



# RESTORIA

*The LCPS mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic architecture in the Lower Columbia region. These structures are important assets that contribute to the area's history, culture, identity, and livability.*



Mark your calendar!

## JANUARY WORKSHOP: RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society will sponsor an encore workshop titled "Researching the History of Your House." In January, Bruce Berney, Liisa Penner, and John Goodenberger will host a two-part workshop. Part one will include a lecture by Bruce and John on resources within the community. Participants will also visit a historic home and learn how to document and identify a structure's significant features. Part two will include a tour of the Clatsop County Historical Society's archives by Liisa. Participants will then have the opportunity to research the history of their house through historic photographs, maps, and directories. Liisa and John will be available to help in this endeavor. Times, dates, and locations for this special workshop will be announced soon. If you have any questions, call John at (503) 325-0209.



Mark your calendar!

## FEBRUARY WORKSHOP: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY OF OLD HOUSE RESTORATION

Still in the planning stages, our February workshop will cover a wide variety of general topics important to owners of old houses and to those contemplating buying one. It is our hope to have an owner of a home-inspection business (like those used by prospective house buyers) teach us about things to watch for in our old houses — like spotting dry rot, black ant and/or termite damage, frayed and/or overloaded wiring, and much, much more. The event will most likely occur on a Saturday morning from 9:00 am to 12:00. Watch for your reminder card in the mail and an email notification.

## ANNUAL LCPS SOCIAL ROCKS ASTORIA!

Several dozen LCPS members mingled at the annual fall social on a late October Saturday at Shively Hall. Guest speaker for the evening was Todd Scott, Astoria's new Community Development Director. There were many questions and thoughts shared about Astoria's past and future.

Never mind that Todd is a really nice guy. His appreciation and respect for historic preservation was apparent during his presentation. His previous work in Oklahoma made him a natural fit in our community, and his views seemed to parallel the ideas of those in attendance. One of the challenges that remains before us as Astoria moves into the future will be the balancing of growth while retaining our historic integrity. Our community can play a strong role in helping Astoria to retain its "sense of place."

Thank you to Safeway for giving us a good deal on some DuraFlame logs to warm Shively Hall, which had an empty heating oil tank.



## HANGING OUT IN ASTORIA

by Linda Oldenkamp

Remember the dog days of summer when the weather was warm, and the temperature registered in the mid to high 80s? We had several of those days in August, and that's when it happened. Dave and I live in a two-story, four-bedroom, craftsman-style house and as the temperature increases, the rooms on the second floor get uncomfortably warm. Only one bedroom window has a window screen, so we had opened all of the windows in two of the bedrooms for some cross ventilation, as we had done the previous evening. Our computer is in one of those rooms.

It was late and time for bed. I was finishing up some work on my computer when Dave came into the room. After a few moments, with a grim look and a stern voice, he said, "Stop what you're doing immediately. Get out of your chair and walk out of the room. Close the door behind you. Don't ask questions!" Of course, I asked the question: "Why?" Impatiently, he replied, "Do what I said. Get out of the chair, walk out of the room. Don't ask questions. Close the door behind you. There is a bat in the room!"

Looking around the room, my eyes stopped on a large gray-brown glob high on the wall. It was the biggest bat I had ever seen, attached snugly to the picture rail! It seemed huge and its color so unusual. "Unbelievable," I muttered. I could not take my eyes off the thing. Imagine it. Hanging there and sleeping as contentedly as it pleased. I loved that it had chosen to attach itself to the picture rail. It hung there as though the rail had been made for it, like some kind of "custom-made bat rail." I thought to myself, "Only in an old house!" I desperately wanted to run downstairs for the camera, but I knew better than to suggest it — Dave was not in a picture-taking mood. Without taking my eyes off the big brown-gray guy, I got up, walked toward the door (I was no more than three feet from it), left the room, and closed the door behind me.

I stood by the closed door and waited in the hall. I heard Dave push up the windows as far as they would open and pull the sheers away from the windows. I saw the lights go out from the space under the door. Then it got quiet. I waited. Suddenly, I heard a swish, swish, then a bang, a thump, another bang, then another swish, then more banging, thumping, swishing. From my watch in the hall, I was tense, but listened and waited as patiently as I could. I was reminded of an exorcism. For a moment it was quiet again. Bang, thump, swish, bump . . . more waiting . . . then more swishing, bumping, thumping, banging. Poor Dave, what if he couldn't get the bat out of the room? What if the bat attacked him? What if he had a heart attack? I should have taken that CPR class. I couldn't get the picture of the big brown-gray guy hanging off the picture rail out of my mind, or of it flying around the room and diving at Dave. Finally, after what seemed an interminably long period of time, it was quiet again.

The bedroom door opened. There was Dave, ever my protector, a bit pale, exhausted, but victorious. The bat was gone. I asked how

he'd managed it. Luckily for us, he had been storing a large 4' x 4' piece of cardboard in the bedroom. He used the cardboard to knock it off the picture rail, and to shield himself from the bat, which had a wing span of at least eight inches. As it flew around the room, it flew too high for its radar to see the open windows. He used the cardboard to guide the bat, coaxing it to fly lower. It worked, finally, and it flew out the window. All totaled, the incident probably lasted no longer than 10 minutes, but they were a terrifying 10 minutes. The big brown-gray guy had been in our house for 24 hours.

Though I was afraid of the bat and I was scared for Dave, I was most impressed with the bat's ingenuity to hang from a picture rail. I keep thinking that somewhere in all of this, there is a pretty good idea for a story in a children's book or some type of horror story. I mean, if you were a bat, wouldn't Astoria, with all its vintage houses and picture rails galore, be just the place you'd want to hang out? Think about it.

But before next summer, I'm going to buy a lot more window screens, and I'd advise you to do the same.

## ELKS LODGE RESTORATION

The Elks Temple Lodge No. 180 is in need of your support! The historic structure in downtown Astoria requires repair and restoration. Barbara Begleries is leading a fund-raising effort to preserve this incredible architectural resource. The Lower Columbia Preservation Society has contributed \$150 to assist this worthy effort.

According to its National Register nomination, "The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 180 was chartered in Astoria in 1890. It is the second oldest Elks charter in Oregon. A lodge building was constructed on the corner of 11th and Exchange streets in 1910, but the building was burned to the ground in 1922. A second building was constructed on the foundation of the former lodge in 1923. That lodge building remains today and is the oldest lodge building in the Elks' Northwest District. It has one of the few intact lodge rooms in the United States. Designed in an American Renaissance motif, it remains today a fine example of craftsmanship, particularly in its use of ornamental plaster. In 1989, the structure was listed as a historic landmark by the City of Astoria and received the second highest ranking of any building in town (at that time).@ The building was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and was unanimously accepted by the State Historic Board.

The Elks and their lodge have been an integral part of our community: sponsoring cultural, patriotic, and philanthropic events. It is time for the community to return the favor and help save this building. If you would like to offer assistance or donate money, please call Barbara Begleries at (503) 325-0336.



## ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP RECAP

Over 20 people attended LCPS's electrical workshop in late September. Bob Kyle, Field Superintendent for Wadsworth Electric in Astoria, displayed historical electrical devices, told electrical anecdotes, demystified old wiring, and fielded many questions concerning the utility and safety of the wiring existing in many old structures. Here are some highlights:

If your wiring met code when it was installed, it still meets code.

Knob and tube wiring is named for the ceramic "knobs" which hold individual wires and are nailed onto structural elements (2 X 4's, for example), and the short ceramic "tubes" used where wires pass through structural elements. The individual wires are very well insulated, and if knob and tube wiring is left alone, it should function very well. Installation of knob and tube wiring is no longer allowed, and extensions and alterations of existing knob and tube wiring should not be made.

Insulating walls and attics where knob and tube wiring exists is safe, as long as foil backed insulation is not used. Loose-fill insulation is the best choice.

Modern electrical installations have a main service panel that uses circuit breakers to protect against electrical overloads, while old systems have fuse boxes and amperage-rated fuses (screw in devices) which "blow" in the event of an overload. Some insurance companies will no longer insure homes that have electrical installations with fuse boxes.

In a system using fuses, it is important that the correct size (amperage) of fuse is installed in each circuit. The danger of fused systems is that homeowners often install fuses of higher amperage than the circuit rating, which may cause excessive heat to build up in the wires. Most general purpose household circuits in fused systems are rated at 15 amps.

Electrical contractors can evaluate your electrical systems and recommend needed repairs. Wadsworth Electric, for example, charges \$100 for the service.

### The anecdotes:

In the early days of electrical service, utility bills were based on the number of lights in a house, rather than actual electricity use. A typical installation would have one light hanging from the ceiling of each room. The light bulb could be removed and a screw-in outlet installed for other uses, without raising the electricity bill.

After World War II, many new electrical appliances were introduced, but the generating capacity of the electrical utilities was still limited. To prevent system-wide overloads, utilities installed timers in electric meters to turn off hot water heater circuits during the times of peak electricity use. Your house may still have the remnants of this practice in the form of cut-off wires heading toward an old fuse box.

To find out about electrical codes for new construction, go to [www.codecheck.com/pg27\\_28electrical.html](http://www.codecheck.com/pg27_28electrical.html).

## ASTORIA'S NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Todd Scott is the new Director of Community Development for Astoria. Todd just moved from Oklahoma City where he was president of the historic Paseo Neighborhood and president and co-founder of The Criterion Group, a local preservation advocacy group that encourages neighborhoods to become involved in preserving their historic resources. Todd has been an outspoken participant in several Oklahoma City preservation battles including the Gold Dome Bank, a 1958 geodesic dome landmark; Centre Theater, a 1947 Art Moderne theater now used as part of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art; the Central YMCA, a victim of the 1995 Murrah Bomb, recently demolished for a parking lot; and the Walnut Avenue Bridge, a 1935 structure playing a prominent role in Oklahoma City's black heritage and currently scheduled for rehabilitation.

Prior to working in Astoria, Todd was the state architect for the Oklahoma Main Street Center and served more than 40 communities statewide. He also served as a participant in more than 24 DesignWorks programs across the state, developing solutions for small towns to preserve their historic resources. Community successes include the WPA Bath House in Pawnee, the Rouleau Hotel in Idabel, and Friends Church in Cherokee. Todd has also served as the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Oklahoma City. He is a licensed architect with a Masters of Architecture degree in Historic Preservation and Urban Design from the University of Oklahoma.

## KUDOS

To Chester Trabucco and No. Ten Sixth Street Ltd., for the addition of the Hotel Elliott to the National Trust's list of Historic Hotels of America: "irreplaceable places to stay."

To the Astoria School District and Astoria taxpayers, for restoring the facade of Gray Elementary School.

To Chester Trabucco and No. Ten Sixth Street Ltd., for restoring the historic Schooner Tavern neon sign.

To the City of Astoria, for hiring architect and preservationist Todd Scott as the new Community Development Director.



## OLD HOUSE FORUMS

In August, LCPS members met in the Queen Anne Victorian home of Patrick and KC McGee at 697 34th Street in Astoria. If the exterior paint scheme and landscaping has ever turned your head, then you should see inside! Faux graining abounds on restored or replaced interior trim, the dining room ceiling features a mural, and the master bedroom is luxurious in detail.

The McGees have tastefully decorated and introduced some changes without compromising original features. Referring to themselves as "caretakers," Patrick and KC share a great appreciation of their home's history. They have managed to incorporate their collections throughout the home, creating warm and inviting spaces. Thank you to Patrick and KC.

In October, with flashlights in hand, 15 members navigated the driveway up to 1569 Jerome in Astoria, a small cottage not visible from the street. They were met by Diane Kazlauskas and her Aunt Carlita Dunagan. With the walls and paint barely dry, their contractor helped lead members through a year-long process. Most of the cottage has been redone from top to bottom, but the homeowners have retained some of the original features such as the wood floors and built-in cabinets. This has been a costly and time-consuming endeavor for the home owner. Thank you for inviting us prior to moving in, Diane.

An Old House Forum was held December 11, 2003, at the home of Greg and Michelle Johnson at 1410 Franklin in Astoria. Built in 1877, this home has been occupied by Astoria Mayor I.W. Case. It has also been rented by Oswald West, who went on to be Governor of Oregon in 1910. This wonderful Astoria vernacular Victorian still retains its integrity and most of the original details.

## UPCOMING OLD HOUSE FORUM

Attending an Old House Forum is free, but open only to LCPS members. Homeowners share the history of their home and/or restoration projects. This growing Astoria tradition is always a unique experience.



**January:** In January, LCPS members will get a chance to tour one of Astoria's homes recently turned into a Bed and Breakfast: the Andrew Young Bed and Breakfast at 1188 Harrison in Astoria. This Old House Forum will be held on Friday, January 16, 2004, at 7:00 pm. The new owners will tell us about the conversion as well as the history of this stately home. There will be dessert and coffee after the tour.

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## WHAT'S "IN" AND WHAT'S "OUT" OF OWNING AN OLD HOME

by Steve Nurdling

- In: Pulling up a carpet corner and finding an oak floor underneath.
- Out: Pulling up the rest of the carpet, and then discovering the damage to the oak floor that necessitated covering it with carpet.
- In: Your house is built with square nails.
- Out: Noticing the square nails because you hit your head on one.
- In: Removing the paint on an old window sash so that it can open again.
- Out: Now the window leaks and rattles in the wind.
- Out: Entertainment provided by a good stripper.
- In: The stripper's name isn't Bubbles or Trixie, it's Jasco.
- In: Enjoying the day stripping off old paint.
- Out: The enjoyment was really caused by the Jasco paint stripper fumes.
- In: Feeling the urge to strip some more paint. You now a Jasco Junkie and believe that CitriStrip just doesn't cut it!
- In: Completing that big restoration project.
- Out: Waking up and realizing that you were only dreaming that it was finished.
- In: Successfully installing a restored light fixture all by your self.
- Out: That funny smell coming from inside of the wall.
- In: Renting a wallpaper removal steam machine, and having it work great.
- Out: Finding a second layer of wallpaper underneath.
- In: Having a nice foundation under your old home.
- Out: I never noticed that crack before....
- In: Attending an LCPS workshop.
- In: Getting all the right tools.
- Out: Discovering that doing what you learned is hard work.

LCPS members are invited to submit their own version of what's "In" and what's "Out" for publication in the next issue of Restoria. Send yours in to: [lafleure@yahoo.com](mailto:lafleure@yahoo.com).





**Lower Columbia  
Preservation Society  
Current Board Of  
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Fred White  
Melissa Yowell

*Restoria Editor: Marty White*

**LCPS WEBSITE IS  
LAUNCHED!**

LCPS Board member Susan Bryant has redesigned and relaunched the LCPS website: [www.lcpsweb.org](http://www.lcpsweb.org). Many thanks to Susan for volunteering her time and skills to get us out there on the internet. The site has helpful information on the LCPS history, mission, upcoming events, past newsletter articles, and links. Check it out!

**CLASSIFIEDS**

White 1950's GM Fridgidaire Electric Stove. I am the second owner and it's hardly been used. The oven works perfectly and two of the four burners work. It's very clean. \$200 buyer hauls it away (over newly refished wood floors :)  
Call (503) 325-1389 - Ross

**FROM THE CHAIR**

The board of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society is expanding beyond Astoria by reviving our original mission to protect and promote historic structures throughout the lower Columbia region—not just Astoria. We took a first step last summer by offering assistance to members of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Seaside. If they choose to rehabilitate the church rather than demolish it, we will help them find restoration professionals.

In 2004, we will have a lecture on historic landscapes which will highlight Clatsop Plains. We also plan a guided church tour which may include structures in both Oregon and Washington. Further, we appointed a new board member, Pat Roberts, a Gearhart architect, to fill an unexpired term. We believe Pat will give our board a wider perspective. Speaking of new board members, we also appointed Susan Bryant, who will finish another board member's term. Susan will be invaluable, providing the board with a "new to the area" perspective.

The board is excited about the new year's events. As always, we invite you to be a part of them and we welcome your insight and energy.

*fel*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME   
ADDRESS   
CITY  STATE  ZIP   
PHONE NUMBER (  )  EMAIL

- ☐ \$10 Membership (Individual)  
☐ \$20 Contributing (Two at same address)  
☐ \$50 Supporting  
☐ \$

Please indicate which areas you would be able to assist the organization as a volunteer:

- ☐ Planning meetings  
☐ Publicity  
☐ Education  
☐ Advocacy  
☐ Newsletter  
☐ Grant Writing  
☐ Other   
☐ Membership

**Please make checks payable to:**  
Lower Columbia Preservation Society  
Post Office Box 1334  
Astoria, Oregon 97103



# LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION S.O.C.I.E.T.Y

PO Box 1334  
Astoria, OR 97103

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*As of November 2, 2003*

**New members:** Shel Cantor and Anne Teaford-Cantor, Judy Corona, Carlita Dunagan, Jan Faber

**Renewing members:** Astoria Community Development, Vicki Baker, Leslie and Brian Burke, Eric David, Carol Elkins, Jeannine Goss, George and Jean Harrison, Becky Hart and Kevin Palo, McLaren Innes, David Isaacs, Betsy Kelso and Colby Lennon, June Lake, Rick and Cheryl Morris, Ed Niemi, Linda Oldenkamp and David Pollard, Anthony and Victoria Stoppiello, Darlene Velder Story, Anthony and Roberta Stramiello, Jr., Pam Tillson and Bruce Holmes, K. Sharon Van Heuit, Paul Vanderveldt, David and Kathy Wigutoff, John and AdaAnne Wolcott

