

Help needed

Museum to exhibit labor history of Clark County

VANCOUVER — A public exhibition on the history of the labor movement in Clark County and surrounding area is in the works at the Clark County Historical Museum.

The exhibit is tentatively titled, "Tools of the Trade: A History of Labor in Southwest Washington." Plans are to open July 11, 2013, prior to the convention of the Washington State Labor Council, which will be held at the Vancouver Hilton & Convention Center.

The exhibit will run for approxi-

mately 18 months.

"Although once a stronghold of the labor movement in Washington state, many Clark County residents today do not realize the significance of workers and their unions in building the community and sustaining families for over a century," said the museum's executive director, Susan Tissot. "This exhibit project will help document that hidden history and showcase some of the artifacts, oral histories, and other materials related to the labor movement and the

development of the work force in Clark County."

Tissot is reaching out to area unions seeking items that can be donated or loaned for the exhibit, such as photographs, tools, ledger books, dues books, scrapbooks, pins, banners, and other memorabilia. [The museum carries insurance for items it takes into its care.] She also hopes individual unions can locate, identify, inventory, and make available records and other materials that may be used for research.

"We hope that unions can recommend long-time members who can be interviewed about the history of their organizations and work in Clark County," Tissot said.

Financial support also is needed to help cover expenses. The goal is to raise \$30,000. To date, the museum has received pledges from United Steelworkers Local 330 (\$200), Carpenters Local 156 (\$1,560), and the Southwest Washington Labor Roundtable (\$240).

"With your help, we can make this exhibit a successful, relevant educational opportunity for union and non-union residents alike," Tissot said.

The museum is working on the exhibit in partnership with Washington State University Vancouver. Faculty member Dr. Laurie Mercier, a labor historian, is assisting.

For more information, call Tissot at 993-5679 or e-mail her at tissots@pacifier.com.

The Clark County Historical Museum is located at 1511 Main Street, Vancouver.

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