

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXXVI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1997

'A place to celebrate'

Society prepares for an historic opening at the Log House

When the Log House Museum officially opens to the public on Thursday, Nov. 13, a handful of people will remember how the project began four years ago as an amazing opportunity.

A few dozen more will recall attending initial planning meetings in 1993 and participating in the grassroots campaign to "Save the Log House."

Thousands of Alki residents who cast ballots in favor of the Log House Museum project in a March 1994 community vote can take credit for the project's first big milestone, when the Log House qualified as one of the top two proposals and earned \$180,000 from the Alki Community Improvement Fund.

Hundreds of individuals, businesses, public officials and private foundations who gave time and money to the project will know that they helped turn the community's dream into a reality.

Hundreds more – ranging from children who marched in Hi-Yu parades, to senior



Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

SWSHS board members show their enthusiasm during a recent pre-meeting photo session. Standing left to right: Mary Parlato Gunderson, Kathy Kingen, Fritz Johnston, Merrilee Hagen, Michael Prihoda, Patricia Filer, Maritherese Thomas. Seated: Arlene Wade, Elliott Couden, Carol Vincent. Not pictured: John Bennett, Brad Chrisman, Sharon Huling, Gregory B. Smith, Lynn Swindlehurst.

Arlene Wade. "It's truly been a team effort. Our community should be very proud of what it has accomplished."

The museum's mission, adopted last year by the Society's board of directors, states that the museum will be "A place to celebrate the unique history of the Duwamish Peninsula and the Birthplace of Seattle."

The board drafted those first few words carefully, hoping that the Log House will serve not just as an exhibit center, but as a place where the community will celebrate its heritage for generations to come.

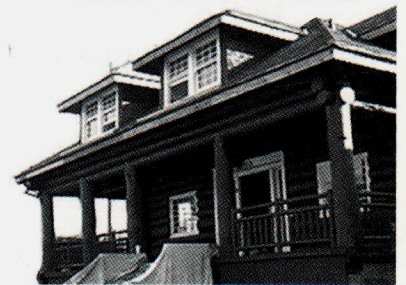
"That's something that's kept us

(continued on page 2)

citizens who donated photographs and artifacts for the museum's opening exhibit – will remember how they, too, had a hand in creating the museum.

"It really is amazing how many people have supported this project," says SWSHS President


LOG HOUSE
Museum
"THE BIRTHPLACE OF SEATTLE"

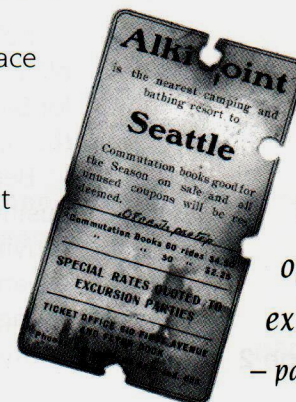


Kick up your heels
at the Nov. 8

Grand Opening Gala
– page 2

Don't miss our Annual
Meeting, Saturday, Nov.
15, 10 a.m. at the Alki
Community Center

– page 2



All
Aboard
for the
Museum's
opening
exhibit!

– page 6

It's party time!

Come dance the night away at the Grand Opening Gala

After more than four long years of hard work, it's finally time to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum.

So pull out your best garb and get ready to "kick up your heels" at the Grand Opening Gala, set for Saturday, Nov. 8 at **Salty's on Alki**.

The festivities will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30. Next – dancing to the arresting sounds of **The Jazz Police**, a hot 20-piece jazz band led by the talented **James Rasmussen**, who has played such a significant role in the museum's development as a member of the Duwamish Tribal Council. **Tamara Weimer**, of Los Angeles, will be the featured vocalist.

A limousine shuttle service will provide transportation between Salty's and the

Log House for those who would like a special preview of the museum. A silent auction, featuring several naming opportunities at the museum, will take place throughout the evening

The black-tie (optional) event is being generously underwritten by **Gerald and Kathy Kingen** and Salty's on Alki. Special keepsakes and surprises will be provided by **Debra Charles**, of **Chases Downtown Florist**; **Chuck and Kris Kusak**, of **Kusak Cut Glass Works**; and **Jon Tunison**, of **Admiral Thriftway**.

Tickets are \$100 each and reservations are accepted individually, in groups, or in tables of 10. All proceeds will go toward the museum's operating fund.

Please plan to attend, as you won't want to miss this historic occasion.

Call 206-938-5293 to find out more.

Pull out your best garb and get ready to "kick up your heels" at the Grand Opening Gala, set for Saturday, Nov. 8 at Salty's on Alki.

Events celebrate a four-year effort

(continued from page 1)

going throughout this project," Wade says. "No matter how busy we've been, we've always taken time to celebrate and have fun."

On Saturday, Nov. 8, the fun begins in earnest, with a Grand Opening Gala at Salty's on Alki (see story at the top of this page). On Thursday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m., the celebration continues, with Grand Opening ceremonies at the Log House. That night at 8, the documentary "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle" will make its broadcast debut on KCTS, Channel 9. On Nov. 17 and 18, special dinners will be held for donors at the Alki Homestead.

Log House Museum Opening Events Schedule

Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m.	Grand Opening Gala at Salty's on Alki.
Nov. 13, 10 a.m.	Grand Opening ceremonies and ribbon-cutting.
Nov. 13, 8 p.m.	Premier of "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle" on KCTS.
Nov. 15, 10 a.m.	SWSHS Annual Meeting, Alki Community Center.
Nov. 17, 18	Donor Dinners at Alki Homestead (by invitation).

Annual meeting set for Saturday, Nov. 15

Be prepared to mix business and pleasure at this year's Annual Meeting, set for Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to noon at the Alki Community Center.

Beginning at 10, we'll take care of business, with reports on the past year's activities, election of a new slate of officers and trustees, and a vote on proposed changes to our Society's bylaws (see insert in this newsletter).

We'll follow that with a special showing of "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle," the new 30-minute documentary produced by our own **B.J. Bullert**.

After the meeting, members will be encouraged to visit the Log House Museum, just a short walk away from the community center.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

President's Message:

Dear Members and Friends,

Of all the Footprints columns I've written, this one brings the most joy.

"The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul." Many sweetened souls in our community are responsible for the resounding success of the four-year effort to create the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum. Fundraising goals have been met. Construction and exhibit installation are finishing on schedule. The Founders' Circle is complete. The focused, long-term dedication of our volunteers has been inspiring.

Our museum was not merely constructed, but created.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton explains the difference: "A thing constructed can only be loved after it is constructed; but a thing created is loved before it exists." Clearly, the museum was embraced by many as it transformed from a dream into its present reality.

So, let the celebration begin! Check the November Opening Events Schedule (page 2) and mark your calendars. After an intensive four-year effort, we are ready to party, and hope you will join in the fun.

Julie Furlong, coordinator, and her committee of **Lois Watkins, Sharon Huling, Debra Charles, Kathy Kingen** and yours truly, kick off a series of fun-filled November festivities with the Historic Grand Opening Gala at Salty's on the 8th. The committee has a magic evening planned for us. Proceeds from the Gala support ongoing museum operations.

We were excited to hear that **Mayor Norm Rice** will issue a proclamation declaring Nov. 13 "Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum Day" for the city of Seattle. This date coincides with the anniversary of the landing of the Denny Party at nearby Alki Beach 146 years ago. A ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. will officially open our doors to the public.

At 8 p.m. that evening, KCTS premieres "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle," a 30-minute video by **B.J. Bullert**. It was underwritten

by the **Ferguson Foundation, Washington Commission for the Humanities, King County Hotel Motel Tax Funds** and our Society. The work not only advances knowledge of local history but it is beautiful. A short version will run at the museum as part of the opening exhibit.

As we enter the homestretch, the generosity of donors and volunteers has been humbling and deserves special mention. Since the September issue of "Footprints," we have added 48 founding members, exceeding our goal of 100. The \$67,000 they contributed put us over the top and brings the project in on budget!

Please take a moment to review the complete list of museum founders on the insert in this newsletter. The many individual donors were joined by the following new corporate and foundation contributors: the **Kongsgaard-**

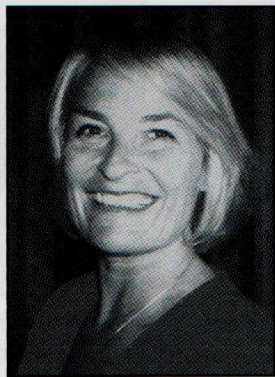
Goldman Foundation supplemented its previous \$14,000 contribution with another \$7,000 gift; the **Nordstrom Family** contributed \$5,000 in memory of **John W. Nordstrom**; and **Services Group of America** gave \$5,000. **Bill and Paula Clapp** donated \$10,000 in honor of the **Booths and Crawford, Seattle pioneers**. Their gift will underwrite the opening exhibit video of the log house restoration produced by **Paul Marlow** and **Richard Russell**.

A recent **Boeing** donation of \$11,000 for the production of Log House Museum commemorative calendars adds to previous financial support, office furniture, computers, and most importantly a loaned executive to manage the construction. We have **Kent Peterson's** quiet competence, good humor and all those charts, budgets and schedules to thank for bringing this project in on time and within budget.

Finally, recent additions to the \$2,500 Alki Circle are: **Alki Lumber, Joanne Schmitz Fulton and Capt. Frank C. Schmitz USCG, Bruce and Jolene McCaw, Admiral Thriftway, Debra Ann Charles, Chuck and Kris Kusak, Susan Silver and Chris Cornell, and Doris Nelson**.

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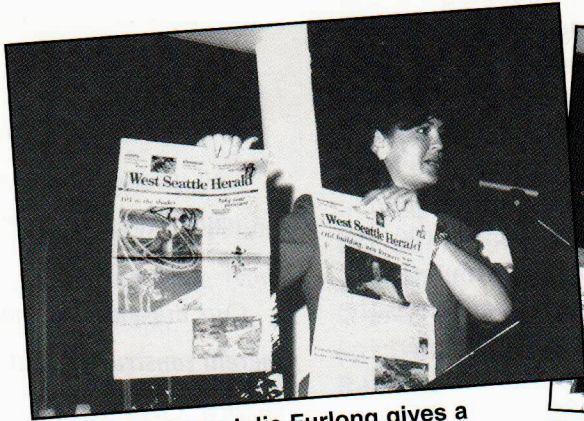
Our museum was not merely constructed, but created. Gilbert Keith Chesterton explains the difference: "A thing constructed can only be loved after it is constructed; but a thing created is loved before it exists." Clearly, the museum was embraced by many as it transformed from a dream into its present reality.



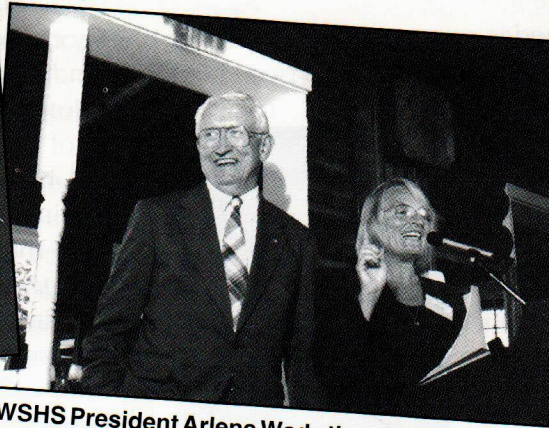
Arlene Wade
SWSHS President



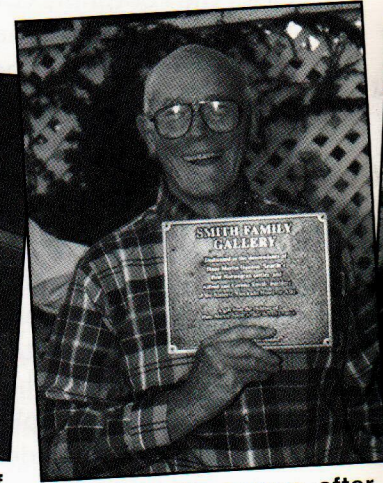
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SWSHS Director Julie Furlong gives a publicity update during a July 22, 1997, event at the Homestead.



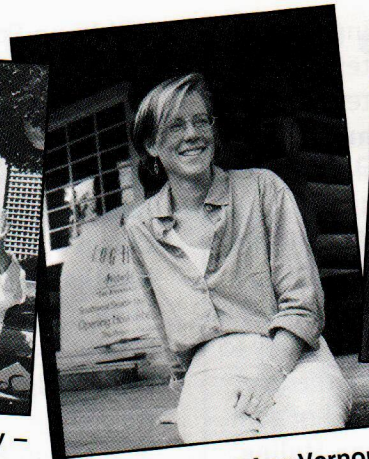
SWSHS President Arlene Wade thanks Secretary of State Ralph Munro for his support of the Log House Museum project.



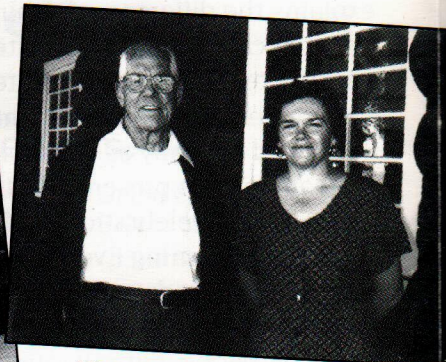
Martin Smith beams after learning that the museum's main gallery would be named in honor of his family.



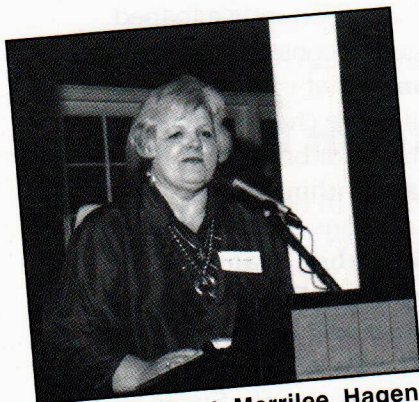
The Chrismans – Denise, Brad, Danny and Katy – catch a ride in Bob Pontius' 1934 Ford pickup during the 1995 Hi-Yu Grand Parade.



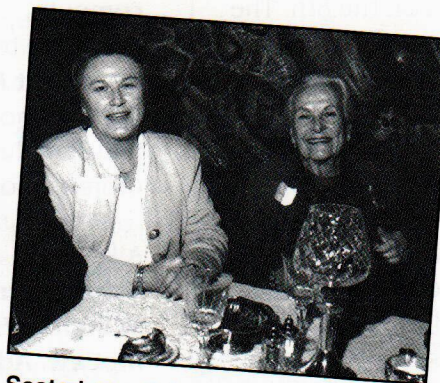
Project architect Ann Vernon takes a break during a rare quiet moment at the site.



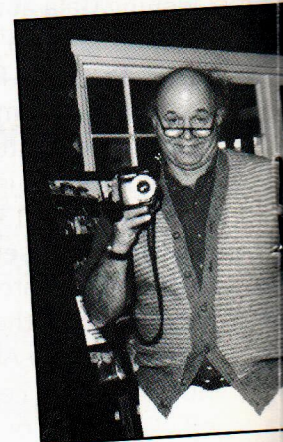
Historical Society founder Elliott Couden poses with Flo Lentz, who wrote the landmarks nomination for the Log House and Homestead.



Past President Merrilee Hagen addresses attendees at the 1995 Landmarking celebration.



Seated at a table with other pioneer descendants, Denny descendant Marcy Walsh and Kay Watt, wife of Denny descendant Robert Watt, catch up on old times.



Historian Paul Dorpat one of our Society's video.

g Back

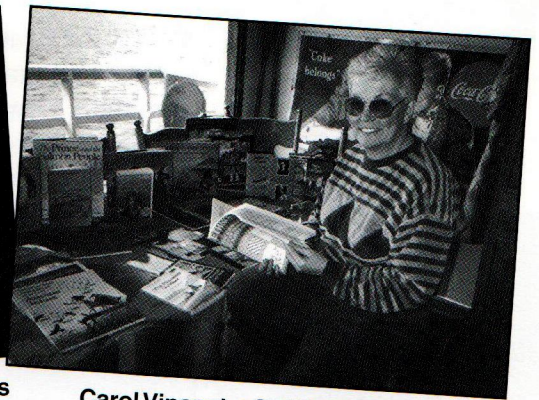
the People
Make History



Surrounded by attentive students from Alki Elementary, longtime West Seattle resident Erma Schwartz takes in the Nov. 12, 1996, groundbreaking ceremony, which included a Duwamish blessing of the site.



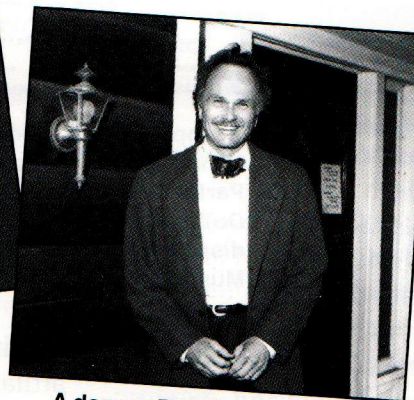
Board member Fritz Johnston bends Greg Nickels' ear during a Nov. 6, 1995, event celebrating the landmarking of the Log House Museum and Alki Homestead restaurant.



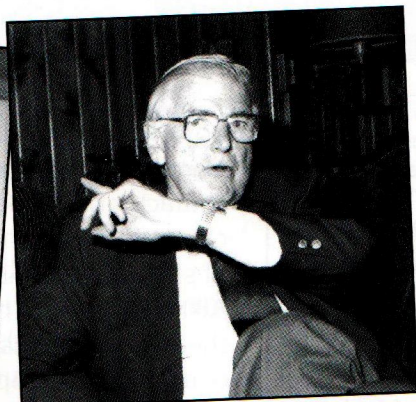
Carol Vincent, a SWSHS board member and retired librarian, reviews the Society's Traveling Library selections.



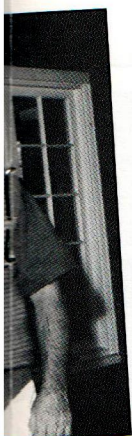
Alki Homestead owner Doris Nelson (center) shares a smile with (left to right) Mary Parlato Gunderson, Linda Chase, Cecile Maxwell Hansen and James Rasmussen.



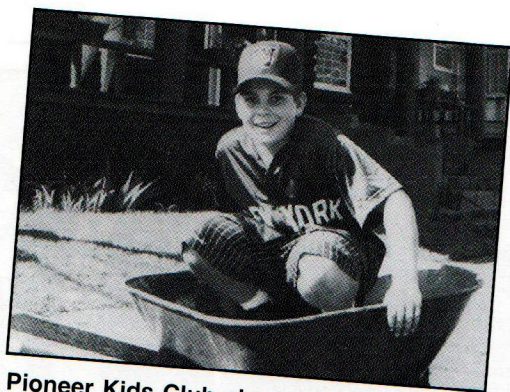
A dapper David Leavengood, of Leavengood Architects, pays a visit to the house.



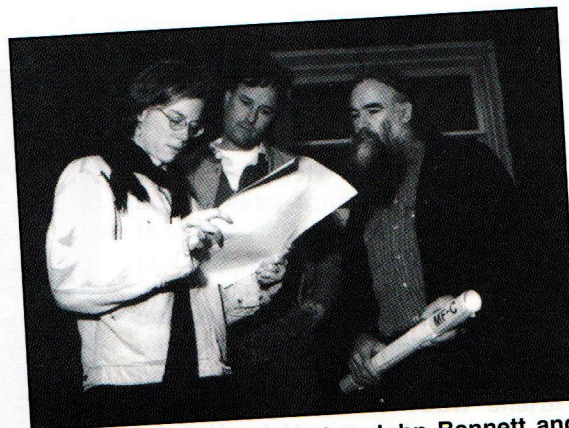
Brewster Denny spins a tale during an interview for the video "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle."



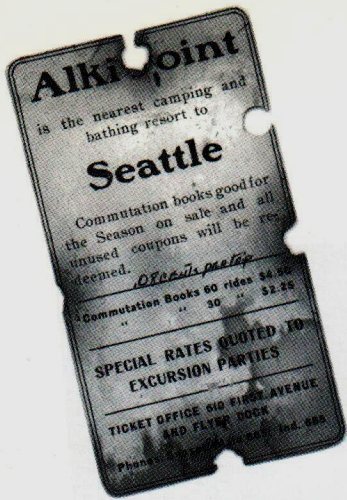
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s events on



Pioneer Kids Club charter member Brady Wade volunteers to help spiff up the Log House on Earth Day 1995.



Ann Vernon, board member John Bennett and contractor David Rogers go over construction plans.



All Aboard for Alki: 'Coney Island of the West'

When the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported on plans to build a new Natatorium (indoor swimming pool) at Alki Point in 1904, it was careful to note that Alki was located "just beyond West Seattle."

Not *in* West Seattle. Just *beyond* West Seattle.

That's because in 1904, the town of West Seattle was still limited to the area we know today as the Admiral District. Alki was still quite independent from West Seattle, thank you very much, and happy to stay that way.

You wouldn't say Alki was part of West Seattle. Not unless you were looking for trouble.

Within just a few years, however, events took place that would forever alter the character of the beach community. The popularity of such attractions as the Alki Natatorium (billed as the second longest in the country when it opened in 1905), the Stockade Hotel, Rose Lodge and various bath houses, brought thousands of visitors and new residents each year – and with them, changes.

By the end of 1907, Alki had reluctantly

joined West Seattle, which had then eagerly joined Seattle. Seattle had extended its street railway system to West Seattle and Alki. And at Duwamish Head, an Easterner named Charles Looff had built Luna Park, an expansive amusement complex he advertised as the "Coney Island of the West."

The story of Alki's transition from an out-of-the-way summer campground to a popular resort and bathing beach is the focus of the opening exhibit at the Log

House Museum. Dozens of historic photographs and artifacts – including memorabilia and souvenirs from the bathing beach and Luna Park – document Alki's "Coney Island" days.

The museum will also feature a preview of an exhibit, planned to open a year from now, that will focus on the interaction between Seattle's pioneers and the Duwamish Tribe. Highlights include a collection of authentic, never-before-exhibited Duwamish baskets, beads and tools; a clam basket that a West Seattle family bought decades ago from Chief Seattle's daughter, Princess Angeline; a pioneer-era bell

donated by the **Quarante Club**; and other artifacts from Seattle's pioneer days.

The Log House Museum will open to the public Thursday, Nov. 13.

See you at Alki – *in* West Seattle!

The story of Alki's transition from an out-of-the-way summer campground to a popular resort and bathing beach is the focus of the opening exhibit at the Log House Museum, which will open to the public Thursday, Nov. 13.

Log House Museum Hours of Operation

Tuesday	Noon to 7
Friday	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday	Noon to 3 p.m.



A copy of "All Aboard for Luna Park (Luna Park-Luna Park, Take Me There Now Do)" is among the items on display at the Log House Museum.

Historic signing

Supporters of the \$4.1 million Washington State Heritage Fund, which the legislature passed this year, gather with Gov. Gary Locke at a recent signing ceremony. The Log House Museum was ranked fourth among state heritage projects and received \$189,000. Joining Locke from left to right: Carol Vincent and Arlene Wade of our Society, Rep. Dow Constantine, Rep. Velma Veloria, and Ron Chew and Diane Wah of the Wing Luke Museum.



Video examines 'cultural collision' between pioneer, Duwamish cultures

30-minute documentary to debut Nov. 13 on KCTS

"Alki: Birthplace of Seattle," a video by West Seattle native and SWSHS member **B.J. Bullert** will make its broadcast debut Thursday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m. on KCTS, Channel 9. Another airing is scheduled for Nov. 14 at 1 p.m.

The 30-minute documentary (as well as a shorter version that will run in the Log House Museum's video room) tells an epic story of the meeting of two cultures on the shores of Alki on Nov. 13, 1851. For the white settlers, it was the end of a long journey spurred on by visions of economic progress, political freedom and spiritual fulfillment. For the native community, it set events in motion that would change the landscape and lives of Duwamish people forever.

Bullert calls the interaction between the two groups "a cultural collision, a pivotal moment in our collective history marked by conflicting interests and views of the land."

A significant amount of sharing took place during the early years, the documentary explains, but it wasn't a love fest. Apprehension thrived among both the white settlers and the native community. The Duwamish Tribe, including Chief Seattle, welcomed the newcomers, seeing them as "important people" from whom they could learn and benefit from economically.

As **James Rasmussen**, a descendant of the Chief, explains, "One of the things Chief Seattle said was that 'white people are like grass. They will come and they will be here. We can't do anything about that.' The Indians in this area were, through necessity, thrown into a position of welcoming them with open arms and to look at the new white settlers as very important people."

The Duwamish Tribe kept the Denny party from starving their first winter by showing them how to survive off the natural abundance of the area: fish, clams, native potatoes, etc. For the native people

who had lived here for thousands of years, the area was a "Garden of Eden" which provided for all their basic needs: food, clothing, shelter. For the white settlers, this same landscape seemed "wild" and ripe for economic development: trees to be turned into lumber and shipped out, land to be platted for the city they founded, valleys to be settled for westward settlers seeking a bright economic future.

Besides Rasmussen, the program features interviews with **Brewster Denny**, a

descendant of the Denny Party pioneers, and local historian **David Buerge**.

Rasmussen, an accomplished musician and founder of the local band The Jazz Police, also composed music for the program.

The video received funding from the **Ferguson Foundation**, **King County Cultural Resources** (hotel/motel tax funds) and the **Washington Commission for the Humanities**.

Bullert's documentary credits include "Earl Robinson: Ballad of an American," a 1994 video about the folk-music legend and West Seattle native; "Circle of Plenty" (1987); and "God and Money" (1986). She is currently producing a documentary profile of Chief Seattle and an animated portrait of the lyricist Yip Harburg.



Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

B.J. Bullert, a West Seattle native who now works as assistant professor of communication at American University in Washington, D.C., takes "five" during taping of "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle."

**SOUTHWEST SEATTLE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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(all terms expire Dec. 31, 1997)

TRUSTEES

John Bennett (1998)

Patricia Filer (1999)

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Gregory B. Smith (1999)

*(year term expires in
parentheses)*

Elliott Couden,
President Emeritus

Joan Mraz,
Treasurer Emeritus

President's Message:

(continued from page 3)

All this Circle activity has kept **Margie Abolofia** busy as coordinator of the installation of the commemorative granite circle that is the centerpiece of the courtyard. Her ability to manage a million details at once has earned her the title CEO of the Circle.

If you bought a Heritage Brick, come find your name in the newly laid brick entrance to the courtyard. Heritage Brick Campaign Chair **Mariann Had's** labor-intensive drive to process hundreds of brick orders successfully raised more than \$17,000 for the museum. Thanks, Mariann, for creating this special community legacy on the museum grounds. If you missed out, Mariann says that another campaign is planned for the future.

When it comes to volunteers, board member **John Bennett** is over the top! Noticed the flurry of activity this past month at the site? That's John's doing. As construction coordinator he fired up the crew with his can-do attitude, organizational skills and wit. John has taken a month away from his businesses to devote

full-time and then some to supervising the final construction phase of the project.

Throughout the life of this project, each board member, their families, other key volunteers and staff have stretched to the limit. Currently, the spotlight is focused on the work of our Exhibit Committee. **Brad Chrisman, Pat Filer, Julie Furlong, Ann Vernon, Rosemary Wood** and **David Andersen** have worked tirelessly to research, design and gather together the artifacts and stories for our opening exhibit. Treasures from the **Martin Smith family**, the **Quarante Club** and from the **Duwamish Tribe** will be publicly viewed for the first time at the museum.

Mike Butler provided **Kate Farley's** serene garden with an important artistic and historic element. He donated "art" created by the 1978 collision of the freighter Antonio Chavez and the West Seattle bridge, and a part of the original bridge mechanism has been inlaid in the concrete courtyard.

As I look back on these past four years, indeed we can all take pleasure in knowing we not only created a museum, but fulfilled our quest to be good ancestors.

"This my joy, therefore is fulfilled."

Thanks to three vital volunteers

Three vital members of the museum effort are leaving the board after a job well done! Past President and current Membership Secretary **Carol Vincent** plans to continue working at the museum and assisting the new membership chair. She has been indispensable to nearly every aspect of the four-year effort. Take a deep breath, Carol!

Maritherese Thomas has kept us on a steady course with her precise record as General Secretary. She will redirect her creativity in work with our volunteer docents. Thank you, Maritherese!

Mary Gunderson was pivotal to the establishment of the Education Kits now serving local school children. Perhaps her greatest contribution has been to articulate our deeper meaning. For being our wise and gentle voice, thank you Mary!

FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Brad Chrisman)

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society

c/o South Seattle Community College

6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106

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