



Vista House Views



FOVH NEWSLETTER - FALL 2007

RESTORATION CONTINUED ... CROWN POINT VIADUCT PROJECT PLANNED

Restoration of the viaduct at Crown Point may be the next major project undertaken which would virtually complete the entire Vista House "complex" of historic structures. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has applied to the Federal Highway Administration for a Public Lands Highway Discretionary (PLHD) grant of \$3.5 million that would, with the additional road funds available, enable the department to tackle this critical element of the pedestrian roadway around Vista House. The PLHD is a national fund of around \$90 million available (2007) with all 50 states competing for project funding. The application was filed in June and ODOT expects to learn the outcome at any time.

A bit of background underscores the importance of this project. The Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) opened in 1915 and is one of only two roads in the United States designated as a National Historic Landmark, a National Scenic Byway (All-American Road), and a National Historic District!

This "King of Roads" is a remarkable engineering feat that fits into its natural surroundings and provides access to many scenic wonders and recreation sites along its way. This magical highway engendered the creation of Vista House and leads an estimated million-plus visitors a year through the Columbia River Gorge.

The Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) is nearing its centennial birthday. As with Vista House, the severe elements over the years have taken their toll on the highway and the other historic structures throughout the Gorge, creating concerns of maintaining safety and historic integrity. Routine maintenance can no longer ensure the existing historic bridges, viaducts, retaining walls, box culverts, guard rocks, gutters, curbs, and parapets are properly cared for. Recent restoration of the bridge and gutters at Shepperd's Dell as well as the road repair between Larch Mountain Road and Vista House and Corbett Hill have demonstrated the urgency of keeping the roadway a safe passageway for tourists and residents alike.

The 93 year-old pedestrian viaduct at Vista House (Crown Point) that was constructed in 1914 is one of



Photo courtesy of the Oregon Dept of Transportation

the most important structures on the Highway. Since there are no "as-built" drawings for the structure, historic photographs of the viaduct have been extremely helpful in understanding the construction sequence of the viaduct, adjacent roadway, and Vista House. The photographs

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's that time of year again and if you're like me, you're wondering how the year has passed so quickly! It was a busy year for FOVH; we expanded our gift shop capability, added new volunteers to our outstanding corps of seasoned and dedicated Vista House "experts," and have been working internally to create stronger and more meaningful programs for members, volunteers and the community. Look for some exciting things planned for 2008.



And, as our 2007 season comes to a close, I especially want to express my tremendous thanks to all the volunteers and FOVH and OPRD staff who have made this another wonderful and successful year for FOVH. We have learned a lot from each other and shared our love of Vista House with visitors from all around the country and the world. We are all so fortunate to work in a place that each day inspires and energizes each of us - it's no wonder our volunteers, members and all those visitors keep coming back! Thanks again.

We look forward to seeing you often in the coming year and wish you happy and healthy holidays and the very best for 2008. And don't forget - Vista House will be open on weekends during the winter as weather permits - thanks volunteers and OPRD!

Louise Yarbrough



DID YOU KNOW? DID YOU KNOW?

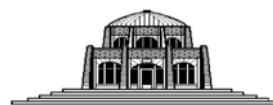
"Where in the Sam Hill are we?"... "What in the Sam Hill?"... "What the Sam Hill?"... "To run like Sam Hill..."

Did you know that all these familiar sayings are often associated with the Sam Hill from Maryhill

who had so much influence in the building of the Historic Columbia River Highway?

According to the book *2107 Curious Word Origins, Sayings and Expressions* by Charles Earle Funk, the sayings were not in reference to a person but used in the place of "hell." The expressions were in wide-spread use in Schuyler County, New York by 1839 so the local Sam Hill is off the hook. So now you know...*how in the Sam Hill we figured it out!*

Submitted by Ken Overton



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President's Message

Leaves are turning color and the change in weather signals the coming of another rainy fall and winter season here in the Northwest. The gift shop will be closing another successful season on November 4th but don't miss the annual sale for members, volunteers and donors on Saturday, November 3rd, 10-4. With the holidays right around the corner, you will find that perfect gift at Vista House.



I had the honor of attending the State Parks Cooperative Conference in Klamath Falls recently. There I met volunteers and staff from State Park Friends Groups from all over the state and I am proud to say that Friends of Vista House is highly regarded as one of the best groups in Oregon. A key part of that recognition is the manner in which we greet our visitors and enhance their enjoyment of our facility and the Columbia River Gorge. A special thank you to the many volunteers who have helped throughout the year. The contributions of your time and talent are what make Vista House a first class tourist destination.

Our role as a partner with State Parks includes providing support for the building and its operation during the season. This year we assisted with expenses for building maintenance and funded over \$7,000 for janitorial services. It is our hope that we can budget additional funding next year to assist with the maintenance and other potential projects that will maintain the beauty of our newly restored facility.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful organization.

Bob Woody,
President



Photo courtesy of Pioneer Waterproofing

FROM RUBBLE TO ROCK WALL - THE WEST RAILING IS BACK!

It's been a year in the "fixin" but if you have been up to Vista House in the past few weeks you will have seen that the repair of the west railing has begun at last. The work is being done by Pioneer Waterproofing and began the week of September 17th. Completion is anticipated by the end of October, weather permitting.

Weather is a factor in the repair but scheduling the repair earlier in the season would have meant a loss of some critical parking space during the busiest time of the year so it was delayed until after Labor Day. After the wall was damaged, most of the original rock was recovered and is now being used to restore the railing. A timely photograph of the wall was taken just before it was damaged and has proven an invaluable visual source for restoring the wall to its original appearance.



Photo courtesy of Pioneer Waterproofing

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Have you ever been confused about how to respond when asked to name the Native American tribes in the Columbia River area? It is no surprise when there are so many aspects to consider. Some of the most relevant details to think about are:

*Time frame - current day, during the time of Lewis and Clark, or earlier?

*Geographic area - the whole Columbia River drainage, or just the Gorge?

*Seasonal vs. year-long residents?

Let's use the time frame of Lewis and Clark which includes current residents as well as those who are no longer distinct tribes. The geographic area will be primarily the Gorge and include both year-long and seasonal residents.

Given these criteria, it is probably simplest to start with the broad categorization of language families that is often used. The major tribes we are looking at belong to either the Shahaptian or the Chinookian speaking groups.

The Shahaptian Peoples of the upper Columbia who are the most relevant to the Gorge are the Nez Perce, Klikitat, Tenino, Umatilla, Walla Walla and the Yakama (changed from Yakima in 1995). Although they were not considered year-long residents, they were important in the seasonal (fall and spring) gatherings that provided opportunities for trading among the upper and lower Columbia Natives as well as the Coastal tribes.

Chinookian-speaking people were those who lived below Celilo Falls and include the Wishram, Wasco, Cascade, and the Chinook and Cathlamets from the Coastal Tribes. Stop in at Vista House for an espresso and view the beautiful photographs of Wishram tribal members taken by Edward S. Curtis (c. 1909).



(Viaduct Restoration Continued from Page 1)

revealed that the pedestrian viaduct was constructed before Vista House or the modern highway; the rock revetment (or facing) which protects and retains the earth adjacent to the highway embankment, was built after the viaduct.

The areas of the viaduct that have been evaluated include the top of the deck (the surface you walk on), the bottom of the deck, the longitudinal beams (the reinforced portion of the deck running between columns located below the concrete parapet and the roadway curb), the columns, the parapet (the barrier and luminaries supports) and the rock revetment (stacked rock retaining wall located under the viaduct), which protects and retains the adjacent highway earth embankment.

Some of the project goals are to attain a level of restoration that will require minimal maintenance for at least 20 years; to maintain the original appearance of the top surface of the structure and parapet visible to visitors (from near and distant vantage points); and, to maintain the color and texture similar to the existing weathered concrete.

If this significant project is funded, work is anticipated to begin within 1 or 2 years with the actual completion date determined after the project is fully designed. Every effort will be made to accomplish the work without closing the highway but would require periods of traffic management to ensure safety for vehicles. More information is available at http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/crown_point/index.shtml.



"Cross and Dimmet" Photo courtesy of OR Dept. of Transportation

CALENDAR of EVENTS



NOVEMBER 2007

- 1 Jeanette Kloos' Birthday
- 3 Vista House Gift Gallery Volunteer-Member End-of-Season Sale—10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 4 Vista House Closed*
- 7 Nev Scott's & Louise Yarbrough's Birthday
- 12 Sharon Caron's & Kathie Goodbaudy's Birthday
- 14 Beverly Klock's Birthday & FOVH Board Meeting (Xavier's Restaurant) - 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Kathryn Willis' Birthday
- 18 Bev Law's Birthday
- 21 Dick Aaron's and Bob Foley's Birthday
- 22 Thanksgiving
- 28 Peggie Guzman's Birthday

* Vista House will be open weekends through the winter, weather permitting.

DECEMBER 2007

- 12 FOVH Board Meeting (Xavier's Restaurant) - 5:30 p.m.
- 21 Bonnie Jepsen's Birthday
- 25 Christmas
- 28 Melissa Young's Birthday
- 30 Mo Thompson's Birthday

JANUARY 2008

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 3 Cherisse Miller's Birthday
- 6 Dawn Klinger's Birthday
- 11 Clem Bergevin's Birthday
- 14 Tommy Stoneberg's Birthday
- 15 Hal Gowing's Birthday
- 22 Dee Alcott's & Ruthe Ayers' Birthday
- 27 Donna Mainwood's Birthday
- 30 Dortha Maxam's Birthday

FEBRUARY 2008

- 3 Pauline Shafer's Birthday
- 4 James Dean's & Tatiana Rogovsky's Birthday
- 5 Rosalie McCrea's Birthday
- 6 Sharon Dean's Birthday
- 9 First Vista House Jury - Noon - Rooster Rock State Park
- 10 Ashley Young's Birthday
- 12 Maxine Terrill's Birthday
- 13 Jennifer O'Donnell's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 22 Dick Wormcke's Birthday
- 24 Judith Scott's Birthday

MARCH 2008

- 14 Vista House 2008 Season Opening (Weather Permitting)
- 19 FOVH Annual Meeting - Corbett Fire Hall
- 29 FOVH Volunteer Training - McMenamins-Edgefield

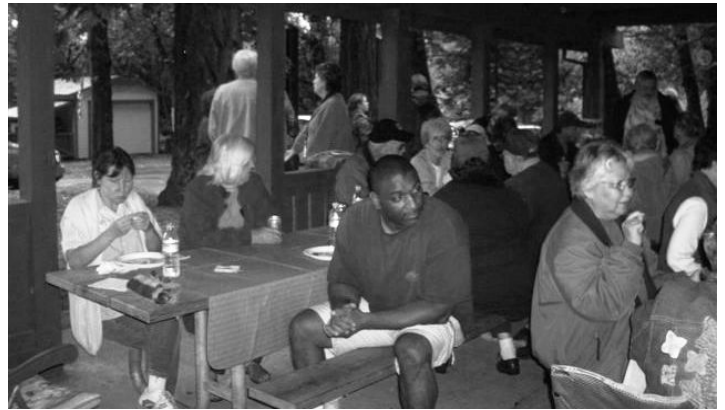
A TRUE "OREGONIAN" PICNIC - FOVH VERSION 2007

Our Vista House Member and Volunteer Picnic was, once again, a fun opportunity to thank those who have worked so hard throughout the year - and to see just how hardy the volunteers, members and Parks people really are!



Yes, it rained on our last picnic and again for this one, but that did not deter 50+ people from showing up at Guy Talbot Park for lots of good food, good conversation, acknowledgments and prizes. There was a nice mix of FOVH Board members, members, volunteers, and staff as well as Parks staff, and a few Parks Hosts attending. It was a great time to meet new people, and reconnect with those you had not seen for awhile.

Parks graciously provided the hamburgers and hotdogs that Mark Stevenson (OPRD) and Ken Overton (FOVH) stood in the rain and cooked! (Fortunately, it didn't rain too hard!) And, a great big thank you goes out to Oro-weat Bakeries that donated all the buns for the hamburgers and hotdogs. Attendees brought favorite



dishes that were so good it was suggested we consider creating a Vista House cookbook to sell in the Gift Shop.

We're planning on getting a jump on the weather gods next year and have the picnic earlier so we can "drown" in the sunshine! Bet we'll have an even bigger turnout!



VOLUNTEER EXTROIDINAIRE!

ED BENNER

If you visit Vista House, and especially if you head for the Espresso Café for a drink or a snack, you can thank Ed Benner for making sure there are treats to enjoy! Ed is a very special man who, among other things, has to be the best shopper on the planet! He finds the best deals on soft drinks, candy bars, cookies, milk and ice - all of those items that hungry visitors look for when they explore Vista House - and he makes several trips a week to keep us "stocked." His shopping expertise, sense of humor and contribution of time and travel save us lots of money and are very much appreciated! Ed's wife, Joan, is Assistant Manager in the gift shop and the "Benner Team" is one we are very lucky to have as part of FOVH. Thanks Ed and Joan—we don't know what we'd do without you!



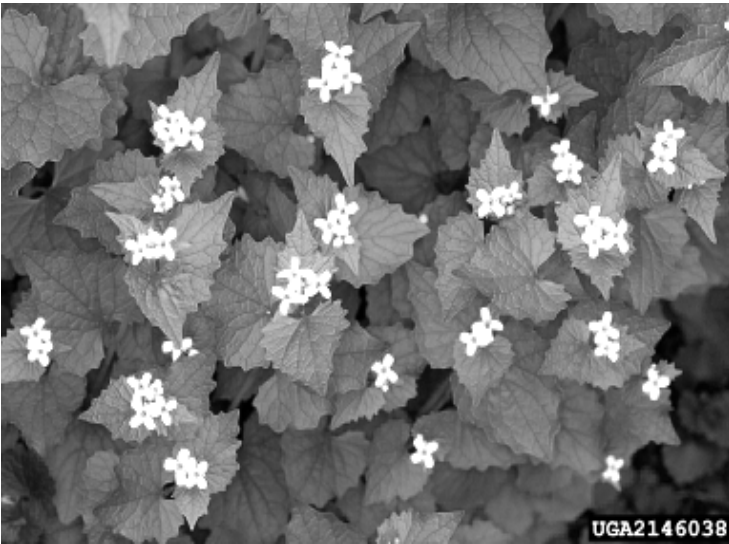


Photo by David Cappaert, Michigan State University, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

A WILD WILDFLOWER

Hearing the word "wildflower" usually conjures up thoughts of beautiful colorful flowers that grow naturally without human intervention. Besides being pretty, wildflowers also are a very important part of a healthy ecosystem and contribute to the well-being of other plants, insects, animals, humans, the soil and water where they naturally grow. Most often, all is well when they grow in their normal habitat, but when introduced to different environments they can propagate out of control and become "invasive" and/or toxic. Such is the case for the featured wildflower of this issue, Garlic Mustard.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an herb that is closely related to the cresses and was probably introduced in this country for culinary purposes. It is believed to have appeared in this country around 1970 and has adapted well. With no natural enemies to control it, it has been able to out-compete native species. As a result it has become an invasive plant that is threatening many of our local wildflowers. Further harm is done when the native plants that support the reproduction of insects and feed foraging animals like deer are reduced or eliminated. Although garlic mustard first became a problem on the east coast it is now well-established in parts of the Northwest including the Columbia Gorge.

The mature plants range from 12 to 48 inches and have dark-green, kidney-shaped basal leaves with

scalloped edges. Stem leaves are alternate, triangular or deltoid shape and are sharp-toothed. The size of these leaves gradually becomes smaller at the top of the stem. Most of the flowers are produced in the spring and usually have one flowering stem with numerous white flowers typical of the mustard family - four white petals that narrow abruptly at the base, have six stamens, two short and four long.

Garlic Mustard is a vigorous biennial plant that is spread by seeds that are black, and formed in long narrow seed pods. The seeds are spread primarily by animals, hikers, and by road maintenance equipment.

This plant will probably never be eradicated - much like blackberry, ivy, or knotweed - precisely why it is critical for us to control it by educating ourselves about identification and removing it as soon as it is recognized. This plant has the potential to destroy the native habitat in the Columbia Gorge as well as many other areas of the Northwest. You can help by removing any plants you find and/or reporting them to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program (503-986-4621).



Photo by Chris Evans,, University of Connecticut, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

WE ASKED AND YOU RESPONDED - 2007 SURVEY RESULTS

In June, 2007, a Volunteer and Member Assessment Survey was mailed to 300 Friends of Vista House (FOVH) members and volunteers with the goal of gaining a better understanding of who our constituents are in order to better serve those who are and have been our supporters. By creating programs and benefits that are meaningful, sustainable and rewarding, we look to increase our strong corps of volunteers as well as our membership base to ensure our ability to help support and ensure the long-term future of Vista House and the organization. We were pleased to report a response from eighty-four individuals, for a meaningful return of 28%.

Most of our respondents learned of FOVH from a friend or from visiting Vista House. The highest response came from you who are both Members and Volunteers. Many joined or became involved between 2001-2007, possibly related to the time-frame when the restoration began and awareness of the perilous condition of Vista House was brought to public attention.

Members and volunteers were motivated to join FOVH for many reasons, predominantly relating to Vista House, history of the area and the opportunity to relate to visitors.

Members and volunteers who responded felt our levels and benefits were the same, equal or better relative to other organizations they participated in. Almost all (98%!) of respondents felt the newsletter and the information contained in it were valuable. Of most interest were articles relating to Vista House, history of VH and the area, volunteers, personal stories and new information. Many would also enjoy more information about Oregon, information to assist volunteers and educational information about Vista House and the Gorge.

The vast majority of the respondents were "baby boomers" and of above median-income. Respondents' cities of residence covered a wide geographic range, including 6 from out of state (not including a number from Vancouver, WA). Those from the nearby communities of Corbett, Gresham, Troutdale, Bridal Veil and Portland comprised over half of the respondents (54%).

Interestingly, many of those responding had one or more working adults in the household while the majority had either one or two retired adults (71%). While the demographics of the "volunteer" are changing nation-wide, it still appears that individuals who are retired or nearing retirement are most likely to have time to volunteer.

FOVH members and volunteers who responded are educated, with the majority of respondents being college graduates or receiving advanced degrees. English was the predominant language spoken in the households of respondents with Spanish, French and Sign language being additional languages spoken.

Many returned their Survey Appreciation Coupon and were entered into the drawing for a Vista House poster or Family Membership. And the winner is.....Anne Duston of Portland. Congratulations, Anne! And thanks to you all for your interest and for taking the time to help us build a stronger FOVH for the future.



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VISTA HOUSE

2007 END-OF-SEASON SALE

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SATURDAY—NOVEMBER 3

10AM-4PM 25% OFF STORE-WIDE



FIND THAT SPECIAL GIFT FOR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY IN THE
VISTA HOUSE GIFT GALLERY



DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO
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BOOKS FOR ALL INTERESTS & AGES

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HAND-BLOWN GLASS

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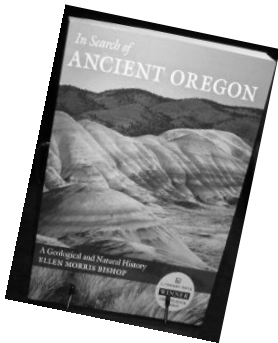
STATIONARY ITEMS

ARTISAN PINE NEEDLE BASKETS

HAND SPUN WOOL & KNITTED ITEMS

"PAL" POSTERS

HOME MADE JAMS, JELLIES & SYRUPS



BECOME A FRIENDS OF VISTA HOUSE MEMBER!

Friends of Vista House is a private non-profit organization with tax exempt status. Become a member! With membership, you receive a newsletter and a 10% discount at the Vista House Gift Gallery. All contributions are tax deductible and can be made by check or credit card. Make checks payable to Friends of Vista House.

Friends of Vista House * PO Box 204, Corbett, OR 97019 * 503-695-2230 * vistahouse.com (You can join online!)

Membership Status: New Renewal

.. \$10 - Junior (under 12) .. \$100 - Emerald .. \$1000 - Lancaster Circle

.. \$25 - Individual .. \$250 - Diamond .. \$2500 - Lazarus Society

.. \$50 - Family .. \$500 - Crown Jewel .. \$5000 - Thor's Crown

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