Homes with History Tour

Ten sites are to be open for the eighth “Homes with History” tour on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The homes feature interesting histories and significant preservation.

Re-introduced after a five-year hiatus to open the Log House Museum, this year’s tour will include lovingly restored Craftsman style homes, the “Painted Old Lady” of Beach Drive and the Villa Heidelberg Bed and Breakfast, now under new ownership. Hours for the tour are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the ticket allows entrance to all sites.

Visitors will be asked to remove their shoes at each home and to leave large items such as backpacks and strollers in the car or at home.

As during previous years, the tour is self-guided, with volunteer guides stationed at each home to sell tickets and answer questions. Details of all sites, photos and a complete map will be found in the special “Homes With History” section to be published by the West Seattle Herald May 10.

Tickets are $10 and are on sale at the Log House Museum and ArtsWest.

Volunteers are still needed for site preparation, check-in, ticket sales, publicity, on-site

[See TOUR, Page 6]
Memory Book, video, gain attention

The Memory Book is gaining worldwide attention.

Museum Director Pat Filer and Cathy Fulton, creator of the Memory Book, offered to share their “how-to” pamphlet with anyone who asks for it. They’ve had requests from as far away as Australia.

They have made presentations about the Memory Book to Historic Seattle, the Kirkland Heritage Society and the Association of King County Historic Organizations. They will speak at the Washington Museum Association conference in Olympia in June.

In November, Cathy will present a Memory Book workshop at the international conference of the Association of Personal Historians in Dallas, Texas.

Cathy also designed and produced the jacket cover for the “Tales of West Seattle” video. BJ Bullert lent her professional expertise in text preparation and the details, such as credits, that need to be included on a historical video jacket.

The video is available in the Gift Shop for $20.

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Calendar

MAY

May 11
Speaker Program, 7:15 P.M. History of Boy Scouts in Seattle/ Special Look at Alki’s Troop 281

May 13
Homes With History Tour, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 14
Mother’s Day: Museum Closed

May 18
Long-Timers Meeting, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Distribute the new West Seattle Business Memory Book

SWSHS Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

May 20
Museum Docent and Gift Shop Training, 10 a.m. to noon

June 2
Oral History Training, sponsored by SWHS and the Washington Commission for the Humanities, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Jerry Brockey Board Room, South Seattle Community College. Dr. Lorraine McGonaghy, instructor.
Cost: $30 members, $40 others.
Registration: 682-1770

June 2 and 3
Class Reunions and open house at West Seattle High School.

June 8
Speaker Program, 7:15 p.m. “A Look Back at West Seattle High School,” Bonnie McNamara, WSHS senior.

June 15
SWHS Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
Pat Filer and Cathy Fulton speak on the Memory Book at Washington Museum Association conference

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For a sneak preview go to http://www.loghousemuseum.org
White Center's Citizen of the Century: Elliott Couden

By Teresa A. Peters
HERALD-NEWS

A
n early morning call to Elliott Couden gave him the news.

"This is quite an honor," he said, with a hint of surprise in his voice.

But he didn’t have time to talk. Couden was on his way to speak at a banquet out past Sea-Tac, so he was in a bit of a hurry.

This wasn’t a problem, though. At 88 years, the White Center News’ Citizen of the Century is, not surprisingly, still in demand.

Couden was chosen by nominations from the News’ readership during a three-week screening process. Nominated by longtime friend Clay Eals, Couden is remembered for his local and regional strivings for human growth.

Couden owned and operated Couden Agency Inc., a real estate agency in White Center, from 1941 to 1977. While operating his agency, he helped found the White Center Chamber of Commerce, which replaced the Commercial Club in 1957. The Chamber honored Couden in 1989 with the Business and Professional Award of Merit, in part for his service role in the community, but also for his dedication to historic preservation.

According to Couden, he had attended a chamber meeting in the early ‘80s where the discussion came around to whether the West Seattle/White Center area had a place to archive historical documents, photos and the like. Learning their suspicions were true and there wasn’t a central location, Couden set out to help create one.

We had a lot of fun, but what we were doing was definitely to benefit the community."

Despite his local accomplishments, Couden is most proud of the work he did toward civil rights.

Couden was appointed by Seattle’s mayor to the Civil Rights Commission in the 1960s, a position he held for seven-and-a-half years. He said his main job was to create an ordinance to abolish discrimination.

"I was working shoulder-to-shoulder with community leaders and civil rights leaders for seven-and-a-half years. That’s a long time, especially for a realtor," he said. "It was the most interesting and most challenging thing I’ve ever done – total commitment."

He also pointed out his work on the board of directors for the Urban League and as director of the Council of Churches of Greater Seattle as his other great accomplishments.

Nowadays, Couden and his wife, Erma, still remain busy in the community. They are both active in the Fauntleroy Church, where they have been members for more than 50 years, and Couden, apparently, still does speaking engagements.

"I know Elliott is very pleased with this," she said.

Reprinted with permission from the White Center News, March 1, 2000. Elliott and Erma Couden are SWSHS members #1 and 2.

Bruce Savadow/White Center News
White Center Citizen of the Century Elliott Couden

Ad ran in both the West Seattle Herald and the White Center News, and in 1984, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society was born.

"(Couden) founded and helped lead the Southwest Seattle Historical Society to a position of great community stature and effectiveness during the final 15 years of the century," Clay Eals pointed out.

Couden was also a charter member of the White Center Lions Club.

"The Lions is a service club devoted to community interests," he explained. "We mostly helped people with eye problems. We collected money. We made Christmas baskets for people in need.
Jody Bento joins museum as intern

The Log House Museum has a new intern. **Jody Bento** is in the Museum Studies Certificate Program at the University of Washington. She will assist with the Museum’s ongoing volunteer recruitment efforts.

Jody works as a software manager at Nintendo of America in Redmond. She is a native of Seattle (born in the Ballard hospital the year before it stopped offering birthing services in 1957) and holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Western Washington University, as well as a certification in training from the University of Washington.

She has volunteered the last six years for an AIDS services organization in King County, doing fund-raising and special events. Her experience in the software industry has focused primarily on helping people understand how to use computers.

Her focus during her internship at the Log House Museum will be to assist **Carol Vincent** in recruiting and refining a volunteer management system. In addition, she will provide support to Director **Pat Filer** during volunteer orientation activities.

Jody says she hopes to become a longtime volunteer at the Museum and has aspirations of entering the museum world after graduation.

Volunteers find place in Museum garden

**Penny Earnest** wanted to volunteer at the Museum, but she wanted to be able to do something other than being a docent or work in the gift shop. She chose to do yard work because she could do it on her own schedule and on nice days.

Penny and her husband, **Mike**, did the majority of the spring-cleaning of the Museum grounds as the buds and blooms began to peek out. They weeded it thoroughly and cleaned up old leaves and dead twigs. Mike power-washed the Courtyard Circle, the heritage bricks, and the ramps and porch.

There are many ways to help at the Museum. To find out more, call Volunteer Coordinator Joan Mraz at 246-9009 or the Museum at 938-5293, or fill out the form below and send it to the Museum.

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Dear SWSHS Members and Friends,

Our organization is run entirely with volunteers. We count on your help to keep the museum open and to make the programs successful.

The Log House Museum has some very exciting and wonderful programs this year. The exhibit, “47 Voices Remember” is drawing many visitors.

Please look over this list and choose something you would like to do to help this year. It could be help for a one-time event, for a few hours, or for something you would enjoy doing on a more regular basis. We all can do a little and make this another stellar year. Thank you for taking the time to call and volunteer!

**Volunteer Tasks**

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**Oral History Program**

Call: JonLee Joseph 206-297-3085 (e-mail) jonlee@wa.freei.net
Seeking business memories

Long-timers charge ahead finding clues to commercial past

Remember the days when steak cost 30 cents a pound and Dad smoked a pipe to advertise Mark Twain shirts on a matchbook cover?

If so, the Long-Timers’ Group wants you!

After publishing the highly successful Alki memory book, the Long-Timers have turned to West Side businesses for their next project. They’ve brainstormed ideas and come up with plans for a workbook to help other long-time West Siders compile their memories of local commerce.

The workbook is available at the Log House Museum Gift Shop, or it can be mailed to those who call the museum and leave their names, addresses and phone numbers. The workbook approach allows several options on writing the memories — in groups, in the comfort of their own homes on their own schedules, or having someone help them write if they are unable.

A mailer has been developed for those who would rather limit their reminiscences to one specific business, personality or event. It will be more economical for printing and mailing, and it has potential of reaching a wider audience, and will complement those who wish to write more in the workbook approach, says Museum Director Pat Filer, who with Cathy Fulton guides the Long-Timers in their memory writing.

Now that the workbooks and mailers are being sent out to participants, the group is looking for photos, advertising memorabilia and other ephemera that will help bring the stories to life.

Anyone interested in helping collect memories or memorabilia may call the Museum at 938-5293.
Tour features 10 historic building

[Continued from Page 1]

assistance and other tasks. To volunteer, call Carol Vin

Sponsors of this year’s tour include John L. Scott We
Evergreen Money Source, Pacific Northwest Title Co.,
Northwest Art and Frame. The homes will feature flora
by Neilson Florists, 5 Corners Nursery and Gifts, Shan
West Seattle Flower Shop, South End Florist, South Seat
Floristry Program, Admiral Thriftway Flowers, Linda’s
National Flower Shop.

KOMO-TV 4 has invited SWSHS to fill the audience
the live broadcast of its local “Northwest Afternoon” pro
8. The show airs from 3 to 4 p.m. If more than 15 SWSHS
KOMO will broadcast a short public service announcem

Anyone who would like to join the group may call
Burrows at (206) 433-6844. For tour information, cal
Painted Lady of Beach Drive – 4866 Beach Drive S.W.

Stone House photo from Washington State Archives

All other photos by Deborah Mendenhall

Stone House – Harbor Avenue and Maryland Street (exterior only)

West Home Funeral Chapel – 4400 California Avenue S.W.

Dutch Colonial – 4106 SW Findlay

West Seattle Real Estate, Assure Escrow and floral arrangements donated by Westwood Florist, Seattle Community College’s Flowers and Gifts and friends.

Please join the admission with members to watch a program on Monday, May 8 at noon. HS representatives attend, but you should ask about the tour.

Call SWSHS Trustee Julie by (206) 938-5293.
Dear Mrs. Filer:

Thank you for letting us take a post card. The one thing I liked best was the dress. And the way the story went. I also liked the way that the deer feet make it sound like she is a deer and how the spirits lift her when she is dancing.

Your Friend, Eden

Goldenhawk embraces, shares her heritage

The drumbeat vibrated through the floor of the Log House Museum. Patricia Goldenhawk, her husband Wolf and their friend Christina Terry beat the ceremonial drum in unison and sang in loud, lusty voices.

“I don’t know the exact meaning of the words,” Goldenhawk said. “We’re to learn the words by heart. The meaning will come when we need it.”

Goldenhawk talked from the heart at April’s Speaker Series program. She shared her life’s journey from growing up in Kodiak, Alaska, unable to acknowledge her native heritage, to embracing that heritage and sharing it with others.

Along the way were depression and addiction that lasted until she gave herself over to the traditions of her heritage. She shares her pride in her heritage with prison inmates. The drum was a gift of some of those inmates.

She is descended from two lines of chiefs, including the Duwamish Chief Seattle. This heritage tells her that she is related to every living thing – the four-legged nation, the two-legged nation, the winged nation, the stone nation.

Goldenhawk’s presence can be felt in the current exhibit at the Log House Museum. Her regalia fills one of the display cases.

“This is about my ancestors,” she said as she began to explain the display. “It says, ‘Granddaughter, I’m taking care of you. Go dance.’”

The black shawl was given her when she was head woman dancer at the Indian Heritage School.

She found the hawk wing on a freeway, where it lay after someone had shot it. She offered tobacco and gave thanks before picking it up. Tobacco is very important to her people, she said. It’s a way of having prayers go up to Grandfather, clean and pure.

The red dress is called a Wing Dress. It’s a common style among many tribal traditions. Hers has beads and shells sewn to the sleeves, reminder of her people, the watergoing Duwamish.

A Duwamish dress would be made of cedar bark, and Goldenhawk plans to collect bark and make herself one, giving thanks and offering a gift to the cedar.

Goldenhawk passed around samples of her traditional medicines. Sweetgrass keeps evil away. Deer toes on a cloth strap, as well as those at the hem of her dress, tell her people they can be both strong and gentle. Lavender is calming when used in the sweat lodge for women in the prison.

The gathering of the medicines is shrouded in ceremony. She has to feel good when she goes out to gather. She asks permission of the plant and leaves a gift of tobacco in thanks.

“When you gather,” she said, “learn to listen. Not too much, take it gently. Our medicine relatives give their lives so we can heal. They love us enough. That’s why medicines have to be treated with respect.”
Cathy Fulton catches memories

Hearing stories is one thing; capturing the memories is the job of Cathy Fulton and her husband, Roger, of Vashon Island.

They run Capturing Memories, a publishing house devoted to helping people tell their stories. Cathy was the featured speaker at the Museum for January’s Speaker Series.

Some of the simple ways she suggested for writing memoirs were by captioning photos, keeping journals, writing letters to grandchildren and using life timelines.

Memoirs may be published as simply as typing them up and taking the typescript to the local photocopy shop, or as formally as having someone design and lay it out and printing 200 copies.

“If you do it yourself,” she said after the talk, “see some samples of what the copy shop can produce, including photos if they’re to be included. Don’t take the default paper. You can bring your own or ask for better quality.”

Capturing Memories has created a series of Web pages on how to conduct a Memory Book project or write your personal memoirs. It’s at http://www.capturingmemories.com.

The site also features JoAn Fulton’s story, “My Rescue at Sea” and an annotated bibliography of writing resources.

Bungalows were popular house style

John Kelly was born in a bungalow at 5441 42nd Ave. S.W., but it wasn’t until he attended the Nearby History course at the West Seattle Library that he began in earnest his historical research on this popular early 20th century style of architecture.

His interest is familial. His father was responsible for many of the bungalows scattered throughout Seattle. Kelly spoke about his father’s work as chief draftsman for the Craftsman Bungalow Co. at the March Speaker Series.

John discovered 80 glass negatives of photos taken of the homes that his father had designed, over 50 of them in West Seattle alone. The negatives weren’t labeled with addresses, but he identified 40 of the homes by putting a lot of miles on the family car. He got some clues to their whereabouts from people who recognized them at John’s booth at last fall’s Craftsman Fair.

The style originated in India as a one-story house with a wide veranda. The British adopted the style and corrupted the word to “bungalow.”

Bungalows are not hard to pick out on a drive through an older residential area. They are generally one story or 1½ stories, with overhanging eaves, porches supported by timbers atop brick or cobblestone piers, and wood finishing treatments such as shingles, patterned woodwork and brackets. They often have attached pergolas—open grids of beams over exterior areas. Some have eyebrow half-moon windows in the roof.

The exterior bricks are often clinker bricks, which give an interesting texture.

The Craftsman Bungalow Co. began promoting these designs around 1911 or 1912, Kelly said. They became so popular, so highly advertised and marketed, that average working people could afford them, as they could obtain a set of plans and specifications very inexpensively, Kelly said.

In his research, Kelly looked in city directories of the period and found his father listed as a draftsman for the company in the 1911 book. Jud Yoho and Edward Merritt were listed as the principals of the firm.

I had a wonderful time at your museum. The stories you told were very exiting, the one I liked the most was the one about the clam juice baby. The one about the way they measured water was quite intartaining too. I think if Luna parck was still here many kids would injoy it. I hope I get to see your museum again. I would like to know if any of your friends rese with a bears? because I now non of my friends do.
Obituaries

Sam Jones: Known for stories

Sam Jones, member #156 and a lifelong resident of Fauntleroy, died March 29. Jones, an engineer and manager was known for his outdoors activities and storytelling. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Vivienne.

“Sam met life with a buoyant step and twinkling eyes,” read the program for his April 7 memorial service at Fauntleroy Church UCC.

Jones endeared himself with SWSHS through excerpts from his memoirs that ran in three editions of Footprints in 1994.

In the column, he reminisced about his boyhood during the Depression, including fishing and swimming at the sandpit operated by Pioneer Sand and Gravel Co. at what is now known as Arroyo Beach, enduring annual physical exams at the Fauntleroy YMCA, hanging out at the Villa Grocery at 35th Avenue and Roxbury Street, trapping gophers in what became Fauntleroy Park and, during winter snows, sledding down Barton Street to the Fauntleroy ferry dock.

Here's an excerpt from his first column:

“I became so confident that I invited my mother to ride the sled to church one Sunday. She was dressed in her Sunday best with her Bible and music scores tucked in her arms, she being the church pianist at the time.

“Well, we sat up on the sled, I pushed off and set my feet on the steering handle. The first block was great, but I hadn't given any thought to the added weight that was beginning to translate into added speed. When I passed the water tower, I became aware of an auto ahead of us, timidly moving down the slick street. We passed him on the next curve, and I'll never forget his startled look as I caught his eye as we went by.

“Needless to say, we were out of control by now, and I knew if we made the next turn, we would never get around the one at Fauntleroy School, so I opted to take the snowbank on the edge. We hit it full bore, and I recall Bible, sheet music and mother all sailing past me as I hung onto the sled. Fortunately, nothing was damaged but my mother's dignity, and it was the last time I ever got her on my sled.”

‘Oldest living native’ Mage

Max Mage, member #279, was known for his boast, “I’m the oldest man living in West Seattle born in West Seattle!”

Max died March 8 at the age of 93. He lived at the Kenney Home and is survived by his wife, Adele, four children, 10 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and his brother Carroll. He enjoyed playing chess, singing in the church choir, attending West Seattle class reunions and living in West Seattle all his days. The Mage brothers are featured in a short film on Luna Park, which can be seen at the Log House Museum, and he was interviewed for the Oral History Project.

Former president Sumbardo

Bob Sumbardo, well-known Pacific Northwest motivational speaker, served as president of SWSHS in 1992-3 and trustee the year previous and after. He was member #185.

Bob added his own special touch of humor to Society events during his tenure. His skills as a speaker made him the perfect leader during Board retreats as the Society sought short- and long-term goals.

Bob passed away on November 14, 1999, in Federal Way. He was 69. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, three daughters, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Costume donor Badcon

Mabel “Dodie” Badcon, age 92, died March 15, 2000.

Although not a member of the Historical Society, she donated a collection of early 20th century clothing to the Log House Museum. She spent most of her life in West Seattle, and is remembered for her love of beautiful things, animals and walking and bonfires on the beach. She lived at Mount St. Vincent.
‘47 Voices’ generates activity book

The current Log House Museum exhibit, “47 Voices Remember,” has created another opportunity for educational outreach.

It’s a small book called “Tell Me a Story,” which features a few of the stories told in the exhibit’s vignettes plus an educational activity giving suggestions on how children can collect their own neighborhood history through interviews with community elders. Priced at less than $5, “Tell Me a Story” is available in the Gift Shop.

“47 Voices,” which has been up since January and had its official opening with an open house in March, uses stories that hadn’t been told in either the Memory Book or the Oral History video. Artifacts, photographs and documents that have been donated or loaned to the museum illustrate the stories.

Cathy Fulton, who designed and printed the Memory Book, created the labels for the exhibit.

The exhibit has been popular with the school groups who have enjoyed reading the individual stories at the vignette stations.

SSCC has room for collections

“47 Voices Remember” hit the road Feb. 27 for the grand opening festivities of the South Seattle Community College library.

The college has reserved a room for SWSHS’s collection storage and management. The collections had been previously stored there, but during construction of the new library, they were moved to Jefferson Square and then the Log House Museum. It was agreed that another room would be assigned after the library was completed.

The new room will have computer access and is located near a door opening onto the courtyard, for outside access. Details are being prepared for a legal agreement between the college and the SWSHS for present and future guarantee of the usage of the room for the society.

School group learns firsthand of Alki childhood

Nearly 1,000 school children have visited the Log House Museum since “47 Voices Remember” opened in January.

One group from Shoreline got a firsthand pipeline to the past. Martin Smith told the youngsters about his grandparents’ Stockade Hotel on Alki.

He also described the two important Smith family artifacts on display – the ox yoke his ancestors used to clear the land at Alki Point and a wooden box containing old shipbuilder’s tools, given to his grandparents after the death of its original owner in the early 1900s.

Smith also gave a glimpse into his childhood days. He would place nails on the streetcar track to sharpen the points for spearfishing at Alki Beach. He often caught enough for the whole neighborhood.

In addition to the Shoreline School District, which sends all its third graders, several private schools in the area made repeat visits to the museum this year to correspond with their Washington State History curriculum.

Dear Mrs. Filer

I really enjoyed the stories you told us about Alki. I liked the gift shop and the movie. I think some of the things in the gift shop are really interesting. I learned a lot from the movie about Alki.

On the beach I found a penny and someone else found a dime but I don’t think it was from the Denny party because the date on it was 1978. I liked everything in the cabin. I hope I can come again!

Fondly,
Cole
Board OKs next exhibit

The Log House Museum’s next major exhibit will tell the stories of the people who have populated the Duwamish Peninsula for millennia.

Due to open in the fall, the exhibit’s storyline was approved by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society Board of Trustees, at its April meeting. The guiding principle, developed by the Exhibit Committee and consultant Greg Watson, was based on the Mission Statement adopted in 1996: “A place to discover and celebrate the story of the Duwamish Peninsula and the birthplace of Seattle.”

Organized chronologically, the exhibit tells the local history from the differing perspectives of the indigenous Duwamish and the American settlers. Key events and turning points will be marked on the baseboard around the room. Artifacts, pictures and stories from the Museum’s collection and other sources will enliven the narrative.

The exhibit will be composed of four sections culminating in the present. The first section opens a window into Duwamish life and culture prior to European contact, a period spanning from about 6,000 BC to the 1790s.

The second section recounts the early interactions between European and American explorers and traders between the 1790s and 1850.

The third section begins with the arrival of the Denny Party in 1851 at Alki, and extends to 1893 when the last remaining Duwamish left the West Seattle area. This period recounts the founding of the city, the treaties, and the points of friction between the Americans and Duwamish inhabitants.

In the video viewing room, the final section of the exhibit will bring the history of the Duwamish/American encounter to the present. How has Duwamish culture and identity been maintained during this century of radical change and extraordinary economic growth? Weaving together oral histories with contemporary records and stories, the exhibit will trace various paths of cultural survival and rejuvenation.

Visitors will have the chance to view two videos that build on oral history. Through the videos, they will be invited into the ongoing dialogue about the history and future of our area, a continuing conversation between the descendants of pioneers and the people who lived on this land thousands of years ago.