

# Benton County Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER

Hi, friends and fellow members. I hope this finds you well and enjoying the spring weather. As we near our summer break (June, July and August) be safe and have a great one.

located in Philomath, Oregon

Volume 43 No.6 May  
And June 2024

founded in 1971

**Benton County Memorial at National Guard Armory  
1100 NW King Blvd. CORVALLIS  
MAY 27, 1024**



May is loaded with interested happenings. I hope you like the three of these! Sue

**The best to come!**  
**Potluck** May 11,  
2024 10:30 to  
Noon in the annex.  
Have some great  
food and friends to  
talk with!

<https://memorialdayoregon.com> ( in 2023)

**CALLING ALL MOTORCYCLES!!! Corvallis Memorial Day Parade 2024**

**CALLING ALL BIKERS!!!! Corvallis Memorial Parade 104th Anniversary.** The Corvallis American Legion Post 91 would like to get as many bikes in the parade as possible. Last year we had just shy of 100 bikes. WE WANT MORE. When you get to the high school Ask anyone of the workers where the Corvallis Post 91 American Legion Riders are staged. You will be looking for the Director of the Legion Riders. His name is Don

Goodnight. If you have any questions please feel free to message or call Don Goodnight 406-360-5275. Please respond going to the event if you plan on being there.



### **Mt. St. Helens is Erupting: Leave the Area**

May 18, 1980, started out like any other camping morning with showers and breakfast and plans for the day. My husband Mike, our son Andrew and I had come to Oregon from Wisconsin for a vacation and for Mike to have a job interview. Previously, we had lived in Beaver, Oregon, when Mike was stationed at Mt. Hebo radar site in the early 70's. Because we loved Oregon, we just kept coming here for fun and for a job for Mike if possible.

This year's vacation was particularly exciting to me because Mt. St. Helens had been rumbling for months and I was a geology freak. I naively went so far as to hope for an eruption while we were there. We decided to camp as close as we could to the volcano so we could explore as much as possible. Having the choice to camp in the red zone that encircled the mountain or a camp farther away, we settled on Silver Lake Campground, west of the town of Toutle. Today the campground's name is Seaquest State Park, across the road from the Silver Lake Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center.

About 8:30, I was in the shower where hot water cost a dime when suddenly, freezing cold water hit me in the head. Naturally, I didn't have another dime. I rinsed off the best I could and went out to find our young son. I was sure he had played a joke on me. When I reached our campsite, Mike was standing there holding a brochure in his hand. He told me that the ranger, visibly shaken, had been there with the news that Mt. St. Helens had erupted. Our little Pomeranian dog had been acting strange and our son had said to Mike, "Dad, my legs are shaking, my legs are shaking." Mike thought he was joking.

The brochure was titled *WARNING- Mt. St. Helens is an active volcano. You are entering a high hazard zone.* The next section told what to do if we were notified that an eruption was occurring, which could bring mud flows, avalanches, or floods. The brochure's purpose was to have people leave the area as soon as possible. But the ranger hadn't told us we had to leave, and we hadn't heard any sound from the volcano. We weren't particularly worried.

So what did we do? We headed east to the town of Toutle to see what was going on. We didn't see anything until we arrived in town. Immediately we witnessed huge roiling black clouds with lightning shooting through them. There was absolute silence. We parked in a tavern parking lot and watched, listening to the radio from the police car in the middle of the highway. It wasn't very long until the black clouds were covered by a layer of white foggy clouds.

We could hear the police radio broadcasting that a mud flow was traveling down the Toutle River. Soon there were vehicles coming down the road, and we heard the dispatcher say to the police officer, "If you hear a steady siren, that's the sign that the mud flow is coming down the road and you should leave."

Listening to our car radio, too, we heard that bridges probably would be taken out. Because we had to catch a plane the next day to get home to Wisconsin, we decided we were being foolhardy and left. We also didn't want to get caught in a traffic jam with no way out when people started leaving the area. I remember it also felt wrong to sit there watching people's way of life dissolve, but I have to admit I really wanted to stay to witness everything.

We made our way to the west and I-5 so we could head to Portland. As we drove down I-5, cars were stopped to the side to watch the volcano. Huge black clouds of ash were still visible rising up over the Cascade foothills for miles. Eventually, white clouds enveloped portions of the ash cloud like a sandwich with the ash as the filling. If we hadn't known what we were seeing, we would have thought it looked like the sky does right before a tornado-that deadly blue-gray color.

We had no idea if airplanes would be flying the next day out of Portland. At that time, no one knew if ash would reach Portland soon, so we hoped for the best. I called my parents in Nebraska to tell them that we were ok, and Mom asked, "Why, what happened?" The news hadn't reached them yet. Of course, my Mom was aghast that we had taken such a chance. We were able to leave the next day to go home with quite a story to tell.

After learning about the devastation that followed this eruption, we realized how lucky we were that we hadn't become statistics. And, like many others, we were sad for the families who lost loved ones or their homes and properties. I'm still awed by the power of our planet's systems and the fragility of our place on it. But I still can't resist the lure of nature's big events.

Sue Van Laere



The Town of Toutle about 10:00 a.m. on May 18

Before the Civil War, a woman Ann Reeves Jarvis, from West Virginia took to helping mothers care for their children. She helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs." After the Civil War, she had mothers get together from the Union and Confederates to help the soldiers to compromise.

In the 1900s, Mother's Day was finely going to be official. After the death of Ann Reeves Jarvis, her daughter, Anna Jarvis, took her mother's place. The first official Mother's Day was in 1908 in a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia.

Anna had success in making Mother's Day a holiday. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day!



Anna Jarvis

Anna had wanted to have Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. But when Mother's Day became a national holiday, the day quickly came to be how much money people should use on florists, cards and other things. By the time she died in 1948, she was trying to have the Holiday be removed from the calendar.



**ted Positions**

President: George Davidson,  
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Vice President: Kathryn Moss  
[mosskathryn@gmail.com](mailto:mosskathryn@gmail.com)

Secretary: Linda Olsen  
Treasurer: Lois Courtney

**Appointed Positions**

Membership: OPEN  
Librarian: Liza Wilson  
Programs: OPEN  
Historian: OPEN  
Photographer: OPEN  
Audit: Connie Patterson  
Refreshments: Pegge Gee  
Host: Kathryn Moss  
Website: George Davidson  
Facebook: Payton James-Amberg  
Research: Lois Courtney  
Newsletter: Sue Van Laere



**Bill Gleaves, a long member of our BCGS**

Bill has moved into the Oregon Veterans Home, 600 N 5th, Lebanon, Or 97355. Visitors are welcome. Bill helped in many ways in our Society. He also was a pilot and had good stories to tell. We miss him very much and those stories.

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>  
<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/when-mothers-day>

**It's hard to believe that our summer is nearly here!**

**At our Pot Luck on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 to 12 , maybe we can tell each other we're going to make this the best summer yet. Everybody has their own idea of "a good life". Let's all of us use it!**

**Find some great "stuff" and we'll see each again on September 14!**