AUGUST MEETING: SEISMIC RETROFITTING

Did you know that your home is located in a Seismic Zone? Are you prepared for the big earthquake that we keep hearing about? Seismic retrofitting will be the topic of the August 30th meeting of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society. Ken Safe, PE, an associate engineer with Miller Consulting Engineers in Portland, will speak at 7:00 pm in Clatsop Community College’s Patriot Hall, Room 326. The LCPS business meeting will be held after the lecture. Safe’s presentation will address the following questions: What is retrofitting? What happens in an earthquake? How do engineers determine seismic needs? What are some ways homeowners can retrofit their building? We hope you will join us for this informative lecture.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP ~ MASONRY

The LCPS will present a masonry workshop on Saturday, September 23, 2000. Joe Herman, a local mason, will conduct the class, which will focus on aspects of masonry related to old buildings. Topics will include: recognizing different mortar types; identifying failing mortar or bricks; options for repairing or replacing failing chimneys; the effects of earthquakes on masonry; and the basics of how to construct with brick and stone. Location and time for this workshop will be reported later in the local media.

APRIL MEETING AND MAY WORKSHOP RECAP

Setting the stage for our spring focus on kitchen renovation, Kathleen Donahue, a Portland Certified Kitchen and Bath Designer, presented a lecture on Kitchen Theme Design. Using two projectors and screens, she showed an architectural style on one screen, and then on the other screen showed several examples of kitchens with features appropriate to the style of the house on the first screen. Ms. Donahue is extraordinarily qualified in her field, and we are grateful that she gave us her time and expertise in this most important area of preservation. Again, a special thanks to Michelle Schmitter and the Clatsop County Historical Society for hosting us at the Heritage Museum.

Our May workshop included a panel discussion on kitchen renovation by local contractors and homeowners. The panel members were: Tim Pierie of Tim Pierie Construction; Ed Overbay of Overbay Houseworks; Howard Klein of HK Design & Woodworking; Jim Coughlin of Orinicus Enterprises; Jeff Newenhofer, owner of City Lumber Company; and Dave Pollard, homeowner. The moderator was Doug Thompson. If you are interested in seeing a videotape of the discussion, contact Dave Fitch, 325-8089. A special thanks to all of the above for their advice and time when they probably should have spent the day making a living! Thanks also to Clatsop Community College for allowing us to use their facilities and equipment.

The Kitchen Tour following the panel discussion included eight kitchens built between 1875 and 1992. House styles represented were Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Italianate, an old and a new Craftsman, two English Cottages, and a 1970s Daylight Ranch. A great thank you to homeowners Bruce and Kristina Berney, Steve Blass and Carolyn Krusick, Tim and LaRee Bruton, Dave and Beth Fitch, Hope Harris and Bob Lennon, Curt and Rosemary Johnson, Dave Pollard and Linda Oldenkamp, and Randy and Debby Stemper for opening their delightful and charming kitchens to us. More thanks to John Goodenberger, Ann Gyde, Anne Phillips, Lynda Stewart, Tony and Roberta Stramiello, Fred White, and Melissa Yowell for serving as hosts in each of the homes.
RESTORATION SPOTLIGHT

by Dave Fitch

About 6 years ago, Paul Barber found a small 1921 vernacular house in the Unioneast-Alameda historic district for a great price. Not so great were the sagging roof, sagging ceilings, non-functioning utilities, and phantom foundation. Today the house is the City of Astoria’s residential pick for the 2000 Dr. Edward Harvey award for the best completed exterior restoration.

Part of the reason for the award are the added dormers to the second floor that look like they came with the original design. Paul’s reason for adding the dormers was to capture the view of the river and to improve the look of the house.

Although Paul did a great deal of the work himself, Steve Coy, a carpenter and friend, who died recently in an auto accident, added some very excellent craftsmanship. The ceilings are restored 1” x 8” “V”-beveled shiplap. The floors are painted original fir except for the kitchen and bath which are salvaged maple from an Astoria school gym floor. The kitchen cabinets are attractive original curved-corner style. The bathroom has a bead-board wainscot, a clawfoot tub, and a period sink with one leg. Utilities are all new, as is the foundation that was poured under the house, which was raised up into the air. Windows are either restored originals or added wood windows that match the original ones. The doors are new 6-panel vertical grain fir that maintain the original character of the house.

Paul is a busy guy, with two sons to raise, a Honda and Saab repair and sales business to run near Miles Crossing, and future plans to build another house in Seaside. Drive by 171 Hume Street to see how hard work and good taste have paid off.

MEMBERS’ FEATURE

Jan Gregor and Ashleigh Talbot Gregor, 1546 Franklin, house built circa 1870.

By Hope Harris

The Gregors grew up in the nuclear boomtown of Richland and then lived in Seattle since the early 80s. They met in 1995 and were married in 1996. They moved to Astoria last summer and bought the Charles Heilborn House.

Jan: “We moved here because of the houses, the incredible houses. We love this place because it’s a ‘real’ town with a great history. I joined LCPS because I feel that if you buy an old house that is as old as your great-grandparents, then you become a steward of that house.”

Ashleigh: “I heard about Astoria from a friend in 1995. It pretty much stuck in my head that there was a place that had retained the look and feel of what small towns must have looked like back in the 1940s to 1960s. We moved here to get away from uptight corporate Seattle—I was sick of that city.

The house originally belonged to the Charles Heilborn family. Heilborn was a pioneer furniture dealer and county treasurer. Later it was the residence of Eleanor (daughter of Captain Gustav Holmes) and George Nelson, ship’s chandler, who sold supplies to ships in port. In 1929 it became the Stacey House, providing mainly meals (she ran a high-end boarding house) to professional people and other day workers. She retired in 1960 but maintained the place as her home until she passed on at the age of 104. Soon after that, the Ellenburg family bought the house and did much of the restoration, i.e., wiring, some wallpapering, etc. Then the house was sold to Joni Sherman who, regrettably, eliminated every closet in the house and turned each and every one into a bathroom. The house has seven toilets.

“We hope to keep the original integrity of the house, eventually painting it back to the original colors of what an Italianate looked like back in the 1870s, but that won’t happen until probably next summer.”
Clatsop County Historical Society

ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES

The Clatsop County Historical Society is holding its annual Historic Homes Tour in conjunction with the Astoria Regatta on Saturday, August 12th and Sunday, August 13th, 2000. Historic residences in Alderbrook will be the focus for this year’s tour. Alderbrook was once the Donation Land Claim of Robert Shortess. Shortess, a member of the Peoria party, arrived in the area sometime after 1840. Shortess named Ash, Birch, and Cedar Streets in Alderbrook. In 1870, Shortess gave away his land in Alderbrook to settle a $600 debt. Colonel Kelly, the recipient of the property, sold one portion of the land for $13,000 and another portion for $100,000 in the 1880s.

The homes on the tour will be open both days from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Tickets for the self-guided tour are $8.00 per person (children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult) and are available at the Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange Street. Included in the tour price is a booklet containing a photograph and brief history of each building and a location map. The Society is still looking for homeowners in Alderbrook who would be willing to open their homes during the homes tour weekend. Please give Michelle Schmitter a call at 325-2203 if you would like to participate.

A JOB WELL DONE

by Rosemary Johnson

Several months ago, many of us attended a plaster workshop at the Flavel House. One thing I learned at that workshop was that I would need to hire a professional to do the big jobs. Several of us had Randy, of West Coast Plastering, (503) 663-0388, come to Astoria to give us estimates on our projects. As a result, I hired Randy to smooth out the living room ceiling (11 feet high), skim coat the hallway, and redo a curved wall on the staircase.

I was really pleased with the outcome. I’m glad I spent the extra money to have a professional do the work; Randy worked quickly and did a great job. He worked the plaster until it was smooth and needed just a little sanding.

Other contractors had told me to sheetrock the ceiling and put up a fake medallion, but Randy’s work allowed me to retain the original plaster work and original medallion, which were part of the history of the house.

If you would like to see his work, give me a call at 325-6434 (evenings), and I’ll be glad to show you what he did.

KUDOS!!!

• To John and Ada Ann Wolcott, for restoring the stone retaining wall on their property. This is a huge project. If you haven’t seen it, definitely stop by (17th & Irving) and watch the master craftsman, Joe Herman, at work. You’ll be more than impressed.

• To the City of Astoria, Parks & Recreation Department, Astoria Column/John Jacob Astor Park Advisory Committee for holding Public meetings and seeking citizen input to develop a master plan for the Column grounds.
AGENDA
AUGUST 30, 2000
7 - 8:30 pm
Clatsop Community College
Patriot Hall, Room 326
I. 7:00 - 8:00pm: Speaker, Ken
Safe. Seismic Retrofitting.
II. 8:00pm: short break
III. Business meeting:
  Call to Order
  Treasurer’s Report
  Membership Report
  Questions & Answers
  For the Good of the
  Organization

NATIONAL HISTORIC
REGISTRY TOURS

Latourette house,
683 E Street, Gearhart, June 16,
11 am to 3 pm

McCormick building,
289-99 S. First, St. Helens, June 30,
noon to 4 pm

For open house information:
www.prd.state.or.us/about_shpo.html

CLASSIFIED ADS

Want to Buy: Wall lighting,
sconces for 1900 Queen Ann.
Please call Dave or Beth at
325-8089 evenings.

For Sale: 30" x 80" x 1 3/4" 6-
panel pre-hung exterior door,
vertical grain fir. Could also be
used for an interior door. Clear,
unstained, never used. $400
new, now $150. Please call Dave
or Beth at 325-8089 evenings.

For Sale: Approximately 200
square feet of grooved oak boat
decking. Best offer. Please call
Rosemary at 325-6434 evenings.

LCPS ORGANIZATION GAINS EXPOSURE
The Friday before National Preservation Week, the Daily Astorian’s
Coast Weekend featured a front page picture and an article on the
LCPS kitchen workshop. The following Monday, in honor of Na-
tional Preservation Week, Fred and Marty White’s home and the
LCPS were featured on the front page of the Daily Astorian. The
Oregonian and the Salem Statesman Journal newspapers also picked
up the article and published it in their editions the following week.
Linda Oldenkamp, LCPS Chair, wants us to know that she was
misquoted as the organization’s founder. Linda says the founders of
LCPS are many and include the Historic Landmarks Commission
and all the rest of us!

On another note, don’t forget to recommend our group to others. If
you know of someone who has just bought a “new” old house, you
might want to give a membership in LCPS as a housewarming gift.
Just fill out the application below with a note that it’s a housewarm-
ing gift. Also consider giving a membership as a birthday gift, or
giving a membership to a friend just because you want to help us
grow stronger. We’ve found that people appreciate what we’re doing
and enjoy receiving the newsletter.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME ________________________________
ADDRESS ________________________________
CITY ___________ STATE _______ ZIP _______
PHONE NUMBER _________________________

☐ Apply $5 workshop fee
☐ $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 _______________________

Please note our new mailing address
and make checks payable to:
Lower Columbia Preservation Society
Post Office Box 1334
Astoria, Oregon 97103