CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Operating the Museum Since 1964

November 18, 2009

Dear Museum Friends,

Because of the economy, we had an amazing year at the museum with both an impressive list of accomplishments and a huge level of community response to our public programs. Museum visitation more than doubled this year. Like all non-profits we were impacted by the economy and operated on less money in 2009. But, rather than shrink our services we stepped up public programming to provide additional free events and increased off-site activities. Our greater community needed the free opportunities that the museum could provide. Using our dollars wisely we continued to stretch resources through partnerships that leveraged additional in-kind and cash support. We survived a very tough fiscal year. 'Tis the season for giving and I ask that you please include the museum in your year end gifts so we can continue to serve our greater community.

2009 marked a double anniversary milestone at the museum. We celebrated the Centennial of our 1909 Carnegie Library Building and the 45th Anniversary of the museum by creating a state-wide initiative, the *Carnegie Library Consortium of Washington*. (Have you gotten your copy of Mr. Carnegie's Grand Tour yet? Visit the museum or the website for more information.) Andrew Carnegie re-enactor George Dauler gave ten free public performances in Clark and Skamania Counties. We completed the fourth season of our *First Thursday Museum After Hours* program which provided 10 free lectures ranging in topics from cartographer/explorer David Thompson, Carnegie Libraries, the regeneration of the pumice plain on Mount St. Helens, the Mickey Mouse Club and Women's Suffrage. Seattle actress Toni Douglas portrayed the infamous women's suffragist Mae Arkwright Hutton at our annual *Women's History Month Tea* and we brought in two traveling exhibits and completed the fourth season of our annual Architectural Walking Tour program. More than 2000 people attended our sixth annual Harvest Fun Day. We awarded our third annual Richard A. Anderson Memorial History Day Scholarships and digitized a quarter of the museum's photographic collection. *Boomer!* won the 2009 *Excellence in Exhibits Award* and museum volunteer Karen Washabaugh won the *Individual Excellence Award* from the Washington Museums Association. We secured five grants to assist with the cost of public programming.

We achieve all of this with a lean, paid staff that equals three full-time-equivalent employees and 9,800 volunteer hours. We are grateful for all the in-kind donations we receive from local businesses and the donations of time we receive from the community. However, it also takes cash to maintain and grow a museum collection and to continue to provide quality programs for the public. We hope you share in our excitement as we bring a broad selection of new programs and services to our greater community in 2010. Enclosed is a donation remit envelope for your convenience.

May your holiday season be filled with peace & joy.

With Warmest Greetings,

Executive Director

P.S. Are you a member of the CCHS and wondering about the difference between the annual fund drive and membership dues? Membership dues help offset the expenses related to our annual publication, producing newsletters, postcard mailings and other membership services. Membership dues do not cover the costs of preserving the museum collection or the costs associated with presenting educational programs and changing exhibits. Your tax-deductible annual contribution helps pay for the core of our programs. My family and I personally maintain an annual membership <u>and</u> give to the annual fund drive. Please join us and help the museum continue to thrive while serving the community.

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