

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE XXXXIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2000

Landmark exhibit opens for sesquicentennial

## *The Spirit Returns*

*What's  
inside ...*

The Log House Museum will get a jump on Seattle's sesquicentennial festivities with the grand opening of *The Spirit Returns: A Duwamish and Pioneer Story* on Founders' Day, Nov. 13.

This exhibit tells the story of the founding of Seattle from two perspectives -- the indigenous people who have lived on this land for millennia, and the Americans who made their homes here beginning in 1851.

The exhibit includes a seven-point star quilt from the pioneer Low family, an 18th century

sextant and ancient Duwamish artifacts never before exhibited. Each wall in the Log House represents a vital chapter in this history, from 4,000 B.C. to the present.

**Greg Watson** designed the exhibit, collected artifacts and penned the storyline. **Roger Fernandez**, the prominent coastal Salish artist and storyteller, designed an evocative poster.

**Ralph Anderson** lends his aesthetic talents as a design and architectural consultant. **B. J. Bullert** has produced six short educational videos, *Duwamish Life*.

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Exhibit Committee members Joan Mraz (left), Lucy O'Grady, Edith Johnson and Arlene Wade chat outside the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington office. O'Grady and Johnson represent the Pioneer Association.

Photo by BJ Bullert



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A

## FOUNDERS DAY DINNER

SUNDAY, NOV. 12, 2000 AT 3 P.M.

ALKI HOMESTEAD RESTAURANT

RESERVATIONS: JOAN MRIZ (206) 246-9009 E-MAIL [MRIZ@JPS.NET](mailto:MRIZ@JPS.NET)

\$20 PER PERSON

VISA/MASTERCARD OR SEND CHECK TO

LOG HOUSE MUSEUM 3003 61<sup>ST</sup> AVE. S.W. SEATTLE 98116

THE MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN FROM NOON TO 3 P.M.

FOR A VIEWING OF THE EXHIBIT

*THE SPIRIT RETURNS: A DUWAMISH AND PIONEER STORY*

*Footprints is  
the official  
publication of  
the Southwest  
Seattle Histori-  
cal Society.*

*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)*

*Phone  
(206) 938-5293*

*Coming  
exhibit:  
"The Spirit  
Returns: A  
Duwamish and  
Pioneer Story"*

## Autumn Events Calendar

### September

#### Thursday, Sept. 21

Long-Timers' Group, 2 p.m.  
SWSHS Board Meeting, 6  
p.m., President's Room,  
South Seattle Community  
College.

### October

#### Thursday, Oct. 5

Speaker Series, 7:15 p.m.,  
Log House Museum:  
Seattle archaeologist Paula  
Johnson on recording  
archaeological sites and the  
pros and cons of nomi-  
nating the Luna Park site  
for registration; new  
historical book "All  
Aboard for Luna Park" will  
be available.

#### Thursday, Oct. 12

Professor Ken Tollefson,  
"Duwamish Life: A Close-  
up," 7 p.m.

#### Monday, Oct. 16

"Remodel or Remuddle?"  
lecture, 7 p.m., ArtsWest  
Playhouse.

#### Thursday, Oct. 19

Long-Timers' Group, 2 p.m.  
SWSHS Board Meeting, 6  
p.m., President's Room,  
South Seattle Community  
College.

#### Monday, Oct. 16

"Remodel or Remuddle?"  
lecture, 7 p.m., ArtsWest  
Playhouse.

### November

#### November 1-9

Museum closed for exhibit  
installation.

#### Saturday, Nov. 4

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Southwest Seattle Historical  
Society  
**Annual Membership Meeting**  
Alki Community Center  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Business meeting  
Election of officers for 2000  
Program: Storyteller  
Debbie Dimitri  
as Louisa Boren Denny  
Refreshments

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#### Sunday, Nov. 12

Members' opening of *The Spirit  
Returns* (See invitation  
above.)

#### Monday, Nov. 13

Media opening of *The Spirit  
Returns*.

#### Thursday, Nov. 16

Long-Timer Meeting, 1-2:30  
p.m.

Educators' OpenHouse, 3-5  
p.m.

SWSHS Board Meeting, 6  
p.m.

#### Saturday, Nov. 18

Home Tour 2001 Committee  
Meeting, 10 a.m., Log  
House Museum.

#### Sunday and Monday, Nov. 19-20

Scanning Days at the Log  
House Museum, 10 a.m. to  
6 p.m. by appointment.

*Listings were correct as  
Footprints went to press.*



# City awards \$72,856 grant to Oral History Project

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society has received a grant of \$72,856 to continue its Oral History Project.

The grant is for interviews with 30 community elders, a video of their storytelling and a memory book on businesses in the area. Jonlee Joseph, project chair, is seeking elders to tell their stories and applicants to work on the oral histories, video and memory book.

Among those whose stories have already been recorded are Ada and Bob Hallberg, both in their 70s.

"I never dreamt it would be so much fun or so relaxing – or so revealing," Ada said. Bob had told a story about the old spook house, an annual event. His recollections were included in the Autumn 1999 issue of *Footprints*.

"You have really revealed about Bob," Ada said. "He's a wonderful storyteller and when

that spook house was at the field house, it was never worse or more frightening than when he was there with a cat-o'-nine-tails with his shirt stripped down and a head coming out of the floor, a human head coming out of the floor! It was awful. A description in detail of the old spook house.— much scarier than would be allowed today."

JonLee is in the contract phase with the city and its Department of Neighborhoods, working out the details of the grant. She is seeking applicants qualified to work on the project and elders to share their memories.

Résumés may be sent to JonLee Joseph, c/o Log House Museum, 3003 61st St. SW, Seattle, WA 98116. Anyone who is willing to be interviewed – or knows someone with memories of West Seattle, White Center and the Duwamish -- may call her at (206) 297-3086.

*In those days  
the tide flats  
were peppered  
with geoducks  
and horse  
clams - dollar  
sized dimples  
in the sand.  
Naomi  
McGonagill  
would tuck a  
big toe in them  
and the  
alarmed clam  
would answer  
with a squirt of  
water,  
sometimes  
chest high;  
your hope was  
to squirt one of  
the kids playing  
the game  
without getting  
wet yourself.*

— Ada  
Hallberg,  
writing about  
Cormorant  
Cove

## *Bits and pieces of one man's memories*

*Dave LeClerq lived on Beach Drive from 1916 until he was a teenager (about 1931). Here are some of his reminiscences, as told to Oral History coordinator JonLee Joseph:*

I built a little boat out of driftwood. Another kid and I did. Everybody from around that area on Beach Drive, near Jacobsen Road, Sid Svenson, and a number of people ... built boats as they got to be teenagers.... But this young boy and I each built ourselves a little punt. It must have been about eight feet long. It was just like a box, a mortar box. And we ripped the tar from out of the street, by the pavement, where they had strips of tar. (Laughter) And we melted that in a tin can. We thought that that was the way to stop a boat from leaking. We didn't know about cotton. We just poured tar in there.

We made little oars and we were able to row. And that was the first boat we built. I think I was probably 12, no not even that. The boy that built with me, his name was Donald Brown.

I remember we had a little fire going, and he held the little tin can with the tar on the fire until it was hot. Then we'd pour it. He was holding that, and it flared up. He pulled his hand back and he splattered burning tar on his wrist. Man that hurt! I saw him here, probably six months ago. He lives there at Alki.



# Scouts leave la

for July 1. But the water that seeped in over the years had ruined the fragile paper contents, and the miniature statue had broken.

**Pat Filer**, director of the Log House Museum, quickly called in paper conservationist **Sarah Melching**, who put the documents in a covered plastic tub provided by Liberty Deli and borrowed space in the deli's freezer. Deep-freezing, along with vacuum-drying, are methods of paper conservation.

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation and the Southwest Seattle Historical Society provided the funding needed for these emergency conservation procedures in recognition of the continuing contributions of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouting has been in Southwest Seattle since just four years after the first troop was formed in King County in 1911. Troop 284 is one of the oldest troops in the nation. That Boy Scouting is alive and well in the area was evidenced at the May speaker series program, when Scouts and former Scouts watched a film about the origins of Scouting, participated in a discussion about Scouting in West Seattle, stayed long after the

announced ending time, and the Memory Book on Boy Sc

Among the memories Parsons on Hood Canal collecting funds for the St Scouts of Seattle paid for through an intensive fund- were given the honor of re original unveiling.

They also were invite summer's Time Capsule 20 **Tony Fregada** of the All

## Year 2000 sneaks up and sparks boyhood memories

In 1952, Boy Scouts celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their organization by installing small versions of the Statue of Liberty in more than 200 communities across the nation. The Scouts of Seattle decided to put Lady Liberty on the beach at Alki with a time capsule in its base.

Into the capsule they put Boy Scout and Cub Scout handbooks, the names of 5,000 Scouts who had won fellowship awards, rosters of all Scout units that planned to contribute funds for the base, and a miniature Statue of Liberty. It was to be opened in the unthinkable far-off year 2000.

And 48 years later, the calendar rolled over to 2000 and it was time to open the capsule. Alas, the metal box had suffered the fate that befalls many such reliquaries of history. It leaked.

The capsule was unearthed in late June in preparation for a community event scheduled by the Alki Community Council



It was a sad day when the volunteers Bob Carments, such as the listing pre-Fourth of July celebra House Museum to see the right). Dressing up in old Cub Scout uniform; Reid Nick Henscheid in his own





# lasting legacy

and decided to support a  
outing experiences.

are summers at Camp  
learning first aid and  
tue of Liberty. The Sea  
he base of the Alki statue  
-raising campaign. They  
moving the canvas at the

d to participate in this  
00 Celebration, along with  
ki Community Council;

Mayor **Paul Schell**; **Ken Bounds**,  
superintendent of Parks and Recreation;  
**Cecile Hansen** of the Duwamish tribe  
and the **Rev. Michael Bruce Johnson**,  
who represented the Boy Scouts of  
America.

Following the ceremonies, more than  
300 people visited the Log House  
Museum over the weekend to see  
artifacts salvaged from the time capsule  
and memorabilia from area Scouts.



*To contribute reminiscences to the Boy  
Scout Memory Book or funds to design,  
print and distribute the workbook that  
will trigger memories, call the Museum  
at (206) 938-5293.*



the Statue of Liberty time capsule was opened and water ran out. Collec-  
they, Tom Ansart and John Kelley (upper left) inspect the damaged docu-  
of names matted together by the dampness (left). But all was not lost. A  
ation (above) brought a large crowd, many of whom continued to the Log  
e time capsule contents and a display of Scouting memorabilia (above)  
Scout uniforms for the Speaker Series event were Alex Forte, in a 1930s  
MacDonald, in a 1930s uniform complete with broad-brimmed hat; and  
n uniform.





## Volunteer of the Quarter

# Joyce Miyake: 'Lady in the gift shop'

*"My aunt came out on the first streetcar from town," Dolores Carlson told me. "The conductor let her out right at our door. I remember how friendly the conductors were. Once a week I rode the streetcar to Rhodes Department store on First Avenue at Union. They had a Pharmacy downstairs and I would get mother her prescription for her diabetes. She needed that regularly each week and could not manage the trip."*

— Ada Hallberg, writing about

For many young visitors on school tours, **Joyce Kyoko Miyake** was their favorite part of the Log House Museum.

It was her big smile, soft voice and respectful attitude toward them that made many children comment that their favorite part of the museum tour was "the lady in the gift shop." Joyce volunteered as gift shop supervisor one day every week from the time the museum opened.

When Joyce, SWSHS Member No. 607, died at home after a short illness in April, the Museum lost a valuable volunteer, neighbor and friend.

"Her kindness and influence touched many persons and programs in the Seattle community," says Museum Director **Pat Filer**. She was a special education teacher for some two decades and worked to obtain redress for Japanese-American citizens who were interned during World War II.

Born Joyce Kyoko Ishizaka in Sacramento California, she was evacuated with her family to the Merced Assembly Center and interned at the Amache Relocation Center in Colorado at the age



of 9. They returned to California after the war, and Joyce became the first in her family to go to college, graduating from the University of California at Berkeley in 1954.

While studying at the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, she met her husband, Ken Miyake. They were married in 1960 and moved to Seattle in 1971. By then, she had received her teaching certificate.

Joyce loved to meet people, as evidenced by her popularity in the Gift Shop. She also loved to walk on the beach, root for the Seattle Mariners and spend time with her friends and family -- her husband, their children Sharon, Matthew and Miriam and grandchildren Tony, Alex,

Daniel and Christopher.

"My oldest son said that she made the very best potato salad because she used a lot of eggs," Filer said. "At last year's picnic, she brought Jaime a small container of potato salad to take home. That's just how she was."

"She left me each time we said goodbye with a big hug, and her skin always smelled so good, like coconuts. I miss her every day."

## Ruth Kidd was computer pioneer

**Ruth Bailey Kidd**, SWSHS Member No. 222 and mother of President Joan Mraz, died June 21 in Seattle. She was born May 11, 1914, in Groton, S.D., moved to Seattle at the age of 5, attended Whitworth Grade School, and graduated from Franklin High School.

She was a 20th century pioneer -- training in 1932 as a computer operator at the first IBM installation in Seattle, working in computers for the War Assets Administration at the close of World War II and becoming the first woman in the industry to leave the Teamsters Union and be recognized as an administrator.

She married Glen Alonzo Bailey in 1934 and established a home on Maple Way in Seattle. After she was widowed, her career took her to Lubbock, Texas, where she married Woodrow Kidd. They later moved to Cedar Hill, Mo., and built a home on family homestead land.

After Woodrow's death, she returned to Seattle. She is survived by one brother, **Alan Bestor Phillips** of Burien, twin daughters, **Joan Bailey Mraz** and **Diane Bailey Tice**, both of Seattle, 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. A son, Roger Glen Bailey, died at age 16.





*We love  
a parade!*



Bob Carney drives his 1924 Studebaker down California Avenue Southwest, carrying Erma Schwartz in the Hi-Yu Grand Parade July 22. Also representing SWSHS were costumed characters Melissa Hagen, Helen Free, Scott Surber, Loree Parker and Jenny and Jeff Friends.

*Children often sifted through the sand near where the passengers boarded the streetcar and found nickels, pennies, maybe a dime, and probably streetcar tokens that people let slip between their fingers as they fumbled for their fare. When the children discovered coins in their play, they really didn't think about how the coins got there. Ten cents a ride for adults; three tokens for a quarter. School children bought tokens also, two for a nickel.*

— Ada Hallberg on Cormorant Cove

## *Remodels, remuddles, realities in preservation*

Historic Seattle brings its Preserving Your Old Home series to a newly preserved 1929 retail building in the Alaska Junction.

“Remodel or Remuddle?” is Tim Anderson’s topic Oct. 16. The historian, architect and author will discuss potential pitfalls and how to distinguish appropriate and inappropriate changes involving traditional housing types.

On Oct. 23, contractor Rick Sever will draw

from years of experience working with older homes and their owners in “Expectations and Realities: A Rehab Case Study.”

Each session begins at 7 p.m. in the 150-seat ArtsWest theater, 4711 California Ave.S.W.

Tickets for both talks are \$12 for members of Historic Seattle, \$18 others. Individual dates are \$7 members, \$10 others. To register, call Historic Seattle, (206) 622-6952.



# *Project still seeks recollections of West Side's bygone businesses*

The newest Long-Timer Memory Book project, which involves collecting reminiscences about businesses of Southwest Seattle, is accepting stories through Nov. 1.

Stories for *Businesses of Southwest Seattle* are being gathered by means of a workbook with questions specifically formulated to encourage captivating and appealing remembrances from participants, such as, "Where did you get your hair cut? Describe your best or worst haircut."

Anyone who would like to add stories to the collection or who knows of someone who may like to contribute stories may call Pat Filer at the Log House Museum for more information.

The project is also looking for photos, advertising memorabilia such as matchbooks, calendars and blotters, check stubs, business stationery, menus and other ephemera.

A Scanning Day is planned Nov. 19 and 20 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. by appointment for this Memory Book project. Anyone who has anything that might be a good representation of the businesses of Southwest Seattle may bring the items to the museum and have them scanned into the computer for the SWSHS archives. Items will be returned on the spot.

The Long-Timers' meetings at 2 p.m. the third Thursday each month at the Museum are open to all.

## *Memory books, holiday show honored*

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society brought home two major awards from the Association of King County Historical Organizations May 30.

One of AKCHO's top awards – the Long Term Project Award – went to the Memory Book Project. The first Memory Book collected the stories of the long-time Alki residents and gathers them into a book.

Lorraine McConaughy, director of education at the Museum of History and Industry, nominated the project, writing, "This project is model for good history on a shoestring in which a clever idea, careful planning and innovative execution produce wonderful results with frugal support."

Log House Museum Director Pat Filer and Memory Book designer and producer, Cathy Fulton accepted the award on behalf of the Long-Timers' Group, whose members contributed their reminiscences for the book.

Last December's "An Old Fashioned Holiday at the Log House" also was recognized. Leonard Garfield, executive director of the

Museum of History & Industry let it slip: He wished his museum had come up with the idea first.

Instead, he handed a Certificate of Recognition to the Log House Museum and the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art for their joint project.

The Log House provided the programs and the doll museum brought the exhibit that filled the house with the holiday spirit.

Garfield called it a project that "promoted a partnership between two museums in a way which gave an innovative approach to fulfilling the missions of both organizations."

The event was a successful fund-raiser, too, with more than \$3,000 in ticket sales and record Gift Shop sales.

Project chair Kathy Kingen is working on this year's Old Fashioned Holiday events, which will take place during December.

She is looking for volunteers to make the project a success as well as artisans to sell work on consignment in the Gift Shop.

*Sitting on the lot south (of the Bungalow Grocery Store) was a trolley car where one of the old Alki bachelors lived. Some kids in the neighborhood were comfortable visiting, but briefly; the pot bellied stove so crammed with driftwood that the kids were grateful to escape the blasting heat and run to cool air after a few minutes.*

— Ada Hallberg, writing about Cormorant Cove



# Remembering the corner grocery

*Cormorant Cove is becoming a waterfront park, designed by SWSHS member Lezlie Jane.*

*It's on the site where in the 1930s a neighborhood store stood. Member **Ada Hallberg** remembers the Bungalow Grocery Store and some of its neighbors:*

Across Beach Drive from where Alki Streetcar No. 1 turned around to go back to town, a grocery store suffering from the Great Depression was going out of business.

Roy McGonagill, who with his wife, Lil, had a hand-dipped chocolate business in the North End, heard about the store and decided it would be intriguing to live on the beach and run a grocery store.

A few years earlier Ray had loaned a friend money to start a business. Successful, the friend was pleased to return the favor during these days when money was hard to come by. Ray and Lil bought the fixtures and the stock. With their children, Naomi, 7, and Keith, 5 months, they moved into the living space in the back of the store where windows looked out to the Bay. They named it Bungalow Grocery. They soon hired Becky (Mrs. F.J. Beck), who had been with them in the chocolate store.

Mae Avery Wilkens, prominent political figure and realtor, owned the land and building and lived on the beach a few steps north.

Keith once told me that between 1931 and 1937, the bulkhead behind the store washed out twice. The first time the it was rebuilt, fill dirt was hauled to the site on a barge. The second time, a team of horses pulling a Fresno Scraper took the fill from vacant lots north and south of the store.



Evie and Jerry McDonald lived at 3635 60th Ave. S.W., which actually was Orleans. They shopped at the Bungalow Grocery all the time. "We so enjoyed the McGonagills," Evie told me.

"I used to get tobacco for my father and I had to have a note each time I went to the store. He smoked a pipe. Prince Albert in a can – that was his favorite tobacco. The can had a special design I thought, because it seemed to me the can would diminish as the tobacco was used...that kept the tobacco fresh."

"Dad didn't work much during the winter," Evie reminisced. He was a sign painter. No outdoor sign work in those rainy winters – oil paint took a long time to dry.

"We yearned for spring. 'We will get it for you in the spring' was a phrase Mother spoke in winter months when I wished for a special blouse or sweater. When spring came, I usually got it! The McGonagills were kind people – they understood where we were and ran a tab for us through several winters."

Honest tears welled in her eyes as Florence T. Dill spontaneously spoke "Oh, the McGonagills were good to us. I never will forget them.... I just can't tell you, we were so poor. It was depression and we were poor with a capital 'P' and all that jazz. Really poor. They always gave us credit, and we could eat. You don't forget something like that ever."

Quite a few people helped me put this together – to catch memories while Cormorant Park evolves.

*A big thank-you to all who contributed to this quarter's Footprints:*  
Carol Vincent  
JonLee Joseph  
Pat Filer  
Deborah Mendenhall  
BJ Bullert  
Joan Mraz  
Merrilee Hagen  
Ada Hallberg  
Cathy Fulton  
Tony Fregada

*Ann Holiday,  
Editor*



# State awards capital grant

## **Our Business Sponsors:**

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business,  
recognition in  
Footprints and  
listing on a  
perpetual  
plaque to be  
placed at the  
Log House  
Museum.*

With the help of state Sen. **Mike Heavy** and Reps. **Edward Murray**, **Dow Constantine**, **Erik Poulsen** and **Helen Sommers**, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society has received \$75,000 in state capital funds to "help with the capital costs at the Log House Museum."

**Daniel Aarthun**, capital projects manager of the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, came up from Olympia to present the check representing funds appropriated in the 2000-2001 budget.

"Board Members **Marcy Johnsen** and **Arlene Wade** have worked very hard since early last year writing letters, making trips to Olympia, and encouraging us to contact our state legislators, in



Daniel Aarthun, BJ Bullert celebrate state grant

signs; purchase of computer system for administrative staff and volunteers; and employment of a project manager.

Part was designated for design of a new exhibit, "which will tell the story of the landing of the Denny Party and their coexistence with the native Duwamish people"; and support for a documentary film on Chief Seattle.

## *Nominations committee seeks candidates*

Nominations are being accepted for Trustee positions on the Board of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

Nominees must be willing to remain on the board for at least one year, have time to attend monthly board meetings, be dedicated to the mission and goals of the Society, and have time

and talent to help the Society pursue those goals.

Nominations must be sent to: Southwest Seattle Historical Society Nominations Committee c/o Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116; telephone (206) 938-5293.

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### **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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