

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE XXXIV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1997

## Reconstructing the past

*Contractor finds Log House is 'slow in giving up its secrets'*

**D**avid Rogers, the log-construction expert who is serving as general contractor for renovation of the Log House Museum, has unearthed a number of interesting objects over the past several weeks.

Among them: several square-shaft nails, a Chicklets penny candy box, a receipt dated 1927, a "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip from 1944, a few marbles, an Independent Brewing Company beer bottle, and some of those plastic guys from the vibrating electric football game.

One of his most prized discoveries is a rusty metal ring which he figures had "something to do with livery, something to do with tying an animal up." The ring is important because it supports the notion that the building originally was used as a carriage house, a fact that has been difficult to verify.

As he points out, however, the "most important and significant artifact is the structure itself." And Rogers has detected a few architectural clues that point to its beginning as a carriage house.

For example, at least one round of logs is missing at the ground level.

The bottom row of logs, he explains, is carved out along with bottom, indicating that it once sat on top of another row of logs.

"And maybe there were two logs down below. And if there were two, then it's probable that there was a log floor-joist system, and that would mean that the building was probably two feet lower than what it

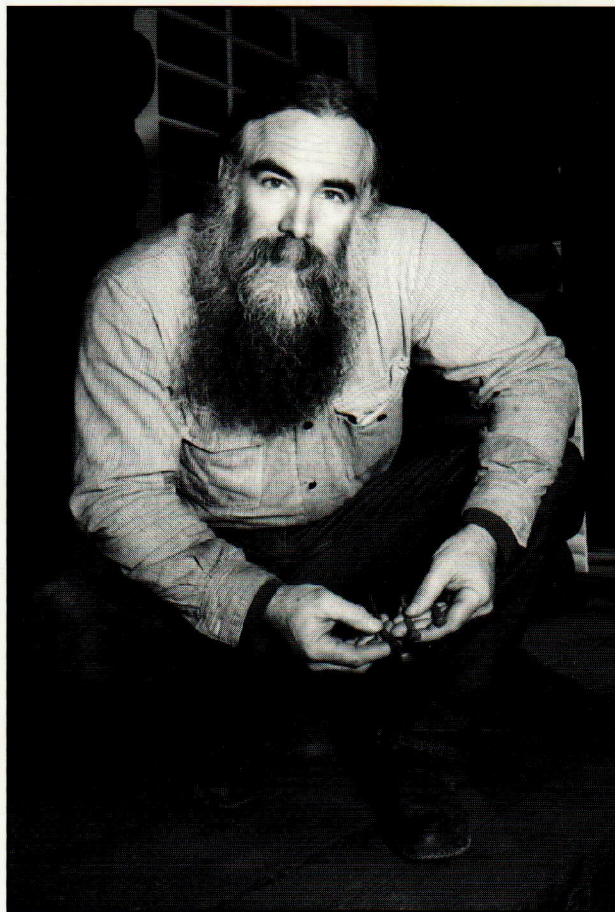


Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

**David Rogers, a log-construction expert from Rhododendron, Ore., is serving as general contractor for renovation of the Log House. Here, he holds some square nails that he discovered on site.**

is now, but you entered right into it."

Also, the double-wide front doorway would have been wide enough to accommodate a horse-drawn buggy, Rogers says. And a 5-foot-square area of the ceiling immediately inside the front door appears to

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**LOG HOUSE**  
*Museum*  
"THE BIRTHPLACE OF SEATTLE"

*Washington Mutual  
donates use of  
spacious office at  
Jefferson Square*

*— page 2*

*Support for museum  
continues to build*

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*Remembering  
the old Stockade*

*— page 4*

*Show your support  
for the state Heritage  
Fund — write your  
state legislator*

*— page 8*

## New headquarters

### Washington Mutual donates 3,000 square feet of temporary office space at Jefferson Square

**T**hanks to a \$26,000 in-kind donation from **Washington Mutual Savings Bank**, and some quick work by new board member **Greg Smith**, our Society moved into a spacious temporary office in Jefferson Square last month.

With the Log House closed for renova-

tion until November, the SWSHS was in desperate need of storage and office space. Smith, of Martin Smith Real Estate Services, contacted Washington Mutual, which offered use of a 3,000-square-foot office just east of Bartell Drug Store.

## Log House 'slow in giving up its secrets'

(continued from page 1)

have been added, which suggests that it once may have been the opening to a hay loft on the second floor.

Still, he wonders why there aren't more clues.

"It's a little odd, because if this had been a carriage house or some kind of a tack room, I would expect to find more metal objects," he says. "It's curious that we haven't found stable stuff: horseshoes, old farrier's tools, old junk."

"This house," he has decided, "is slow in giving up its secrets."

Part of the mystery may be due to the fact that the house could have been moved a short distance from its original location when it was lifted onto the present foundation.

The self-described "preservation philosophy fundamentalist" vows to keep looking for clues.

Ironically, Rogers' interest in log houses grew out of his experience as a logger. "It was during the time when logging was just eatin' the forest up," says the Rhododendron, Ore., resident. "It was big wood and it was virgin country, huge ancient forests. The more the time went on, the more wrong it seemed to me, and there came a day when I just couldn't do that any more and be who I am. But that's all I knew how to do, really. So I thought, well darn, what am I going to do now?"

What he did was enroll in the B. Alan

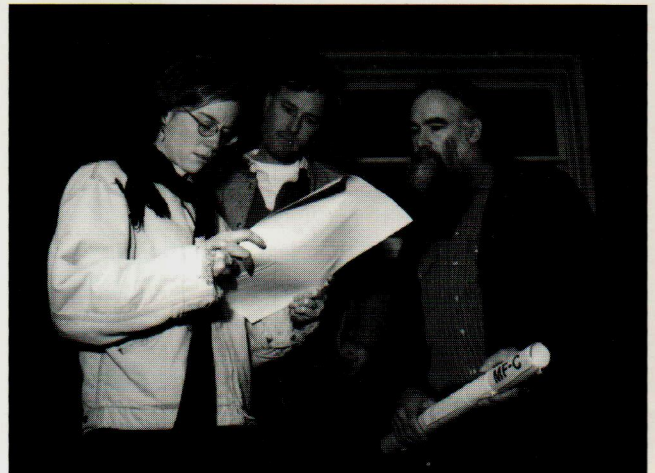


Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

**Rogers (right) goes over construction plans with architect Ann Vernon (left) and John Bennett, chair of the Facilities Committee.**

*'I admire the workmanship of the days gone by where people worked hard and got something that lasted long enough to be appreciated by the next one or two generations. To be a part of keeping that intact is really an honor to me.'*

Mackie School of Log Building, an establishment in Prince George, B.C., that taught the art of log building using old-fashioned techniques. Besides learning new skills, Rogers says he gained a deep appreciation for the past, and for a method of building that had nearly become extinct.

"I value history, accurate history. And I admire the workmanship of the days gone by where people worked hard and got something that lasted long enough to be appreciated by the next one or two generations," he says.

"To be a part of keeping that intact is really an honor to me. I feel privileged to get the opportunity to put my hand to someone else's work to keep it going for the next generation to learn from."

# Home stretch: *Museum campaign rolls toward Nov. 13 opening*

*The Southwest Seattle Historical Society's campaign to open the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum has moved ahead with new gifts of financial support, artifacts and volunteer help.*

*The following report outlines the broad-based support that the museum has received over the past several weeks.*

## New major Circle of Giving contributions announced

**Jim Diers**, director of the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods, recently announced a \$64,558 matching fund award to the Log House Museum project. The grant enables contractor **David Rogers** to move from current Phase I log replacement work and foundation stabilization (funded by the **King County Cultural Resources Division**) directly into Phase II, which will focus on interior and exterior renovation of the main building.

The \$1.9 million **Washington State Heritage Fund** currently before the legislature for appropriation includes financing for 12 statewide museum and heritage projects. These projects were selected from 69 project applicants in a highly competitive process. Our Log House Museum ranked fourth in the state and will be granted \$191,000 to complete our construction funding package, if approved by the legislature. (Urge your legislators to support the Heritage Fund in Senate Bill #5391!)

**Priscilla Collins** recently added \$15,000 to her previous donation of \$10,000. This moves Patsy up to join the **Boeing Company** in the Denny Party Circle of donors. Her continuing support for our Society's efforts is a real boost. Meanwhile, **Piper Jaffray**, a firm known for its generosity in the corporate community, granted the museum project \$5,000.

Although **John and Laurel Nesholm** of the **Nesholm Foundation** do not usually fund capital or museum projects, they liked our project enough to surprise us with a \$10,000 award. Their gift put us over the top in the campaign to fund Phase I.

The Log House Circle campaign, with a goal of enrolling 100 founding members by our opening date of Nov. 13, 1997, welcomed the following new members: **Elliott**

and **Erma Couden** (who doubled their initial \$1,000 donation), **Martin Smith**, **The Martin Smith Family Partnership**, and **Judy Pigott Swenson** (through the **Norcliffe Foundation**). There is room for 78 more West Seattle families and businesses. Log House Circle and other major donors will all be permanently commemorated on the site, and will be invited to attend a special opening celebration.

## Key roles played by new trustees and volunteers

**Sharon Huling**, newest member of the executive board, is co-chairing the final Completing the Circle campaign. The \$200,000 campaign goal will ensure the successful funding of the final phase of the museum – completion of the exhibits and educational outreach programs.

New board member **Greg Smith**, of **Martin Smith Real Estate Services**, whose family owned the Stockade Hotel (see related article on page 4), is responsible for negotiating our spacious new offices at Jefferson Square. **Washington Mutual Savings Bank** made the \$26,000 in-kind contribution of this 3,000-square-foot space for our headquarters while the museum is under construction.

**Joe Taller**, of the **Boeing Company**, just announced that the SWSHS has been selected for the Boeing Loaned Executive Program. Company engineer and construction manager **Kent Peterson** will oversee the museum construction project on a part-time basis. Kent brings valuable leadership and construction management skills to our efforts. **Fritz Johnston**, SWSHS trustee and Boeing employee, was instrumental in

*(continued on page 6)*



Photo by Sandy Hinderlie  
Historian Paul Dorpat made a priceless discovery and contribution last month – the original guest book from Fir Lodge (today's Alki Homestead restaurant). Here, he passes the book to President Arlene Wade.

# Getting away from it all at the old Stockade

By Greg Smith

**S**top and imagine yourself back in 1901 wondering what you and your family are going to do for the weekend. You live in a house on Queen Anne and feel you need a break from the day-to-day grind. So you decide you're going to go away and stay at the Stockade Hotel at Alki Point.

To get there, you have a choice. You can either travel south toward what is now Southcenter before you can cross the Duwamish River to get over to West Seattle, or you can take a ferry directly from downtown Seattle. Keep in mind the area now known as the industrial area was still tide flats and had not yet been reclaimed with fill from Seattle's regrading.

At the turn of the century, my great grandparents, Alfred and Lorena Smith, owned by today's standards a significant amount of land at Alki Point. To take advantage of the ever-growing vacationing crowd, they decided to tear down the Hotel Alki and build the Stockade Hotel, hence the birth of the Stockade Hotel in 1903.

Both the Alki and Stockade hotels were constructed near the site of the first settler's



SWSHS archives

**Built in the 1890s, the Hotel Alki was replaced in 1903 by the Stockade Hotel.**

*'The Stockade Hotel was three stories tall and 100 feet square. It was constructed by Norwegian shipbuilders mainly from driftwood gathered from the beaches of Alki Point.'*

cabin, built by Charles Terry who settled Alki Point in 1851. Mr. Terry sold the property to Doc Maynard who subsequently sold the property to Hans Martin Hanson and Knute Olsen. Lorena Smith was the daughter of Hans Martin Hanson. If still there today, the hotel would be located at the corner of Alki Avenue Southwest and 63rd Avenue Southwest.

The Stockade Hotel was three stories tall and 100 feet square. It was constructed by Norwegian shipbuilders mainly from driftwood gathered from the beaches of Alki Point. It replaced the much smaller Hotel Alki, which was constructed on the site by Alfred and Lorena around 1890. Its name was derived from its fort-like appearance. Some of its many features included an 8-foot-wide covered porch around the first two floors, a large dining room, a ballroom and a hug fireplace.

Over time, it became a destination for many, including fraternities and sororities from the University of Washington who used the ballroom for dances. In fact, it is rumored that the university's fight song, "Bow Down to Washington," was written at the ballroom piano. The hotel thrived for many years, but finally succumbed to the hard times of the Great Depression.

I often think how nice it would be if the Stockade Hotel were still standing today. A place families could still go to get way from it all. Who knows, maybe someday the Stockade Hotel can be reborn?



SWSHS archives

**A popular destination in the early 1900s, the Stockade Hotel was the original site of the Birthplace of Seattle monument, which was donated to the city by Lenora Denny in 1905.**



# Log House Circle Donor List

## **FOUNDERS CIRCLE - \$100,000+**

Metro Mitigation Fund

## **POTLATCH CIRCLE - \$75,000+**

King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

## **CHIEF SEATTLE CIRCLE - \$50,000+**

## **DENNY PARTY CIRCLE - \$20,000+**

The Boeing Company, Priscilla Collins

## **LANDING PARTY CIRCLE - \$10,000+**

Erma Erickson, Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation

## **PRINCESS ANGELINE CIRCLE - \$5,000+**

Piper & Jaffray Inc., Safeco Corporation, The Seattle Foundation, Fuller Trust

## **ALKI CIRCLE - \$2,500+**

Archibald Charitable Trust, Washington Commission for the Humanities, Washington Mutual Savings Bank

## **LOG HOUSE CIRCLE - \$1,000+**

Jack Bennett, John A. & Dahli Bennett Family, Carolyn Bowen, Elliott N. & Erma Couden, Mrs. James H. Egan, Joan Schmitz Fulton, Michael & Diane Hansen Family, John & Jackie Kelly, Gerald & Kathryn Kingen, Lockett Family (in memory of Norman Lockett), Norcliffe Foundation: Judy Pigott Swenson Trust, The Pacific Institute Incorporated, Bob Pontius Family, Mary Lou Richardson, Martin Smith, Martin Smith Family Partnership, Gertrude Sandven Stevens, Don Swanson Family, Diane & Lou Tice, George & Arlene Wade, Roberta Weeks, White Center License Agency, Carl Winge Family

## **PIONEER CLUB - \$500+**

Richard Barnecut, Ronald J. Champoux, W. Cecil Davis in memory of Marie R. Davis, Driano and Sorensen, Attorneys at Law, Craig Kary-Aspen Glass Company, Mickey Kraut, Metropolitan Savings: Deanne Sposari, Adah Rhodes, Karl Wahlborg, West Seattle Jaycees

## **HOMESTEADERS CLUB - \$250+**

Julie Davis and Daniel Malarkey, Hall, Conway, Jackson Insurance Co., Van Peirson, Boyd Swanson, J. B. & Christi Webster

## **SETTLERS CLUB - \$100+**

Jeff Abolofia, John Ashford, Deborah J. Barker, Herb & Janice Blackinton, Barbara J. Buck, Chrystal Chamberlain, Peggy Conroy, Jerry & Eva Costacos, Norma Davis, Ed and Pearl Ebert, Merrilee Hagen, David & Margaret Harris, Sharon & Steve Huling, Charles and Arline Kaffenberger, Lynn Larson: LarsonAnthropological/Archaeological Services, Mark Lembersky, Susan A. Lindblom, Max Mage, Monday Lunch Bunch; (In memory of E. A. Le Penske), Jeffrey C. Mirsepasy, Elemer and Joan Mraz, Mildred E. Mullane, Andrew Nelson, Nolen Insurance Agency, Inc., Olympic Oldtimers, Ann Owchar, Michael Prihoda, S & L Realty, Craig R. & Charlotte Roberts, Neal and Margaret Saffer, Morest Skaret, Erma Schwartz, Francis Tamaccio, Dan Van Hook, Carol & Charles Vincent, Tom Weeks, Sue Whittenberg, Patricia O. Wright, Norm and Audrey Zemke

## **QUILTERS BEE CLUB- under \$100**

Air Sea Alaska, Edith T. Bender, G. & E. Benson, Allen R. & Judith Bentley, C.B. Blackinton, Shirley Blackinton (in memory of Dorothy Heidrich), Jeanne Ehrlichman Bluechel, Berlina Brock, Linda Chase, Marjorie Christianson, Lynn Cornelius, Erma & Elliott Couden (in memory of Barbara Sleem and Elemer Mraz) Lillian Cox, Peggy Cullor, Nicole Devine & Oscar Mraz, Kay M. Dewar, Lisa Di Georgio, Mary Di Leuw, Ann & Marty Dirks, James C. Douglas, Paulette Elster, Barbara Fulton, Diana Garcia, Jack Gifford, Barbara Green, Paula Green, R. R. Bob Greive, Ada Hallberg, Faith Hanna, Ruby Houser, Rodney Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert I. Karr, Ruth Bailey Kidd, Helen A. Koenen, Mary Lee Hu, E. A. Le Penske, Troy Lynn Locati, Steve & Dianne Loeb, Gary P. Long, Elizabeth Luce, JoAnne Ludwig, Beth McAdams, Carroll M. Mage, George & Joan Manwaring, Melba Mc Adams Mayo, Mary Jane Mc Inchak, Norma Milliman, Roy Morse, Claudia R. Moter, Edie Neeson, Daniel A. Nye, Marietta Pane, Gregory Park, Mike & Catherine Purdy, Kathleen Robeson, Jerome D. Rowland, Gertrude Stevens, Elsie Sundberg, Susan Swanson, George Thornton, Mark Vadakin, Paula vanHaagen, Roy Velling, Virginia Vinton, Wilma Waters, Richard Weyte, Kathryn & Glenn Womble, Christina L. Woodward

## **The Southwest Seattle Historical Society gratefully recognizes the following contributors of in-kind services:**

B.J. Bullert (video production), Dan Chase of Sparling, Inc. (electrical design), Paul Dorpat, Historian & Writer (historian), Colleen Dumas, (historical research & writing), Emerald City Graphics, (printing), Tony Gable & Rosemary Wood of Gable Design (graphic design), Jordan Hecker, (legal services), David Leavengood & Ann Vernon of Leavengood & Associates, (architectural services), Flo Lentz, (landmarking), Deborah Mendenhall, (photography), Doris Nelson and her staff of the Alki Homestead Restaurant, (restaurant services), James Rasmussen, (Duwamish cultural consultant), David Rogers (log specialist contractor), Martin Smith Real Estate Services (Jefferson Square office space) George Wade, CPA (accounting services), Washington Mutual Savings Bank (Jefferson Square office space)

We also appreciate the work of well over 200 extraordinary volunteers who have generously shared their time and talents to make the Log House Museum a reality.

# Home Stretch

(continued from page 3)

negotiating the museum's participation in the program.

Several important new volunteers are assuming key roles in our effort. **John Starbard**, a museum consultant who came to us through **Business Volunteers for the Arts**, is developing organizational timelines for the major areas of the museum project. West Seattle resident **Warren Jewel**, a software expert and marketing consultant, is preparing materials for the fundraising campaign.

West Seattle resident **Diane Fields** is heading up the museum's Heritage Brick campaign. Local activist **Donna Beeson** and marketing expert **Mary Ann Had** are spearheading the lobbying activities in Olympia for the Heritage Fund.

## Ads, artifacts and articles . . .

Third-generation West Seattleite **Chris Popich**, owner of **Popich Sign Co.**, is designing and donating a sign that will acknowledge our contributors at the museum site.

**Paul Dorpat**, noted local historian and videographer, made a priceless find and contribution to our collection – the original guest book for Fir Lodge (site of the Homestead and the main house of our museum building's estate). The treasured artifact holds the answers to some of the mysteries about our museum building's past, and will be a centerpiece in the opening exhibit.

The **Washington Commission for the Humanities** ran a front-page feature article in the January issue of the *Humanities Courier* headlined "Log House Museum Preserves Birthplace of Seattle." A photograph by museum photographer **Deborah Mendenhall** showcased **James Rasmussen**, Duwamish Tribal Councilman and descendant of Chief Seattle, speaking to **Alki Elementary School** students at the November groundbreaking ceremonies. The **King County Cultural Resources Quarterly Bulletin** also featured an excellent story about the museum project's recent string of successes with pictures of the groundbreaking ceremonies.

All these gifts of money, time, talent and artifacts, combined with the continued dedicated efforts of our board and volunteers, are making this project a success story.



Photo by John Bennett

West Seattle Kiwanis Club volunteers **Charley Runke**, **Gary Ross**, **John Bang** and **George Reed**, along with SWSHS board member **John Bennett** showed up at the Log House Jan. 13 to remove the back porch addition to enable contractor **David Rogers** to start jacking up the building, dig out the foundation, install shoring and start log wall replacement. Two pickup trucks were filled to capacity and taken to the dump (over one ton).

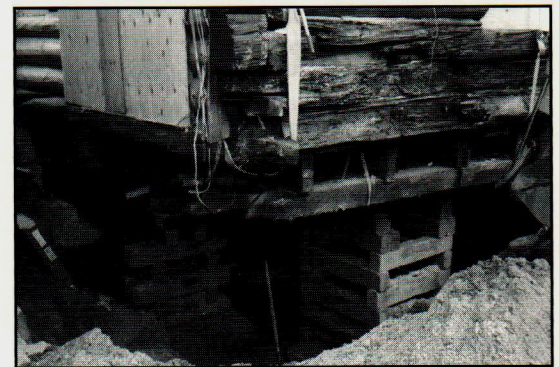


Photo by John Bennett

Timbers provide support for the southwest corner of the house, where a section of the foundation is being replaced.



Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

**James Rasmussen, Duwamish Tribal Council member, leads a Duwamish blessing at the Log House Museum during the Nov. 12 groundbreaking ceremony. The event was attended by a large crowd of well-wishers, including descendants of Seattle's pioneer families and an enthusiastic contingent from nearby Alki Elementary School.**



Photo by John Bennett

**Steel beams hold the south wall of the Log House Museum in place while the building undergoes foundation work and log replacement.**

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## Show your support for Heritage Fund

The \$1.9 million Washington State Heritage Fund currently before the legislature for appropriation includes financing for 12 statewide museum and heritage projects. These projects were selected from 69 project applicants in a highly competitive process.

Our Log House Museum ranked fourth in the state and is slated to receive a grant of \$191,000. You can show your support by urging your legislator to approve the Heritage Fund in Senate Bill #5391.

For more information, call the Log House Museum at 938-5293.

## Does your family deserve a place in history?

Well, here's the chance to leave your mark and help the Log House Museum at the same time. Just order an engraved brick through the Heritage Brick campaign and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

In April, all Society members will receive

a Heritage Brick Kit, which will include several campaign brochures that you can pass along to friends and family members.

The bricks, engraved with a one-, two- or three-line inscription will be used to pave outdoor areas at the museum.

For more information, call 938-5293.

## Interested in joining our volunteer team?

The SWSHS is successful because of its dedicated volunteers. Our recent move into new large offices at Jefferson Square gives us more space for volunteers, and we have a need for more.

Office volunteers help with mailing, filing, work parties, computer entries, telephones and special projects and events.

Currently we need volunteers to help set up our new headquarters. The work includes decorating, finding and arranging office furniture, filing, inventorying our needs, and generally making a welcoming home for the Society while the museum is being renovated.

Someone is needed to assist with public relations activities and community research. This involves setting up coffee hours, speaking engagements with local organiza-

tions, and working on community open house activities in our new space.

A writer with grant writing experience would be of valuable help to our fundraising committee. Also, one or two folks are needed to identify and organize fun teams from the community for our membership drive competition.

Finally, we need a volunteer librarian to manage the rental of the education kits and traveling library. This involves scheduling, checking in and out, collecting fees and maintaining the kits.

If you would be interested in working four to six hours a week in the SWSHS office at Jefferson Square or on special projects, please contact **Carol Vincent** at 937-6744.

## FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Brad Chrisman)  
Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society  
c/o South Seattle Community College  
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