

# Footprints

*on the sands of time...*

ISSUE LXXVIII SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & LOG HOUSE MUSEUM SUMMER 2011

## A CENTURY AT THE ALKI MUNICIPAL BATHHOUSE –1911-2011

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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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



**Alki Municipal Bathhouse 1911**

Photo Courtesy of UW Library Archives

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 multi-use building on the shores of Elliott Bays Alki Beach with space for classes, meetings and events.

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## ALKI MUNICIPAL BATHHOUSE

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### FOOTPRINTS

is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum 3003 61st Ave. SW Seattle, WA 98116

(one block south of Alki Beach)

Editor, Carol Vincent

### Museum Hours

12 - 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Friday  
Saturday & Sunday

### How to reach us

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Seattle, WA 98116

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Also on Facebook



**ALKI BATHHOUSE 1955-2005**  
Photo Courtesy Seattle Parks Dept.



**ALKI BATHHOUSE 2005—PRESENT**  
Photo Courtesy Seattle Parks Dept.  
Photographer—Laurel Mercury

Join us Saturday, July 23rd for a vintage bathing suit fashion show during the Alki Art Fair at the Alki Municipal Bathhouse



## MUSEUM MANAGERS REPORT

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 years 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

Printing courtesy of



THE LOG HOUSE MUSEUM IS  
FUNDED IN PART BY



## 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 re-staining. 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.



ISAAC PEARCE STAINS THE FRONT PORCH RAILING

### 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!

## MAP SELF STUDY– DEVELOPING A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

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](mailto: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](http://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 Ciello**  
Vice-President  
**Joan Stover**  
Treasurer  
**Tia Hallberg**  
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**Carol Vincent**  
Membership  
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**Trustees**

**Clay Eals**  
**Joe Follansbee**  
**Kat Overton**  
**Alan Peterson**  
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Museum Manager

**Diane Ward**  
Bookkeeper

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**Jack Miller**  
**Patricia Mullen**  
**Charles G. Payton**  
**Tom Rasmussen**  
**Greg Theobald**  
**Diane Tice**  
**Jerry Vandenberg**

## 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



Workers at Lincoln Park, SWSHS#2010.8.5

### 2011 ARTIFACT DONORS

Clay Eals, Bob Carney, The Kenney Home, Nanette Meridith, Alyson Deans, Sue and Randy McCormack, A.J. Naff, Bernie Fleming, Christian Parker, Mary Lou Slaughter, Latah County Historical Society, Don and Linda Olson, Jon Stoner, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Elvalene Hayward, Tony Vincent, Sarah Frederick, Elenor Grant, Alex Graywolfe, Trichelle Woeniak, Charles Payton, Joyce Rickman,.

## **"CELEBRATION 160"**

**SAVE THIS DATE**  
**Saturday, OCTOBER 22, 2011**

Join us for SWSHS's 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!

**YOUR DUES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. WITHOUT  
THEM WE COULD NOT RUN OUR EVENTS, PROCESS  
OUR COLLECTIONS, OR KEEP THE LIGHTS ON!**

### BUSINESS MEMBERS

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

## 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 Fuettere  
Sherry Richardson  
Mary Ann Johnson  
Tom and Cheryl Oliver

In Memory of  
Virginia June Kloster  
Betty Aronson

## THANK YOU 2011 DONORS

The United Way, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Fauntleroy Community Association, Betty Aronson, Dayle Banks, Harry and Edith Beasley, Barbara Benish, Al and Judy Bentley, Marcia Blomgren, Larry and Marge Carpenter, Peggy Cullor, Michael D'Annunzio, Ann and Gary Dawson, Jim Del Ciello, Amy Lee Derenthal, Betty Dolan, Clay Eals, Phyllis Engstrom, Paul Facchini, Lisa Fischer, Kay Francisco, Kermit Franks, Fritz Fuetterer, Tia Hallberg, Alyson Hallberg, Ada and Bob Hallberg, Verda Hansberry, Clarissa Holn, Marcy Johnsen, Mary Ann Johnson, Queen Julia Johnson, Patricia Jones, Michael Jones, Klarinell Jung, David Keith, The Mark R. and Rae N. Lembersky Foundation, Carolyn Matthews, Ruth and Wayne Moore, Edie Neeson, Tom and Cheryl Oliver, Barbara Olson, Alan and Jennifer Peterson, Samantha Rhodes, Mary Lou Richardson, Sherry Richardson, Bill and Kathy Schier, Jackie Standley Scott, May Shimbo, Holly Silver, Sue Stone, Joan Stover, Mike Sweeney, Cindy Torkelson, Ken Turner, Jerry Vandenberg, Carol and Charlie Vincent, Max Wilson, Patricia Wright, Juda Youngstrom, Audrey Zemke, Anonymous

### 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.

## **FOOTPRINTS**

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society  
& "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum  
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## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS CALL THE MUSEUM 206-938-5293 OR CHECK WEB SITE

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