

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XIV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2000



Memories come to life

Erma Schwartz inspects the newly published *West Seattle Memories – Alki*, which was unveiled Nov. 13 along with *Tales of West Seattle*, the half-hour video compilation of the Oral History Project.

Story, more photos on page 3.

What's inside

Calendar
Page 2

Unveiling
Page 3

Volunteers
Page 4

Gifts
Page 5

Holidays
Pages 6-7

House sleuths
Page 8

New book
Page 9

New board
Page 10

Collections
Page 11

*Heritage
funds*
Page 12

Historic Homes tour returns

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society's annual Historic Home Tour is back on the calendar.

After a hiatus of four years, while the society worked on getting the Log House Museum open, attention now is turning to the resumption of the tour of historically significant homes in the West Seattle area.

This year's tour will be on Saturday, May 13 — the day before Mother's Day. In the past, we have been blessed with good weather for the tour and it has become a popular tradition to take Mom out for lunch and on the tour.

SWSHS started doing the tour 12 years ago and has not raised the price of tickets during all those years. This year the board has approved raising the price of tickets to \$10 per person. Normally the tour features ten sites, so that is only \$1.00 per house.

The tour is known for its variety of homes, from Victorian "painted ladies," craftsman bungalows and simple, but delightful, small houses to interesting commercial establishments such as the Admiral Theater and many of the bed and breakfast inns in the area.

Anyone who knows of or owns a house
[See *HOMES*, page 4]

Exhibit shares memories

Footprints is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical 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

Hours
Thursday, 12-6
Friday, 10-3
Saturday &
Sunday, 12-3

Current exhibit:
"47 Voices Remember"

The current Log House Museum exhibit, "47 Voices Remember," celebrates the two newest projects of the SWSHS, the Oral History Project and the Memory Book project.

Stories from the written memoirs recorded in the Memory Book workbooks and from the transcriptions of the interviews of participants in the Oral History project are highlighted in individual vignettes by artifacts, documents and photographs from the SWSHS archives.

This interactive exhibit provides opportunities for visitors to add their personal stories to the descriptions of this community in its earlier days.

Exhibit highlights include beautiful authentic Duwamish dancing regalia on temporary loan from **Patricia Goldenhawk**, descendant of Chief Seattle, and a toolbox containing old ship builder's tools, which is on loan from the **Martin Smith** family.

The toolbox was given to the family long ago by a Duwamish woman who had worked for Martin Smith's grandmother. When the woman's husband, Proctor, passed away, she paddled her way up the Duwamish River to tell them that he had died. She then gave the toolbox and its contents to the Smiths, who have kept it as a historical family heirloom.

Local athletic director **Hess Viney**, who was

considered a role model to many young boys in the 1920s-1940s, is remembered through stories and his personal whistle and commemorative watch given to him after 22 years of service to the community by the children of Alki. His son, **Doug Viney**, donated the artifacts to the Museum.

There are many other wonderful objects and stories that will bring to mind the community spirit and history of those who called Alki their home.

The official opening of the exhibit will be Sunday, March 12, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Signs point the way to Log House Museum

The Log House Museum is on the road.

At least its name is on Admiral Way and Alki Avenue on street signs pointing the way to the Museum. **Joan Mraz** donated most of the cost of manufacturing and installing the signs.

"They really look fabulous and should help increase our museum visitorship," **Pat Filer** told the SWSHS Board at its November meeting.

Calendar

March

March 9 — Speaker Series: "Craftsman Homes" featuring **John Kelly** and a representative from the Museum of History and Industry, 7 p.m.

March 12 — Open House for Exhibit "47 Voices Remember," 1-3 p.m.

March 16 — Long-Timers' Meeting to work on the "West Seattle Businesses" Memory Book project, 1 p.m.

March 16 — SWSHS Board meeting, 6 p.m.

April

April 6 — Speaker Series: "Duwamish Heritage and Future," featuring **Patricia Goldenhawk**, 7 p.m.

April 20 — SWSHS Board meeting, 6 p.m.

April 23 — Museum closed for Easter.

To be announced — Museum Clean-up Day, inside and out, in observance of Earth Day, 9 a.m.- noon on a Saturday. Watch for announcement at Museum.

Memory Book, Oral History Video unveiled



Participants in the Oral History Project share memories at party.

Many of the people who lived much of Southwest Seattle's 20th century history gathered at the Log House Museum for a celebration.

The Nov. 13 reception marked not only the Museum's second anniversary, but the completion of the first phase of the Oral History and Memory Book projects. Birthday gifts were copies of the *West Seattle Memories – Alki*.

They were given to participants in the Oral History and Memory Book projects, who were treated to a continuous showing of *Tales of West Seattle*, the half-hour video compilation of their Oral History stories.

The original copy of *West Seattle Memories* rests on its own stand. Its placemat-sized

laminated pages contain more than 120 old photographs and recollections of 47 individuals. Smaller versions are available in the Gift Shop.

The stand fits in the windowsill of the video room, or it can be placed atop a pedestal that can be converted into an exhibit case with a plexiglass vitrine.

Newly elected SWSHS President **Gloria Pfeif**, Oral History project manager, and Museum director **Pat Filer** described the projects and introduced the participants. **Joan Mraz** and **Carol Vincent** staffed the gift shop and the refreshments.

For purposes of funding, the Memory Book was considered an extension of the Oral History Project.

Cathy Fulton, who guided the Memory Book project and produced the book, sent a press release to local papers to suggest copies of the book as gifts.

The book has been nominated for an award for publications from the Association of King County Heritage Organizations.



Memory Book participants Mary Lee Eden and Barbara Anderson get their first look at the book with Cathy Fulton, its designer and publisher.

Young volunteers take interest

Pat Filer's Good Karma item of the month: She discovered that her oldest son's girlfriend's real name is not Mary. It is **Heritage!** What are the chances of something like that?

Jaimeson and **Heritage** dressed up as Star Wars characters Obi-Wan Kenobi and Princess Amidala on Halloween night and passed out four bags of candy at the Museum in less than an hour. They were a big hit among the trick-or-treaters.

Melissa Hagen was the resident ghoul for the day on Halloween and startled a few museum patrons with her vampire outfit. Thanks to



Katelyn Kingen, Carly and Caitlin Stubner and Hailey Poehlman wear costumes to serve as hostesses.

all these young people who helped out for that holiday.

Another group of super-excellent helpers is **Katelyn Kingen, Carly and Caitlin Stubner and Hailey Poehlman**, who helped out with the

Christmas decorations and clean-up at the museum getting ready for the Holidays exhibit. They are incredibly talented, charming, and willing to work. They donned costumes and whistled while they worked – actually, they sang Christmas carols. They did all of the popcorn strings and gingerbread men that adorned the trees in the museum and video room. They were a super help and tons of fun to have around.

Homes, helpers needed to make tour a happening

[Continued from front page]

that could be on the tour this year may call **Merrilee Hagen** at 932-0460.

A tour such as this needs many volunteers for planning, organizing and greeting guests in the homes on tour day. Anyone who would like to be involved, either on the planning committee or as a volunteer host for a few hours the day of the tour, may contact **Joan Mraz** at 246-9009 or **Carol Vincent** at 937-6744.

The Historic Homes Tour is important to the Society both as a fund-raiser and as good public relations, Hagen said.

Oral History project is 'a great success'

The Oral History Committee, chaired by **JonLee Joseph**, thanks all the folks who helped make the first project a great success.

"The oral histories collected, the videos of the narrators and the Memory Book have helped preserve the stories of a historical West Seattle," JonLee said. "The stories are the foundation of the present culture of West Seattle."

The committee is continuing to solicit names of elders who are willing to share their stories of West Seattle, the Duwamish and White Center. It is also working to fund Oral History Project II and to line up volunteers who are interested in learning oral history techniques. Training will be offered in the spring.

Anyone who knows of storytellers or who would like to volunteer to be an interviewer may call the Log House Museum at 938-5293.

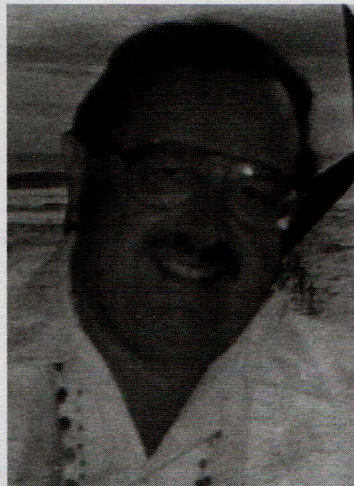
Books honor Doug Viney

"Tell Me a Story," the new children's version of the Memory Book, will be dedicated to the memory of **Doug Viney**, who died in January at the age of 73. Doug wrote stories for the Memory Book, and he was interviewed for the Oral History Project.

Although his birth certificate says "Alki Bathhouse," Doug was born in the West Seattle Hospital in 1926. He was the son of **Hess Viney**, the charismatic recreation leader at Alki for 20 years, and **Ida Viney**.

He graduated from West Seattle High School in 1944, served as corpsman in the U.S. Navy, then worked 30 years for the King County Elections Department. He lived on Pine Lake in Issaquah for the past 34 years, but kept ties to West Seattle. He was active in the Long Timers' group and was deeply involved in the Alki sites tour the past two years. He and **Bill Ransdell**, another of the first Oral History Project interviewees, were planning to take to the water in a cruise boat this year.

A memorial service was conducted at Alki



Doug Viney

Congregational Church, followed by a visit to the Log House Museum at the request of his widow, **Nancy**. Other survivors include three children, two granddaughters and his mother and stepfather.

Remembrances may be made to Evergreen Community Hospice, the Log House Museum and Alki Congregational Church.

Among those who have made donations to the Museum in his memory are **Colleen and Al Gawle, Joyce Entus, Chuck Stahl, Nancy Viney, James and Lanaya Barnes, John and Mary Barnes, Elizabeth J. Feitner, Betty Winter, Eileen Elliot, Virginia and Bob Loving, Dean and Jeanne Straub, Jim and Lenore Minstrel,**

Ruth Afflack, Lou Ann Gaeddert, Ken and Jean Lewis, Clinton and Ida Betz, Dick and Delores Barnecut, Betty McClintock and King and Camille Peters.

Based on these donations, Doug's name will be added to the Courtyard Commemorative Circle this spring.

Gifts help sustain Museum programs

Three founding members have shown their support of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society with monetary donations, and another donor has made a gift in honor of friends.

JoAn Schmitz Fulton, a lifetime resident of West Seattle and life member of SWSHS, and **Elliott and Erma Couden**, founders (Members No. 1 and 2) of the Society, gave generously.

JoAn is a contributor to "West Seattle Memories - Alki" and a participant in the Long-Timers' group. She can be seen in the mural on the north side of Washington Mutual Bank on Oregon Street, the tall, slim blonde in Miss Chilberg's class on Banking Day. In addition to her historical pursuits, she's active in West

Seattle art and garden clubs.

The Coudens are longtime West Seattle residents and community activists. Both are retired. Elliott served as president and membership secretary of the Board.

The third gift was from **Joyce Entus**, given expressly for the Log House Museum in honor of the wedding anniversary of **Kathryn and Jerry Kingen**.

In addition, **Mary Lou Richardson** has boosted her membership to the \$1,000 level.

These gifts help keep the Log House Museum open for its educational programs to the community and students from all over the Seattle area.

Log House Museum celebrate Old Fashion Christmas



The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, and the sounds of Christmas were in the air. Mrs. Claus greeted visitors, after the elves from the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art made a visit to display dolls and toys from days gone by.

This was the first holiday fundraiser for the Museum, and it raised nearly \$3,000 for the educational programs.

The holiday exhibit was conceived and developed by **Kathy Kingen** and spearheaded by Kathy and Museum Director **Pat Filer**. It brought many new faces to the museum, as well as young volunteers who greeted hundreds of visitors.



Kathy Kingen and a friend inspect the dolls and toys on display at the Log House Museum in December.



From far left: The Log House takes on a holiday glow, with extra evening hours lighting up the windows. Lee Johnson is Mrs. Claus. Board member Marcy Johnsen greets visitors to the house where she grew up.



Toys from the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art fill the display cases at the Log House Museum.

The choir of Holy Rosary School, led by Janet Mudge, offered traditional carols the night the Christmas Ship came to Alki.



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Houses are like people...

With the right tools, you can dig up your old home's past

By ANN HOLIDAY

Ever seen those old photos of buildings, with huge white writing scrawled across them, usually telling where the picture was taken?

They were a make-work project in the Depression-era days of the Works Progress Administration. Assessors were hired to take photos of buildings to attach to property record cards.

Those photos ended up in the Washington State Archives, where they have become a valuable tool in researching old buildings, neighborhoods and houses.

They're one of many tools described by **Leonard Garfield**, director of the Museum of History and Industry, in his talk at the November installment of the Log House Museum Speaker Series.

Buildings are like people, Garfield said. They have both a physical presence, marked by architectural details and construction, and a personality, shaped by the people who built, lived in and changed them. To get a true view of the history of a house, both aspects need to be studied.

Among the resources Garfield discussed for digging into a house's past are:

The Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Regional Branch, at Bellevue Community College. It contains the King County Assessor's Property Records (PR) Cards, which tell when a building was constructed, sometimes by whom and with what materials. They may have photographs. Tax cards available at the archives may list those who were responsible for taxes on the property.

The Museum of History and Industry and Special Collections at the University of Washington. Both have collections of photos and other information.

City of Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use. Blueprints for permitted commercial buildings and apartment houses and for residences permitted after 1970 are available here, some on microfilm.

City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. The Urban Conservation Division has information about historic districts and designated Seattle landmarks.

King County Archives. Look for local historical maps, plat maps from 1853 to the present and community planning information.

The Seattle Public Library. Here one can find copies of insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company every 5 years from the 1890s through World War II, copies of the US Census (also available at the National Archives at Sand Point) and copies of the annual City Directory. The color-coded Sanborn maps tell number of stories, use, foundation, building materials and placement of buildings on the property.

To use these resources, it is advisable first to order the King County Assessor's property record card from the Archives and building permits from the city. These will tell the legal identification of the property. Since street names and numbering systems change, street addresses are not permanent. But every property has legal identifications such as tax number, lot, block and plat descriptions and parcel numbers.

With these identifications, one can then look up changes in the property by comparing historic maps and tax records. The maps may show when the property was improved, and tax maps give a hint as to house's date by noting large increases in the assessed value of the property.

[see GARFIELD, page 9]

Long-Timers do it again

Not content to take a break, the Log House Museum Long-Timers' Group is embarking on a new Memory Book project on West Seattle businesses.

They're hoping to create a book similar to the Alki Memories book by collecting stories about West Seattle businesses, their inventories or services, their owners, proprietors or employees.

They're looking for people's memories of special visits to certain businesses, special things that were purchased there and special people who worked at each business. They're also looking for photos, documents, certificates, letterhead, old advertisements, receipts and other documents to accompany the stories. These memorabilia can be scanned into the SWSHS collections for use in this book about the heartbeat of the community — the businesses. Even old matchbooks covers, buttons, calendars, pencils, other items which carry advertisements can be included.

The Long-Timers will again use the workbook approach to gather stories, as it can reach a wider audience and give people time to respond to the questions in the privacy of their homes or at informal get-togethers. The Long-Timers meet the third Thursday each month at 1 p.m. at the Log House Museum (except in April of this year). Call 935-0614 for more information.

Unlock clues in records, libraries

[continued from page 8]

Check the census. It can tell you who lived there, their ages and the property value.

Then go to other resources – the City Directories, which since 1938 have included a reverse directory showing who lived at a given address; neighborhood histories; heirs of building occupants; neighborhood old-timers; and longtime residents.

Old newspapers can be another source of information. Both the UW Library and the Seattle Public Library have indexes to newspapers, which could help you find out more about the people who molded the personality of your house.

Note: Most of the offices listed should be called ahead to make arrangements to use their resources.

Speakers add sparkle to holiday season

Piece by historic piece, **Mitzi Flick** of the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art toured the "Old Fashioned Holidays at the Log House" exhibit and shared her knowledge of the dolls, bears, Santas and toys.

As the December speaker in the Museum's monthly speaker series, she told a little about each of the objects on display. The dolls and toys were on loan from the Whyel Museum and most dated from the turn of the century, when the Log House was built.

December brought several other speakers to celebrate the holidays. **Lucy** and **Emily Hogan** dressed as pioneer mother and daughter, told stories and conducted a workshop on barley doll making that attracted more than 100 visitors.

Rodger Fernandez, Native American storyteller, enraptured his listeners with stories and drums. **Debbie Demitri** told favorite stories of the holidays, both historical and fictional.

Glori Pfeif heads board

Gloria Pfeif, who headed the successful first phase of the Oral History video project, was rewarded for her efforts by being elected President of the West Seattle Historical Society at its annual meeting Nov. 13.

She is Group Program Manager for Microsoft Developers Network, with responsibility for product development and release on CD, DVD and the Internet. Other new Board members also were elected at that meeting:



Gloria Pfeif

Shirley Tupper has lived most of her life in West Seattle, and is a trained facilitator with the Seattle School District. She is president of both the West Seattle High and Madison Middle school site councils and is heavily involved in technology at both schools. She is the financial secretary at West Side Presbyterian Church.

James Rasmussen chairs a committee of the Tribal Council of the Duwamish Tribe. He is a direct descendant of the tribal medicine man, "Doctor Jack." He is featured in the film, "Alki, the Birthplace of Seattle," for which he wrote and performed the musical score. He coaches the Franklin High School Jazz Band, leads "The Jazz Police" and operates Bud's Jazz Records.

JonLee Joseph, a professional trained oral historian for the past five years and a storyteller for 26, is a West Seattle native. Her mother,

Betsy Detroit, is from pioneer family that came into the Okanogan by covered wagon.

Lee Johnson is from a West Seattle family. Her background is in marketing, event planning, publicity and writing.

Kevin Burroughs, former Microsoft employee, is a computer consultant. He couldn't say "no" to board member Julie Furlong when she asked him to install the Museum's computers,

and she said "yes" when he asked her to marry him.

BJ Bullert is a filmmaker and videographer well known to the Society for her award-winning documentary on West Seattle composer Earl Robinson. She produced "Alki, the Birthplace of Seattle," the popular video that was the centerpiece of the Museum's opening exhibit, and is collaborating with the Society on the Chief Seattle documentary due to premiere in June as part of the next exhibit. She spent the fall on a fellowship at Harvard.

Ralph Anderson, an architect who was instrumental in preserving Pioneer Square, has settled in West Seattle after living here off and on since 1961. His Wife, Shirley, is a WSHS graduate. He founded Anderson, Kirk and Smith Architects and is a design consultant to his firm and works with his son Ross Anderson.

Endolyne sign added to collections

"End o' line!" the conductor called out when the streetcar reached the end of the line near Southwest Roxbury Street and 46th Avenue Southwest.

The area came to be called Endolyne. In 1907, a sign acknowledging Endolyne hung above a path that led down to the beach cottages along the shore.

Karl and Maxine Wahlborg found the sign in their garage when they moved into their home in 1940. They recently donated the refurbished sign to the Museum, where it is on display.

Melissa Hagen has joined the Collections team to help identify and archive the textile collections. Melissa collects authentic old clothing and accessories and has extensive knowledge about the history of clothing and preservation of fabrics.

The museum's collections can now be shown in a large climate-controlled case, approved in a King County facilities grant.

Delivered after Thanksgiving, it was filled with toys for the Christmas exhibit and now holds the swimsuits from the Alki exhibit.

Volunteer of the Quarter
*John Kelly's
Thursdays
get archives
in order*

Since the Log House Museum opened in 1997, **John** and **Jackie Kelley** have spent a few hours there almost every Thursday cataloging material that's been donated to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

"We're about halfway through the raw material that **Clay (Eals)** and **Brad (Chrisman)** worked gathering to put together the 'West Side Story.'" John Kelly said. "That has been enlightening as we've gone through it in reasonable detail to find many things."

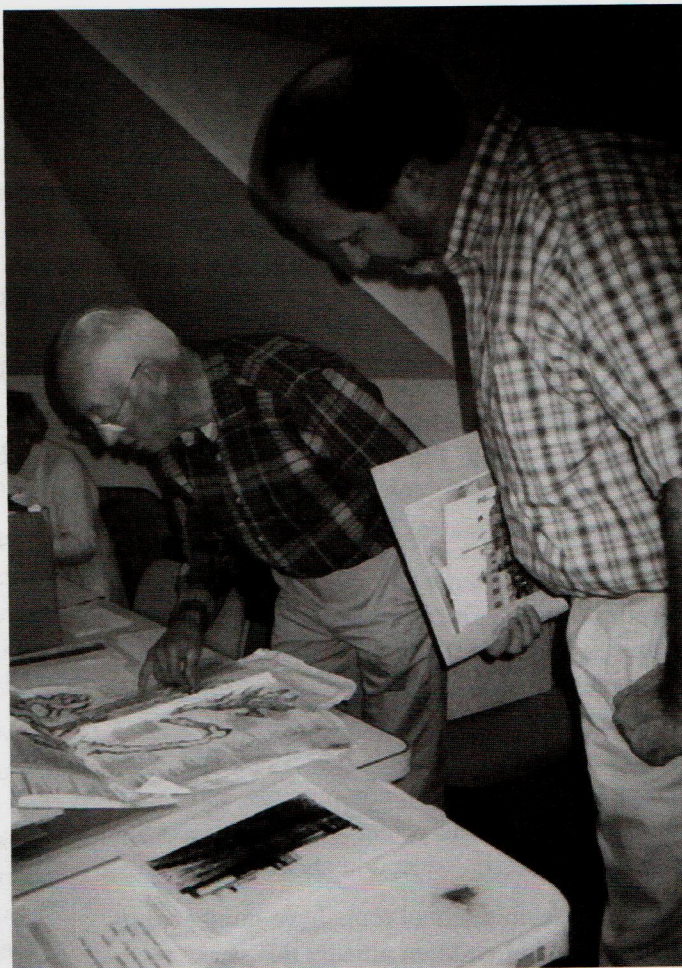
Kelly has a special interest in going through the archives. He's looking for information on two of his great passions – the waterfront and the work of his architect father.

In their research, the Kellys have come across some clippings from the West Seattle Herald in the 1920s concerning the building of the Fauntleroy YMCA.

"My father was one of the architects," he said. "That reminded me, so I did some research in that area."

As he studies clippings and other documents, he's also looking for information on the earliest sawmill on Duwamish Head. Through a friend, he located it on an early navigational chart. In addition, a picture in "West Side Story" shows steam coming up from a sawmill at Duwamish Head, to the south of the spot where Luna Park would later be built. He's also looking for information about a sawmill that once stood near Lincoln Park.

"It's all very stimulating, because I kind of undertook to watch for anything that had to do with a maritime theme around the West Seattle



John Kelly and Bob Carney, who works with photographs, inspect new acquisitions in the archives.

shores — sawmills, codfish plants, piers used long ago that don't exist any more," Kelly said. "It's been very interesting."

The Kellys, with the help of other volunteers, are still cataloging the material that has been donated, including papers of Normie Beers, whose collection of historical materials inspired the West Seattle Herald to take on the "West Side Story" project, and Ted Best, who was a city councilman.

"We keep receiving more things, Kelly said. "We try to get them properly listed. In the closet where we have most of our archival materials, we're still getting things divided into numbered boxes so we know where to find it."

He's hoping modern technology will make the job easier.

"We still don't have a computerized system for getting things indexed," he said. "Information pertaining to particular subjects is spread out among many collections. All we need is the computer and program or money to buy them."

Council's help sought

The Metropolitan King County Council has included \$100,000 in the county's budget for Heritage Sustained Support. Now the process of applying for some of those funds begins.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this quarter's Footprints:
Carol Vincent
Pat Filer
Arlene Wade
Gloria Pfeif
Joan Mraz
JonLee Joseph
Marcy Johnsen
Merrilee Hagen
John Kelly
Kathy Kingen
— *Ann Holiday,*
editor

The King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission will accept written testimony until Feb. 18. Comments may be mailed to the King County Office of Cultural Resources, 506 Second Ave., Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98104-2307, faxed to (206) 296-8629, or e-mailed to charles.peyton@metrokc.gov.

SWSHS has been well represented at the meetings and hearings. Most recently, **Marcy Johnsen** and **Arlene Wade** testified regarding the monetary needs of the Log House Museum. They reminded the Commission that the Museum's prime mission is preserving and telling the history of our communities and ancestors, and giving young people the opportunity for a hands-on education about the past.

The Museum's school tours have numbered in the hundreds of children already this year. Museums like ours, they told the commission, need to have sustaining funds to keep operations running smoothly.

Museum Director **Pat Filer** and SWSHS members **Joan Mraz**, **Joey Richesson**, **Peggy Fox** and **JohnLee Joseph** also attended meetings. Pat, Joan and Marcy appeared before the County Council twice late last year to encourage it to include sustaining funds for heritage organizations in their budget for this year.

Councilmember **Greg Nickels** argued long and hard to keep funding available for the Heritage Foundation.

Meanwhile, another request has been made for capital funding from the state so we can upgrade the electrical system, install adequate outdoor lighting, and help fund the coming exhibit "Spirits of the Past."

SWSHS needs to make sure the area legislators are aware of its needs and can support this request. Members may help by making calls or sending e-mails to:

Sen. Mike Heavey, (360) 786-7667
[heavey_mi@leg.wa.gov]

Rep. Dow Constantine, (360) 786-7952
[constant_do@leg.wa.gov]

Rep. Erik Poulsen, (360) 786-7938
[poulsen_er@leg.wa.gov]

FOOTPRINTS

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