Late in 1910, the city of Seattle paid $75,000 for 2500 feet of waterfront on Alki Avenue and erected a huge bathing and recreational pavilion that opened on July 4th, 1911. The new Alki Beach Municipal Bathhouse was immensely popular and weekend and holiday crowds numbered as many as 20,000 people! The pavilion had spacious dressing and locker rooms for bathers, a viewing balcony for spectators, a gym, clubrooms, and a cafe serving refreshments. Children could borrow woolen bathing suits and adults could rent them for a dime. During the summer there were three rafts that floated in the bay in front of the bathhouse and were patrolled by lifeguards on the beach and in boats. In addition to the popular swimming facilities, the throngs enjoyed the concerts that were conducted at the bandstand that had been constructed out over the water, just west of the bathhouse.

Bob Hallberg recalled there were two rafts close enough to shore so that little kids could dog paddle to reach them or just wade out depending on the tide. When you got bigger, you could go out to the deep water raft with a tower that you could dive off. Everyone loved the rafts. In the fall the Parks Department would bring two huge draft horses to the beach to pull the rafts out of the water at high tide for the winter.

The Bathhouse also came to be known as the Field House. The facility served the area as a community center, providing sources of entertainment and a home for community activities that included dances, Boy Scout events, sports such as volleyball and basketball, and Halloween haunted houses. The Bathhouse was a precursor to current recreation centers and its main mission was to provide safe and organized activities for the children of Alki.

Eventually the building fell into disrepair and the Municipal Bathhouse was demolished in 1955 except for a west wing remnant. This small building was used mostly for a storage and maintenance building by the Seattle Parks Department. The Alki art community began to use the building about 25 years ago.

In 2000, the Alki Community Council petitioned the Parks Department for inclusion of the Alki Bathhouse renovation in the Pro Parks Levy. A group calling itself the Friends of the Alki Bathhouse (FAB) was formed to raise monies to augment the Pro Parks budget. The newly renovated Alki Bathhouse, with design touches reminiscent of its original namesake, opened in January 2005.

Those efforts have been a wonderful gift to the community that now provides a unique multiuse building on the shores of Elliott Bays Alki Beach with space for classes, meetings and events.
It is shaping up to be a busy summer at the museum! I was lucky enough to be awarded the Robert Gruhn Working Professional Scholarship to attend the 2011 Washington Museum Association Conference in Walla Walla this June. This will be a great opportunity to network with other museum folk and hear about what is happening at other museums around the state. Watch for a full report in the next issue of Footprints. The theme of this year’s conference is “Museums as Gathering Places”, that fits perfectly with our upcoming exhibit, “Telling Our Westside Stories”. We are in the early stages of project planning and will soon be looking to the community for new oral histories to help us tell the story of everyday life on the Duwamish Peninsula. If you are interested in volunteering to help us with collecting and processing oral histories or exhibit planning, please let us know! Everyone involved is very excited about the possibilities of the project.

We are right in the middle of completing the AAM’s M.A.P, (American Museum Associations Museum Assessment Program). It has already proven to be a great tool. Everyone is beginning to look at things in a new way and to think about ways we can improve, while still congratulating ourselves on what we do well!

Our tried and true docent team is still going strong, but we would still love your help! We are preparing for increased summer traffic and could use some extra bodies, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact the museum if you are interested in working as a docent. We are flexible with availability and scheduling. Once a month or once a week – whatever works best for you, works for us! We have had some great tour groups this spring from the Bush School and the Alki Co-op Preschool. I would also love to thank the AMAZING volunteer crew who stopped by in May from Keller-Williams Realty for an intense cleaning day.

Sarah Frederick
SPRING CLEAN UP AT THE LOG HOUSE MUSEUM

THANK YOU, KELLER-WILLIAMS

At 9 a.m. Thursday May 12th a Keller-Williams team of volunteers arrived at the museum with garden tools, cleaning supplies and refreshments for their workers. During the course of the day 40 volunteers raked, weeded, swept, scrubbed, and cleaned bricks, railings, walkways, walls and windows! This amazing group of volunteers appeared on one of the few sunny days this spring to donate their time to spruce up the museum grounds. The museum staff and executive board can’t thank the Keller-Williams team enough for their generous donation.

JOHN AND ISSAC STEP UP

John Bennett, of Bennett Properties, was volunteer construction supervisor for the restoration of the log house previous to its opening in 1997. Recently he stopped by for a visit and noted that the south log wall and porch railings were badly in need of restaining. He told staff he would send someone to sand and paint the railings and there, as soon as there was a dry spell, Isaac Pierce appeared, sander, brush and stain in hand. Log structures, especially from the early 1900’s need a great deal of care and coddling. Volunteer donations of time and effort are invaluable for a non-profit organization like the Log House Museum. Thank you John and Isaac for all your help.

VOLUNTEER CHOREWORKERS HOURS ADD UP

And then there was Bob Bollen, who took it upon himself to do small repair jobs around the museum like plugging gaps in the door frames; Charlie Vincent who helped install new phone wiring and replaced broken fence slats; Margaret (Peggy) Fox who organized her way through the annex with the help of Judy Bentley and Carol Vincent; Al Bentley who cleaned the annex gutters. Volunteers are the angels who keep the museum doors open. These volunteers and so many others are invaluable support for the part time staff who could not possibly operate the museum without them. And, most importantly, hours of volunteer time can be counted as a financial donation when applying for grants. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!
The American Association of Museums has awarded the Southwest Seattle Historical Society a grant from its museum assessment program. This spring board members, staff, volunteers, and Advisory Council members have been busy answering questions, collecting data, and analyzing priorities and needs in an ambitious self-study that looks at the strengths, weaknesses and sustainability of the Log House Museum.

When we applied for this grant, we listed three objectives:
1. To develop stable financial resources for museum operations and to improve the alignment of resources to mission.
2. To reach out to the community through marketing, partnerships, communication and educational programs.
3. To manage and enhance the museum and assets, including to assess and prioritize staff needs.

We are more than halfway through the self-study, having already expended about 100 hours of work. The study will be completed by mid-July, and in August, a peer reviewer—Steve Friesen, Director of the Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave in Golden, Colorado—will visit the museum to tour and meet with staff, board members, volunteers, and community members. So far, this has been an invigorating process, and after the peer reviewer’s site visit and report, we look forward to focusing our mission and marshalling our resources to bring a revitalized awareness of heritage and history to southwest Seattle. Anyone who would like to participate in this process may contact Judy Bentley, past president, who is coordinating the self-study, at jbentley@sccd.ctc.edu.

Judy Bentley

Photo courtesy of Puget Sound Maritime Association

Using a five passenger submarine and a remotely operated vehicle, a team of local explorers has discovered a historic Mosquito Fleet Steamer in Elliott Bay near Alki Point that they believe is the SS Dix, which sank in 1906 with a loss of 39 lives and is still considered the worst maritime disaster in Puget Sound. John Kelly, local maritime historian, reports that the team hopes to confirm their finding very soon. Images and video of the shipwreck are viewable at www.opentheoceans.com/dix.htm. Check LHM web site for updates.
David Keith, former staff member, leads an interactive tour of the museum with the Alki Co-op Playschool. David’s son, Harrison, is a student in the class as is John Hallberg, Ada & Bob Hallberg’s grandson who proudly showed off his grandmothers book, “Elvida, daughter of Harbor Avenue, 1903-1981”, that is for sale in the museum gift shop.

Don’t forget this special event!

The Log House Museum
& South West Seattle Historical Society
Summer Ice Cream Social!
Sunday, August 14 2011
1-3pm at the Log House Museum on Alki
Ice cream + toppings, drinks & entertainment

SWSHS
Executive Board
Marcy Johnsen
President
JoJim Del Cielo
Vice-President
Joan Stover
Treasurer
Tia Hallberg
Secretary
Carol Vincent
Membership Secretary

Trustees
Clay Eals
Joe Follansbee
Kat Overton
Alan Peterson

Staff
Sarah Frederick
Museum Manager
Diane Ward
Bookkeeper

SWSHS Advisory Council Members
Earl Cruzen
Merrilee Hagen
Jordan Hecker
Sharon Huling
Scott Hunt
Barton Kale
Joe McDermott
Jack Miller
Patricia Mullen
Charles G. Payton
Tom Rasmussen
Greg Theobald
Diane Tice
Jerry Vandenbeng
COLLECTIONS REPORT

We recently received a donation from Charles Payton of a wooden sign that reads “WPA Work Project”. It was recovered from the basement of a home in White Center. The WPA, or Works Progress Administration, was one of the largest and most well-known New Deal programs introduced by Franklin D. Roosevelt during the economic crisis of 1935. WPA programs spanned the country, employing millions, including women and African Americans. West Seattle was one of the many communities that benefited from some of the WPA work. Camp Long, Lincoln Park, West Seattle High School and the White Center Fieldhouse all show some improvements thanks to WPA workers. Other WPA related items in the Log House Museum’s collection include a shovel used at several West Seattle WPA sites and several photos of projects, both during the work and upon completion. These artifacts, used in conjunction with anecdotes from different West Seattleites oral histories, can be used to help tell the

“CELEBRATION 160”

SAVE THIS DATE
Saturday, October 22, 2011

Join us for SWSHS’ annual gala brunch with a silent auction, raffle, and dessert dash plus much, much more at Salty’s on Alki on Saturday, October 22. Lend your support to the Log House Museum’s major 2011 fundraiser and take a short journey through a time warp of Seattle history!

At “Celebration 160”, this year’s event, each table will represent a decade of the 160 years since the Denny-Lowe-Terry Party landed at Alki Beach. Each decade (table) will have significant historical facts reflected by theatrics, costumes, decorations and centerpieces. Table Captains can choose “their” decade and have their guests be a part of Seattle history while enjoying the wonderful Salty’s Brunch, the view, and the company of a room filled with history buffs. There are a few tables left that need Table Captains. Reserve your table now while your favorite “decade” is still available!

Call Sarah at the Log House Museum, 938-5293 or Juda Youngstrom at 932-6067.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!
**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

We would like to welcome two new members, Dayle Banks, Max and Virginia Wilson.

We would also like to thank Peggy Cullor, Marty and Ann Dirks, & Michael and Catherine Purdy for increasing their membership levels!

**IN MEMORIUM**

Hugh Ferguson  
Virginia June Kloster  
Vivian McLean  
Ruth Julanne Pentecost

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

In Memory of  
Ron Richardson  
Carl and Maria Blomgren  
Larry and Marge Carpenter  
Fritz and Janet Fuettene  
Sherry Richardson  
Mary Ann Johnson  
Tom and Cheryl Oliver

In Memory of  
Virginia June Kloster  
Betty Aronson

**BUSINESS MEMBERS**

John Bennett Properties  
Leavengood Architects  
David Kehle, Architect  
Tom’s Automotive  
Jackson, Morgan & Hunt PLLC  
The Pacific Institute  
WS Chamber of Commerce

**THANK YOU 2011 DONORS**


**2011 Grants Received**

1. **4Culture Heritage Sustained Support** – Funds from this grant will be used to support some basic operations and enhance our 2011 programming and education calendar.

2. **American Association of Museums (AAM)** – This is for a museum self-study, or the Museum Assessment Program, M.A.P. This will help the museum and historical society better serve our community and refocus our efforts. It is also an important step towards AAM accreditation.

3. **National Society of Colonial Dames -Washington Chapter** – Funds from the Colonial Dames will be used to mount the totem pole (currently on display in the museum’s courtyard) on the museums grounds by the summer of 2012. Stay tuned for details!

4. **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Small and Simple Projects** – Funds from this grant will be used in part to launch a new oral history program, involving youth and elders from various neighborhoods on the Duwamish Peninsula, focusing on personal stories about living, working and playing here. These oral histories will be used to build and shape a new permanent exhibit at the Log House Museum, as well as several smaller traveling exhibits which will be available to schools, libraries and other institutions.
## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on these events call the museum 206-938-5293 or check web site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs, June 23</td>
<td>Seattle Foundation's Give BIG day (Check web site)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, June 25</td>
<td>Alki Bike Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, July 4</td>
<td>Annual member Picnic Log House Museum Courtyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri-Sun, July 8-10</td>
<td>West Seattle Summer Fest—Alaska Junction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, July 9</td>
<td>Hood Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, July 16</td>
<td>Riverside Walking Tour 10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/Sun, July 23-24</td>
<td>Alki Art Fest/Vintage Bathing Suit Fashion Show</td>
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<td>Tues, July 19</td>
<td>SWSHS Board meeting at SSCC President’s Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, August 14</td>
<td>Ice Cream Social 1-3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, August 16</td>
<td>SWSHS Board meeting at SSCC President’s Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/Sun, Aug 22-22</td>
<td>MAP reviewer Steve Friesen visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Sept 20</td>
<td>SWSHS Board meeting at SSCC President’s Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Oct 18</td>
<td>SWSHS Board meeting at SSCC President’s Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Oct 22</td>
<td>GALA- SAVE the Date! Brunch, Salty’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Annual meeting; Saturday or Sunday: Anniversary LHM</td>
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<td>12 or 13</td>
<td>opening and landing of Seattle founding families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Nov 15</td>
<td>SWSHS Board meeting at SSCC President’s Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Dec 20</td>
<td>SWSHS Board meeting at SSCC President’s Board Room</td>
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Southwest Seattle Historical Society & Log House Museum