

Oregon Cultural Trust

FY2013 ANNUAL REPORT



LINFIELD COLLEGE

The Story is in the Bottle – Oregon Historic Wine Archives



Grapes come down a conveyor belt at Erath Winery. This photo, courtesy of Dick Erath and Erath Winery, is now part of the Oregon Historic Wine Archive at Linfield College.

The Linfield College Archive is impressive, with rare books and materials dating to the 19th Century. But when archivists Rich Schmidt and Rachael Woody bring out a bottle of Erath Wine from 1972 (which they suspect has been reduced by a failed cork to a nice bottle of vinegar), the party really gets started.

For the library staff and student interns, the Oregon Historic Wine Archives opens a window to a near-mythical world of legendary Oregon wine pioneers, their struggles and triumphs. “When Dick Erath gave us this bottle,” said Woody, “he also told stories.”

Schmidt picks up a little red book, in which wine maker Jim McDaniel had chronicled weather conditions over several decades, with annual summaries detailing the weather’s effect on the harvest. “The Oregon wine industry is a young industry and big business is encroaching,” said Schmidt, holding up one of the first Oregon wine tour guide books, from the 1980s. “It is an important part of Oregon history. We need to start preserving it now.”

The Wine Archive, a partnership between several wineries, the International Pinot Noir Festival, and Linfield College, began in 2012 as, “a giant plastic tub filled with mostly photos and documents, a few dead insects and mouse feces,” said Woody.

An \$8,000 grant from the Cultural Trust remedied that. “We were able to find students and get some good work done immediately,” said Woody. And the archive didn’t hire only history majors. Interns come from pre-law, art history and business programs as well. Each student is learning transferable skills – organizing, cataloguing, database and multimedia work.

Now new state-of-the-art storage shelves are populated by vintage wine bottles, land use maps from the 1970s, marketing materials, and photos of wine makers. “Every box and acid free folder is thanks to the Cultural Trust,” said Woody. “This is the first major grant we’d gotten where I felt like I could use it to make a difference.”

Pentacle Theatre Inc, \$5,000

To install new wiring systems, modern lighting and sound instruments and components to save energy and increase electrical capacity for lighting and sound systems, transitioning Pentacle from analog to digital equipment to meet the demands of staging productions in the digital age.

GRAND RONDE

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, \$15,000

To create display cabinetry for the primary exhibit of the new Grand Ronde Tribal Museum & Cultural Center.

GRANTS PASS

Josephine Community Libraries Inc, \$10,000

To support an outreach campaign, a media blitz about available resources, outreach in the community and magnet programs to bring people into the library.

JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville Heritage Society Inc, \$5,000

To repair the porch and stairs on the historic 1873 Cornelius C. Beekman House in Jacksonville, Oregon.

KLAMATH FALLS

Ross Ragland Theater, \$5,000

To purchase equipment for performances and events in the mainstage/auditorium, and to retrofit an alternative performance space to expand the community’s cultural experiences.

MCMINNVILLE

Linfield College, \$8,000

To support the processing, accession, and collection of records for four collections from the Oregon Wine History Archive (80-100 linear ft.).

PENDLETON

Arts Council of Pendleton, \$5,000

To produce 25 live ArtZoom sessions, featuring guided Skype (or alternative teleconferencing medium) connection from the arts center.

Libraries of Eastern Oregon, \$5,000

To present the Eastern Oregon Word Round-Up, including a book fair with 6,000 books donated by Powell’s.

PORTLAND

Artists Repertory Theatre, \$10,000

To support increased capacity of theater operations and programming for the 30th Anniversary Year.