

CHARLES FOX SIGN UNVEILED

Article by Darrel Whipple, CCCCB Board Member

An idea conceived by Andrew Demko, a Rainier social studies teacher and member of the Columbia County Cultural Coalition, came to fruition on Saturday, October 19. A ceremony to unveil the newly- installed sign honoring Charles E. Fox who founded the city of Rainier in 1851, featured Demko and members of the Rainier Jr./Sr. High School History Club he advises dressed in 1850s garb. About fifty people attended the unveiling ceremony at Rainier's Riverfront Park.

Demko (pictured below on the far left) worked with Friends of Fox Creek and the City of Rainier over the past two years to bring the concept to life. The image of Charles Fox was reproduced from Fox's Rainier Masonic Lodge portrait. A grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition provided major funding for the sign, but the project required many hours of volunteer labor and donated materials to complete.

Other speakers at the noon event, pictured below to the right of Andrew Demko, were ASB President Tiffany Fletcher, Rainier City Councilor and high school teacher David Sills, Friends of Fox Creek board member Darrel Whipple, State Rep. Brad Witt, Rainier Masonic Lodge officer Dearl Taylor, and Larry Cole, Chairman of the Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) Board. Funds for CCCC's local grants are provided by the Oregon Cultural Trust through the sale of "culture" license plates and tax-credited donations by individual taxpayers. Scappoose resident Mike Wilson, a relative of Charles Fox, and his family also attended the event.



Photo by Kathy Byrd