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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE TO READ ONLINE

Two historic St. Helens area newspapers are now available to read online thanks to a \$1,164 grant that was awarded to the St. Helens Public Library in 2012 through the Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC).

The grant project focused on digitizing two lesser known newspapers from Columbia County: The Columbian and the Columbia Register. The Columbian was published from 1882-1886 and is the oldest known paper in Columbia County. The Columbia Register was published from 1904-1906 and is notable for having been published in the vanished town of Houlton.

Thanks to additional funding from the Library of Congress' and National Endowment for the Humanities' National Digital Newspaper Program, the St. Helens Mist has also been digitized and made available for online reading. While only issues from June 19, 1914 to April 22, 1921 have been digitized, the newspaper was published from 1913-1933 and was the self-titled official paper of record for Columbia County. The St. Helens Mist eventually merged with The Sentinel in 1933 to form the St. Helens Sentinel-Mist.

All three newspapers can be found on the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program's website: odnp.wordpress.com. Use the website's search tool by typing in "St. Helens" or select the link about St. Helens newspaper content under the Recent Entries column.

The newspapers are available to browse page-by-page and have also been made keyword searchable.

"It will be exciting to see what new information comes out as these newspapers are explored in greater detail by scholars of all ages," said St. Helens Reference Librarian Brenda Herren. "These digitized newspapers will help us see participation and reaction to local events such as the Columbia County Fair as well as international events such as World War I."

The digitization process began in November 2012 when the St. Helens Public Library partnered with the University of Oregon to digitize the newspapers through the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP). This partnership was made possible through CCCC grant funds that were awarded to the Library in September 2012.

ODNP is an initiative to digitize historic Oregon newspaper content and make it freely available to the public. The initial phase of the program concentrates on newspapers published between 1860 and 1922. The resulting product will be an open state-wide resource for historic Oregon newspapers online. The program is administered by the University of Oregon libraries.

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For further information regarding the newspaper digitization project, please contact St. Helens Public Library Reference Librarian Brenda Herren at 503-397-4544.