

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXXVI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 1998

Just look what's going on at the Museum this fall!

All events are at the Log House Museum unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the Museum at 938-5293.

September

28 Speaker series: Earl Adams, Luna Park expert. 7:15 p.m..

29 Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) meeting, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Alki Homestead Restaurant, 2717 61st Ave. S.W. Hosted by the society. Program by Clo Copass, King County Cultural Resources. Open house at Museum afterward.

October

6 Speaker series: Join film professor and historical documentarian Dr. B.J. Bullert to review and discuss her award-winning films "Earl Robinson: Ballad of an American" and "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle," see sneak previews of her newest project on Chief Seattle. 7 p.m.

9-26 Playland traveling exhibit. Two-week special showing.

21 Lecture/presentation: "Searching for The Glory of the Seas: The Continuing Study of a 19th Century Clipper Ship," with Michael J. Mjelde, author of "Clipper Ship Captain," and John Kelly, West Seattle historian and naval architect. Part of Washington Archaeological Month. 7 p.m.

31 Halloween open house. 6-8 p.m. Costumed board members and museum volunteers will hand out candy to neighborhood kids.



THE LOG HOUSE Museum is a busy place. Stop by for one of these fun fall events!

November

3 Election Day open house during regular museum hours.

13 Commemorative Courtyard Circle Dedication.

17 Speaker series: Roger Fernandez, "Teachings of the First People," a Native American storyteller and artist who has worked for 20 years to bring attention to the uniqueness and spirituality of Puget Salish art and culture. He has developed curriculum on the Duwamish tribe. Sponsored by Washington Commission for the Humanities "Inquiring Minds" program. 7 p.m.

22 Gift Shop Holiday Open House.

The Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. S.W.
(one block south of the Statue of Liberty on Alki Beach)
Seattle, WA 98116

Phone: 938-5293

Winter hours (starting in October):

Thursday:
noon to 6 p.m.

Friday:
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday:
noon to 3 p.m.

Sunday:
noon to 3 p.m.

Current exhibit:
"Alki — Coney Island of the West"

News briefs

Museum by the numbers

Total visitors as of **Sept. 8, 1998**: 4,582. Tours have been conducted this year for 17 school groups, 19 senior groups and eight other (scouts, day camps) groups. Gift shop proceeds this year so far are \$5,524, and cash jar donations are \$1,782.

Oral history

Members of this team have been meeting with interview subjects in pre-interview sessions and actual audio- and videotaped sessions. Prior to these meetings, a great deal of personal research has insured quality interviews. Committee members meet regularly. Most attended the Oral History Training Workshops sponsored by our society, the Washington Commission for the Humanities and the Pacific Institute in June. These interviews will provide the Museum with professional archival results. Here's who is interviewing whom:

<u>Interviewer</u>	<u>Interviewee</u>
Lois Watkins	Mage brothers
Arlene Wade	Anne Rasmussen
Gloria Fife	Erma Schwartz
JonLee Joseph	Stanley Maples
Brad Chrisman	George and Jesse Shephard
Sharon Boswell	Laurence Pierce

Heritage bricks

We recently received a completed order for 46 bricks, which have been put in place by landscape architect Kate Farley's crew. An identification grid was completed by a teen docent and provides easy access to each brick's location.

Some existing bricks have become illegible because their messages are "lost" in the variegated antique coloration. Those bricks have had their messages enhanced, and Kenadar Corp. will carefully select bricks for future engraving. A Christmas-gift brick drive is under discussion. Thanks to Carol Vincent for putting brick information on a database.

Chief Seattle documentary

The Washington Commission for the Humanities awarded a \$4,725 grant to the society to help pay for a half-hour documentary prepared by filmmaker B.J. Bullert regarding Chief Seattle. Bullert has produced documentaries on West Seattle musician Earl Robinson and "the birthplace of Seattle," Alki.

Jazz 'n' History

Merrilee Hagen organized this fund-raising event for the Museum, which was held **Friday, Sept. 11**, at Alki Masonic Hall, 4736 40th Ave. S.W. and featured performances by Ain't No Heaven Seven Jazz Band and the West Seattle Jazz Ensemble, both of which donated their services as a Museum fund-raiser.

Beth Chave from the Seattle Landmarks Board and other swing dancers performed at the event as well. Flapper-era costumes were enthusiastically encouraged.

Membership drive

Erica Mienz, our University of Washington intern, launched a successful membership drive, measured by the early response from her mailing.

As of **Sept. 8**, the drive brought in 36 new memberships, including one for a \$1,000 sustaining member with an employer match.

Historical Landmarks Tour

Alex Pye and Ada Hallberg organized a wonderful self-guided tour, held **Aug. 29**. The Museum was one of the sites on the tour, which was sponsored by the Alki Community Council and benefited the Jacobsen Road Alliance.

Each site was hosted by a longtime West Seattle community member who answered questions and told stories. Anyone wishing to work on a committee to organize more such tours, please call.

"The Glory of the Seas" Oct. 21

Michael Mjelde, author of *Clipper Ship Captain*, and John Kelly, West Seattle historian and naval architect, will present their recent discoveries during a presentation, "Searing for 'The Glory of the Seas': The Continuing Archaeological Study of a 19th Century Clipper Ship," at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 21**, at the Museum.

Much of the remains of the ship are located in submerged tidelands south of the Fauntleroy area and have been documented as a State Historic Site. This is to help celebrate Washington Archaeology Month.

Photo recognition

Anne Vernon from Leavengood Architects conducted a professional photo shoot of the Museum's interior and exterior recently.

Her firm plans to submit the Museum project as a nomination for Preservation Design Projects in the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation 1998 Awards Program.

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Artifact acquisition

Recently, the Museum acquired more treasures for the archives. One is another Luna Park souvenir glass from antique dealer Sue Stevens, from her mother's collection. It is red glass with a clear glass bottom. "Luna Park" and "Anna Wagner" are engraved on the front and back.

A lavender piece of tilework recovered from the Luna Park Natatorium site, has been donated by Matthew Goudie. Another is a lavender gabardine wedding suit from 1900, donated by Inga Camack, who says it was worn by her grandmother at her marriage ceremony. These items and others are being catalogued for possible future display.

The Museum also recently received a beautiful collection of turn-of-the-century tea gowns, christening gowns, shoes, women's lingerie and accessories from Dodie Badcon. It is a priceless collection. Also, the West Seattle Garden Club donated its 40 years of historical scrapbooks to the Museum archives. When Mee-Kwa Mooks bulkhead was rebuilt, a section of the trolley car track was unearthed, and the Museum received several small sections.

Carol Vincent has been hard at work on a collections policy and manual, having done extensive research in this area. The museum invites you to share your photos, artifacts and other historical memorabilia as permanent or temporary loans."

A picnic to remember

The June 28 annual society picnic was a wonderful success. The weather was a perfect, sunny 75 degrees, the location was great, the Alki promenade picnic shelter #1, and the food was delicious. Thanks to all who brought goodies to share — especially Lucille Bullert, who carried a heavy watermelon for several blocks. It was a low-key, friendly gathering of old friends and new.

Special thanks to ex-West Seattleite and society member Claudia (Hickerson) Moter, who now makes her home in Poulsbo. She came for the weekend and was Merrilee Hagen's much-appreciated helper setting up, cooking and cleaning up afterward.

And special thanks to Carol Vincent, without whose hard work and devotion many society endeavors would not happen. She purchased the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns (we served 75 of each). She also helped set up tables, supplied the silverware, helped clean up and mailed the picnic notice to members.

In memoriam

Society members who died recently: W. Cecil Davis, Helen Svendsen Smith and E. T. "Bob" Sleem. We will miss them all.

New Museum sign

Anne Vernon has made contact with Kate Farley on design of a new exterior sign for the Museum. It will be designed, approved, constructed and erected by November.



West Seattle Hi-Yu Parade

Carol Vincent, Merrilee Hagen, Melissa Hagen, Kathy Kingen, Katy Kingen and her friend Hailey Poehlman were among society members who carried our society's Museum banner in the annual parade down

California Avenue this summer.

Help needed

Volunteers are needed for special events (speakers, open houses, tours), volunteer coordination (helping schedule for docent and Gift Shop shifts), staffing the Museum on Saturdays this fall and winter, special research (such as pioneer children histories), archiving and collections processing and identification, publicity, yard and building maintenance and producing *Footprints*. Please call the Museum at 938-5293 for details.

Items needed

The Museum could use a microwave and tabletop refrigerator (about two cubic feet) for the upstairs kitchen, and if anyone has baby monitors, they would be an absolute blessing! It's difficult for staff to hear soft-spoken people entering downstairs when they're deep in thought or on the phone upstairs.

Volunteer recognition

The Museum could not function without its volunteers. We recognize three women who have volunteered each week since the Museum opened, even throughout the summer months. Irene Fia, Else DePalmo and Joyce Miyake are incredibly diverse in background, personality and interests, but each charming, dedicated and loyal to the Museum.

A huge thank-you to these ladies and all the other Museum volunteers. Join the team and become a museum docent or Gift Shop manager!

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Project of excellence

The Museum received the Washington Museum Association's 1998 Project of Excellence at the association's conference and awards banquet. Since 1994, a state award has been given to the best museum project in the state. This year, we shared the award with the Burke Museum, in recognition of its renovation and exhibit.

The award reads:

"Acknowledging a small, volunteer, community-based organization for high levels of professional standards of excellence and community service through accomplishments of restoration of an historic log structure and for successful development from inception to opening of the Birthplace of Seattle/Log House Museum.

"These achievements set standards that will serve as models of success for other small, community-based museum organizations throughout the state of Washington."

The award has been framed and hangs in the Smith Gallery at the Museum. At the association conference, Arlene Wade participated in a panel discussing funding procedures and organizing grassroots efforts. Also attending from the society were Carol Vincent and Erica Mienz.

Museum Open Houses

The Museum has been host to several significant recent open houses. On **May 14**, the city Department of Neighborhoods features the Museum during Historic Preservation Week in Seattle. Anne Vernon made a slide presentation of the restoration project. On July 21, Historic Seattle hosted its monthly meeting at the Homestead Restaurant, followed by an open house and tour of the Museum.

Both events were well-received and took place during regularly scheduled business hours. We have been proud to show off the Museum to our contemporaries!

Western Museum Association Conference

"Changes in Latitude/Changes in Attitude" will be held **Sept. 25-26** in Anchorage by the Western Museum Association.

Arlene Wade, past president, has been asked to participate in an oral history panel, "Reaching Wider Audiences through Oral Histories and Videos."

New exhibit plans

The next exhibit, "The Spirit Returns," will feature the story of the founding of Seattle in 1851 and the history of the Duwamish people who met early pioneers on the nearby shores of Alki.

Precious artifacts and stories from our past, never before presented in a museum, will make this a powerful, history-making exhibit. Visitors will see the faces of immigrant pioneers and their descendants, and hear stories that have come down through their generations of Duwamish and Suquamish people in a vibrant oral tradition.

The viewer will revisit a time when one culture's world was changed forever, and a great city

was born. Exhibit designer and curator will be Greg Watson of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum. Planned opening in 1999.

School tours

School groups are given a 30-minute presentation by a trained educator about West Seattle's early history as well as the current exhibit.

Heritage kits are used as informative visual resources. Children are given time to explore the Museum, watch videos and tour the courtyard and Gift Shop. There is no formal charge, but donations are appreciated. Tours must be pre-scheduled.

Teen Docent Program

This program was designed to provide a structured yet stimulating chance for motivated high school/college students to work in a museum setting. It allows local students to earn required community service hours.

In addition to working as a docent or in the Gift Shop, it allows students to initiate individual projects that work with their busy schedules. It also gives opportunities to work in collections and archiving. If you have an interested student, call us!

New board members

We're on a search for new board members. Interested in serving? Call 938-5293. Here's the 1998 Executive Board: President Gregory B. Smith, Vice-President Fritz M. Johnston, Treasurer Lynn Swindlehurst, General Secretary Betsy Detroit, Membership Secretary Michael Prihoda, Trustees John Bennett, Merrilee Hagen, Patricia Filer, Kathy Kingen, Arlene Wade, Brad Chrisman, Julie Furlong, Joel Groen.

'These achievements set standards that will serve as models of success for other small, community-based museum organizations throughout the state of Washington.'



New society membership benefits!

Membership dues contribute to the operation of the Log House Museum, and the administration of its vital community programs. As a member of the SWSHS Friends of the Log House Museum, you have had a stake in the preservation and interpretation of Seattle's heritage. Now members also receive other worthwhile benefits. The next time you renew your membership, you will begin receiving the following benefits, depending on your level of renewal:

Individual & Non-Profit Members (\$20)

Senior & Student Members (\$15)

Family Members (\$35):

- Set of commemorative post cards.
- Footprints newsletter.
- 10 percent discount on Gift Shop purchases.
- Discounts on selected Museum-sponsored community events.
- Invitation to members-only festivities.

Patron Member (\$100):

- Set of commemorative post cards.
- Footprints newsletter.
- 10 percent discount on Gift Shop purchases.
- Discounts on selected Museum-sponsored community events.
- Invitation to members-only festivities.
- A colorful Log House Museum T-shirt.
- 25 percent discount on inscribed Heritage Brick.

Business Member (\$150):

- Set of commemorative post cards.
- Footprints newsletter.
- Discounts on selected Museum-sponsored community events.
- Invitation to members-only festivities.
- 25 percent discount on inscribed Heritage Brick.

Sustaining Member (\$1,000):

- Set of five commemorative post cards.
- Footprints newsletter.
- 10 percent discount on Gift Shop purchases.
- Discounts on selected Museum-sponsored community events.
- Invitation to members-only festivities.
- Invitation to exclusive exhibit previews.
- A colorful Log House Museum T-shirt.
- Copy of film Alki: Birthplace of Seattle.
- Complimentary inscribed Heritage Brick.

It's easy to become a member of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

Just follow the easy instructions on this page.

And if you're already a current member, please give this page to a friend or family member!

Here's how to join or renew:

Check your renewal date. The mailing label on this newsletter contains your renewal date. Renewing your membership early in order to take advantage of these new membership benefits immediately will extend your membership one year from the current membership renewal date.

Yes, I want to continue my support of the Log House Museum! Enclosed is my SWSHS membership renewal of:

- \$20 Individual/Non-Profit
- \$35 Family
- \$15 Senior/Student
- \$100 Patron
- \$150 Business
- \$1,000 Sustaining Member

I've enclosed a non-membership donation of \$ _____ in support of your work.

Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Visa/Mastercard # _____ Exp. date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

My employer will match my gift! Company: _____

Please make checks payable to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society (SWSHS). The Log House Museum is a project of the SWSHS, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, tax ID #91-1297010. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Gift Shop to expand inventory

The Museum Gift Shop has lots of local history books in stock, including *4 Wagons West* and *Pigtail Days in Old Seattle*, both written by granddaughters of Louisa Denny, who landed on the Exact in 1851.

Also available are sweatshirts, polo shirts, T-shirts and baseball caps that sport the award-winning Log House Museum logo. Reproductions of turn-of-the-century colorized postcards featuring local historic landmarks are popular.

The Gift Shop committee is looking to expand the inventory and is placing a call to artists and craftspeople to submit samples for consideration. Product selection guidelines include being of high quality, having educational value and/or having direct connection to the current Museum exhibit. Please call 938-5293 for more info.

Luna Park expert

The Museum will host Luna Park expert Earl Adams as the featured speaker at 7:15 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 28.** Adams has conducted extensive research on one of West Seattle's favorite turn-of-the-century landmarks, Luna Park Amusement Park and Natatorium.

Join us to see Adams' extensive personal collection of photos, postcards and other artifacts. Seating will be limited to the first 35 guests. Call 938-5293 for more information.

Say hi to Pat Filer!

Serving as our society's executive director since January 1998 is Patricia Filer, who taught junior and senior school in Iowa for 13 years before coming to West Seattle in 1980.

She became involved in our society by helping with the Heritage Education Project. As executive director, Pat does "everything," including recruiting and training volunteers, operating the Museum and Gift



Shop during open hours, directing the Oral History Program, conducting school tours, scheduling distribution of Heritage Education materials and starting the Teen Docent Program. "It's an all-

encompassing job," she says.

She has three sons who went through West Seattle schools. Her husband Michael is a stockbroker. The Filers have lived in West Seattle for 19 years.

Come to the Museum and say hi to Pat!

Join us to see Adams' extensive personal collection of Luna Park photos, postcards and other artifacts.

FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
c/o "Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum"
3003 61st Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116

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