

THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum

320 South Highway 101, PO Box 165, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Inside the Washed Ashore Arts, Crafts & More



Volume 10 Issue 2 MAY 2025

Welcome to the Scanner, the official newsletter of the International Police Museum at Rockaway Beach, Oregon

IPM WILL REOPEN MAY 15, 2025 10:00 AM 320 South 101, Rockaway Beach, Oregon

Exciting news! After being closed since the end of February due to the building sale, International Police Museum will reopen on May 15 at 10 AM. It will be a “soft opening”, as not all the displays and gift shop items will be completed by then. IPM will do a “Grand Opening” later the summer when the facility is finished. May 15 is Police Officer Memorial Day, and we hope the opening is a fitting testament to the relationship between police and the citizens they serve.. The last 90 days have been a bit of a whirlwind. The Dotys sold the building to Wortman Properties Management, LLC, closed Washed Ashore ACM and Ringing Anvil Design, had their close out sales, and vacated the building. The building presented several challenges, the first of which was it needed a new roof. The roof was fixed, the damage from a couple leaks repaired, and work started on the transition from a blacksmith shop and craft/antique store to a museum. The building is a bit like a birthday party, every second brings a new surprise, either a gift or another challenge. Unfortunately, the Community Room portion of the building and the public bathroom will not be available until at least early July. The damage due to roof leaks this spring and during roofing, was primarily in those area, and the cleanup of the former blacksmith shop was subordinated to opening the museum.

IPM will be open Thursday through Sunday, 10 to 4, probably through summer. Hopefully we will be a five - if not a six - days a week operation in the future. IPM will remain open through December, closing January and February 2026, for an annual reset and any other maintenance that we need to do. We do not have guaranteed staffing to do more than 4 days right now as there is still a considerable amount of work to be done to improve the facility.

The most exciting part is that IPM will have a home, with a long term lease, and the support of the community. We have moved displays 4 times in our 10 year history; each time something gets lost, damaged or destroyed. The stability of a permanent home is very exciting to all involved. As Executive Director, maintenance person and chief floor scrubber, I cannot think of a time when IPM has faced more challenges in a short period of time. The board set a goal for the museum to be open on May 15, and the museum will be open, thanks to the dedication of our board, volunteers and supporters.

FRED

The Museum Horse returns



“Fred” as he is known at IPM is a rescue horse. He was found by Director Wortman gathering dust in a Kent, Washington barn where the owners had left him. Owners of a western wear store, they had hoped to use Fred and his partner as props at trade shows. Unfortunately shipping costs were high, so he was only out a few times before being put up for adoption. While he did have to live in Seattle for a couple years before joining IPM, he has served well as a mascot and participated in several Tillamook and Rockaway Beach parades. At the new location he will be happily supporting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or one of the many Sheriff’s Posse or Western Marshal displays..

He probably will not be wearing his straw hat and junior police officer badge, but stop by to see who he is supporting at opening day..

I am pleased to report that our interactive areas such as the fingerprint program and the jail cell will remain active. We may bring back the “Bear Game” so visitors have an opportunity to follow clues to find the teddy bears guarding display cases and learn about law enforcement history by finding, e.g., Joe Meek (first US Marshal, Oregon Territory) or Lola Baldwin (first female officer). Also returning is the uniform, hat, and jacket “try on” area which was popular pre-COVID. The jail cell will continue to be available for photographs, and we look forward to being able to display more of our artifacts in the space available. “Fred”, the full size model horse who is a veteran of several parades, will make an appearance. His first supporting role will like be with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police display, IPM is also planning a section on local history. Did you know Rockaway Beach once used wooden water pipes? See page 4 for more information.

We have had several exciting developments at IPM. We have a new treasurer, who is trying to keep an eye on my spending and prepare the proper reports so that the board can keep track of where we are financially. In 2025 we will have our first salaried employees, transferring our inventory specialist from contract to hourly wage, and hiring Jane McClain as our full time docent and gift shop manager, for four days a week. Jane has been with IPM since its inception and is looking forward to assisting our visitors. Having employees will increase the amount of funding we have to “find” in order to make ends meet. We have been operating on bare bones budget for the last 9 ½ years but with employees and the attendant costs, we will be seeking additional revenue sources. Our desire continues to provide the museum as a free attraction and education opportunity for tourists and support our local economy. Fortunately we received a grant from the City of Rockaway Beach to help purchase furniture and supplies to our new community room, which may help generate both public interest and revenue.

The building owner, Wortman Properties Management LLC, is applying for a grant from the city for a new sign which we are hopeful will come to fruition, making the building more attractive and easy for tourists to locate. The sign would be approximately 1/3 static with IPM on top, and 2/3 lower section which could be used for announcements and welcoming guests. IPM has an ambitious plan for 2026-27 to expand the educational opportunities and the use of the facility by other groups. These plans are in their infancy so I will not go into detail here.

Projected costs of improving insulation and installing a proper HVAC system will delay implementation until 2026. As the HVAC consultant told us, without insulation upgrades it would be like heating and cooling a cardboard box,

Artifacts continue to come to the Museum, for which we are grateful as it broadens our display base. Mrs. Linda Williams recently donated a complete Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Captain’s police uniform from her late husband Lewi. She also included some pictures and plaques which depicted his varied and honorable service in law enforcement. Mark Miranda provided some additional artifacts from his long career in Oregon Law Enforcement. The Dotys left us several things to enhance our gift shop and create a positive visitor experience.

New acquisitions

Ft Lauderdale Police Captain Uniform, Lewis Williams: donated by Mrs. Linda Williams, Tuftonboro NH
Police artifacts: donated by Retired chief Mark Miranda, Newport, Oregon.

Retail Supplies: items from Herman and Angie Doty, prior owners of the building, Rockaway Beach. Oregon

Significant Cash Donations

Jeff and Karen Jorgensen , Kenmore, Washington

Mrs. Brigitte Ford, Seattle, Washington

Photo Credits

Ed Wortman



Wooden Water Piping, delivery of life sustaining fluid. By Ed Wortman, RBPd Chief, retired

The International Police Museum is proud to display a section of wood stave water pipe excavated in October of 2018 on South Breaker Avenue. The pipe is believed to have been installed around 1910-1920 and abandoned in place in the late 1950's when it was replaced by iron piping. Workers were in the process of replacing the iron pipe when a section of wood pipe was unearthed and a piece of pipe and a wooden coupler, designed to connect two sections of pipe, were provided to the museum for display. According to Luke Shepard, Public works Director, the 1947 records showed many areas in the city still having wooden pipes. Sections of wooden pipe were joined together by tapering the ends of the pipe and fitting them into couplers, such as this one pictured above, which seal due to the natural swelling of wet wood.



The City of Rockaway Beach was founded in 1909 and incorporated in 1942. During the early years water was fed from springs into cisterns and then piped to the city center distribution system down what is now S. 2nd Street through wooden pipes, which were state of the art at that time. The pipe on display is made out of staves of redwood timber, milled to fit tightly together, banded with iron wire, and coated with a tarlike emulsion which smells vaguely like the creosote used to treat pilings driven into water. For wood to rot it must have exposure to both water and air. By burying the coated pipe and filling it with water, deterioration was prevented. These pipes were projected to last at least 50 years and the City of Rockaway Beach began installing them shortly after its founding; some were still in use as late as the 1950's. IPM is proud to be able to display this piece of Rockaway Beach History in our City Gallery.

Why wooden pipe you ask? We take for granted that we can turn on the tap and get clean, drinkable water, a necessity to support life, clean our clothes and remove waste to a treatment plant. Modern systems deliver water, under pressure from reservoirs high on the hill or other elevated area, allowing gravity to provide pressure. In those areas where the terrain is insufficient for that purpose, reservoirs are raised on towers to generate the gravity pressure to move water to homes, but how does it get there. If we look at pictures of early settlements, water was drawn from a well, spring, or stream, and carried in buckets to the house. Sometimes the source was far from the houses and everyone wanted more convenient methods of delivering water. The Romans and probably others, built stone troughs or viaducts to carry water long distances but once delivered there was no efficient easy to stop the flow which resulted in flooding or damage. A method of "tapping" water from the primary conveyance with the ability to stop the flow was needed. A system was devised of pipes made of various materials which could be closed off at the user end to prevent flooding and waste. Sometimes soft metals like copper or lead were used to make early piping, but these could be valuable metals. Wood was used where trees were plentiful; a pipe was made either by creating a hole through a log or by milling stakes and putting the pipe together much like a barrel. The pipe was then wrapping it in iron and covered with a tar like waterproofing. According the Portland Water Bureau publication, "Portland's Wooden Water Pipes, The Untold Story"¹, archeologists uncovered serviceable wooden piping in Roman ruins in England that dated back over 2,000 years. Use of wooden water pipe began in Portland in 1856. The last year wooden pipes were installed in Portland was 1919, and many of the services were listed as active until 1953. Since there was no salvage value of the wooden pipe, they were abandoned in place as the service was replaced with iron pipe and later the plastics used today. Sometimes when digging up an area to replace a line, a section of wood pipe which could easily be over 100 years old, are still encountered today.



¹ Portland's Wooden water Pipes, the untold story; Pamphlet in cooperation with Portland State University (2008) Coyne, I; Killough, T; and Payton,



INTERNATIONAL POLICE MUSEUM
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WATCH FOR OUR OPENING: 10:00 AM ON MAY 15, 2025



Help International Police Museum keep history alive

International Police Museum is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which provides a free interactive experience to visitors young and old. IPM has no paid staff and 100% of your donations go directly to supporting our mission. Your donations allow us to bring the Law Enforcement experience to life for visitors, school children, and other tour groups. Donations may be made directly to the Museum, or online at:

www.internationalpolicemuseum.org

Back issues of the IPM SCANNER are available on the web site