

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXXVII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 1999



SEVENTY PATRONS gather in the Museum courtyard for the Nov. 13 dedication of the Founders Circle to recognize major donors. The festive ceremony took place on the Museum's first anniversary.

Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

Society unveils Founders Circle

Museum celebrates its first anniversary Nov. 13

In commemoration of the first anniversary of the opening of the Museum, a celebration was held on Friday, Nov. 13, 1998, to honor the individuals, businesses and agencies that comprise the museum's major donors.

The names of those donors were inscribed in the Founder's Circle, a granite and marble art piece whose inspiration came from the Duwamish Tribe, which has worked closely with pioneer descendants

and community members throughout the Museum project. It was this joint effort which led the tribal chair to say, "As a result of this process, a circle that was broken has been reconnected."

A black marble ring separates the circle and is engraved with quotes from Chief Seattle ("All of this land is sacred to my people.") and David Denny ("A fine country. Come quickly. There is room for 1000 settlers."). Another black marble center circle piece is engraved with the Museum logo.

The foreboding weather lifted enough for 75 museum patrons to gather in the courtyard.

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What's going on at the Museum this winter?

All events are at the Log House Museum unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the Museum at (206) 938-5293.

Please note that speakers will make presentations on the second Thursday of each month, and the Long-Timers and Children's Reading programs will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

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:

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"

January

- 14 Speaker, 7:15 p.m., Kay and Hal Schlegel, "Northwest Carousels and Carvers." Join these experts to learn more about carousels, carousel animals and carousel carvers of the Northwest. Charles Louff's Luna Park carousel will be featured.
- 21 Long-Timers meeting, 1:15-3:15 p.m.
Children's Story Hour, 3:15- 4:15 p.m.
Society board meeting, 6 p.m.
- 24 Seattle Arts Commission Open House, 4-5:30 p.m.

News briefs

Kay and Hall Schlegel return with carousel talk Jan. 14

The Museum is pleased to welcome **Kay and Hal Schlegel** to our speaker series on **Thursday evening, Jan. 14.**

Kay is the historian at Woodland Park Zoo and curator of the Playland exhibit at Shoreline Historical Museum, which was featured here in October. Hal represents Bantam and Doubleday Books and actually worked at Playland.

They met during Kay's Playland research and discovered they shared many interests, including amusement park history, especially the carousel. They belong to the National Carousel Association and the American Carousel Society, as well as the Washington Antique Carousel Society.

Their recent honeymoon to San Francisco included

February

- 11 Nearby History, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., West Seattle Library, "Getting Started."
Speaker, 7:15 p.m., Leonard Garfield "Western Washington Architecture." Join Leonard for a discussion and slide presentation of the unique architecture of Western Washington, from simple log houses to the more grand residences of the day.
- 18 Long-Timers meeting, 1:15-3:15 p.m.
Children's Story Hour, 3:15-4:15 p.m.
Society board meeting, 6 p.m.
- 25 Nearby History, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., West Seattle Library, "Local Resources."
- 25-27 Washington Heritage Conference 1999, Olympia.

March

- 11 Nearby History, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., West Seattle Library, "Web Resources"
Speaker, 7:15 p.m., Jacqueline Williams, "The Way We Ate." Join the author of "Wagon Wheel Cooking" and "The Way We Ate" to learn about pioneer cooking along the Oregon Trail and in the Pacific Northwest.
- 18 Long-Timers meeting, 1:15-3:15 p.m.
Children's Reading Hour, 3:15-4:15 p.m.
Society board meeting, 6 p.m.
- 25 Nearby History, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., West Seattle Library, "Oral History."

a visit to the Luna Park Carousel which is being installed on the roof of the Moscone Convention Center. (We like to call it "the Louff on the Roof!")

Kay and Hal have both historical and technical information, highlighted with photos and resources for carousel fans. Weather permitting, they will bring an animal from their personal collection for discussion. Join us for a step back in time to those magical memories of riding the merry-go-round and catching the brass ring!

'Voices of Community' undergirds program on Jan. 24

The Seattle Arts Commission announces the publication "Voices of the Community," a project to document public art, including the West Seattle Cultural Trail. A reception will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. **Sunday, Jan. 24**, at the Museum.

Participating artists will be present, and the publication will be available. "Voices of the

[Briefs continued on page 3]

Circle dedication recognizes Museum donors

[Continued
from page 1]

Steve Wilson, from KING-TV's "Almost Live" was the master of ceremonies for the occasion and gave recognition to our donors in general and individual anecdotal recollections. He acknowledged special "awards" such as "easiest donation;" "most letters in a stone engraving" and "last stone purchased before circle installation."

Arlene Wade, past Society president, delivered inspirational and celebratory remarks and introduced special guests.

The ceremony and festivities were planned by the Society's **Julie Furlong**, who has planned and hosted other successful major events for the society, including Founder's Recognition Dinners, the Gala fund-raising event at Salty's on Alki and the grand opening of the Museum.

The Circle Renovation project was professionally managed by **Sharon Huling** and Wade, who orchestrated the redesigning and replanning of the circle, as well as rounding up bids for materials, engravings and people-power to do the actual installation.

It was a Herculean job, but it was executed like clockwork. The black marble ring went in at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13. Installers **Mike Frisch** and crew were real troupers, and finished "washing" the



MUSEUM PATRONS chat inside the Museum following the dedication.

Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

grout at about 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Guests were treated to refreshments and a gift of a specially roasted coffee, named Log House Blend, created especially for the occasion by **Jon Tunison** of Admiral Way Thriftway.

Artist **Carl Montford**, who created the beautiful wood engraving of the Museum in honor of this first-year anniversary, was on hand in the Gift Shop to answer questions about his work.

Michael Prihoda created a beautiful floral centerpiece for the refreshment table. It was gorgeous and added a perfect touch to set the stage for the party.

It seemed as if all in attendance were delighted to be remembered for their invaluable contributions and to be included in the first year's celebration merriment.

The evening was a fun way to thank the donors, to rejoice in the accomplishments of the Museum's first year and to renew old friendships.

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Installers Mike Frisch and crew were real troupers, and finished "washing" the grout at about 4:30 p.m. Friday.

[Briefs continued from page 2]

Community" includes images of the artwork along with its historical, cultural and educational significance, the literary pieces created for the project, artist information and acknowledgment of contributors.

For more information, call **Barbara Goldstein** at the Seattle Arts Commission, (206) 684-7311, or the Museum at (206) 938-5291.

'Nearby History' starts this month at the West Seattle Library

The Society is delighted to sponsor "Nearby History" in our neighborhood, with presentations on Thursdays — **Feb. 11 and 25, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22 and May 6 and 20**, all from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at West Seattle Library.

This popular program was piloted last year at three Seattle Public Library sites under a museum

[Briefs continued on page 4]

New trustees for 1999:

Coleen Dumas

Coleen has been a writer, tutor and outstanding teacher for many years at Alki Elementary School. She and her husband regularly conduct historic tours to Washington D.C., Civil War battlefields and Boston for student groups. She was instrumental in developing the education curriculum and kits for local elementary and middle schools for the Log House Museum. She authored the Reader's Theater play "Welcome to the Greenland" that has been such a popular part of the kits. She and her husband Wayne have a daughter who just graduated from Wellesley.

Jackie Gould

Jackie and Roger, her husband of 25 years, have two grown children and one grandchild. Jackie has worked as the office manager at Fauntleroy Church for 10 years. She has been an active leader in Camp Fire and local schools, and a softball team coach and a real supporter for her children's activities. Becoming part of the society is her first "solo" venture into the community. It is something she is doing for herself. We are fortunate to have her energy, management and leadership skills.

Ann Holiday

Ann is the third generation of her family to live in West Seattle. Her father grew up here and graduated from West Seattle High School in 1932. Her grandmother commuted from their home near the water tower at Willow Street and 37th Avenue Southwest to the Public Market, where she worked to support the family. Ann graduated from Puyallup High School and the University of Washington, then spent 23 years in Virginia, where she came to appreciate our country's rich history. She covered historical museums for the *Richmond News Leader* for 10 years. Returning to the Northwest in 1993, she edited the *West Seattle Herald* for two years, spent a year in China and is now a paralegal in downtown Seattle.

Marcy Johnsen

Marcy has a special connection with the Log House. It was her family home from 1959 to 1973. Marcy and Joey Richesson, her partner of six years, now live in Ballard, but she has become a museum Founder, volunteer and docent. Her volunteerism and support for other causes includes serving as vice president and political action chair for the Health Care Union and co-chair of the Lavender Caucus of the Western Region SEIU. She also has been involved in the Pike Place Market Clinic, Lambert House, the Humane Society and the Northwest AIDS Foundation. Marcy has been a Department of Social and Health Services licensed professional nurse and a registered nurse at Fircrest School since 1973.

Becoming part of the society is her first "solo" venture into the community. It is something she is doing for herself. We are fortunate to have her energy, management and leadership skills.

[Briefs continued from page 3]

leadership initiative grant to Seattle's Museum of History and Industry from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

This pioneering program has been honored at the national meetings of the American Association of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History, and will be included in an anthology of promising museum practices published by IMLS.

In February, "Nearby History" will begin its second year, encouraging participants to learn the methods of doing history from scratch. Join local historians, curators, archivists and librarians to learn about nearby resources to research your house, neighborhood and family, ways to identify and care for your personal collections, how to use the Internet for your research, and much more.

Some of you may remember **Lorraine McConaghy**, who led our oral history training. She is the lead historian for this program.

The program is free. Please call the Museum at (206) 938-5293 to join a research team. We are working on these projects: readying our oral history transcripts and Long-Timers' stories for a publication, organizing a classroom local history research curriculum, developing a web site and researching a new exhibit for fall 1999.

Look at Western Washington architecture with Leonard Garfield

Leonard Garfield, former director of historic preservation for the state, will address "Western Washington Architecture" at 7:15 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 11**, at the Museum.

[Briefs continued on page 5]

Join Leonard for a discussion and slide presentation of the unique architecture of Western Washington, from simple log houses to the more grand residences of the day. This will be the second time Leonard has spoken to our group. The first came several years ago at our annual meeting. Be prepared for an entertaining show!

Jacqueline Williams provides glimpses of pioneer trail life

We are pleased to welcome **Jacqueline Williams**, noted author of *The Way We Ate* and *Wagon Wheel Cooking* to our speaker series on **Thursday, March 11.**

Jacqueline received the 1997 Individual Award of Excellence from the Washington Museum Association for her research into Northwest history. *The Way We Ate* received the Association of King County Historical Organization's Virginia Marie Folkins Award, which recognizes the author of an outstanding historical publication.

Jacqueline is a member of AKCHO and her local historical society. She is on the board of the Pacific Northwest Historians and the Jewish Historical Society. Her books on cooking techniques, recipes and hardships along the Oregon Trail and as Pacific Northwest settlers are intimate and heart-rending glimpses of trail life and a celebration of pioneer creativity and spirit.

Long-Timers launch Children's Reading Hour on third Thursdays

The Museum will begin hosting a Children's Reading Hour from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. **each third Thursday during the school year.**

Members of the Long-Timers group will select and read stories from early Seattle pioneer and Native American history.

Letters will go out to elementary schools, informing them of this new heritage education project. Refreshments will be served. It is anticipated that teen docents from local schools will assist in this project to earn community service hours.

'Chief Seattle' video receives pair of generous donations

We thank **Yuval Neeman** and **Hemda Arad** for their generous donation of \$1,000 toward **B.J. Bullet's** video, "Chief Seattle." Their gift is doubled with a matching gift from Microsoft.

Another \$1,000 contribution was received from **Nancy Alvord** for the "Chief Seattle" video. Generous gifts such as these are extremely valuable for Society special projects and are greatly appreciated.

West Seattle artist captures Log House charm in wood engraving print

Carl Montford is an accomplished artist specializing in wood engravings, block cutting and printing.

Wood engraving is a centuries-old art popularized in the late 15th century by Albrecht Durer, then by the Englishman Thomas Bewick (1775-1828). End-grain English boxwood is the desired material but is extremely rare, if not extinct. Solid steel engraving tools are used to engrave the image into the block.

All of Carl's prints are produced in his own West Seattle antique letterpress studio.

A whimsical yet intricate rendering of the Museum was completed in time to celebrate the Museum's first anniversary in November. The limited edition print is available at the Gift Shop, as well as engravings of the Alki Lighthouse and the Point Robinson Lighthouse.

The prints are a perfect gift choice for Museum supporters, early West Seattle/Alki history buffs and fine art collectors.



LIMITED EDITION prints of Carl Montford's wood engraving of the Museum are available at the Gift Shop.

Hand-painted portrait of Princess Angeline arrives at Museum

We recently received a priceless donation of a hand-painted portrait of **Princess Angeline**. Dated Jan. 5, 1909, it is painted on a piece of leather.

It belonged to **Michael Alfieri**, whose mother **Louise** came across it in his estate. She donated it to the Museum in his memory. She also donated a pair of leather (Alaskan?) gloves with flowers, birds and an eagle embellishing the backs in intricate beadwork.

The Alaskan Yukon Exposition was held in 1909, and many images of Seattle landmarks and curiosities were used on souvenir items. Angeline was one of the most recognizable images from early Seattle.

An old, elongated postcard of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyards in Bremerton was donated by **Else DePalmo**, one of our gift shop volunteers.

There also is a collection of 21 old West Seattle business matchbooks, including those from "Wade's Dad and Lad Shop" and New Luck Toy. Do you have similar items to add to this collection? It would be a fun way to display memorabilia from the early West Seattle business district.

[Briefs continued on page 6]

'Polar Bears' plunge into Alki waters at

By ADA HALLBERG

A few children and adults are testing the water and starting a fire for a brisk New Year's Day swim.

"Just go down and feel that water now. How is it?"

A gentle urging. Soft and soothing from Lou.

"Warm," a young boy shouts back.

"That's right. Of course, it's warm. That's what I told you. That wind is what's cold, hmm?"

"Yeah," says Per. "My hand is burning up in Puget Sound. My body is freezing in the wind."

Brown and weathered, Lou's bony chest blends with his many years of well-worn bathing trunks. Lou is 70-something. Or is it 80?

"This fire is as big as my dad used to build," I says. "Be careful of that little boy. He could fall in!"

"Hey, Lou!" Bob hollers as he arrives in his suit, towel around his shoulders. "You're going to burn this spread from here to Duwamish Head."

"Oh, now why would I want to do that?"

"Come on, Per. Pull that old door over here, and let's just block that wind," Lou orders.

"There you are, boys. Just sit yourself there, and you'll be warm in a minute."

Flames over my head. Salt water puddles frozen in the logs.

"Hi, Mary Jane. I knew you'd bring some coffee."

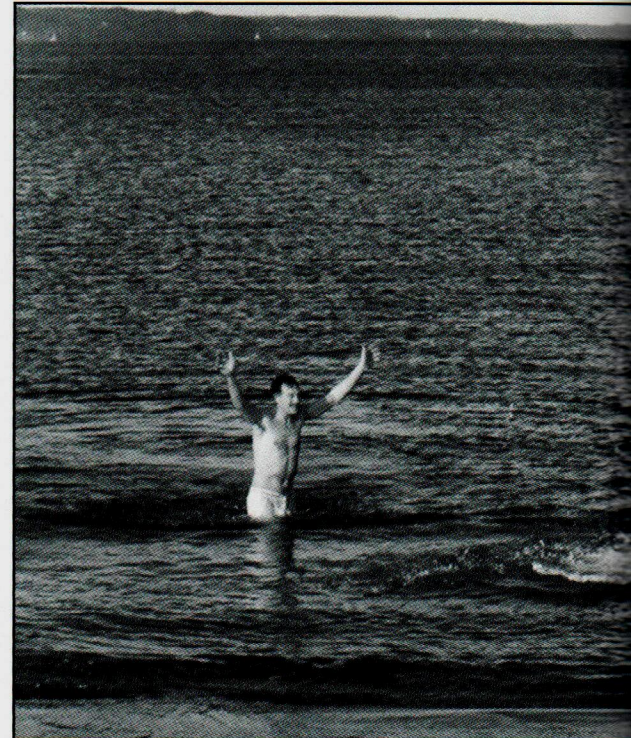
"Oh, no. This is homemade Kahlúa you're looking at, Ada. It's good to see you. Happy New Year!"

Ahh, my favorite. Great Kahlúa. It's really freezing here today. I don't have the nerve to swim.

"Oh, no. No Kahlúa for you kids," Lou chuckles. "Let's see your birth certificates. Have a Christmas cookie. A bit dusty, but good."

Mary Jane gives them the hot chocolate.

"I'll take one of those cookies," I say, blowing off the dust. "Mmmmm, very dusty — oops, I mean tasty."



EMULATING THE "Polar Bears" of the past, Bob Hallberg Year's Day 1995. After the chilly dip, they made a bonfire

"Where's Jan? She wants to bring grâce."

"What did you say, Lou?"

"What's wrong? Don't you know

"Have you seen Jan?"

Another woman approaches and j walks, hands in pockets, long and da blowing down her back.

"Have you seen Jan?"

"Not yet, but she'll be coming."

"Not many people here today."

"It's a little early. Probably still w mountains! Beautiful!"

"There's Joleen driving up now. T above the Duwamish. I'm glad they you've got to spend your life in a w Joleen."

recorded, stored and maintained.

John, Jackie and Carol Vincent h recordkeeping policies and procedur the inventory of archival acquisition consideration for our eventual Muse

It is fun to uncover these treasures the Museum at (206) 938-5293. Jack every other Thursday.

This Is To Certify That

Roland Nelson
Is a Member In Good Stand-
ing for the Year *1940*

West Seattle Polar Bears

SIGNED

Chief Icele

Asst. Icele

Membership in the West Seattle Polar Bears requires a New Year's Day dip in the Sound



AN AUTHENTIC "Polar Bear" membership card, part of the Museum's collection.

The Kellys keep going and going ...

We never seem to say enough about John and Jackie Kelly. They are back at work sorting, cataloging, labeling and carefully storing our archival collections.

John has moved a fire-proof file cabinet, donated by Joan Mraz, into the Gift Shop to house important documents and archival records, photos and maps. By accepting donations of archival memorabilia and artifacts, we are assuming a great responsibility to ensure that our collection is professionally

noon on an early-1970s New Year's Day



g (left), son of Ada Hallberg, and Zachary Filer, son of Museum Director Pat Filer, frolic in the Alki surf on New Year's Day with their families' Christmas trees.

er Christmas tree for the coup de

rench? Why, sure, that's French!"

ns us at the fire kicking the sand as she
k blue scarf over her head and neck,

ching the game. Look at those

ey came clear from the North Point,
e there. It's good to have a view if
elchair. Art's a lucky man to have

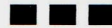
re researched and prepared correct
as well as identifying and recording
This is an extremely important
accreditation and a huge job.
so if anyone wants to join the team, call
and John are here from 3 to 6 p.m.

"I'll take Art some Kah'lua."

"He loves this, Lou. It means so much. It makes his day."

Art will watch from the car.

We all love it, too. Here's to another Happy New Year's Day on Alki Beach. And to all who went swimming today, and to Mary Jane for her homemade Kahlúa and to whoever brought the dusty Christmas cookies.



Plunging into the bay on a more recent New Year's Day, Zach Filer became famous.

"I'm fine, but I can't feel my head!"

Of course, no one else had shouted that phrase before him.

Zach's mother is Pat Filer, director of the Log House Museum. Zach has been swimming at Alki for the past six New Year's Days.

It seems appropriate for Zach to carry the torch and to invite us to join him during the half-time of the Rose Bowl on the next Jan. 1 on Alki Beach!

[Ada Hallberg is a longtime Society member and resident of Beach Drive who writes historical reminiscences for Footprints and other publications.]

Oral history project interviews Shephards

The Society's oral history project is lucky to have the opportunity to interview **George and Jesse Shephard**, who lived in West Seattle for more than 70 years.

Ninety-eight year old Jesse recalls that when she was a child and attended West Seattle Grade School, there was a very tall fence around the grounds to keep out the cougars. Lots of them live in the area then, and children had to be careful coming to and from school.

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[Briefs continued from page 7]

Jesse's father was a fireman and worked at the Holgate Station. The firefighters at that station kept two bears as pets. They were raised from cubs and were pretty tame. The firefighters liked to wrestle with them. When Jesse was about 9, she got to wrestle with them, too.

George, 99, Jesse's husband of 80 years, tells a charming story of his paper-boy days. One of the houses on his route belonged to a doctor who had a pretty daughter.

One day when George went to the house to deliver the paper, the girl opened the door. George was so taken aback that he stepped aside and fell right down the coal chute!

Apparently, it wasn't uncommon for people or businesses to keep wild animals from the nearby woods as mascots or pets.

George, 99, Jesse's husband of 80 years, tells a charming story of his paper-boy days. One of the houses on his route belonged to a doctor who had a pretty daughter. One day when George went to the house to deliver the paper, the girl opened the door. George was so taken aback that he stepped aside and fell right down the coal chute! The doctor rushed out to see if he was OK. He was unhurt, but mighty embarrassed!

The Shephard interviews are being conducted by Society oral historian JonLee Joseph, who also has interviewed pioneer descendant Stanley Maples.

Amusing yet historical anecdotes are breathing life into early West Seattle and Alki history and into the oral history project. We have professional and professionally trained volunteers working on the oral history project, which will become an integral part of the Museum's exhibits and archives.

If you know of potential interview subjects or of anyone interested in becoming part of the project, please call the Museum at (206) 938-5293. If we don't preserve the voices of our elders, we will miss the opportunity to pass on their stories to the next generation of listeners.

Gift Shop features new items

For historical and educational shoppers, the Gift Shop has added new items to the inventory.

□ Prints by local artists **Carl Montford** and **Teresa Neinas** capture the charm and nostalgia of the Log House and of local lighthouses.

□ **Iris Nichols**, Constellation Park illustrator, has designed a beautifully detailed set of notecards with drawings of Pacific Coast intertidal creatures.

□ Colorful glass trade bead and dentalium shell necklaces, researched and designed by **Lynn Swindlehurst** are available in pre-strung or kit form.

□ Small bark boxes are adorned with Native American symbols of the eagle, the raven, the orca and the frog.

□ Miniature log houses features chimneys that puff smoke when incense is burned inside.

□ "Log House Museum Blend" coffee was developed for the Museum's first anniversary by **Jon Tunison** of Admiral Way Thriftway.

The Gift Shop has a fine collection of historical books and videos specific to this area's history. No matter the occasion, these are wonderful gift choices for your heritage-minded friends and relatives.

Remember to present your Society membership card to the cashier for a 10 percent discount!

Additions augment exhibit

Since our timetable for opening the next Museum exhibit has been extended, we have added new artifacts, documents and photos to enhance the "Alki: Coney Island of the West" exhibit. "New" items that you soon will have the chance to see include:

□ An 1897 U.S. Geological Topography map of Seattle showing populated areas, one of which was not Alki, donated by Society member Dick Warren.

□ A souvenir painting of **Princess Angeline** from the time of the Alaska Yukon Exposition, donated by Louise Alfieri.

□ An Oriental design bowl brought to Seattle by a Chinese man employed as a cook at the Stockade Hotel, donated by Pat Bates.

□ A lidded Indian basket purchased from a Native American woman selling her wares on First Avenue in the 1920s, donated by Beverly Winge.

□ Engraved cranberry glass Luna Park souvenirs.

□ More photos of turn-of-the-century beach fun.

The memory book compiled by the Long-Timers Group includes photos, stories and remembrances of early West Seattle/Alki and will be included in the exhibit as it is completed.

If you have treasures from West Seattle's past that you would be willing to donate or loan to the Museum for the Alki exhibit or for the next exhibit featuring the interaction between the pioneers and the Native Americans at Alki, please call the Exhibit Committee at (206)938-5293.


Sign up for a volunteer committee

Committees for Society and Museum events and projects and other volunteer opportunities are being organized. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, call Volunteer Coordinator Joan Mraz at (206) 246-9009.

□ Museum committees: (1) Docent, (2) Gift Shop, (3) Gardening, (4) Building Maintenance, (5) Housekeeping, (6) Collections (meets from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursdays), (7) Exhibit, (8) Heritage Education.

□ Society committees: (1) Historic Home Tours, (2) Historic Landmark Tour, (3) Speaker's Program, (4) Oral History, (5) *Footprints* newsletter, (6) Fund-raising, (7) Museum auction, (8) Victorian Style Show and Tea.

Become involved in heritage projects in your community through the Society and Museum.


LOG HOUSE
museum
BLEND

LABEL FOR the new coffee developed for the Museum by Admiral Way Thriftway.

Help create a doll from the Denny Party

Interested in creating quality historic craft items for sale in the Museum Gift Shop? Call **Carol Vincent** at (206) 937-6744.

Based on recommendations from the Gift Shop Committee, craft projects will be researched, designed and completed. The first project will be small, cloth, pioneer-style dolls. Each doll in the series will be based on an historic description of a child from Seattle's early history and will include a biography. Each will be sold in a limited edition as part of a collectible set. Children from the Alki/Denny landing party will be the first available in the collection.

Artifacts continue to flow in

The Society has received many wonderful donations in the past month for our archives.

□ **Elliott Couden** presented area history books, a proposal for the West Seattle Bridge project, a copy of the historical document of incorporation of the town of West Seattle, and postcards of the Kalakala.

□ **John Bennett** submitted a story, "Homesteading in Eden," written by a woman whose family settled in the San Juan Islands. He discovered it in a bunch of papers at an old estate that he bought.

□ **Carl and Beverly Winge** donated a small, lidded Indian basket that used to sit on Bev's grandmother's dressing table and had been purchased from local Native Americans in the 1930s. Carl also donated a video called "Sea Tales — The Deadly Arctic Expedition," which shows footage of the King and Winge making a rescue of expedition survivors of the Karluk. He also donated leather-bound books of sheet music that his father had composed or published, plus other documents from the Winge family collection.

□ A set of fancy ladies' undergarments consisting of a silk camisole and pantaloons was donated by **Jon Lee Joseph**, Betsy's daughter, one of the oral history crew. We are amassing a nice collection of turn-of-the-century women's clothing/accessories.

□ **Leonard Vann** donated a set of matted and framed drawings of local ferries and three framed photos of firehouse scenes from the 1920s. One especially unusual one shows harnesses dropped from a ceiling onto horses who pulled the fire engine.

□ **Mike Butler** brought in a copy of a 1899 Railroad Survey Map of West Seattle. **Bernard Welldar** donated a piece of Scottish Ragstone offloaded at Alki from a British sailing vessel around 1890 to make room for loading timber.

□ **Charles Learmonth** lent the Museum a beautiful census map of West Seattle from 1910. It has Luna Park listed at Duwamish Head as well as

the mysterious and debatable natatorium down near the lighthouse. It is a special treasure and Charles has agreed for us to have it framed to preserve and protect the map to make it available to be displayed safely at the Museum. It will be a valuable addition to the current exhibit because the date reflects the time period we feature in the "Coney Island" exhibit.

First traveling exhibit: Playland

The Playland exhibit, on loan from the Shoreline Historical Museum, has been our successful "first" traveling exhibit. Like Luna Park, Playland has a group of enthusiasts who were thrilled to find that the Museum was hosting the traveling exhibit.

Many remembered being awarded a trip to Playland as a reward for being a school crossing guard. One especially romantic couple remembered kissing on the "Big Dipper" roller coaster as it made its first steep descent!

Ironically, **Kay Schlegel**, curator of the Playland exhibit, met her new husband while working on its research and development. He is Playland's last remaining ride operator.

'Glory of Seas' fascinates crowd

John Kelly and **Michael Mjelde** presented on Oct. 21 a fascinating, comprehensive look at the archaeological research on the "Glory of the Seas," a 17th century clipper ship that ran aground near Lincoln Park and was burned for scrap in 1917.

Narratives describing the ship, her sailing history and final days on the shores of West Seattle's Fauntleroy Cove were accentuated with a slide show. Slides depicted paintings and drawings of the ship, historical photos of the actual burning of the ship and its aftermath, and an entertaining documentation of the archaeological research and methods used to find and document the location and condition of what is left of the "Glory of the Seas."

Twenty-two people attended the presentation, one of the statewide events held in October to celebrate Washington Archaeological Month. The series is presented in local communities to create awareness about the importance of protecting Washington's archaeological heritage.

John's and Michael's extensive research was surpassed only in quality by their passion and eloquence. This event brought out many of the community's navigation history buffs as well as a few armchair "sea-salts!" Thanks to Michael Prihoda, Lynn Swindlehurst and Joan Mraz for key help.

AKCHO comes to Alki Homestead

The Association of King County Historical Organizations meeting Sept. 29 at the Alki

Here are the newest sustaining and patron members

\$1,000 sustaining memberships

Mrs James H. Egan
Michael D. & Marjorie Alhadeff
Fred & Marjorie Dau
John & Jackie Kelly
Judy Pigott & Darryl Swenson

\$100 patron members

Barbara Andersen
Jack W. Bennett
Barbara J. Buck
Joyce Entus
Nancy & Richard D. Ford
Sharon Huling
Kathryn Hilger Kingen
Susan A. Lindblom
Floyd E. & Emma M. Madsen
Joan Bailey Mraz
Joyce Miyake
Kenneth A. & Donna Olsen
Ann Owchar
Gloria Pfeif
Mary Lou Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald S. Robinson
Lou & Diane Tice
Boyd Swanson
Carol & Charlie Vincent
Arlene G. Wade
J. B. & Christi Webster
Chuck & Jan Welsh
Patricia Wright

\$500 donations

Virginia and Eilbert Prestegaard
Connie Ross
Elliott and Erma Couden

[Briefs continued on page 10]

[Briefs continued from page 9]

Homestead Restaurant was a huge success. About 60 people attended.

Flo Lentz discussed the process she led that resulted in the Society achieving landmark status for the Museum and Homestead. In addition, **Clo Copass** presented a lecture and slide show updating the preservation activities in King County.

After the meeting, the Museum was open for the AKCHO members to visit. Many thanks to **Arlene Wade, Merrilee Hagen** and **Carol Vincent**, who helped to plan, coordinate and host the event.

Official Log House screw-up

John Bennett and **Michael Prihoda** officially screwed-up the Log House in October. It took two really big, buff guys to do it, and we are lucky to have had John and Michael available!

Maintenance of the Museum building is a real and important Society responsibility, and big thanks go to John and Michael. It was at least a three-hour job.



JOHN BENNETT prepares to screw logs together at the Museum.

B.J. provides video sneak preview

B.J. Bullert entertained 12 Museum guests Oct. 6 by showing excerpts from three videos the Society has helped fund or sponsor.

She began with a discussion of the interviews and storyline of her first documentary featuring legendary folksinger **Earl Robinson**. Anecdotes regarding his character and life experiences added to the engaging story of the film's evolution.

"Alki — Birthplace of Seattle," which has been aired regularly by KCTS-TV and viewed, according to the station's estimates by more than 140,000 people, was discussed next.

The highlight of the evening came when B.J. shared footage of an interview with **David Buerge** from her newest venture, "Chief Seattle." She also gave Museum guests a sneak preview of some of her experimental film footage of natural and urban settings, which she hopes will visually describe the Native American culture in today's society as an invisible or shadow-like presence.

She invited guests to share opinions and make suggestions on what images or interview segments work most strongly and effectively in conveying her storyline. Many offered insightful reflections and positive feedback.

We adjourned at promptly 8:30 p.m. because B.J. and a videographer were heading out to capture that evening's full moon for use in the "Chief Seattle" video.

Long-Timers hear from Low descendant

When the Long-Timers group met recently at the Museum, **Ruth Moore** was a surprise but welcome guest. Ruth is a descendant of **John and Lydia Low**, members of the Alki/Denny landing party in 1851. Ruth had been identified by our oral history team as one of the subjects to be interviewed.

Our hope was to enhance and deepen the storyline of our next exhibit, featuring the interaction between the settlers and the local Native Americans by taking a look at families in the landing party other than the Dennys. Ruth had been suggested by the Pioneer Association as a valuable resource.

Ruth has been embroiled in a controversial issue involving Snohomish's plans to pave over the old pioneer cemetery there. The city says that all bodies interred in the cemetery have been moved to the new cemetery, but Ruth and her family want more proof.

They hired an archaeological firm that promptly found a body and now thinks there may be as many as 90 bodies remaining at the old cemetery site. Ruth and her family has taken the city to court and soon will release a decision about whether 1) more archaeological research is needed to determine if the bodies are indeed still there (if so, the city will need to correctly move all the bodies and their stones to the new cemetery), or 2) the city is satisfied that there are no more bodies in the cemetery and work on the site can resume.

Ruth and her family have taken this on as a personal crusade, and she shared that story with the Long-Timers, a valuable group for the Society. They have suggestions for nominations for the Society board and executive officers as well as oral history interview candidates and Gift Shop merchandise, artists and crafts people.

Luna Park lives again in Adams talk

Twenty-six people attended **Earl Adams'** Luna Park talk on Sept. 28. Earl read from a research paper he wrote in 1974 after becoming interested in Luna Park.

At the time, Earl had a coin shop. Often, people brought in old coins and tokens that had been found at low tide at the Luna Park site at Duwamish Head. After someone brought in a \$10 gold piece, he decided he should become more familiar with the site. Once he began to investigate Luna Park, he became hooked!

He has a comprehensive collection of postcards of Luna Park and its Natatorium, as well as old tokens and coins unearthed at the site.

Tokens used at Luna Park read "Louff International," not Luna Park, which may explain why we have yet to gain one for our collection.

Charles Louff, the carousel builder, owned the amusement park and leased the land from the Seattle Park Company.

After the Alaska Yukon Exposition in 1909, Luna Park "began to lose steam." Many Museum visitors and West Seattle history buffs often wonder why Luna Park was so short-lived, and Earl shared research findings on why.

Factors leading to its demise were high winds and storms on Duwamish Head that affected attendance, conflicts with the city on concession stand licensing policies, and suits against the railroad for damages in shipment of the park's rides and against Luna Park for personal injury sustained while in the park.

He generously gave all who attended a copy of his paper, which included photocopies of postcards, photos, newspaper articles and ads, as well as a copy of Luna Park's official license with the city.

Several who attended also brought photos and postcards to share with the group. It was a Luna Park love-fest! Thanks to **Lynn Swindlehurst** and **John Bennett**, who presented Earl with a "Meet Me at Luna Park" T-shirt from Luna Park Cafe.

Volunteers: the unsung Museum heroes

□ **Marge Saffer** works twice a month as a Museum docent and attends the Long-Timers meetings to help record stories and ideas. She jumps right into whatever project is going on at the Museum on her docent days if it is quiet. She also completed the exhaustive job of inventorying Society archives when we transferred them from the South Seattle Community College storage area. She also keeps Pat Filer supplied with freshwater fishing tips!

□ **Doris Rahmig** has taken a huge role in helping to move the Gift Shop to the next level by helping research and write consignment forms, identifying and contacting artists for consignment items, and suggesting and planning ads. She also is preparing an emergency plan and manual for the Museum.

□ **Joanne Jugum** is another fabulous docent who is a Seattle School District teacher. She has guided tours for a large Northshore school group and others and serves as valuable resource in developing, planning and enhancing heritage education programs.

□ **Joan Mraz** is back! Besides handling all arrangements for the Annual Meeting, she took over scheduling the Museum and Gift Shop volunteers. All of these jobs are super-appreciated and extremely helpful and super-organized.

□ And don't forget **Carol Vincent**, who is always providing technical database expertise to keep projects like the heritage brick and courtyard circle error-free and super-organized. She also continues to develop collections policies and procedures and provides free emotional support and hugs.

David Buerge explores 'real story' of Chief Seattle at Annual Meeting

The Society's annual meeting was held Saturday, Nov. 14, at Alki Community Center, featuring a talk on the "real story" of Chief Seattle by local historian **David Buerge**.

Buerge is a mesmerizing storyteller and comprehensive historian. We will hear more of his research and narratives in **B.J. Bullert's** in-progress documentary on Chief Seattle.

Joan Mraz was instrumental in planning and organizing the meeting, attended by 32 members. New board members were approved.



DAVID BUERGE chats with **Erma Schwartz** (left), longtime Society member and West Seattle resident, and **Merrilee Hagen**, former Society president, following the Annual Meeting.

Fernandes reveals Salish legends

On Nov. 17, we hosted **Roger Fernandes** from the Washington Commission for the Humanities, as part of the Museum's "Inquiring Minds" program. Eighteen people attended.

Roger is a skilled and entertaining storyteller of Pacific Northwest Coast Salish legends. He has a unique, energizing way of encouraging audience members to participate in his stories and discussions. He provided insights into the Puget Salish people's beliefs, values and world view, and he prompted guests to find meaning and life lessons in legends he recreated of animals and animated live experiences. Everyone present helped "push the sky up."

Roger also has developed a school curriculum about the Duwamish. We look forward to working with him and including this in our heritage education program. He is very interested in his heritage and that of other Puget Sound Native Americans.

Washington Commission for the Humanities is a non-profit organization that promotes cultural and educational programs in the humanities statewide.

State award goes to Leavengood

Leavengood Architects recently received the 1998 Washington Historic Preservation Award in the preservation design category for our Museum project.

Junction hosts first Farmers Market

The West Seattle Farmers Market will put down roots for its first season at the Junction — intersection of California Avenue Southwest and Southwest Alaska Street — beginning in June 1999.

Interested in helping get the market off to a great start? Attend the first community meeting at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Jan. 20**, at the West Seattle Town Hall, 4750 California Ave. S.W. More info: 935-0904.

Log House Museum statistics for 1998:

Visitors: 5,690

School group tours: 25

Senior group tours: 24

Other tours: 8

Gift Shop proceeds: \$8,332.43

Society membership benefits abound

Membership dues contribute to the operation of the Log House Museum, and the administration of its vital community programs. As a member of the Society's 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:

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!

Individual & Non-Profit Members (\$20)

Senior & Student Members (\$15)

Family Members (\$35):

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

Business Member (\$150):

- Same as Family, plus:
- 25% discount on inscribed Heritage Brick.

Patron Member (\$100):

- Same as Family, plus:
- A colorful Log House Museum T-shirt.
 - 25% discount on inscribed Heritage Brick.

Sustaining Member (\$1,000):

- Same as Family, plus:
- Invitation to exclusive exhibit previews.
 - A colorful Log House Museum T-shirt.
 - Copy of film Alki: Birthplace of Seattle.
 - Complimentary inscribed Heritage Brick.

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 Museum! Enclosed is my Society 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.

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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