

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXXVIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 1999



Photo by Deoborah Mendenhall

Young visitors get to select one postcard each from the Gift Shop following a Museum tour.

Shoreline pupils discover Alki

A grant plus an enthusiastic history curriculum developer added up to 800 young Log House Museum visitors from the Shoreline School District in January and February.

The third-graders from 14 elementary schools began the history tour at the Museum of History and Industry, then visited both the Log House Museum and Alki Beach. **Jim Siscoel**, Shoreline's district history curriculum developer, secured the grant that paved the way for such an extensive

history experience for the pupils.

Other districts and individual schools are encouraged to contact the Log House Museum to schedule a well-planned and fun visit to the Museum and Alki Beach, and to obtain prepared educational materials. Local schools such as Hope Lutheran, Alki Elementary and Pathfinder are welcome regular visitors to the museum.

What's inside:

Paul Dorpat to speak, page 2

Speakers Program, page 4

When cougars roamed free, by Evelyn Outland Dixon, page 6

Louisa Boren program in May, page 8

Census becomes user-friendly, page 9

Celebrate Mee Kwa Mooks, page 10

Oral histories, page 11

Memoir writing, page 12

[Please turn to Page 3]

Paul Dorpat to Speak

Paul Dorpat, whose Sunday Seattle Times "Now & Then" column compares buildings and

neighborhoods in old and recent photographs, will be featured at the June Speaker Program.

Footprints is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

Second landmarks tour is planned

One of SWSHS's major projects is the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum, located at 3003 61st Ave. S.W. Seattle, WA 98116 (one block south of the Statue of Liberty on Alki Beach)

The second Alki Historical Landmarks Tour is tentatively set for August, in conjunction with the West Seattle Art, Nature and Literature Festival at Lincoln Park.

On June 10 at 7:15 p.m. at the Log House Museum, Dorpat will discuss his new book, "Building Washington," which chronicles the public works projects in our state.

Dorpat has produced several other books and a two-hour videotape on Seattle's History, "Seattle Chronicle."

He is a longtime friend of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker. Everyone is invited to hear his stories about Washington's past.

The first tour was successfully staged last summer by the Jacobsen Road Alliance. Volunteers at sites of interest around the area gave informal illustrated talks to ticket-holders.

Several repeated their performances in January at the Alki Community Center. **Ada Hallberg** discussed the "village of South Alki" near where Weather Watch Park is now. **JoAn Fulton** made a presentation of Schmitz and Mee Kwa Mooks parks. **Fran Civile**, talked about Rose Lodge, where she lives. **Dick Thurston** presented Luna Park. **Kyle Shaw** showed photos of the Manchester Ferry, which operated from Alki.

Picnic set June 27

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society will celebrate its 15th anniversary at its annual picnic Sunday, June 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Log House Museum.

Carol Vincent asks each member to bring a dish to augment the hotdogs, hamburgers and soft drinks the Society will provide.

Carol needs volunteers to make the picnic possible. Anyone interested in helping out may call the museum at 938-5293.

Phone
(206) 938-5293

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

Volunteers are needed for this year's tour. For details, contact Carol Vincent at 937-6744 or at CJV@worldnet.att.net or call the museum.

Calendar

These activities take place at the Log House Museum unless otherwise noted. For more information, call the Museum at (206) 938-5293.

May

13

Speaker Program, 7:15 p.m., Debbie Dimitre, storyteller, as "Louisa Denny"

20

Nearby History, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., West Seattle Library, "What Next?"

Long-timer meeting, 1:15 to 3:15 p.m.

Children's reading hour, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.
SWSHS board meeting 7 p.m.

22

Memories workshop, sponsored by SWSHS, conducted by Cathy Fulton, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Alki Community Center

June

10

Speaker program, 7:15 p.m., Paul Dorpat, "Building Washington"

17

Long-timer meeting, 1:15 to 3:15 p.m.
Children's reading hour, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

27

SWSHS 15th Anniversary picnic, 1 to 4 p.m., at the Log House Museum

Educational opportunities abound

In addition to the museum tours, SWSHS education programs provide comprehensive options for local teachers and their students.

Heritage education trunks are collections of authentic and reproduction artifacts, documents, maps, and lesson plans and activities relating to the landing of the pioneers on Alki's shores and their interaction with the local Native Americans, the Duwamish. A popular activity is the reader's theater script and elementary school play which chronicle the changing lifestyles for both the Indians and the settlers.

Traveling resource libraries provide historical and cultural resources for students of all ages for follow-up research, creative writing and art projects after using the Heritage Education Trunks.

Both of these projects, as well as programs in development, were funded by grants from the King County Cultural Resources Department.

A teen docent program provides a chance for motivated high school students to work in a museum. It allows local students to earn required community service hours, with flexible scheduling in different specialized areas within the museum.

This year another educational opportunity for local children is the Children's Story Hour, presented by the museum's Long-Timer group. They read stories from pioneer and Native American history, and members of the group answer questions about their experiences as children growing up in the Alki area. This story hour takes place the third Thursday of each month from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with these heritage education activities may call Pat Filer at the museum, 938-5293. Teachers wishing to schedule tours or rent heritage trunks or traveling libraries should plan ahead, as these popular programs book far in advance.

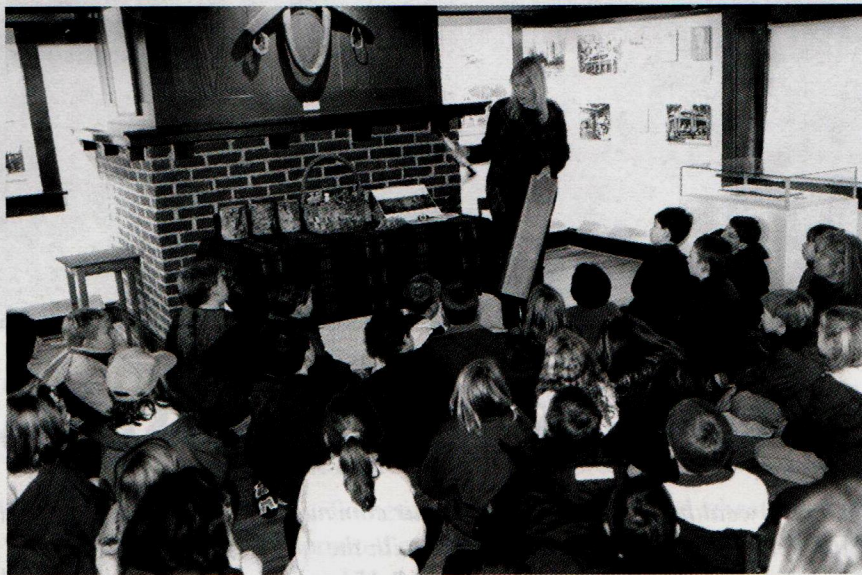


Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

A school group listens to Pat Filer's stories of Seattle's history.

Thank you for showing us the Log House Museum. When you were talking to us you had lots of expression and you talked very enthusiastically. You were very generous to give us a postcard. It was a joy to listen about Luna Park and the Natatorium. I hope to come again.
Sincerely,
Ali,
Shoreline

Museum logs more than 1,000 pupils

[Continued from Page 1]

More than 1,000 school children have visited since January. They are given a 30-minute presentation by museum director **Pat Filer** before splitting into small groups to take in the exhibits, the videos, and the courtyard and gift shop.

While here they participate in heritage activities planned by the museum's education committee — **Julianna Giese, Mary Gunderson, Deborah Mendenhall** and Mrs. Filer.

"It takes special docents and gift shop volunteers to assist in hosting the school children tours at the museum," Filer says. "Without their patience and enthusiasm in helping host the children's tours, this program option would be impossible to handle in a museum of this size."

Also volunteering are **Dorothy Kaloper, Marge Saffer, Irene Fia, Joyce Miyake, Julianna Giese, Else DePalma, Marilyn Whittendale, JoAn Schmitz Fulton, Gertrude Stevens** and **Joan Mraz**.

Thank you for showing us the Log House Museum. Thank you for the postcard of our choice. Also thank you for letting us use some of your precious time for field trip. Sincerely, Alex Hilborn and Room 19, Shoreline
P.S. We all had a GOOD TIME!



Photo by Kay Schlegel

Thank you for showing us the Log House Museum. I enjoyed the 2 minute movie about Luna Park. I keep my postcard in my room and dust it alot. Thank you again for having me.

Sincerely,
Kelsey G.,
Shoreline

Speakers bring history home

There's a wealth of knowledge about our community. Speakers share their enthusiasm with the Southwest Seattle Historical Society at 7:15 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Log House museum. These were the first three free programs of the year.

Kay and Hal Schlegel, carousel enthusiasts

You know it's true love when a couple spends part of their honeymoon looking at carousel horses.

Kay and Hal Schlegel did just that when they were in San Francisco. Both are very active in local and national carousel associations. Kay is the historian of the Woodland Park Zoo and the curator of the traveling Playland exhibit from the Shoreline Historical Museum, which was at the

Log House in October. Hal worked at Playland as a teen-ager.

The horses they viewed in San Francisco, and talked about in January, made their first rounds at Luna Park. That carousel was considered one of the finest ever built, Kay said. Its builder was Charles Loeff, whose grandson's wife, **Sally Loeff**, and her daughter attended the program.

Sally and her family are trying to collect a few of the prized Loeff animals for their collection.

Just how prized are they? San Francisco is restoring them and putting the carousel back together in a special place, the top of the Yerba Buena Center, where it's expected to take its place among the city's other major tourists attractions ... the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf and the cable cars.

San Francisco, it must be conceded, can be

justified in feeling an ownership to the Loeff carousel from Luna Park. After Luna Park closed, the carousel moved to San Francisco's Playland at the Beach, where it remained from 1913 to 1973. From there it went to Long Beach, until it was returned to San Francisco to be restored for future generations to ride.

Special artists are required to restore individual pieces or complete machines, as enthusiasts call carousels. The terms "head man" and "lead horse" come from carousel lore.

The head man was the most accomplished carver on his team, proficient enough to carve the head of the carousel animal, which had the most detail and showed the personality and spirit of the animal, Kay explained.

The grandest of the horses on each carousel was called the lead horse. It was not only the most highly prized horse to ride; it also was the one the carousel operator watched to count how many times the merry-go-round went 'round.

Kay and Hal showed slides and photos of horses and of carousel enthusiasts' gatherings. Like many other vestiges of the past, the number of carousels is dwindling. Of 6,000 that once operated around the turn of the century, Kay said, only 125 complete carousels exist today.

Leonard Garfield, expert on local architecture

Leonard Garfield, an expert on the history of architectural styles unique to Western Washington, shared his knowledge with an audience of 22 at the February Speaker Program at the Log House Museum.

Garfield discussed pioneer log structures and "box houses" — early simple "balloon frame" houses which were used by single families or for company housing; fanciful Victorian and Queen Anne styles; and simple rustic Craftsman style dwellings.

With a doctorate in architecture, Garfield has served as the architectural historian for the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and manager of the National Register of Historic Places program. As manager of the Office of King County Cultural Resources, he was instrumental in helping the SWSHS obtain emergency funds from King County during the

museum project's beginning stages.

His comments brought **John Kelly**, SWSHS member and Log House docent and collections manager, to his feet to share personal architectural family history.

John's father, John Kelly, an architect, built many Craftsman style homes in West Seattle in the 1920s and '30s. John shared a catalog and brochure that showed examples of sample homes of the Craftsman style which could be built by his father to his clients' specifications.

One of John's sons is locating, documenting and photographing the homes that John Kelly Sr. built.

Speaker Program Assistant **Lynn Swindlehurst** made this program happen.

Jacqueline Williams: Pioneers' daily bread

Pioneer families must have prayed "Give us this day our daily bread" with extra fervor.

One of their greatest hardships was the frequent lack of bread with meals, author Jacqueline Williams told members and guests at the March Speaker Program

She quoted the Mattheson family, who wrote of "being without bread for two weeks. The children cried for bread and mother cried because she could not give them bread."

Sometimes even when they had wheat it sprouted early, which made the dough sticky and a sickly gray color. When they mixed the dough to make bread, the pioneer women used a variety of utensils, including gold-mining pans.

Food was a comfort to people, Ms. Williams said, especially with all the hardships they endured on the trails. Most pioneers wanted to eat foods as they had always eaten. They didn't necessarily eat a lot of fish just because it was plentiful; they still liked their meat and vegetables.

Among the audience members was the great-niece of Phoebe Judson, a pioneer whose diaries were featured in Ms. Williams' books.

In memoriam

We have received word of the passing of **Van Peirson**, a former board member.

I liked the ice cream maker and the stereopticon the best because in the stereopticon you could see pictures that were 3D! and the ice cream maker because it made the best ice cream. Thank you for the history trunk. Sincerely, Allyson, Tilden School

I liked the beaver teeth box and necklace because it shows how the Indians did their art and amazing designs. Thank you for letting us borrow the history trunk!! Sincerely, Becky, Tilden School

When cougars roam

Evelyn Outland Dixon was born in one of the "tent camps" that were popular summer housing along Alki Beach in the early 1900s and are featured in photographs in the current Log House Museum exhibit.

Evelyn wondered what they thought about her father raising his family in a tent camp.

The Outland family lived in their tent cottage, called "Driftwood Camp," year-round.

In 1907, they were visited by Judge and Mrs. Griffith and their daughter, Josephine, from Woodland, N.C. The Judge was from Mr. Outland's hometown and knew him as a boy in North Carolina. Evelyn wondered what they thought about her father raising his family in a tent camp when they came here for the 1909 Alaska Yukon Exposition.

*Evelyn shared her stories with the Southwest Seattle Historical Society when it was researching the book *West Side Story*. Here's a reprise of one of her charming stories. The Society is looking for more remembrances of West Seattle's history to use in the *Memory Book* being compiled by the *Long-Timers Group*.*

By Evelyn Outland Dixon

During the early 1900s, quail, pheasants, deer, bobcats and an occasional bear and cougar roamed the woodlands of West Seattle. In the spring, the eerie cries of bobcats and other wildcat species heard from the hillsides behind the Alki beach cottages were so common they were almost unnoticed.

The accepted method of garbage disposal in those early days contributed to this situation. Kitchen scraps tossed onto the beach were immediately snatched up by flocks of swooping, screeching



The Outland family and guests at Driftwood Camp on Alki Beach. Evelyn Outland, Josephine Griffith (holding baby Evelyn Outland)

seagulls. Burnables were fuel for the cookstoves and heaters. Almost every family maintained a backyard compost bin to provide organic fertilizer for the flowers and vegetables grown on the tiered bulkheads descending from the front yards to the beach below. Bottles and cans were disposed of in covered pits in the banks in back.

Although this do-it-yourself garbage disposal plan worked well for the residents, it attracted the wild critters.

One year a large, noisy cougar became a real nuisance. It jumped on house roofs at

ned free at Alki ...



Alki in 1909: Mr. Outland (left), Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. and Judge Griffith.

night, often screaming with frustration. Housewives were scared to death during the day, when it prowled the trails behind the houses. They were afraid to go outside to hang the laundry on the clotheslines or work in their gardens.

The verdict was that the cougar had to be eliminated. Tracking that cat became the evening pursuit for some of the men after they came home from work.

One evening a wild-eyed neighbor pounded on our door, shouting, "That cougar just jumped from the bank to my roof. If we can corner it, I think we can get

him."

A group of neighbors quickly responded, two with hunting rifles, others carrying lanterns. Like a parade of vigilantes, lanterns gleaming in the dark, the men stalked from house to house, looking under, in outhouses and behind bushes. Large paw prints were visible in the soft earth in the path of the lanterns.

Suddenly, one of the men called out softly, "I think we've got him!"

Far back, under a darkened house, two tawny eyes glowed in the light of the lantern. What appeared to be a large shape crouched behind the shining eyes. At the count of three, shots of two rifles rang out simultaneously. The shots were followed immediately by the crashing sound of glass.

Within seconds, a voice came from a window in the house: "What's going on out there?"

The posse crowded under the window, holding the lantern high.

"We thought we had a cougar cornered under your house, but it sounded like breaking glass," someone explained.

The man in the window groaned.

"Do you know what you've done?" he demanded. "You've shot up my beer that's stored back there."

Sure enough, the yellow eyes had been the caps of two beer bottles lying on their sides, close enough together on the top of the beer cases to look like two yellow eyes in the dark.

A few weeks later, the cougar was trapped in the Schmitz Park woods and recycled to a less populated area.

"Do you know what you've done? You've shot up my beer that's stored back there."

“

We continue to be extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and talented group of individuals who are willing to donate their time and energies regularly to make this museum thrive. **Carol Vincent, Joan Mraz, John and Jackie Kelly, Else De Palma, Irene Fia, Joyce Miyake, Dorothy Kaloper, Marge Saffer, Doris Rahmig, KC Jung and Gertrude Stevens** are at the top of a very long list of very important people to us, and every time you see them, make sure you express your appreciation. I could not possibly do it without them!

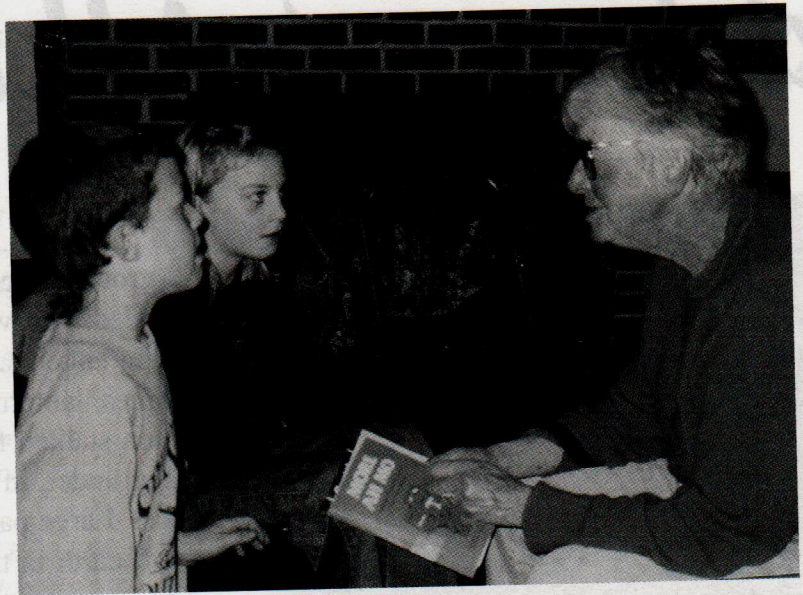
”

Pat Filer, Director, Log House Museum

Volunteers are sought for museum, other areas

The Log House Museum needs to identify and train more volunteers to serve as docents in the museum and to staff the gift shop.

Other volunteer possibilities include landscape maintenance, doll making, collections, publicity and Footprints. Anyone who wants to volunteer — or nominate a friend or neighbor for a volunteer position — may call the museum at 938-5293.



Museum volunteer Alexandra Pye reads a Duamish legend to visitors Gina and Joe at Children's Story Hour.

Storyteller to speak in May

Louisa Boren Denny, the first bride of Seattle, will be at the Log House Museum May 13 in the person of storyteller Debbie Dimitre.

The 7:15 p.m. program is open to all.

In costume and by the glow of her oil lamp, Debbie will recall some of the heartaches the early Seattle families must have felt after leaving their homes in Cherry Grove, Ill., back in the spring of 1851. She'll tell of some of the struggles along the trail and describe the landing of the Denny Party at Alki on Nov. 13, 1851.

She will also use her stories to describe what wilderness life was like for these pioneers during those first months, as they began to build a town in the Puget Sound Country.

Ms. Dimitre has been bringing to life girls and

Farmers market to open in June

West Seattle will have its own weekend farmers market in the parking lot next to Morton's Drugs in the Alaska Junction. The market will be open each Sunday, June 20 through Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

women of history through dramatic storytelling for the past 11 years. She has performed at the Northwest Folklife Festival and at schools, churches, bookstores, libraries and community groups. The presentation is free.

County grant will help Collections Committee

The King County Council, on the recommendation of the King County Heritage Commission, has awarded the Southwest Seattle Historical Society \$2,000 to SWSHS for the purchase of archival storage supplies -- shelving for books, storage for oversize materials and a book cart for temporary storage of materials.

Bob Carney is the newest member of the Collections Committee. Bob has a long history of interest in photography and has his own collection of early West Seattle photographs, so he will be involved in the conservation and cataloging of the SWSHS Photography Collection. Anyone interested in volunteering on the Collections Committee may call Pat Filer at 938-5293.

Census shows who was where

Member Thomas Miller makes record more useful

Who lived in West Seattle in 1910? The Federal Census tells us.

Census takers 90 years ago gathered the names, addresses and occupations for each resident, along with the sex, age, marital status and relationship to the head of household, as well as each person's place of birth and those of his mother and father.

Thomas Miller, a long-time member of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, has made the West Seattle Federal Census and Index of 1910 even more valuable as a historical resource. He recently finished compiling, editing and indexing the census. The work is available for research in the Collections Library at the Log House Museum.

The 1910 census was the first federal enumeration of West Seattle taken after it had been annexed to the city of Seattle. A population of at least 7,000 was required to be eligible for annexation.

Federal census records have been compiled every 10 years since 1790. They count persons and their property for the purpose of taxation, making them among the most valuable primary resources for historians researching specific persons, families or neighborhoods.

Most historical resources are categorized as primary or secondary resources.

Primary sources are first-hand accounts of events written by observers and participants, such as letters, newspaper articles, photographs, diaries, oral history interviews, personal records, business files, census data, official reports and government documents.

Primary sources are especially interesting and revealing, but must still be evaluated carefully. Often diaries, accounts, oral histories and such are told from the observer's point of view and may be opinionated. Government surveys and documents are among the most non-biased primary sources as they are strictly data records.

Examples of secondary sources are books, articles, reports, theses and dissertations written about past eras, events, and personalities. Interpretations and conclusions found in secondary sources are those of the author and should also be viewed mindfully. These forms of historical data are still considered extremely valuable for researchers.

The Census of 1910 prepared by Mr. Miller can be used to find specific persons easily with its alphabetized index.

However, it is often necessary to try alternative spellings, because errors sometimes occur in the original records, which were handwritten and often subject to fading and misspellings by the census taker.

A great deal of work has gone into the compilation of this indexed census and we thank Mr. Thomas Miller for making this significant historical record available to local historians, genealogists, and community members, says Pat Filer, director of the Log House Museum.

Copies of this document for use outside the museum can be ordered for \$15 from the Log House Museum at 938-5293.

Museum's library offers new volumes

Several new volumes are available for check-out in the Log House Museum's resource library. Carol Vincent has put check-out cards in the books, and they are to be checked out formally. New titles are:

The Effective Management of Volunteer Programs

How to Be Your Museum's Best Advocate

Developing the Non-Profit Board

Non-Profit Board Committees (How to Make Them Work)

Fund-Raising Fundamentals

Board Member's Guide to Fund Raising

Gifts of Property (A Guide for Donors and Museums)

Thanks to our latest major donors ...

George and Arlene Wade
Darryl and Judy Pigott Swenson
Martin and Ann Dirks
Richard and Nancy Ford
Brad and Denise Chrisman
Samuel and Shirley Shiroyama
Richard and Jileen Russell
Marilyn Whittendale
Floyd and Emma Madsen
Tuxedos 'n Tennis Shoes Catering Company
Ronald Champoux
Helen Baker St. John CA and Shirley Blackinton
Richard and Lillie Thurston
Bernard Wittman
Jack and Shirley Frost
John and Lois Constantine
Barbara Schaad-Lamphere and Theo Schaad
Charles and Arlene Kaffenberger
Beverly Barsy
John and Denra Winsberg
Faith Hanna
Stephanie Brown
Robert and Nancy Seibold
Mary Lu and Jim Angstead
Eleanor Schaefer
Robert Prescott
Lincoln and Wendy McCoy
Evan Stiles and G. Beryl Warden
Ruth Kidd
Erma Schwartz

Pathfinder invites all to celebrate



I liked the dress and the bonnet the best because it was interesting to see what it was like to wear in the olden days. Thank you so much for letting us borrow the trunk.

*Sincerely,
Chloe,
Tilden School*

Pathfinder School pupils will wind up six months of investigating the plants, animals, water and history of Mee Kwa Mooks Park with a community celebration May 12.

SWSHS members are invited to honor the work of these students and celebrate the park's past, present and future with a salmon barbecue, speeches, games, booths, a dramatic presentation and student-led tours.

The students studied the Duwamish tribe, which had a village or fishing camp at what is now the park. They also have interviewed JoAn Fulton, a descendant of the Schmitz family, whose homestead was located on the site. They learned about the interdependence of the plants, wildlife and people in the park.

Additionally, through funding from the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team Public Involvement and Education Fund, King County Utilities and the Starflower Foundation, they worked to restore the park as a natural habitat.

I liked your ice cream maker and the beaver teeth box. P.S. the beaver teeth box, how did they get the designs in the teeth that is so amazing? Thank you for the history trunk.

*Sincerely,
Larissa P,
Tilden School*

Open house celebrates Cultural Trail

The Log House Museum opened its doors to the Seattle Arts Commission to celebrate the West Seattle Cultural Trail Project.

The open house, a cooperative event with the Museum, the Commission and SWSHS, brought together the team of artists who researched, designed and planned fabrication of the trail project and the contributors to "Voices of the Community," the collection of writings and images that describe and support the project.

The artists were represented by artists and teachers **Don Fels** of the University of Washington and **Joe Fedderon** of The Evergreen State College. They discussed the project's inception and process.

SWSHS member JoAn Fulton tells Pathfinder students about her family's home near Mee Kwa Mooks Park.

They removed 300 square feet of invasive plants, planted more than 400 native plants, tested the water quality of the creek and installed birdhouses. They developed interpretive signs, a Web page and newspaper articles in order to share their knowledge about the park.

The party takes place Wednesday, May 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Those who wish to attend are asked to RSVP to 923-2445.

Gail Tremblay, editor of "Voices of the Community," represented the students at Middle College at South Seattle Community College who composed the writings and poems, inspired by memories of experiences at Alki Beach. Several of the contributors read their work.

Barbara Goldstein, Seattle Arts Commission's Public Art Program manager and coordinator of the Cultural Trail Project, introduced the speakers. **Joan Mraz** and **Lynn Swindlehurst** served as hostesses and representatives of SWSHS. The event was organized by **Irene Gomez**, event planner for the arts commission. Local eatery **Cirque** provided food for the 40 guests.

Interviewers gather stories

Oral history teams listen to fascinating reminiscences

Long ago when bears roamed the woods of West Seattle, the school bus was a horse and buggy.

Gertrude Stevens' parents often watched it make its way up the narrow path in front of their house in the morning. One morning, according to Stevens family stories, a mother bear charged out of the brush and made the horse rear up in fright, spilling the cart and its cargo of children onto the ground.

The bear apparently was only interested in protecting her two small cubs from the horse, but she caused quite a commotion. No one was hurt, and Gertrude could only speculate about the stories the children told when they got to school.

When she was interviewed for the Oral History Project, she also talked about the coyotes that would howl to each other from area to area at night. It was almost as if one pack would howl if it had found some food, because suddenly there would be the sounds of the coyote pack racing somewhere else — sometimes under the houses, such as Gertrude's, that were built high off the ground.

Erma Schwartz, who has lived in West Seattle since 1912, told her interviewers that her father came to work in the steel mill in Youngstown and organized the union there. She laughed when she remembered how, in sewing class in school, she put a hem over a foot deep into a favorite dress "so I could let it down and wear it forever."

Erma and Gertrude are among the first 15 interview subjects selected to be videotaped by professional videographer Valerie Vazza. The subjects are first researched so the interviewers will know what to ask about, then preliminary and final interviews are audiotaped. The videotaping then takes place, either at the subjects' homes or at the home of Project Manager Gloria Pfeif on Beach Drive.

The complete project, including 15 videotaped oral histories for the Log House Museum's archives and a composite film of interview

highlights, is to be completed by the end of July.

Also working on this project are Pat Filer, project coordinator; JonLee Joseph, researcher and interviewer; Sharon Boswell, oral historian; Arlene Wade, interviewer and workshop coordinator; Lois Watkins, researcher and interviewer; committee members Lynn Swindlehurst, Carol Vincent, Brad Chrisman, Joan Mraz, John and Jackie Kelly, Marge Saffer and KC Jung; and a host of docents and Long-Timers who provided leads.

Shop adds books, beads

Several new books and some interesting necklaces have been added to the shelves of the gift shop:

■ *Sweetbriar Summer* and *Sweetbriar Autumn* by Brenda Willbee. These are the continuing saga of Louisa Denny after her arrival at Alki Beach and her marriage to David Denny.

■ *More than Petticoats* by L.E. Bragg. These short biographies of Northwest women include Louisa Boren and Princess Angeline.

■ *It Happened in Washington* by James A. Crutchfield. Historical facts are written in a fun "believe it or not" style.

■ *National Trust Guide* by Walt Crowley with Paul Dorpat. It includes Lincoln Park, the Homestead Restaurant, the Log House Museum, Alki Beach and the Lighthouse, with photos of Luna Park and the dedication of the Denny Monument in 1905.

■ Glass trade bead and dentalium shell necklaces, by Lynn Swindlehurst. She researched the beads and designed and strung the necklaces to be authentic with those used for money and decoration among the local Native American groups. Each comes with a description. They are also available in kit form.

Street Fair volunteers sought

Kathy Kingen has again offered SWSHS her booth and table at space at the West Seattle Street Fair July 9-11.

Anyone interested in heading up this project or volunteering to help may call Pat Filer at the Museum, 938-5293.

I liked the Quilt because it is fun to look back on what the Quilts looked like back in the olden days.

THANK YOU FOR THE HISTORY TRUNK!

Sincerely,
Allyson,
Tilden School

I liked the steropticon because it was 3d. I had never seen something 3d before.

Thank you for letting us borrow the trunk.
Sincerely,
Mitchell,
Tilden School

Telling your personal history

Workshops offer inspiration, ideas for memoir writing

I liked the mirror because we have been studying about Aunt Louisa and her family. I have always wanted to see her mirror. Thank you very much for letting us borrow the history trunk.
Sincerely,
Claire,
Tilden School

You'd like to write your memoirs or your family stories, but don't know where to begin or how to get organized.

You need ideas and inspiration.

Or maybe you think that you just don't write well enough to even begin.

Help is on the way at two life writing workshops to be sponsored by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society May 22 at the Alki Community Center.

Long-Timers have preview of memory workshops

The Long-Timers group has had a preview of **Cathy Fulton's** memory writing workshops, with a mini-workshop on how to get started writing their memoirs. (See related story, this page.)

Ms. Fulton, a Vashon Island resident and historian, has agreed to help the group come up with a workable and organized approach to the Memory Book for the museum. She has prepared a workbook that can be used to help stimulate memories and stores that the Long-Timers wish to focus on in this stage of the project, such as beach stories and school memories.

Regulars have received their workbooks. Workbooks can be mailed or hand-delivered to interested community elders who want to participate but can't get to the meetings. They will be made available at area retirement homes and senior centers.

The finished product will be included in the museum's exhibits.

The first, "Collecting Memories," will last from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will construct lists of story starters and write scenes from their lives. They will take home workbooks customized with more than 20 writing ideas.

In the second workshop, "Life Timelines — Plain and Fancy," from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., facilitator Cathy Fulton will help participants create timelines. They will take home personal timelines, vignettes inspired by the timeline and ideas for continuing their writing. The timeline is an excellent starting point for memoir writing, reminiscing, family reunion displays and gifts.

Cost is \$20 for one workshop, \$35 for both. Register by calling the Southwest Seattle Historical Society at 938-5293. For more information, see the Capturing Memories Web site at www.vdsc.com/memories.

Nearby History Project helps track down past

Their research projects are diverse, but there is unity of purpose among the community members who have been participating in the Nearby History Project led by historian and researcher **Lorraine McConaughy** of the Museum of History and Industry.

Meeting every other Thursday morning at the West Seattle Library, the history sleuths discuss techniques for tracking down the past.

The program is open free to anyone with a history project they've been meaning to tackle. The time is 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The program is co-sponsored by the SWSHS, MOHAI and several other organizations and museums.

Thank you for showing us the Log House Museum. It was nice to give us a free postcard. you taught me about lots of things I didn't even know existed! I think the Luna Park was interesting because it was warm salt water. from Willie, Shoreline

FOOTPRINTS

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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 4960