

HISTORY MATTERS

Baskets, Beads, Blankets, and... Banks?

New Temporary Exhibit Now Open at Heritage Museum

Native Treasures: The Legacy Collection of Robert M. Drucker

Baskets, beads, blankets, and banks may sound like an odd combination, but these items, along with artifacts from significant archaeological dig sites in Seaside, Oregon come together to demonstrate one man's passion for collecting. *Native Treasures: The Legacy Collection of Robert M. Drucker* is the newest temporary exhibit at the Heritage Museum and is open for viewing until October 31, 2012.

Among the extensive collection, which consists of more than 1,700 pieces, are the bone and stone tools Mr. Drucker unearthed during his archaeological work at dig sites in Seaside.

Mr. Drucker began excavating the Par-Tee site (named due to its location next to a Seaside golf course) in the mid-1960s with the assistance of the Oregon Archaeological Society. During these early years a collections assistant at the Smithsonian, George Phebus, took notice of Drucker's efforts. Realizing the archaeological significance of the site, he convinced Drucker and the crew to excavate in a grid system, record provenience information for artifacts and to take some notes. More importantly, Phebus arranged for the Smithsonian to radiocarbon date the site and curate the artifacts and faunal remains that were recovered.

Phebus and Drucker worked for nearly ten years on this and two other sites in Seaside. From the Par-Tee site they recovered more than 7,000 artifacts, making it the largest of its kind on the Oregon coast; over ten times larger than the next largest assemblage. It is one of the most extensively excavated sites on the southern Northwest Coast of North America.

Radiocarbon dating results indicate the site was occupied from around 2,000 to 1,000 years ago. At some point during the site's history, portions of it were used as a burial location. The remains of a minimum of thirty-one individuals were recovered. In 2005, the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution com-

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Mr. Drucker collected baskets from diverse native cultures of western North America. From the Eskimo in northern Alaska to the Pima in southern Arizona.



Human remains uncovered at the Palmrose dig site (35CLT47), July 12, 1978.



Navajo, Makah, Pima, and Apache to name a few. The objects include ceremonial masks, clothing, rugs, pipes, jewelry, fishing tools, pottery, and more.

His other collecting efforts went in a completely different direction. He collected more than 175 vintage cast iron banks, thirty-four of which have mechanical features.

Originally made during the mid-19th century to promote saving among children, these cleverly designed banks quickly caught on and were soon sought-after collector items among children and adults alike.

Each bank performs a stunt or action. For example, a circus dog jumping through a hoop held by a clown or William Tell shooting the apple off the head of a young boy.

Many of the banks depict historical, legendary or everyday events making them desirable to a variety of collectors. Little could the young savers have predicted that their banks would some day be more valuable than the few pennies once held within.

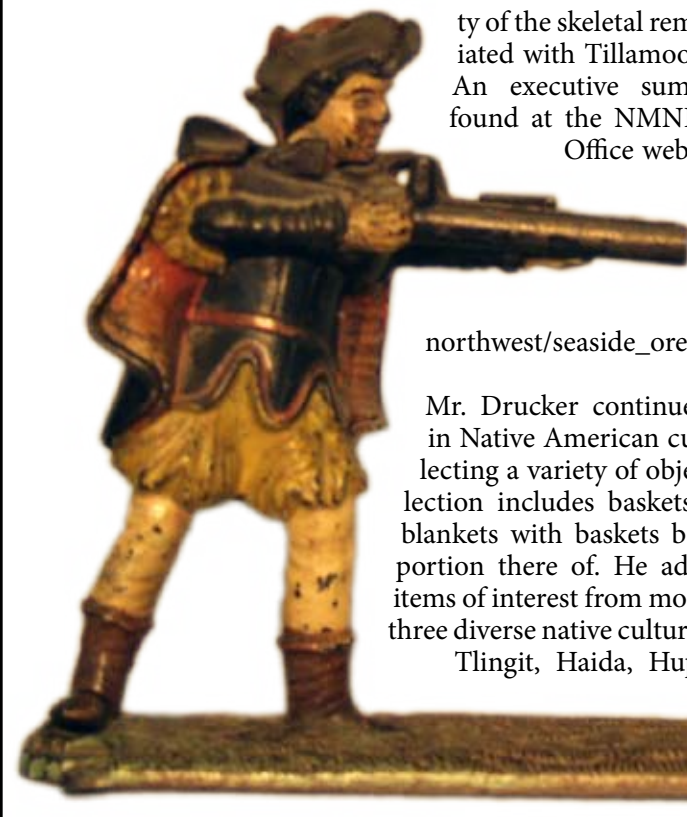
Visitors to the Heritage Museum during the exhibit can try out a few of the banks; just remember that your pennies are gratefully accepted as a donation.

pleted a cultural affiliation of human remains reassessment and found the majority of the skeletal remains to be affiliated with Tillamook descendants. An executive summary can be found at the NMNH Repatriation Office web site: http://anthropology.si.edu/repatriation/reports/regional/northwest/seaside_oregon.htm.

Mr. Drucker continued his interest in Native American culture by collecting a variety of objects. The collection includes baskets, beads, and blankets with baskets being the larger portion there of. He added additional items of interest from more than thirty-three diverse native cultures including Tlingit, Haida, Hupa, Hopi,



Another activity, primarily for the younger visitors, is the sample archaeological dig site. Participants are encouraged to uncover their own artifact and note from which location within the grid area it was found. They are allowed to keep the object as a souvenir.



Excellence Recognized

In 2005 the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery thrust Clatsop County into the national spotlight, resulting in a positive and greatly needed economic impact. In 2011 the opportunity for national attention arrived again with the bicentennial of the founding of Astoria. Granted, the founding of Astoria is significant locally, but nationally?

The Corps of Discovery had shown the way, but Astor's fur trading post gave the young Republic its first permanent settlement on the shores of the Pacific Ocean and, arguably, effected the ultimate destiny and shape of our nation. A tall claim perhaps, but it is ours and one worth celebrating.

And so we did. The Clatsop County Historical Society took the lead in planning a year-long celebration marking the significance of Astor's bold enterprise at the mouth of the Columbia River. This spring those efforts were recognized.

Noting that Astoria's Bicentennial was a "highly-organized" celebration of the culture and history of the oldest U. S. settlement west of the Rocky Mountains resulting in "record-high media coverage and an increase in visitors to the area, positively impacting the local economy" the Oregon Tourism Commission, dba Travel Oregon, presented *The Oregon Heritage Tourism Award* to the Astoria Bicentennial Committee and Celebration at the 2012 Governor's Conference on Tourism March 18-20. The award recognizes outstanding use of Oregon's cultural or natural history by an Oregon individual, organization, business, community or region, to draw visitors to the state.

At the annual Oregon Heritage Commission dinner April 27th, CCHS Executive Director Mac Burns along with Paulette McCoy, Astoria Bicentennial Committee Director, accepted an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award recognizing the Astoria Bicentennial Celebration for its year-long success marking Astoria's 200 years of history and heritage.

Also recognized with an Oregon Heritage Award for her efforts in "preserving, promoting, and disseminating the history of Clatsop County and for fostering an appreciation for local history" was CCHS Archivist Liisa Penner.

The Daily Astorian writes, "Penner is a true

pioneer and leader in her field. The legacy she has preserved will be cherished forever. The quarterly publication she edits, *Cumtux*, is as good as those published by many state historical societies."

The Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards are presented to individuals, organizations, and projects that have made outstanding contributions to preserving Oregon heritage. They are a project of Oregon Heritage, part of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, which includes the Oregon Heritage Commission.



“The legacy she has preserved will be cherished forever.”

Memorials

Jean Anderson
Lloyd Billings

Donald L. Bartlett
Buddy Hoell

Jack L. & Charlotte A. Berry Beyers
Joseph & Carol Lambert
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bakkensen

Tony Birkenfeld
Shirley P. Mustonen

Margaret H. Branham
Ronald & Charlene Larsen

Margaret "Peg" Christie
Joan H. Pierson
Michael Foster

Eugene E. "Jack" Demase
Buddy Hoell

Freda V. Englund
Buddy Hoell
Philip & Nettie Blair
Michael Foster

Bill & Martha Dahl
Gary & Suzanne Nelson
Randy & Debby Stemper

Leon Erickson
Shirley P. Mustonen

Elsie Gjovik
Shirley Tinner
Kim Supple

Robert B. "Bob" Haas
Buddy Hoell

William R. Habernicht
Violet Paulson

Mark O. Hatfield
Mary J. Lovell

Myrtle L. Hauer
Buddy Hoell

John Hickman
Ruth Hope

Anna Margaret Hill
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Joan Pierson
Russell Pommier
Wilma Mayer
Dr. & Mrs. Scott
Nicholson & Family
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Rick Campbell
Tad & Lynne Davies
Carol Seppa

Victor William Horgan
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Yvonne E. Howe
Buddy Hoell

Susan Ivanoff
Buddy Hoell

Francis Anderson Jaeger
James & Ruth Hope
Bob & Virginia Kearney
Mary J. Lovell

Pamela "Pam" Jenkins
Buddy Hoell

Ray Johansen
Shirley P. Mustonen

JoAnn Vlastelicia Johnson
Fred Larson
Shirley Tinner
Dan & Kim Supple
Ronald & Charlene Larsen

Silas "Si" Jones, Jr.
Joseph & Carol Lambert

Warren Kan
Lower Columbia
Danish Society

Florence Kelly
Ella P. Hill
Terry & Doug Arnall

Bonnie Ladd
Michael Foster

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Darrel and Gwen Radke

Rod Leland
Michael Foster

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Warren & June Lovell

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The Hauer Family
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Shirley O'Neill
Shirley Tinner

Dan & Kim Supple

Betty Jane Phillips
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Joan Howell Pierson
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Joan Pratt & Lynne Berry

Evelyn "Irene" Rodgers
Buddy Hoell

Norman O. Saarheim
Ethel L. Wilson
Ted & Pat Bugas

Patricia A. Saunders
Ocean View Cremation
& Burial Service
Anonymous

Paul DeWitt See
Michael Foster
Sali Diamond & Les Jordan

Hugh Seppa
Michael Foster

Bennett "Ben" Shaffer
Ronald L. Larsen

James. C. "Jim" Sharp
Mary J. Lovell

Ruth Ann Sides
Capt. & Mrs. John E. Sides

Barbara M. "Barb" Tenny
Buddy Hoell
Shirley Tinner

Donald Wayne Thompson
Ethel L. Wilson

Nancy Thorsness
Ken & Louise Weaver

Thank You!



Daily Astorian, July 7, 1967. Pythian Sisters at a recent flea market raised enough money to buy paint for two rooms of the Clatsop Historical Museum. Members of Knights of Pythias volunteered to do the painting. From left, on floor, Harry Serles gives professional advice to Ralph Fox and R. F. Van Winkle, on scaffold. With paint buckets is Dick Van Winkle and his brother Frank wields paint brush. Also helping were Howard Schafhauser and Syd Shaffer.

Changes at Flavel House Museum

For years the music room in the Flavel House Museum has been illuminated by a large and ornate chandelier; one which originally hung in the Astoria Savings Bank building that now serves as Astoria's City Hall.

Historical Society member John Goodenberger has written an article for the Well Preserved column in the May issue of *Coast River Business Journal* chronicling the recent renovation of the City Hall building. The following is an excerpt from the article regarding the history of the chandelier and of the return to its original home.

Astoria City Hall

The Astoria Savings Bank served the community for nearly three decades. Like so many other businesses, it imploded in the Great Depression and never recovered. Its building stood empty for another decade before the City of Astoria moved its offices there on April 1, 1939.

Why the city would move its offices from its spacious quarters, now the Heritage Museum, to a cramped bank is anyone's guess. The city struggled to reconcile its spatial requirements for 70 years...until now.

City Manager, Paul Benoit, conceived a plan to make the building more user friendly. In addition to better traffic flow, the building's historic features—rather than being incidental—are re-incorporated into the experience.

The light fixture
Fred C. Baker, a Northwest lighting designer,

created the fixture. Baker designed light fixtures for Timberline Lodge, Portland's Pittock Mansion, Hollywood Theater, and US Bank—which has fixtures nearly identical to Astoria's City Hall. He also designed lights for Astoria's Liberty Theater.

The light exited the building during a 1949 remodel and reappeared in the music room of the Capt. George Flavel Museum. It graced the space for 62 years.

Then, the Clatsop County Historical Society board recognized a need to return the light to its original location, "It was the right thing to do," said director Mac Burns. "The City was restoring the feel of the historic building and the light fixture was a key element. We're thrilled it was returned to a place of prominence."

It was disassembled, polished, reassembled and rewired to code. The light now hangs centered above the city's logo in the front lobby.

Opposite: The chandelier in the new lobby of Astoria City Hall.



Question Answered

Thanks to a generous donation and unlimited patience from longtime member and volunteer Rae Goforth, the Flavel House Museum's original kitchen now has a new copper sink and wood counter top.

The original sink had been removed long ago when the kitchen, pantry, and wood room were converted to a small apartment for a care taker and his family. Unfortunately it was discarded and no photo or description of it survived.

Over the years efforts had been made by early volunteers to locate a replacement appropriate to the period and style of the house but without acceptable results.

It was finally decided to replicate one out of copper and wood, similar to the original sink in the butler's pantry.

Thankfully, docents will no longer have to answer one of the most frequently asked question by visitors, "Where is the kitchen sink?" 🍷





Tall ships arrive in advance of the opening ceremonies, May 19, 2011. The tall ships were sponsored by the Bank of Astoria.



Chinese Lion Dancers lead the parade along the Astoria Riverwalk from the Heritage Fair to the 17th Street Plaza for the Mayor's welcome ceremony.



Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber is welcomed by Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen. The Governor then, comically, kneels before the Mayor as U. S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley enjoy the scene during the opening ceremonies May 21, 2011.

Jacqueline Astor Drexel, granddaughter of Col. John Jacob Astor IV receives, with good humor, a John Jacob Astor collector doll from the movie Titanic. Astoria Bicentennial Committee Executive Director Paulette McCoy, on right, presented the doll during a private reception at the Flavel House Museum for the Astor family and CCHS volunteers.



CCHS Board President Paul Mitchell and Edith Henningsgaard-Miller, Honorary Chairperson of the Astoria Bicentennial Committee pose with the Astor family in the music room of the Flavel House Museum. From left to right are: Charles Astor, son of Lord and Lady Astor, Jacqueline Astor Drexel, Lord John Jacob Astor VIII, 3rd Baron Astor of Hever, Lady Elizabeth Astor, 3rd Baroness Astor of Hever, Edith Henningsgaard-Miller, and Paul Mitchell. Not shown is Olivia Astor, daughter of Lord and Lady Astor.



Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen and Walldorf, Germany Bürgermeisterin Christiane Staab address attendees on board the *Portland Spirit* during the Astoria Bicentennial Mayor's Ball, August 13, 2011. The event was sponsored by Columbia Memorial Hospital.



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Making History

Native Treasures

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2012

You won't want to miss seeing *Native Treasures: The Legacy Collection of Robert M. Drucker*. (See story on front page.)



Detail view of Tlingit ceremonial dance mummy. Acc# 10.107.215