Her mother’s pioneer history leads Erma Erickson to support museums

Charter member boosts Log House campaign

As many people do, Erma Erickson traces her interest in local history to family — in particular, to her mother.

“She was born in a log cabin just four miles north of a small town in Douglas County called Waterville,” says Erma. “That was when this was Washington Territory, two years before Washington became a state. And she lived to be 97 and a half years old.”

Erma, a member of the Douglas County Historical Society, was one of the first to join our society when it incorporated in 1984. In fact, the 52-year West Seattle resident holds charter member number 10.

She carried that interest even further recently by contributing $5,000 to our society’s Log House Museum fund.

“I’ve been interested for a very long time in historical museums,” she says, “and because I’ve lived in West Seattle for many years, I’m naturally interested in an historical museum for West Seattle. I think it’s a wonderful time to have one come into being. “Our society needs a place to store artifacts, but until we have a place to do that, there won’t be much opportunity. People will be more apt to contribute things if there is a museum. I just have a good feeling about historical museums and keeping track of those kinds of things.”

A retired office worker for the state’s Employment Security Department, Erma and her late husband Chris moved to the White Center area in 1943, when Chris got a job as a model maker for Boeing. The two were among the original tenants of the Ballymena retirement apartments, part of The Kenney Home near Lincoln Park, where she still lives.

Erma likes the fact that our society “is not simply an organization of older people.”

She also is fond of the Puget Sound area. “I like the friendly people and the fresh air. I think this is the best area in the world to live in, don’t you?”

[Who’s joined our society’s “Circle” campaign? See pages 6-7.]
Museum, society growth prompt new bylaws on dues, board size

By-law amendments increasing our society’s membership dues and the size of the Executive Board will be considered at the Saturday, Sept. 30, membership meeting at Alki Recreation Center.

The following amendments, approved by the Executive Board and now submitted to the membership at large for ratification, will be offered at the meeting in order that the board make early implementation before year’s end.

"Our society is growing rapidly," says Arlene Wade, vice president, "and these bylaw changes reflect that growth. The challenge of making our museum a reality is requiring changes, and by attending the Sept. 30 meeting, all of our members have an opportunity to participate."

■ Change #1:

Section III GOVERNMENT
C. Executive Board
The society shall increase the number of trustees from 6 to 9 members, effective upon adoption. (In addition to trustees, our Executive Board has five officers. If this change is adopted, the Executive Board would grow to 14 members.)

■ Change #2:

Section III GOVERNMENT
C. Executive Board
The bylaws say, in part, "... no major financial commitment ($500 or more) ... shall be adopted except at an annual meeting or at a special meeting of the membership called for that purpose."

The amendment:
Delete the aforesaid clause, "no major financial commitment ($500 or more)."

■ Change #3:

SECTION VI MEMBERSHIP
Items A., B., C. and D.
Delete the wording under items A., B., C.
and D, and substitute the following classification and dues schedule:
(S) SUSTAINING membership. A lifetime tenure to those donating $1,000 or more in a single payment to the society.
(L) LIFE membership. Individuals paying $200 or more in a single payment. (This classification closes Sept. 30, 1995.)
(B) BUSINESS membership. For-profit commercial and professional establishments, with a designated representative, paying $150 or more annually.
(P) PATRON membership. Individuals paying $100 or more annually.
(F) FAMILY membership. Households consisting of one or two adults and all children under age 18, with a designated representative, paying $35 or more annually.
(A) ANNUAL membership. Individuals and not-for-profit organizations, with a designated representative, paying $20 or more annually.
(S) SENIOR membership. Individuals or couples of age 65 or older paying $15 annually.

All of the above are entitled to membership privileges during the period listed on membership cards.

NOTE: Seniors wishing to continue under the ANNUAL classification may do so by paying the applicable fee.

Current members holding LIFE memberships shall remain under that classification, with all privileges intact.

Want more information about our membership meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30?
Call Carol Vincent, membership secretary, at 937-6744.
Architect’s plans for museum, reading of script top meeting

Don’t miss gathering on Saturday, Sept. 30, at Alki Recreation Center

Want a sneak peek of how our society’s log house will look like as a museum?
Want to see and hear a preview performance of the reader’s theater script for our society’s children’s educational kits?
You’ll get both of those opportunities and much more at a special general membership meeting of our society, scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Alki Recreation Center, 5817 S.W. Stevens St.

The meeting will feature these items:
- Our society’s architect, David Leavengood, will present his plans for converting the log house to a museum. Eric Taylor will unveil his museum concept plan, and Kate Farley, landscape designer, will present her preliminary plans.
- Our society’s Education Committee will present a children’s reader’s theater script, “Welcome to the Green Land,” featuring a 10-year-old Duwamish boy and 7-year-old Louisa Boren. The script is part of education kits for local schools, funded by a $9,100 grant from King County.
- Several bylaw amendments, which alter our society’s dues structure and increase membership dues, will be up for approval by the membership. These amendments will be presented to the membership by the Executive Board.
- Members of our society’s Executive Board will wear new “Log House Museum” shirts to the meeting and take orders for them from the membership. The shirts have the three-button Henley style. The color is oatmeal, with teal and brown print.

Please mark this special meeting on your calendar and plan to attend. For more information, contact Carol Vincent, membership secretary, at 937-6744.

Our society’s architect, David Leavengood, will present his plans for converting the log house to a museum. Eric Taylor will unveil his museum concept plan, and Kate Farley, landscape designer, will present her preliminary plans.

Reader’s theater play for children tells great story of C’ayd and Louisa

By Mary Parlato Gunderson and Linda Chase

A great drama has played throughout the Western Hemisphere for the past 500 years. It’s the story of the collision of two world views, of two quite different ways of being in the world: one native, inspired by a kind of natural mysticism; the other European/American, inspired by a vision of humans progressing out of the suffering inherent in the natural condition.

Each locale in the New World has its own unique version of this story. Puget Sound’s began with the voyage of Capt. Vancouver and later with the Hudson Bay Company’s presence, but it reached its most dramatic moments with the landing of the Denny Party at Alki in 1851 and in the immediate years following.

Colleen Dumas, in her reader’s theater script, “Welcome to the Green Land,” has captured this story in all its hope for the future and its sadness over the losses.

Commissioned by our society, the script tells this story through the eyes of Louisa Denny, 7-year-old daughter of Arthur and
Hear the 140-year-old story of native boy and settler girl

'Each night on the trail, Mother made the beds neatly with linen sheets. Then one night, after we had crossed the Missouri River, a giant thunderstorm came up.'

Louisa Boren, from reader's theatre presentation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Mary Boren Denny, and C'ayd, a 10-year-old Duwamish boy.
Dumas does an excellent job in telling our regional history from diverse viewpoints. She poignantly intertwines the lives of C'ayd and Louisa with great sensitivity as their story unfolds, describing native customs, settler hardships, treaties, the Battle of Seattle and the passing of Chief Seattle. C'ayd is a young man of 25 and Louisa a young woman of 22 when the play ends.

The two children take turns speaking to the audience. C'ayd describes this land before contact:
'Very beautiful where I lived. I shared my home with many living things. The forest was green all the seasons. The forest was always still and quiet. The cedar trees were the proudest of the forest, for we used this tree in all we did. The forest was home to the deer, bear and birds.'

Louisa tells of leaving home:
'As we left Illinois, the children thought that our journey was a big holiday camping trip. The adults thought differently. Mother was very sad leaving her home and friends. Each night on the trail, Mother made the beds neatly with linen sheets. Then one night, after we had crossed the Missouri River, a giant thunderstorm came up. Our tents were blown down and the tops torn off the wagons. From that night on, we just tumbled into our beds without any thought of linens or neatness.'

The forest was always still and quiet. The cedar trees were the proudest of the forest, for we used this tree in all we did. The forest was home to the deer, bear and birds.'

We see subsequent events from both points of view:
- The arrival at Alki and that first difficult winter.
- The move to the new site the naming of it after the Duwamish/Suquamish chief.
- The arrival of more settlers and the talk of a territory.
- The Battle of Seattle.
- The natives’ loss of their traditional way of life due to increased settlement.
- The treaties and the creation of reservations.
- The death of Chief Seattle and his legacy.

'Welcome to the Green Land' was written to be included in classroom study kits being developed by the museum’s education committee. The kits will be used in fourth- and eighth-grade classrooms to enrich the study of Washington state history.

Included in the kits will be reproductions of artifacts, historical photos, a bibliography, a video, texts, lesson plans and the reader’s theater script. Offering hands-on resources will deepen student understanding of the special role the Alki community’s heritage plays in regional history.

Alki Elementary and Madison Middle School will pilot the use of the study kits during this school year. Our society hopes the Seattle School District will adopt the kits districtwide.

Our society will host a presentation of this play at the membership meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, and perhaps again a month and a half later, on Monday, Nov. 13, the 144th anniversary of the landing.
ARLENE WADE (right), vice president, leads the fund-raising charge at our society's annual membership picnic, as an enthusiastic audience looks on. Wade also presented certificates of appreciation to early donors in our society's Log House campaign.

Photos by Deborah Mendenhall

Games, honors pace our society's membership picnic Sunday, June 25 at — where else? — the Log House!

MEMBERS OF our society's Pioneer Kids Club stage a race, in which they had to keep cups of liquid on their heads without spilling, during the membership picnic. The kids club, organized by summer intern Christy Anna Gerber, has completed several projects for the Log House.

THE PICNIC drew our society's "three Ermas" (from left): Erma Couden, Erma Erickson and Erma Schwartz. Will our roster of Ermas grow in the future?
Wanted:
100 donors, at $1,000 apiece

A generous 14 lead the way toward our $100,000 goal

These generous donors will give $1,000 or more toward creating the Log House Museum. The goal is 100 members.

Their generosity will be commemorated permanently at the museum site, and they will enjoy special benefits, including a sneak preview party before the Nov. 13, 1996, opening.

You are invited to be part of this history-making group of founders.

A special group of museum founders called the Log House Circle will provide the foundation to a successful campaign.

These generous donors will give $1,000 or more toward creating the Log House Museum. The goal is 100 members.

Their generosity will be commemorated permanently at the museum site, and they will enjoy special benefits, including a sneak preview party before the Nov. 13, 1996, opening.

You are invited to be part of this history-making group of founders. For more information, contact Arlene Wade, society vice-president, at 937-7494.

A big thank-you and welcome to our first members:

- Metro mitigation funds.
- Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.
- King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission
- Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation
- Erma Erickson
- Elliott and Erma Couden
- JoAn Schmitz Fulton
- John E. Kelly
- Bob Pontius family
- George and Arlene Wade
- Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Webster
- White Center License Agency
- Carl Winge family
- The Lockett family, in memory of Norman Lockett

Fund-raising letter brings $25,500 so far

Thanks to the generosity of this community and our members, the campaign to make the Log House Museum a reality is off to a great start.

A $28,500 city matching grant is funding the development of a schematic design by David Leavengood Architects and an exhibit concept design by Eric Taylor.

Final designs for the museum will be unveiled for our society's membership at the general membership meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Alki Recreation Center.

Our society's letter campaign to raise $51,000 has raised $25,500 so far for stabilizing the structure, replacing damaged logs in the south wall and meeting other repair requirements under our society's covenant with the city.

The Port of Seattle has offered to donate the seasoned replacement logs. Bob Pontius of Pontius Trucking, Inc., has volunteered to transport the logs to the site.

If you wish to volunteer to do manual labor to help reduce our society's construction cost, call Merrilee Hagen at 932-0460 or Carol Vincent at 937-6744.

In another contribution, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has donated a computer, monitor, keyboard and mouse to our society.
Will you join a circle?

Here are the members of our society's fund-raising circles as of early September:

**Chief Seattle Circle** .......... $50,000+
  Metro mitigation funds

**Denny Party Circle** .......... $25,000+
  Seattle Department of Neighborhoods design grant

**Landing Party Circle** .......... $10,000+
  King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission
  Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation

**Princess Angeline Circle** ....... $5,000+
  Erma Erickson

**Alki Circle** .................... $2,500+

**Log House Circle** .............. $1,000+
  Elliott and Erma Couden
  JoAn Schmitz Fulton
  John E. Kelly
  Bob Pontius family
  George and Arlene Wade
  Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Webster
  White Center License Agency
  Carl Winge family
  The Lockett family, in memory of Norman Lockett

**Pioneer Club** ................... $500+
  W. Cecil Davis, in memory of Marie R. Davis
  Mickey Kraut
  Adah Rhodes
  Karl Wahlborg

**Homesteaders Club** ............. $250+
  Van Peirson
  Boyd Swanson

**Settlers Club** .................. $100+
  John Ashford
  Deborah J. Barker
  Peggy Conroy
  Ed and Pearl Ebert
  Mrs. James Egan
  Merrilee Hagen
  Charles Kaffenberger

Mark Lembersky
Elemer and Joan Mraz
Andrew Nelson
Michael Prihoda
S&L Realty
Margaret Saffer
Morest Skaret
Francis Tamaccio
Dan Van Hook
Carol and Charles Vincent
Roberta R. Weeks
Tom Weeks

**Quilters' Bee Circle** ........... under $100
  Air Sea Alaska
  Edith Bender
  C.A. Blackinton
  Berlena Brock
  Lynn Cornelia
  Lillian Cox
  Peggy Cullor
  Nicole Devine
  Kay Dewar
  Lisa De Giorgio
  Mary Di Leuw
  Ann and Marty Dirks
  James C. Douglas
  Barbara Fulton
  R.R. Bob Greive
  Huling Inc.
  Oscar Mraz
  Edie Neeson
  Marietta Pane
  Michael Purdy
  Mary Loud Richardson
  J.D. Rowland
  Gertrude Stevens
  Elsie Sundberg
  George Thornton
  Mark Vadakin
  Roy Velling
  Virginia Vinton
  Wilma Waters
  Richard Weyte

Fund-raising circles cover all levels of giving, from under $100 to $50,000-plus.
City commission seeks artists for $70,000 Alki marker project

Applicants must submit plans by Sept. 22 for ‘cultural trail’ along beach corridor

The selected artist or artist team will meet with community members and research historic, geologic, cultural and other aspects of the shoreline between Alki Point and Duwamish Head. The artist or artists will address the layers of history in the Alki area and celebrate key events, places and influences along the shoreline.

The Seattle Arts Commission is seeking artists to create a series of “cultural markers” along Alki Beach. Application deadline for the $70,000 “West Seattle Cultural Trail” project is Sept. 22.

The commission will select an artist or artist team for a residency period of at least six months for this project, which grew out of our society’s efforts to give recognition to the historic shoreline sites of the Southwest Seattle peninsula.

The selected artist or artist team will meet with community members and research historic, geologic, cultural and other aspects of the shoreline between Alki Point and Duwamish Head. The artist or artists will address the layers of history in the Alki area and celebrate key events, places and influences along the shoreline.

The project will include encompass several shoreline locations, at which each element must address indigenous, pioneer and recent inhabitants. Although the content of the artwork will address historic events, the form is open and could include functional elements, sculptural objects or markers.

These elements might be created at points where railings, pavement, the promontory/lookout, intersections of cross streets and bulkhead pads occur. They also may be attached to existing light standards and may relate to water and tide cycles.

The Seattle Parks Department is managing a new design for the shoreline — called a trail/esplanade — that will be developed this fall by MacLeod/Reckord Landscape Architects.

Greater Harbor 2000 will assist with the art project. For more information, call the commission at 684-7171.

Museum key to historic corridor plan

By Arlene Wade

Several local organizations and governments — including our society — are collaborating to develop the Alki/Harbor/Duwamish corridor as a historic district.

The Log House Museum is a major anchor in this historic planning effort. Other features include a series of historic, interpretive markers funded by the Seattle Arts Commission, a proposed Duwamish People’s Cultural Center and Longhouse at Terminal 107 and a marine gateway with a foot passenger ferry at Piers 1 and 2.

Participating groups include the Port of Seattle, the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, the state Department of Natural Resources and the community group Greater Harbor 2000.

The Port and the Department of Natural Resources are funding the $80,000 project to create the schematic designs for the study area. When completed, these attractions will become a vital cultural resource for the region and a popular recreational destination for local citizens and visitors.

The design project was generated by Greater Harbor 2000. The final report, recommendations and schematic design will be presented at a public open house from 6 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, at Alki Community Center.
Parade lets society strut banner, old cars

ON ROLLERBLADES, intern Christy Anna Gerber (left) leads Pioneer Kids Club members in selling buttons and flags during the July 29 West Seattle Grand Parade.

Order a fresh-cut, beautiful noble fir Christmas tree, and help the Log House Museum at the same time!

Custom-ordered trees will be specially selected and available at the Log House Museum from Friday, Dec. 1, through Sunday, Dec. 3.

Place your order now:

Size: 4 feet ____ 5 feet ____ Other ____
Prices are $30 to $50.
Name:

_____________________________
Address:

_____________________________
Phone:

Please make your check out to SWSHS Log House Museum. Add a gift to the museum fund in the holiday spirit, and help the campaign!

Mail your order and check to: SWSHS, c/o South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106.
Or call 937-7494 today to order your tree!
Log House and Alki Homestead get glowing city landmark nod

Public hearing coming Wednesday, Oct. 18

The Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board unanimously and glowingly approved the nomination of our society’s Log House Museum and the Alki Homestead Restaurant for landmark status.

The board will hold a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, in the Arctic Building downtown, on landmark designation for the two structures. Our society encourages everyone interested to attend and testify.

Flo Lentz, longtime member of our society and a specialist in architectural history, submitted the nomination.

Historic photographs of both sites, along with present-day photos by society member Deborah Mendenhall, were presented to the board.

Lentz authored the nomination for the Admiral Theater, which the board designated a landmark in 1989.

Tice family home hosts museum talk at annual E.C. Hughes school potluck

By Merrilee Hagen

As part of our continuing program of community outreach, our society was pleased to be invited to speak at an Aug. 1 gathering at the Lake Washington waterfront home of Lou Tice, famed motivational seminar guru.

The event was a yearly potluck party for friends and former classmates from West Seattle’s E.C. Hughes Elementary School. Many of those attending still live in West Seattle, and some are members of our society, including Morey Skaret.

After a great lunch, Treasurer Joan Mraz presented background on our society, Vice President Arlene Wade spoke about the history of the museum project, and I addressed the museum and fund-raising projects.

We displayed enlarged photos of the Log House, along with preliminary plans by our architect, David Leavengood. We were accompanied by our summer intern, Christy Gerber, who sold pins, West Side Story books and society memberships.

We received lots of questions and positive input from this West Seattle-based crowd, and quite a few new members.

It was a rare, hot August day, in beautiful surroundings with good company.

We extend our sincere thanks to Lou and Diane Tice for providing us this opportunity to publicize our museum project.
Playful yet classical, new logo now represents our society

Lettering artist recounts the story of its creation

By Rosemary Woods

Earlier this year, West Seattle’s Fritz Johnson contacted West Seattle resident and designer Tony Gable to ask him to participate in the beginning stages of the Log House Museum project.

The task at hand was to design the museum’s logo and business papers. Gable then spoke with fellow West Seattleite and lettering artist Rosemary Woods, asking if she would contribute her logo design skills to the project. Gable is a well renowned Seattle designer (and musician), and Woods has an established reputation as a logo designer and lettering artist.

"Working on the Log House Museum was both an educational and exciting experience. It was very thrilling to learn about our early Seattle history," Woods says.

She and Tony felt that contributing to a community project which will help educate about Seattle’s Pioneer and Native American history is important. They worked collaboratively to come up with the design.

"From our first meeting, we had our direction," Gable says. "Arlene Wade, vice president, explained that the logo should be modern and strong, but friendly."

Gable thought it would be fun to see the log house itself represented in a friendly, brush-stroke style. With the illustration playful and approachable, it had great possibilities to be used separately and would appeal to all age groups.

The next step was to explore the type direction. Woods wanted it to be nostalgic, but not sentimental. She started researching for the log house lettering type styles from the 1900s through 1920s.

Taking the basic spirit of a type style commonly used in old newspaper headlines, she made the letters streamlined to bring them into the 1990s and "distressed" them to give them a rough-hewn feel.

Wrapping the type would add movement and keep it classical. Lettering the word "Museum" fell into place, for it reflected the brush stroke style of the illustration.

When Woods finished her hand-designed logo artwork, it was then scanned into a Macintosh computer, where her husband Jeff McCord, electronic publishing artist, converted the scan into a postscript file.

"Having it in computer format allows for future uses of the work, such as signage, banners, and brochures," says McCord. "In fact, recently a large banner was generated from the computer file and marched in a West Seattle parade!"

Later, Wilo Palanca of Gable’s design company assisted with the stationery system layout and production.

All of these elements — the stationery, envelopes, business cards, signs and other print materials — will help to make the Log House Museum a success.

"Working on the Log House Museum was both an educational and exciting experience. It was very thrilling to learn about our early Seattle history."

Rosemary Woods
Is our society at a critical juncture?
The answer is unqualifiedly yes. Your support is needed now more than ever before.
Peruse this special edition of Footprints to see how you can help!

Archeological findings spark presentation on prehistory of West Seattle, Vashon Island

Evening event due Sept. 27 at Salty’s on Alki restaurant

Along with the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission, our society will sponsor a program later this month on the prehistory of West Seattle and Vashon Island. “West Seattle and Vashon Island: Hands Across Time” will be presented from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the Alki Room of Salty’s on Alki, 1926 Harbor Ave. S.W.

Noted local archaeologists Lynn Larson and Dennis Lewarch will uncover the remarkable findings of the Allentown and White Lake archaeological sites and peer into the remote past of a shell midden and other Vashon Island sites, one of which will be nominated for designation as a county landmark.

Also speaking will be King County Council member Greg Nickels. For more information, call Carol Vincent at 937-6744.

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