

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.



Annual Meeting of LCPS and "Overlooked Astoria"

Mark your calendar now for The Lower Columbia Preservation Society's Annual Meeting planned for Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 PM. We are pleased to announce that our featured speaker is local historian John Goodenberger with his power point presentation "Overlooked Astoria." The business meeting and lecture will be held at the Heritage Museum at 1618 Exchange in Astoria.

When Goodenberger asked Astorians what made their city historic, he was bombarded by responses that reflected both the iconic and lesser-known aspects of the city. Join Goodenberger for "Overlooked Astoria" on a virtual walking tour of Astoria as he reports on his findings. Explore little-noticed cultural artifacts and hear the story of buildings and places not mentioned in typical tourist brochures.

"If you know where to look, you will find history on every street corner of Astoria," said Goodenberger, "It's one of the things that makes living here so interesting." Goodenberger's lecture will touch on abandoned ship hulls, unmarked cemeteries, rare manhole covers and a lost Chinese garden...all within Astoria's city limits.



This is an opportunity to learn about little known historic elements of Astoria, meet fellow LCPS members, vote for new Board Members and recognize those who have accomplished restoration projects. For more information, call John Goodenberger 503- 325-0209.

Architectural Salvage Comes To Astoria

Paul Tuter, through his company My Grandfather's Nails, is bringing a long-awaited architectural salvage and vintage hardware outlet to downtown Astoria. His storefront will be at 1055 Marine Drive in the newly renovated Occident Building between 11th and 10th Streets. He will operate in conjunction with Northwest Gifts to bring a "general store" feel to the shop. The Grand Opening was this month, April 2009! Our members are invited to visit the store at 1055 Marine Drive.

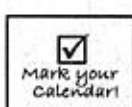
Kudo's:

To Annie Oliver who just had her home at 3499 Grand designated as historic.

To Jason Palmberg for his application for historic designation of the Occident Building, which was recently restored, at 1007-1055 Marine Drive.

To Mac Burns for implementing the CCC preservation curriculum and presenting the idea of turning the old County Jail into a film library.



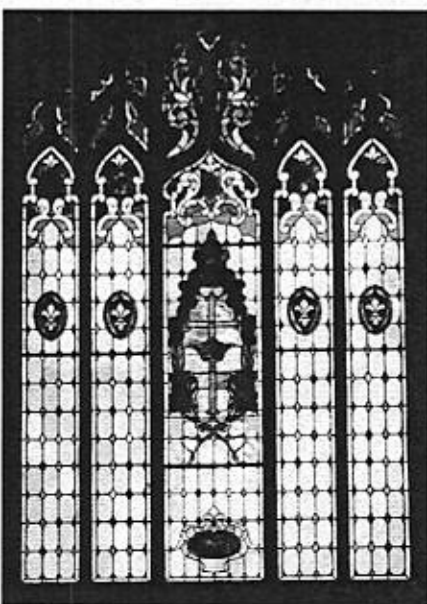
*Historic Preservation Month is May***History of the Povey Brothers Art Glass Works***Submitted by John Goodenberger*

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society and Clatsop Community College Arts & Ideas celebrate Historic Preservation Month in May with a lecture on the Povey Brothers Art Glass Works. Portland's David Schlicker, a stained glass window expert, will discuss the revolutionary studio, which produced opalescent glass for churches and wealthy homes throughout the West Coast, including Astoria. The lecture will be held Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 PM in the Performing Arts Center, 16th and Franklin in Astoria. Admission fee is \$10.

For generations the Povey family created artistic glass windows in England. David Povey studied at the Cooper Union Institute of Art in New York and traveled throughout Europe before opening a studio in Portland. He partnered with his brother George, operating a Portland studio from 1888 to 1929. Their work appears in the Craigdarroch Castle, Victoria BC; the Pittock Mansion, Portland; the Deepwood Estate, Salem; and the First Presbyterian Church, Astoria.

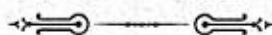
According to Schlicker, the brothers' craftsmanship enabled them to create a level of artwork previously unknown.

Further, he said, "No one would imagine using colors in those combinations, but the Poveys made it work." Now, people are beginning to understand the firm's significance. Their glass represents some of the finest cultural artifacts of its period.



Povey Stain Glass Window at 1st Presbyterian Church on Grand Avenue, Astoria

David Schlicker of Portland's Stained Glass Studio has more than 30 years' experience in stained glass. He creates period pieces in Victorian, Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Arts and Crafts, Gothic and contemporary styles. Schlicker is well versed in the history of stained glass and proficient in restoring old windows in order to preserve historic pieces to complement a building's classic architecture. For more information call John at 503-325-0209.

**What is an Endowment Fund?***Submitted by LaRee Johnson*

Typically an Endowment Fund is created to support an institution into perpetuity. These donated funds or a bequest from a will remain untouched and continue to grow over time, eventually allowing the named institution to use the interest only to cover their operating expenses. An Endowment allows an institution to focus on programs that are in alignment with its Mission Statement without having to deal with the constant challenge of the many small fundraising events to keep the doors open. In the case of LCPS we can undertake initiatives such as expanding our office hours, advocating for preservation, hiring an executive director, and providing for new and informative programs to our membership.

LCPS has been the recipient of a generous bequest from Roberta Stromiello, a long time preservationist. The funds from this generous gift, when distributed, will greatly expand upon our existing Endowment Fund and will further our goals for preservation efforts. Community members can contribute during their lifetimes and see the positive results of their gifts, or under the terms of their will or trust, provide these gifts after their deaths through their attorneys.

If you believe in preservation and want to make a difference in the future of our local communities, please consider a gift to our Endowment Fund. Benefactors receive tax advantages in certain circumstances. For more information contact LCPS directly or visit www.OCF1.org.



Recap of Window Workshop

by Pam Chestnut

On February 28th LCPS member Ray Bergerson hosted a well-attended wood window preservation workshop in the showroom of Bergerson Cedar Windows in Hammond. Repairing windows for over 30 years, Ray has two beautiful projects in Astoria -- the Hotel Elliott and the old Finnish Meat Market building, now home to Columbia River Coffee Roaster. Attendees expressed great appreciation for the highly informative and warm, conversational presentation. The two hours flew by, and many questions were answered. Afterward we were treated to a tour of the actual workshop, a delight for tool buffs. Ray's parents, Chuck and Charlotte Bergerson, graciously invited us into their cozy and beautifully crafted home. Clearly, fine workmanship and hospitality run in the family!

We watched as Ray dismantled a demonstration window while describing the parts and operation. We became familiar with weights, weight pockets, pulleys, pocket opening covers inside the frame, cord installation, parting beads, meeting rails, painting techniques, and the method of assembly. We also realized that our old windows can be unique and not have the 'usual' features. Ray explained that most of our older wood windows were built of highly weather-resistant old-growth cedar. After WWII the hemlock that became popular for this use proved to be greatly inferior. Hence, most of our pre-1945 windows are enduring the test of time and are worth repairing and preserving. Very often it is a matter of unsticking sashes, replacing sash cords, cleaning up hardware, scraping old paint (using lead precautions) and properly repainting. Small areas of rot-damage can be stabilized with wood hardener. Parting beads between the sashes can be carefully removed by scoring the paint to loosen them from their grooves in which they are meant to fit snugly. The bottom sash must be raised high and removal begins at the sill, ever so gently. If you must replace a parting bead, which can be easily broken, tight-grain fir is better for wear than cedar.

For badly damaged sashes, replacement within original framework is an option. Bergerson's recreated sashes

can be double-paned if desired, and Ray says that the new sashes are built to fit existing frame irregularities resulting from building settling. As to the matter of single-pane window heat loss, properly fitted storm windows are an excellent option and rival the R-value of double-pane windows. Ray showed us his beautiful wood storm windows fitted with stainless steel hardware, which will not bleed, even in our climate.

We learned that old glass was created from hand-blown cylinders with ends removed, then scored and re-melted flat. The size of windows was usually predicated on the size of available glass, which was precious and not to be wasted. Ray says that old-school putty glazing is becoming a lost art, however, in my experience it is a rather simple and logical tactile process. The very effective alternative used at the Bergerson shop is wooden stops with polyurethane caulking to bed the glass within the sash frame.

As Ray pointed out, doors and windows are the working and highly distinctive design elements of our homes. Old-timers generally built structures to last out of amazing and now-precious materials. 21st Century preservation is as green as it gets. How satisfying it is to repair and preserve the original 'eyes' of our sturdy old homes!



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Antique items left-over from estate sale at recessionary prices: Bird's Eye Maple dresser: \$85; round oak table: \$150; Brunswick treadle sewing machine: \$85. All need repair/restoration. Call 503-325-3981.

Submissions

Please send your article submissions, For Sale notices and Kudos to
Restoria@lcpsweb.org



A Breathing Spot For The Masses: Shively Park

Submitted by Celia L. Tippit

John M. Shively, the man for whom Astoria's first public park was named, was a rough-cut, cantankerous, litigious, and ramshackle scofflaw who was one of Astoria's most prominent, and certainly memorable, personalities. Born in Virginia in 1804, John, at age 39, left from Missouri on an Oregon-bound wagon train with his surveying instruments, wife Martha, and his three-year old son Charles W. Shively. Upon arriving in Astoria, he quickly established himself. He and Colonel John McClure, with a little bit of help from General John Adair and A. E. Wilson, proceeded to plat what is now Astoria. McClure claimed the area from 1st Street to 13th; Shively claimed 13th to 32nd; and Wilson-Adair, east from 32nd.

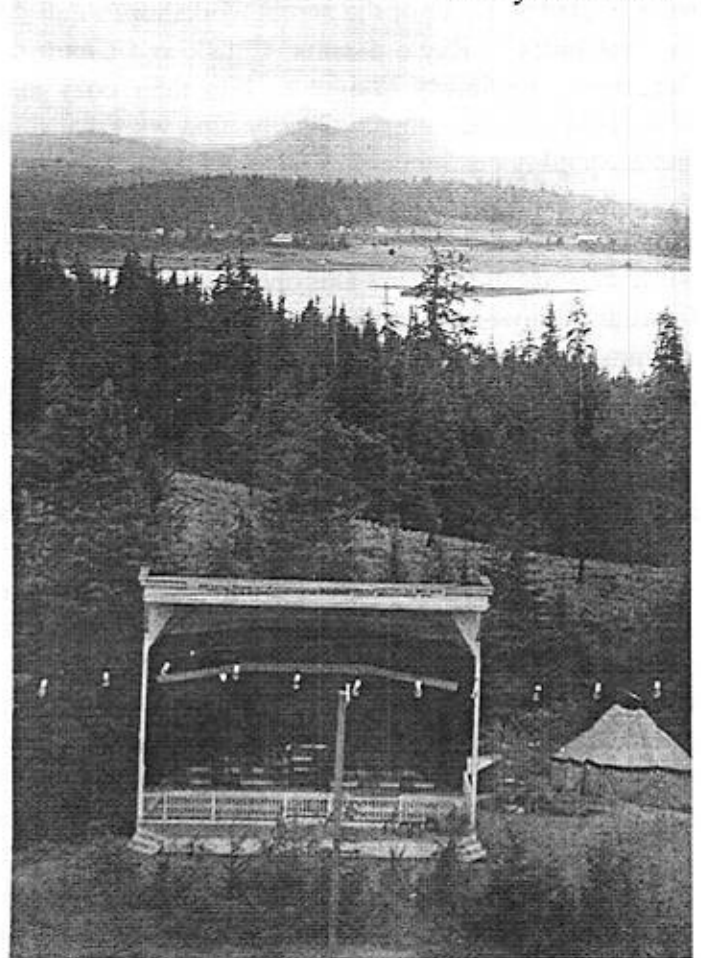
Espousing the glories of Oregon and Astoria to all who would listen, John returned to the East in 1845 where eventually his message caught the ear of President Polk. It has been said that John M. Shively's actions and whole-hearted enthusiasm for Oregon resulted in Oregon becoming a Territory of the United States much sooner than expected. Shively returned to Astoria as first Postmaster of the Oregon Territory and to the first Post Office west of the Rockies in 1847.

Shively experienced a somewhat tumultuous life in Astoria. After his wife Martha died, he married Susan and had two more sons. He divorced, but later remarried Susan. His life was peppered with lawsuits...most initiated by him. He was also a delinquent taxpayer and certainly was found lacking as a caring father and husband. Both his younger sons and wife Susan preceded him in death. John M. Shively died in 1892 essentially alone, but with property and (probably his most valuable asset) his son Charles. J. M. Shively's grave is in Greenwood Cemetery.

The younger Shively lived a life easily described as the absolute opposite of that of his father. He spent a few years at college in California then returned to Astoria where he was a model citizen, proactive and generous in the community with both his time

and money, as well as a public advocate for Astoria's causes. He wrote a lengthy and glowing letter in 1894 to the Daily Budget entitled, "Her Wonderful Advantages: Astoria, Its Geographical Position and Physical Advantages as a Seaport." In proportion, the letter was as long as the title. He was keenly interested in seeing Astoria succeed on a grand scale, arguing that Astoria become the main seaport after San Francisco on the western coastline.

Shively Park 1911



Charles married happily and lived in a home at what currently is 16th and Niagara, on the edge of the "Shively Estate." He was a City Council member and eventually became the Superintendent of Astoria schools. He had seven children and died at home in Portland in 1910 at age 70 in comfort surrounded by his loving family.



Shively Park, continued . . .

In the early 1890s the Astoria was looking for land for a public park. The city fathers believed that a well-intentioned, forward-thinking city should provide for its citizenry so everyone could enjoy an escape to green trees and fresh air. The leaders knew that San Francisco was putting the final touches on its Golden Gate Park and that New York City's Central Park had recently been completed. Why should Astoria not also be in such a planning stage?

On April 28, 1898, Charles W. Shively made offered to donate five acres of prime land if the City would purchase seven additional acres from him at a cost of \$2,500 to be paid in 10 annual payments with no interest. The park was to be named Shively Park to commemorate John M. Shively's role as a pioneer of Astoria and as the first Postmaster west of the Rockies. The Astoria Progressive Commercial Association (commonly referred to as the "Push" committee) did not hesitate. They accepted with alacrity. The 12 acres were contiguous to the new City Water Works and Reservoir, had a high knoll that overlooked the City and provided sweeping views of Young's Bay, the River and the Pacific Ocean. An added benefit: the property was in the heart of the City.

The news of the agreement was met with enthusiasm and promises of community cooperation. A. J. Johnson, a horticulturist, immediately came forward and promised a very generous gift of \$500 in plants and bushes from his nursery to add to the Park's bounty, along with his time and skill to design the park. Prominent businessmen and merchants also pledged large sums of money, time and labor to the establishment of the Park. Shively Park was officially dedicated on the Fourth of July 1906. The gem of the city had been sited, laid out, planted, and frequented by Astorians as a respite for families.

TO BE CONTINUED IN JULY....Part 2

LCPS has selected Shively Park as a "Legacy Project" for the upcoming Bicentennial in 2011. Would you like

to be a part of the exciting plans? We need volunteers interested in assisting with this project!! You can thank the Shivelys and the other Astorians who had the vision, tenacity, and energy to make this park a reality then. I urge you to visit Shively Park, Astoria's first public park. Breathe deeply. Recreate yourself.

I wish to thank Liisa Penner of the Clatsop County Historical Society for her assistance and encouragement; Ami Kreider of the Astoria Public Library for her patience in showing me how to run the microfiche machine and for searching the vertical files for additional information. Because of their help, I have experienced a stimulating foray into the past.



**Congratulations to
Knappton Cove Heritage Center**
...just in from Nancy Anderson

Preservation efforts at the historic Columbia River Quarantine Station will be getting a big boost late this summer. This important site will gain improved driveway access, heritage and directional signage thanks to a \$23,000 Scenic Byways grant plus a \$10,000 grant from the Pacific Council of Governments. The project will greatly increase safety, raise the visibility of the Station and provide additional interpretation.

Our next challenge is to seek funding to stabilize the foundation of the old quarantine hospital (the Pest-house). We are enjoying the beautiful new leak-free roof and a sturdy new deck on the front entry porch.

Summer hours for the museum at Knappton Cove will continue to be Saturday afternoons from 1-4 PM Memorial Day through Labor Day. We will kick off the summer season with an Open House on Saturday, May 23, from 1-4 PM serving Tea & History in honor of Historic Preservation Month. Please come for a visit just across the big bridge to Washington and turn right.



Historic Preservation Program at CCC

Submitted by Lucien Swerdloff

Clatsop Community College has developed a new program in Historic Preservation and Restoration. This unique program will use our region's rich historic inventory as a laboratory to study and learn skills for preserving and remodeling historic buildings. The program is a collaborative effort of the community. Builders, remodelers, craftspeople, planners, designers and architects have been involved in the development of the program and will be involved in teaching courses and workshops. The community advisory committee responsible for defining the program includes two members of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society, John Goodenberger and Linda Oldenkamp.

The program, which will begin in the Fall of 2009, combines historic preservation theory with practical hands-on construction skills. Courses will cover all aspects of preservation including reading and preparing drawings, modern and historic materials and methods of construction, architectural history, project management, sustainable building practices, historic building recognition and documentation, and a variety of workshops. Workshops will be offered in the following areas: foundation systems, floor systems, wall systems, roof systems, moisture and thermal protection, doors and windows, stairs, and finish work.

The first year of the program will emphasize general construction skills and techniques and provide students with a basic understanding of issues in historic preservation and restoration. Students completing this year will receive a Certificate in Historic Preservation and Restoration.

The second year will emphasize planning and completing historic preservation and restoration projects. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the history, materials and methods for working on historic structures. Students completing this year will receive an Associate of Applied Science in Historic Preservation and Restoration.

Although the complete program is designed to prepare individuals for work in the building trades with an emphasis on the preservation and restoration of historic and vintage residential and commercial buildings, it is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of interests. Individuals interested in obtaining a degree can enroll as full-time or part-time students. Students may also take specific courses; for example, a homeowner may

want to learn how to document an historic house or a carpenter may want to learn techniques for preserving vintage windows.

The College will be working with the LCPS to identify course topics and to offer joint workshops. Please contact us if you want more information or want to become involved in this exciting new program. Lucien Swerdloff : lswerdloff@clatsopcc.edu 503-338-2301.



Astoria's four Spexarth Buildings

Submitted by Mitch Mitchum

August G. Spexarth, Sr., was a prominent Astoria businessman in the late 1800's and early 1900's. He was born in Germany in 1848 and came to Astoria in 1874 where he opened a general store. His business was destroyed in the downtown fire of 1883, but he rebuilt and went back into business. He had a long and successful career in businesses including sporting goods, firearms, jewelry and other merchandise. In 1927 at the age of 79, he became a Port of Astoria commissioner and subsequently became president of the Port Commission. He died of pneumonia in August 2, 1934, at the age of 86.

In 1904 Mr. Spexarth bought the property at the northeast corner of 8th and Commercial Streets for \$5,000. In 1909 he announced plans to build a 100 by 100 foot reinforced concrete commercial building at this location. Reinforced concrete was practically unheard of at that time, in part because of the engineering required and in part because of the ready availability of structural wood. The \$100,000 building (roughly equivalent to \$1.4 million in today's dollars) was completed in September 1911, with the main floor as retail and the upper floors as office space. The building was one of the earliest reinforced concrete structures in the Northwest.

The building is unique in that it was the only building on Commercial in the area of the 1922 fire that did not burn. During the reconstruction of the downtown area, this Spexarth Building housed most of the city's doctors, dentists, lawyers and other professionals.

The four-story Spexarth Building at 818 Commercial is generally well known. Less well known is that in the aftermath of the 1922 fire, Mr. Spexarth built two



Spexarth Buildings, continued . . .

additional Commercial Street buildings. The buildings are at 1117-1125 (American Family Insurance and Urban Café) and 1126-1132 (Victorian Lace and Danish Maid Bakery). Both buildings were constructed by Albertson, Cornell Brothers & Walsh beginning in May 1924. Tenants in the south building over the years included Western Union; Dr. Harvey Rones, optician; Cat & Fiddle Restaurant; Utzinger's Bookstore; and Burke's Men's Store. In the north building the Economy Meat Market, Twentieth Century Grocery and Bake-Rite Bakery were early tenants.

A little noticed feature of these two post fire buildings is a monogrammed "S" for Spexarth at the top center of the front façade of each building.

The fourth Spexarth building was known as the Spexarth Apartments. It is the four story building, formerly part of the Astoria Clinic, at the Northeast corner of Eight and Exchange Streets. It is now used as Clatsop County offices. This building, which is also reinforced concrete, was constructed in 1923.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME
 ADDRESS
 CITY STATE ZIP
 PHONE NUMBER ()
 EMAIL*

Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Membership
☐ \$25 Family
☐ \$50 Business
☐ \$100 Supporter

LCPS Office:

1170 Commercial, Suite 210
 Hours: Mondays 3:00 - 5:00 pm.
 website: www.lcpsweb.org
 phone 503-791-1236
 Send mail to: PO Box 1334

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | |

* LCPS will not share or sell members' email addresses.

From the Chair

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society has embarked on its eleventh year of workshops, lectures and tours. Once again, it is time to say THANK YOU to our all volunteer board and society members. Yes, at some point the Stramiello bequest's journey through the legal process will be complete and LCPS might afford to hire a director, a goal we eagerly anticipate. Meanwhile, LCPS gives the community solid information regarding the preservation of commercial and residential properties, supports preservation efforts of other groups and provides great opportunities to socialize and work with other like-minded citizens in our area.

Recently, our nominating committee sent out a comprehensive survey, asking that you volunteer your valuable time to LCPS in areas of your expertise. The next event in desperate need of volunteers is our very popular Garden Tour. The profits realized from this event fund a large percentage of our annual budget. You need not be a gardener to volunteer for this committee. A love of gardens and the ability to write a press release, create a poster or organize the after-tour refreshments would all be put to good use. Call us – we need you!

Gin Laughery, LCPS Chair



LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 1334
Astoria, OR 97103

The Captain Albert E. Beard House

Submitted by Mitch Mitchum

At 566 Olney Avenue, immediately west of Fultano's Pizza, is a 1½ story vernacular farmhouse-style residence constructed in 1895. The wood-framed building has a simple rectangular plan with a front-facing gable roof covered with composition shingles. The roof line displays enclosed eaves with plain frieze boards. The exterior of the residence is clad in medium-width weatherboard siding.

The Beard house has some historic interest because of its early vernacular architecture. The building was designated an Astoria Historic Landmark in 1988 due to its association with Captain Beard, a local steamboat captain in the late 1800s in Astoria. The history of the small house is outlined in a letter from Captain Beard's son, Edward A. Beard, to an owner of the house in July 1986.

"During the enormous flood of 1894 in the upper Columbia at or near Heppner, many houses, barns and livestock came floating down the river and some of the wrecked buildings reached as far as Astoria. My father, Captain A. E. Beard, was living in Astoria at that time and was part owner of a small steamboat named "The Seafoam." He spent his working days as a captain of government and county-owned towboats. He also worked for Callendar Navigation Co., a major marine operator of the time. My father was operating the Seafoam when the wrecked houses reached Astoria from the 1894 flood. He spotted a wrecked building near Astoria and towed it to Young's Bay, where it was dismantled and much of the lumber was used to build the Olney Avenue house."

In his letter Edward Beard also states that his mother was one of three students in the first graduating class at Astoria High School in 1893, and that his father crossed the plains in a covered wagon in 1855 and came to Astoria in 1860. Captain Beard died in a shipwreck off Cape Disappointment in 1933 at the age of 76.