man), geology, ethnography, archaeology, religious or historical relics, works of art, and antiquities.

One of the most famous private collections of objects and oddities belonged to Elias Ashmole (1617–1692). In 1692, his entire collection became the first public museum in Britain, Oxford University’s Ashmolean Museum.

Another inspiration for the exhibit is the large number of patented inventions having originated from within Clatsop County. All manner of devices and processes from tin can design, manufacturing, and labeling to amusing medical devices of a sexual nature, to modern aircraft support equipment are among some 250 original patents. A selection of these patent drawings and descriptions have been enlarged for and included throughout the exhibit. Also on display is one of Lektro's first electric golf carts.

The exhibition displays objects retrieved from all areas of the Museum's collections of natural and man-made items. Through the use of “hint” cards, visitors are challenged to identify the various objects and to determine their purpose.

The show has been made possible by a generous contribution from Lektro, a company with a history of creating innovative products and ideas in Clatsop County.

The exhibit will be in the Parker Gallery until June 1st.

Gearhart Homes Tour on the Horizon

Saturday, April 21 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Trails End Art Center & Gallery, 656 A Street, Gearhart
CCHS Members: $8 • Non-Members: $10

If history repeats itself, as it sometimes does, this will be another exciting opportunity to learn more about the history of Gearhart through the stories told by it’s earliest homes and their builders.
**Musings. . .**

The City of Astoria has asked the Clatsop County Historical Society to take the lead in orchestrating and planning the 200th anniversary of Astoria. In 1811, John Jacob Astor sent parties by land and by sea to create the first permanent U.S. settlement west of the Rocky Mountains. It was a race against other nations and other companies, one fraught with danger and risk. Astor never visited his little outpost at the mouth of the Columbia River, yet his dream helped solidify the American claim to spread out from one coast to the other.

And so, we are approaching two hundred years since the Tonquin sailed out of New York City harbor and a group of men (and a special lady) headed west from St. Louis to carve a home out of the heavily forested river bank. Unlike the Lewis & Clark expedition, sight-seers really, this group intended to stay for a while. What would they think of the Astoria of today? Would any of them have dreamed we would be celebrating their accomplishment two hundred years later? And just how should we celebrate anyway?

The story of the Astor Party is an exciting one that the Clatsop County Historical Society will strive to tell in the next few years in our Heritage Museum. But how else, and what else, shall we, as a community, celebrate? Over two hundred years of success, failure, tragedy, milestones, innovation, courage, compassion, fellowship, disagreement, coming together, fighting, hating, reacting, foresight, and building, . . building a community, weaving the tapestry that is the history of Astoria. Help us to decide what that tapestry is, what it means to be an Astorian. One friend I posed that question to responded that we are “a community of ordinary people in an extraordinary place.”

I have begun to speak to various groups about the history of the Astor Party and the upcoming Bicentennial. If you are a member of a group and would like to have me come and talk, please give me a call. If you have ideas of what the celebration should entail, send me a note. Even better, if you or your group want to be involved, contact us. A steering committee has already met once to begin the process, but it is a long journey ahead, after all, we’ve got two hundred years to think about…

...McAndrew Burns
Executive Director

**Collections Corner**

**What do you collect?**

Having completed the new exhibit—*A Cabinet of Wonders: Thingamajigs, Whatchamacallits, & Whozaphats*—the curatorial staff is preparing for the next temporary exhibit and is in need of our members help.

The next show is designed to highlight personal collections. We want to showcase the variety of items collected by our members such as stamps, coins, artwork, toys, memorabilia, or other objects of an unusual nature.

We’re hopeful that you will be willing to lend us your collection to share with the public. Please contact Lisa Studts at 503-338-4849 and let her know about your collection.

**Elk and Deer Furs Needed**

If you are an elk or deer hunter or know of someone who is, the Clatsop County Historical Society needs a few elk and deer hides and/or furs to go into our new Native American exhibit. These furs will be used as part of a hands-on activity area in this new display. Please call Lisa Studts at 338-4849.

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**One of the earliest electric golf carts developed by Lektro is on display in the Cabinet of Wonders: Thingamajigs, Whatchamacallits, & Whozaphats exhibit.**
Concerts in the Flavel House Museum

Club Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Thurs., Fri., & Sat., May 3, 4 & 5 7:00 p.m.
Flavel House Museum, 441 8th St., Astoria
Admission: $15 proceeds donated to the Astoria Music Scholarship Fund

In 1907 a small group of local women began to meet in each other’s homes one Friday afternoon a month for an hour of vocal and instrumental performance and discussion. Later, the group formally became known as the Friday Musical Club.

In May the current club members will celebrate the 100th anniversary by offering a lecture about the history of the club on Thursday evening followed by concerts Friday and Saturday evenings in the music room of the Flavel House Museum.

Refreshments will be served during each evening.

Workshops Offered

Researching Your Family’s History

Saturday, May 19 9:00 a.m.—Noon
Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange St., Astoria
Members: $5 • Non-Members: $15

Archivist Liisa Penner will lead a three-hour workshop on the basics of family history research, covering the forms used and genealogy programs, resources such as state and federal census, land and naturalization records, military and pension records, birth and marriage. Helen Gaston, volunteer with the Clatsop County Genealogical Society, will be on hand to discuss the Genealogical Society’s library now housed at the Heritage Museum. Help will be offered to those trying to break through “brick walls.”

Space is limited to 15 people, please call 503-338-4849 to reserve your seat.

In Honor of Mary Lovell’s 85th Birthday

Warren and June Lovell
Jean Anderson
Lloyd Billings and Gay Markham
Ben James Bjork
Linda Schatzel
Henry M. Boyd
Buddy Hoell
Roy E. Boyle
Shirley Tinner
Brian A. Browning
Buddy Hoell
Helene Carlson
Wallace B. Carlson
Margery Warila
Mabel Herold
Andrew D. Carlson
Susan Elfving
Shirley Mustonen
Eleanor Forrester
Rae Goforth
Bruce and Kristina Berney

Memorials

Robert and Mary Lovell
Joe Rubens and Family
Michael W. Foster
Aneta Englund
William and Barbara Hutchison, Jr.
Donald and Molly Zissler
Mary Ellen Doshas
David and Anne Myers
Shirley F. Burns
Marvin E. Irby
Don and Ruth Teppola
James and Ruth Hope
Florence Jackson
Margery Moss
Philip and Nettie Blair
Dale Johnson
Buddy Hoell
Harold A. Johnson
Bart Oja and Family
Gus Karakalos
Buddy Hoell
Ernest E. “Ernie” Larson
Philip and Nettie Blair

The care and preservation of your heirloom textiles.

Saturday, June 16 9:00 a.m.—Noon
Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange St., Astoria
Members: $5 • Non-Members: $15

Curator Lisa Studts will be sharing how to care for your heirloom textiles during this three hour workshop. She will instruct you in the latest methods of care and conservation for historic textiles and how to accomplish this task with easily found materials.

Space is limited to 15 people, please call 503-338-4849 to reserve your seat.

Jon R. Levy
Carol B. Moore
Robert and Mary Lovell
Joe D. Miller
Rod Leland
Duffy E. Morgan
Shirley Tinner
Arthur Chan
Anita M. Holdridge
Lower Columbia Retired Officers Assoc.
Bob and Ruth Parnell
Blaine and Helen Mack
George and Jean Harrison
Eleanor Leppinen
Naomi M. North
Bart Oja and Family
Phyllis D. Reuter
Charlotte Fearey
Doris Shepard
Waverlie Warila
Albert C. “Al” Simonsen
Philip and Nettie Blair

Thank You!

New Permanent Exhibit Coming Soon…

Legacy of the Cedar People
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<th>April</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Remember When?: Old Timers Talk — 1954 Landslide in Astoria</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Gearhart Historic Homes Tour</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Trails End Art Gallery 656 A Street, Gearhart</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Friday Musical Club Anniversary — History of club</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Flavel House Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Friday Musical Club Anniversary — Concert</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Flavel House Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Friday Musical Club Anniversary — Concert</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Flavel House Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12(Sat.)</td>
<td>(The Day Before) Mother’s Day Tea and Scones</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Flavel House Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Workshop: Researching Your Family’s History</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Museum</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Heritage Museum</td>
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<th>Exhibits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1—June 1</td>
<td>A Cabinet of Wonders: Thingamajigs, Whatchamacallits &amp; Whozaphats</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Heritage Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15—Nov. 17</td>
<td>Members’ Collection Showcase</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Heritage Museum</td>
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