

March 2022



CENTRAL WASHINGTON  
AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

# MUSEUM NEWS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Nick Schultz

I know it's still winter, but it is sure nice to have the snow gone, sunshine and longer daylight hours. It makes me want to start gardening.

The winter weather hasn't slowed our volunteers down too much. Our coffee breaks are a little longer and we spend a little more time inside where it is warmer but projects around the museum continue to get done.

The crew in the Klingele Building gave a 1953 Case tractor a new coat of paint and they also have been working on a crawler and a couple trucks. The crew in the Danner Building continue working on their projects; a 1946 Ford COE truck, a 1927 Ford Model "T" and a couple of John Deere tractors. They also have been putting the finishing touches on the engine for the sawmill by changing all the fluids and replacing all the belts. The clutch and transmission are now installed. Once the ground thaws it will be moved down to the sawmill for a trial run. Now that the snow is gone the Farmstead crew is able to start cleaning and repairing equipment, getting ready for our spring events.

The crew in Building #1 just completed restoring a 1918 Wayne Gas Pump. Described in a 1917 advertisement as "big, accurate, speedy, and accurate", the pump stands almost 10 feet tall. Wayne's "exclusive patented features give you quicker service, accurate mechanical measure, and clean gasoline free from water". A restored pump of this type is being sold online for \$5999.99. WOW! They are now restoring a 1927 Gravelly Model "D" plow/cultivator. If that wasn't enough, they just started restoring a 1930s wood stove.

The Olde Yakima Letterpress Museum continues to be open the first and third Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. Ninety pictures/photos have been installed to help bring the displays to life. A 900-pound historic bindery machine from the former Emerald City Bindery from Seattle has been installed. The letterpress volunteers are seeking to work with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC on an artifact loan program. The office staff is always busy making sure that the bills get paid, deposits are made, letters are written, the phone gets answered and the e-mails get a response. All our volunteers are busy, busy, busy.

A new entrance sign has been purchased with the goal of making the museum more visible to people as they travel south out of Union Gap. It will be installed soon. The museum again provided several pieces of equipment to State Fair Park for their Holiday Light Fest. These were each decorated with hundreds of lights by the Fair Park Staff.

We are very excited about our new Audio/Video tour. With a smart phone you will be able to access it by scanning a QR code. This will allow you to get historical facts and pictures about the displays here at the museum. Look for the 33 bright yellow station signs throughout the grounds. This program should be up and running by the 1st of April.

As you may recall I was going to step down as president in March 2020, but COVID hit so I have stayed on. In March 2022, I began my fourteenth year as president. This is my 21st year volunteering at the museum and it has been a big part of my life since I retired in 2000. I have many fond memories and have made many new friends. I wish to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of this great museum.



**A 1918 Wayne Gas Pump was recently restored.  
The pump stands almost 10' tall .**



**A 1953 Case tractor received a new coat of paint.  
One of several pieces of equipment that are  
being worked on.**



**A recently restored engine will soon be utilized by the  
portable sawmill.**



# Old Steel Car Show is Back!

In 2022, the Old Steel Car Show is celebrating its 25th anniversary even though we missed two years due to COVID. There will be trophies, food vendors, museum demonstrations, door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, and drawings for theme baskets. This event has grown to over 300 vehicles.

Registration forms will be mailed soon to prior participants. Or download the form from the museum website ([www.centralwaagmuseum.org/](http://www.centralwaagmuseum.org/)) and mail it to the museum with your registration fee. At this show, anything with wheels is welcome.

**25 Year Anniversary!**

**OLD STEEL CAR SHOW**

Rare 1978 Cadillac Only 350 made!

**Sunday, April 24, 2022**  
**10am-3pm**  
 Central Washington AG Museum, Union Gap, WA  
**Pre-Registration: \$20** by 4/10/22  
**Day of Event: \$30**  
 Register Now - The first 200 registrations receive a goodie bag and dash plaque

**All cars, trucks, motorcycles and more are welcome to enter.**

**Demonstrations & Museum Activities**  
 Door Prizes • Trophies • 50/50 Drawing  
 Drawing for theme baskets

**One of the region's largest outdoor spring car shows!**

**Delicious food. Spectators are Free. Great family event.**

Thanks to our sponsors!  
 UNION GAP, CENTRAL WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM, PAS, and others.

For more information call 509.457.8735 or email [info@centralwaagmuseum.org](mailto:info@centralwaagmuseum.org)

<p><b>STATION 1</b> Museum Entrance</p> <p>Disponibile en español</p>	<p><b>STATION 2</b> Wood Silo</p> <p>Disponibile en español</p>	<p><b>STATION 3</b> Silage Making</p> <p>Disponibile en español</p>
<p><b>STATION 4</b> Boise Cascade Lumber Mill</p> <p>Disponibile en español</p>	<p><b>STATION 5</b> Horse &amp; Buggy</p> <p>Disponibile en español</p>	<p><b>STATION 6</b> Coming of the Railroad</p> <p>Disponibile en español</p>

**Grab your smart phone, scan the QR code and you can get historical facts at 33 different stations on the museum grounds starting in April!**

## 2022 MEMBERSHIPS

Through March 4, 2022

**BENEFACTOR: \$500 & Up**

Richard & Rebecca Drew, Rob Gallion, Harris Farms, David & Cheryl Stave, Yakima Co-operative Association

**PATRON: \$100 & Up**

Ruth Bishop, Burrows Tractor, Dave Calhoun, Jim & Cheryl Gamache (Carrell Crane & Heavy Hauling Inc.), Kathy Kramer (Central WA Fair Association), Joanne Chapa (Chestnut Place Properties LLC), Gary Feser, Rich Maurer & Arlene Fisher-Maurer, Bob Gimlin, Gary & Kris Green, Norma Haney, Rod & Donna Hodel, Fred Hutchinson, Instant Press Inc, Scott & Lyndee Campbell (K-5 Contracting Inc.), Jim Kabrich, Judy Markham, Tony & Melody Pottratz, Robin & Jean Robert (Robert Ranch 5 + 1 LLC), Paul & Patty Schafer, Larry & Becky Scholl, Mike & Brian Schrantz, Kathy Schultz, Nick Schultz, Todd Schultz, Diane Grignon & Ben Snowden, Curtis & Mary R Sundquist, Margaret Morris & Ken Tolonen, Misti Uptain, Sandi Vogel, Jim Warner, Yakima Valley Horseless Carriage Club, Ron Zirkle

**SPONSOR: \$50 & Up**

John A Baule, Barney E Brown, Clarence S Brown, Ken Tolonen (Fruitvale Grange #348), Andy & Peg Granitto, Dale C Harris, Kathleen & Larry Hatcher, Bill Horst, Nancy A Kenmotsu, Diana Kempf & Robert Landles, Lisa Lindholm, Mark Lindholm, Donna Miller, Eric & Wendy Patrick, Al Showalter, Elin Showalter, Debra Smith, Ken Stenehjem, Mildred Stenehjem, Terry Stewart, Tim & Marilyn Waddington, Dwight & Rita Wagenmann, James & Geraldine Honeyford (Windmill Farms), Ralph L Woodall Jr., Yakima Rock & Mineral Club

**FAMILY: \$35**

Don & Judy Bird, Anne & Skip Buckler, Howard & Evelyn Campbell, Harvey & Beverly & Matt Cleem, Jim & Ada Colbert, Harold & Betty Cook, Opal Duffield, Shane & Megan Feekes, Timm Heberlein, Dale Hendricks, Bob & Eleanor Hester, Diana Holt, Jim & Jan Hyslop, Ray & Maralyn Killorn, John & Sally Kobli, Chase & Sophie Maarhuis, Sam & Gina Martin, Mark & Laura McDaniel, Wally & Roberta Moen, George Nix, Kim & Michael Orr, Rod Patterson, Ken & Judy Ruthardt, Phil & Shirley Seghers, Kevin & Jeanene Sutton, Clyde & Merla Thysell, Connie & Paul Williams, John & Leslie Wornell

**INDIVIDUAL: \$25**

Bill Allen, Sandy Allen, Megan Barron, Pat Barron, Terri Barron, Carol Blomgren, Garrett Blomgren, Greg Blomgren, Karen Blomgren, Kent Blomgren, F. Clarke Brown, Buena Grange #836, Eugenia Carvo, Purdy G Conrad, Ray Cook, Rosemary Corn, Linda Dale, Karen Dillon, Bill Driskill, Freda Dupuis, David Ruark (Eastern Washington Agricultural Museum), Michael Emerson, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan Geho, Don Groth, Mike Haider, Sylvia Hall, Laurie Harmon-Willard, Dale Hoeck, Janelle Moses (Holy Cow Natural Organic Beef), Roy Moses (Holy Cow Natural Organic Beef), Teale Love, Jacob Maier, Nancy McGinnis, William McLaughlin, Kim Metcalfe, Kate Olson, Betty Pace, Rose Parker, Jim Warner (Perfection Tire), Jeff Phelps, Dick Picatti, Janice Picatti, Jim Polley, Pat Pope, Dennis Richardson, Julie Picatti Richardson, Carole Romfo, Lowell Romfo, Vivian Russell, Dave Scheuffele, Kate Shire, Aidan Smith, Alex Smith, Doug Smith, Michelle Stone, Jeanne Strater, Jennifer Strater, Jonathan Strater, Kristy Strater, Paul Strater, George Streby, Kay Tandberg, Chuck Tierney, Elizabeth Wade, Ada Ruth Whitmore (Whoop-N-Hollar Ranch), Brooke Wilson, Floyd A Wilson, James A Yockey, Taylor Yockey, Victoria Yockey

## 2021 MEMBERSHIPS

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Honeyford (Windmill Farms), Ralph L Woodall Jr., Yakima District Pomona #1, Yakima Rock & Mineral Club

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# HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

## Asparagus Harvester

from the Central Washington Ag Museum

Asparagus was listed in a 1917 state agricultural survey as being grown in the Yakima Valley, and it remains as the first crop harvested in the spring. The vegetable was being cultivated by the mid-1400s, but it is a crop that has been harvested by hand for thousands of years. The museum has two of the early attempts at inventing a mechanical asparagus harvester. The rest of this article is excerpted from a February 1, 1994 letter to the museum by Charles R. Lyons.

I (Chuck Lyons) have tried to gather together what I remember about the asparagus harvesters developed by myself, Leslie Wadekamper (friend to A.D), and A.D. Dunn (stepfather to Lyons). I will also describe the machine invented by Bernard P. Fuchs of Rochelle, Illinois, manufactured by Hart Carter Co. and sold via agents like Mr. Wadekamper. Both A.D. and Les possessed considerable mechanical ingenuity as a result of being farmers and performing maintenance and improvements to their own machinery.

I hope the information helps anyone who might be interested in this chapter of the Yakima Valley asparagus industry's history. As you can see, we had a lot of help from friends, neighbors, and people in the asparagus business; I wanted to acknowledge our debt to them.

### Development of the Lyons and Fuchs Asparagus Harvesters

In January of 1965 Chuck Lyons of Zillah terminated his mechanical engineering studies at WSU to develop an idea he had for an automated asparagus harvester. His original concept used rigid metal paddles on a pair of chains to pick up the cut asparagus spears, a series of longitudinal sheet metal dividers to straighten up the uncut spears, and a set of mechanical knives attached to these dividers and actuated by forward motion of the machine.

The metal paddles were converted to rubber after the first few tests; this significantly reduced spear head damage. The sheet metal dividers were also quickly eliminated. The first field test was held at the farm of Tom Richardson north of Granger.

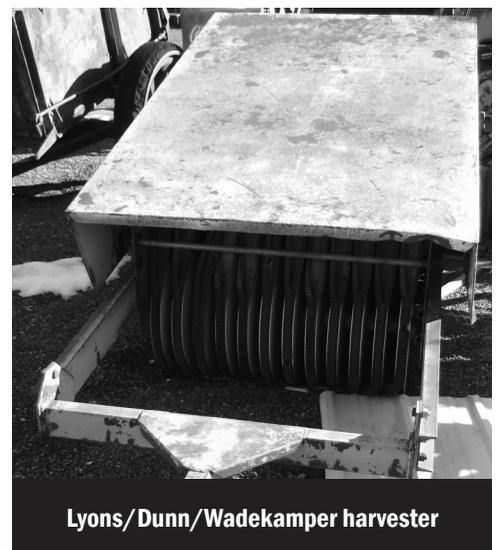
The first year's tests showed a small amount of promise. All construction so far had been done in a one car, tumble-down, Model-T garage at his parents' home on their farm east of Zillah with facilities assistance from Leo Cecil who ran the welding/machine shop in Zillah.

Les Wadekamper joined Lyons in building a completely new machine for the second season. A.D. Dunn continued his interest in the project and became the third partner when the three formalized their arrangement. Les furnished much of the financing for the second and subsequent machines. Much of the machine work for this model was done with the use of Stan Alexander's shop near Granger.

The first tests of the second season were performed at a large corporate farm near El Centro, California, in March of 1965. The test was pretty much a flop, but Lyons gained knowledge that helped get the machine improved for the start of the Yakima Valley season.

Yakima Valley tests the second season were held in fields of Cliff Dills east of Granger. The inventors felt fortunate to have Mr. Dill's cooperation for several reasons: 1. His fields were reasonably close to their shop, 2. He was helpful in adapting his field practices in the test plot to accommodate the machine's special requirements and by scheduling his farm work to accommodate the testing schedule, 3. He granted the inventors use of his Massey Ferguson 135 tractor which had ground synchronized PTO needed to control speed of the pick up conveyor on the harvester.

Tests of the second season showed enough promise that the inventors contacted a patent attorney. His search for prior inventions turned up approximately twenty patents for asparagus harvesters. None had been successful. None used either of the



Lyons/Dunn/Wadekamper harvester



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# HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

## Asparagus Harvester

from the Central Washington Ag Museum

concepts of the Lyons machine; the separating paddle pickup or the knife/selecting system. The inventors decided to proceed with patent preparation and application.

Within several days of receiving Letters of Patent from the US Patent Office, Lyons received a letter from a patent attorney in Illinois stating that the Patent Office had erred in granting his patent. Bernie Fuchs of Rochelle, had filed his application less than a week ahead of Lyons and both Lyons and Fuchs had been granted patents on the same idea; this is not supposed to happen. Mr. Fuchs had licensed his patent rights to Hart Carter Co. a large manufacturer of specialized harvesting equipment. The letter was from H C's patent attorney who sensibly suggested that Lyons also license to Hart Carter and in that way prevent a costly, no win for anybody, legal fight over validity of the patents. Lyons, Wadekamper and Dunn worked out an agreement whereby H C would develop, manufacture, and market a machine that employed selected inventions from both patents.

The following summer Lyons spent his college vacation working in Hart Carter's prototype shop in Mendota, Illinois. Mostly he worked on test models of the asparagus harvester, but also worked on their tomato harvester and cucumber picker.

The final version of the Hart Carter machine used a folding belt arrangement to grasp the picked spears and carry them to the bin at rear of the machine. This folding belt system required a separator system similar to the one Lyons had earlier discarded because it damaged too many spear heads. The knife/selector system was part of this separator system and also contributed to the spear damage. Although the machine did harvest asparagus, it was unsuccessful because of this damage, and Hart Carter abandoned their attempts to further develop the machine.

Les, A.D. and Lyons felt that Hart Carter had not given the Lyons version of the machine a fair trial. So when Les learned that H C was abandoning the project, the three contacted H-C and Mr. Fuchs and arranged an understanding that the Lyons group would proceed with development on their own and Fuchs and Hart Carter would not contest Lyons' use of the contents of the Lyons' patent. The Lyons group had, by this time, filed for and received a patent for improvements to the pick up paddle arrangement and several improvements to the selector/knife system.

Lyons constructed three harvester 'picking pods' that winter in the shops of Calkins Manufacturing Co. in Spokane. Lyons was employed as an engineer designing improvements to their products and improvements to their means of manufacturing these products. He was fortunate to have their entire prototype shop at his disposal off hours.

Lyons, Wadekamper and Dunn decided to build the asparagus harvesters as 'pods' because they had by this time determined that a one row machine could not cover enough ground, would not harvest enough asparagus to pay the cost of the operator. The answer, they thought, was multi row machines. By constructing only the essentials of the harvester in a 'pod', a farmer could purchase several 'pods' and mount them on a carrier of his choice and design, thereby reducing his capital outlay. All three of the test pods were installed in carts that could be towed behind tractors for field tests.

Mr. Wadekamper and Mr. Dunn tested these machines extensively west of Toppenish and on the Roza north of Sunnyside. They were tested both as selective cut machines and as non-selective (or clean cut) machines. They worked reasonably well in either mode, but were judged unsuccessful. It was impossible to cover enough ground with them to harvest enough asparagus to pay the cost of operation and to pay off the initial cost of the machine(s).

To operate properly, the height of the machine must be maintained within 1/2 inch of its proper height above the top of the asparagus bed; with the best hydraulic controls they could devise, this was not possible at 2 1/2 miles per hour; furthermore, as irrigation rutted the ditches throughout the season, the machine would begin bouncing at slower and slower speeds. When it bounced, it utterly destroyed all asparagus spears it passed over.

The Washington Asparagus Growers Association and its president, Gene Coe, gave the inventors considerable support throughout their harvester's development, by helping find growers who would let them test in their fields, by providing access to plant growth and culture information, and by co-funding construction and tests of the last series of 'pod' machines.



Fuchs/Hart-Carter harvester

Celebrate Union Gap's Asparafest! May 14-15. Several Union Gap restaurants, Fruit City and the Union Gap Farmer's Market highlighting fresh asparagus offerings!



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# CENTRAL WA AG MUSEUM H I G H L I G H T S

## Grand Re-opening event

NEW for 2022 - We are welcoming the public to the Grand Re-opening of CWAM April 2nd from 11am – 3pm. We have exciting new features to introduce. This includes the presentation of the Young's cabin agricultural worker exhibit and the brand-new smart phone guided tour. This is primarily a walking tour – wear comfortable shoes! All exhibits will be open for touring. The museum will be closed to drive-thru traffic during this event for the safety of families. Each family can pick up one free audio tour card upon entry. Free admission, free parking – come and help us celebrate, be among the first to see these new features.

## Old Town Days

Old Town Days is back for 2022! Enjoy Washington State's biggest Living History Weekend with Civil War Reenactment over Father's Day Weekend, June 18-19th. Free admission & parking thanks to our sponsors. Wander through acres of history camps with demonstrations and information about life during the Civil War - both at home and on the battlefield, brought to you by the talents of the Washington Civil War Association. When kids stop at "Education Stations" to learn all kinds of facts on the scavenger hunt, they can turn it in for a prize! Please check our events page or follow us on Facebook as the schedule and more information will be included there.

## Audio Tour

Countless hours were spent by our volunteers creating a smart phone guided audio/photo tour. This educational tour includes 33 well marked stations throughout the museum where visitors will be able to listen to the history about the exhibit and see photos. The visitor can choose to listen to them in any order. During museum open hours, audio tour cards will be available by donation in the Visitor's Center. The tour can be accessed from your phone even after you've left the museum. This will be a beneficial feature for field trips, home school visits and anyone that wants to view the tour again later.



## Sun Sips & Suds

Our Second Annual 'Sun, Sips & Suds - A Beer, Wine & Spirits Exhibition' will take place June 17th, on the Centennial Stage at Fullbright Park. This is a 21+ only event with a great lineup of music, local beer, wine & spirits. Rather than a small roped off area, we have a wide-open grassy space to enjoy it all and hang out with your friends!

## Young's Cabin:

After the article in the Yakima Herald Republic regarding the grant received from the Valerie Sivinski Fund through the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation for restoration of a Young's cabin, we received many calls and messages from people who have stories and information to share about how a Young's cabin has been part of their lives.

There are no exhibits in Central Washington that show the history and living conditions of migrant and seasonal farmworkers from the area, making this an important addition to the museum. This exhibit will bring the stories of the plight of migrant farmworkers to life with photographs, stories and first-hand accounts of these structures in use, providing valuable perspectives on the history of migrant farm labor in Central Washington.



A stand-alone Young's cabin was sometimes attached to a house in order to add an extra room. In this case, a bathroom and bedroom.

# Memorials

## Royce Baker, Marty Humphrey, Larry Johnson, Bob Herber

Remember a friend or loved one with a memorial gift to the Central Washington Agricultural Museum. Money from a memorial is used for additions and improvements unless otherwise designated. When you send a memorial gift it is helpful if you include the following information:

- Who to send the acknowledgment to along with the address.
- If available, we appreciate a copy of the obituary or a brief bio of the person.
- With a gift of \$25 or more the honored one's name will be placed on a memorial board. It is a tax deductible gift.

## The acquisitions since the last newsletter are:

- Rotobaler from Gerry Wolff
- Wooden brusher from Nolan and Sons, NW
- 1946 Oliver 70 tractor from Nick Schultz
- John Deere mower from Robert Shupe
- John Deere 4-wheel wagon from Melvin Heilman
- Coats Tire Machine from John Kobli
- Parlor stove from April Davenport



CENTRAL WASHINGTON  
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# EVENTS COMING UP

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>CWAM Grand Re-opening</b>   | <b>April 2</b>             |
| <b>Old Steel Car Show</b>  | <b>April 24</b>            |
| <b>Auto Swap Meet</b>  | <b>June 11 &amp; 12</b>    |
| <i>Sponsored by the Horseless Carriage Car Club and the Model-A Club</i> |                            |
| <b>Sun Sips &amp; Suds</b>   | <b>June 17</b>             |
| <b>Old Town Days &amp; Civil War Re-enactment</b>                        | <b>June 18 &amp; 19</b>    |
| <b>Pioneer Power Show</b>  | <b>August 20 &amp; 21</b>  |
| <b>Agri-Copia</b>  | <b>October 15 &amp; 16</b> |



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