

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXXIV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2000



Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

Suquamish Traditional Dance Group performs at opening of new exhibit.

The Spirit Returns

Pioneer and Duwamish histories come together in "The Spirit Returns," the current exhibit at the Log House Museum. The show brings together artifacts on loan from both pioneer and native families to show how the two groups influenced each other and changed each other's future.

The exhibit opened November 13 with speeches and Northwest tribes entertainment. It

coincided with the 149th anniversary of the landing of the Denny Party on the shores at what would become Alki. That event marked the founding of Seattle. Among the objects on exhibit is a model of the *Exact*, the schooner that dropped the pioneers off that November day. The model is on loan from the Puget Sound

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Save the Admiral!

History threatens to repeat

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

One of SWSHS's main 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

Current exhibit:
"The Spirit Returns"

Now is the time to come to the aid of the Admiral Theatre, whose city landmark status SWSHS championed and won 12 years ago.

The threat now is not from any proposed sale and demolition, as in 1989. Rather, the problem is more insidious — a decline in business prompted by the elimination of a parking lot across the street from the 1942-era movie house.

Admiral Heights, an assisted living facility, has taken shape on the property that used to have a small bank building and a large parking lot. Until this past year, the lot was used in the daytime by customers of the bank and other Admiral businesses and at night by Admiral Theatre patrons.

However, when the bank property was sold to the developer of the assisted living facility, the parking lot's days were numbered. Neighborhood leaders worked hard to persuade the Seattle City Council to participate in an extra public/private floor of parking beneath the assisted living facility. But the council, on a split vote, opted out, and the extra floor of parking was gone with the wind.

Or so it seemed. Recently, the Admiral Theatre's owner Marc Gartin said he will finance the construction of a below-ground floor of public parking as part of a retail/residential complex that he plans to build on property behind Admiral Heights and across 42nd Avenue Southwest from Admiral Thriftway.

That's great news, and those who love the theater can only hope it's not too late.

Meanwhile, Admiral Heights has opened, and Admiral Theatre attendance is down markedly. Weekday shows at the 9 p.m. hour have been eliminated. If the trend continues, the theater's financial viability will be at stake.

What can we do? First, vote with our feet and be good neighborhood theater patrons! Support the only movie house between downtown and the airport by resisting the temptation to see first-run films elsewhere and by waiting a couple of months for them to arrive at the Admiral. Also, get out of the video-rental habit (no need to worry about Blockbuster's survival) and enjoy films on the big screen as they're meant to be seen. The Admiral's \$3 admission is still a big bargain.

Second, write or e-mail the city council, asking for help with the Admiral parking crunch. Even with Gartin's generous plan, city government should not turn its back on the situation. Remind the council that the city made an investment in the neighborhood by landmarking the theater in 1989 and that now is not the time to let the catalyst of the business district wither away.

Third, read the West Seattle Herald and stay tuned to other media to keep in touch with the latest news. At stake is our history and sense of community.

— *Clay Eals*

Calendar

Saturday, March 3 -- Documentary video production workshop with Lynn Shelton, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Museum of History & Industry, Washington Commission for the Humanities, MoHAI, SWSHS sponsors. \$40 members, \$50 others. Registration: (206) 682-1770.

Thursday, March 1 -- SWSHS Board, 6:30 p.m., South Seattle Community College

Thursday, March 8 -- Speaker Series

Thursday, March 15 -- Long-Timer meeting, 1 p.m.

Thursday, March 24 -- Home Tour committee, 10 a.m., Log House Museum

Thursday, April 5 -- SWSHS Board, 6:30 p.m., South Seattle Community College

Thursday, April 12 -- Speaker Series

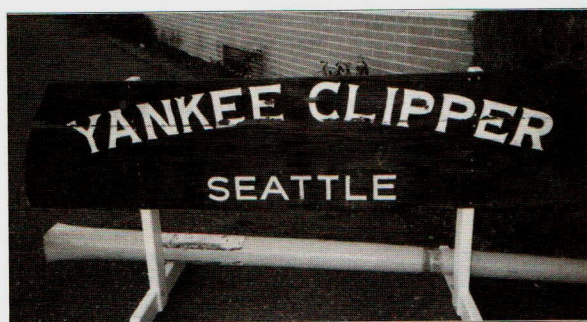
Thursday, April 19 -- Long-Timer meeting, 1 p.m.

70 years of Sea Scouts

Memories and memorabilia gathered at Our Lady of Guadalupe School recently for the 70th anniversary of the Yankee Clipper, West Seattle's own Sea Scout troop. Members from as early as the 1930s to the present gathered to swap memories, such as the not-quite-authorized trip up the Inside Passage to Alaska in 1932.



Jackie and John Kelly and Chelsea McNeil, Elysia Anderson, Micah Herst.



Photos by Joan Mraz

Yankee Clipper's old bowsprit and transom greeted present and former crew members to the reunion.

Scouting memories are sought

Following the success of the "Alki" and "Southwest Seattle Business" Memory Book projects, a third memory workbook has been designed to capture the memories of Boy Scouts of the Southwest Seattle area.

A core group of vintage Scouts led by the Rev. **Michael Bruce Johnson** helped design and develop the workbook so relevant and thought-provoking questions were included. Copies are available at the Log House Museum.

The committee is looking for participants to share their stories. Also, photos, documents, certificates, and other memorabilia are being sought to scan into the computer for use in the

Participants in the program, which has included girls since the mid-1980s, sail their own boat. It's had several boats, and for the past 50 years, the Yankee Clipper has been a 44-foot ketch. Recent projects have included environmental cruises in Puget Sound.

Sea Scouts from the Yankee Clipper have gone on to marine careers. Among the 400 names on the mailing list are those of admirals, naval architects, Coast Guard officers and other seafarers.

SWSHS President Joan Mraz presented a certificate of congratulations to the Yankee Clipper, official Tall Ship of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

resulting projects. SWSHS and the Log House Museum plan to use the information gleaned from this project to produce a traveling exhibit, the first of two required for the museum to be accredited.

If funding permits, a Boy Scout Memory Book will be published in February 2002 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the placement of the Statue of Liberty at Alki.

Funding of the workbook was raised by the Boy Scout Memory Book committee and by the 2000 King County Sesquicentennial Sustained Support Program. Those interested in the project may call (206) 938-5293.

Thanks ...
To all who
contributed to
this issue of
Footprints,
including

Deborah
Mendenhall

Joan Mraz

Pat Filer

Carol Vincent

Merrilee Hagen

JonLee Joseph

Lynne

Swindlehurst

-- Ann Holiday
Editor

Founder bequeaths \$50,000

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society has received a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of **Erma Erickson** with this letter from her niece, **Gaye Verree Hunt**:

My Aunt Erma and Uncle Chris were not born of wealth nor holders of high paying jobs. They were just ordinary working people. Frugal people, products of the Great Depression and two Great World Wars. They know what hard work meant. They worked with horses in field and forest; and in time, to the city where they commuted by bus. They did not own a car or drive until they were retired. They knew deprivation but hoped for a better world and were true to their convictions to make it so. It was their strong social conscience that brings this money to you. Please use it wisely.

Sincerely,

Gaye Verree Hunt

“Erma and **Chris Erickson** were among the first ten founding members of the Southwest Seattle Society,” recalls **Elliott Couden**, Society founder, who knew them well. “They

were quiet folks. They lived in the White Center area and were strong supporters of the idea of establishing an historical society to preserve the history of the area.” Erma often came to Historical Society events, one of the three Ermas, as they were called, including **Erma Couden** and **Erma Schwartz**.

In 1992 Mrs. Erickson gave \$5,000 to the campaign to raise money to purchase the log house and last year SWSHS received \$26,000 from her estate, which helped with the operating expenses of the Log House Museum.

This latest bequest has been placed in a money market account while the Financial/Budget Committee looks into establishing an endowment fund for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society as a lasting memorial to Chris and Erma Erickson and future donors.

“We are very appreciative of this bequest and feel the establishment of an endowment would be a way to ‘please use it wisely,’” Said SWSHS president **Joan Mraz**.

*The cedar vest was amazingly cool. We had fun and enjoyed it. The stuff there was really neat. And thanks for the free post card. Sincerely,
Amy*

Sustaining drive raises \$8,645

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society thanks the following people who so generously donated a total of \$8,645 to the Log House Museum’s Fall Sustaining Fund Campaign:

\$2,000 – JoAn Schmitz Fulton

\$1,000 – Nancy Alvord, Fred and Marge Dau (includes match)

\$500 – Constance H. Ross, Judy Pigott Swenson

\$250 – Nels Ekroth, Dave Le Clercq

\$100 – Ralph and Shirley Anderson, John W. Bennett, Sr., Ronald Champoux, Jerry A. Costacos, Clay Eals and Meg Bakken, Warren and Sally Jewell, John and Dorothy Kaloper, Floyd and Emma Madsen, Andy and Doris Nelson, Ken and Donna Olsen, Ann Owchar, Mary Lou Richardson, Joyce and Jim Riley, Carol and Charlie Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. William Ward,

Walter B. Williams, Bernard Wittman, Patricia O. Wright

Under \$100 – Mrs. Claire Berry, Jeanne Bluechel, Lucille Bullert, Barbara Couden-Ochs, Betsy Detroit, Martin and Ann Dirks, Dick and Arlene Kennedy, Joan Mraz, David and Dolores Meik, Bill & Margaret Neudorfer, Eilert and Virginia Prestegaard, Richard and Vanetta Warren, Norm and Audrey Zemke, Gayle Anderson, Barbara Buck, John Constantine, Peggy Cullor, Gary and Ann Dawson, Natalie P. Earnest, Ellen L. Ferguson, Margaret Fox, Betty Hall, Verda Hansberry, Carl Hossman, Jr., Beth McAdams, G.S. Robinson, Nancy Siebold, Elsie C. Sundberg, Wade Tyler, Nancy Viney, Virginia A. Vinton, Patricia J. Williams, Theda Brentson, Robert Day, Ardath M. Karr, Erna S. Albert, Dorothy Burgess, Jerome D. Rowland, Helen Baker and Stacy St. John, Ray and Irene Hinderlie, Lenora Skoog.

Grant effects felt at Log House

The effects of state and county grants are being felt within the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

With the \$75,000 Capital Improvements Grant from the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and the leadership of SWSHS member **John Bennett**, the Log House Museum is getting some much-needed upgrades and repairs.

C&R Electric has begun installing energy-efficient lighting both inside and outside the building, and Leavengood Architects has been contracted to draw up plans for structural repairs to shore up the second floor.

In the spring when the weather improves, the building will be pressure-washed and painted. Grant funds also were used for the design and installation of the current exhibit, "The Spirit Returns," and to help finish the documentary film "Chief Seattle" by **BJ Bullert**.

Finance committee members **Joan Mraz, Patricia**



Photo by Joan Mraz

Robert Connolly, service manager of Modern Communications Systems, works on the new telephone system, made possible by the state Capital Grant.

*Thank you for telling us the stories about how people took care of their covered wagons. The oxcart jack was truly cool...
Matt*



Photo by Joan Mraz

Rick Nicholson of C&R Electric works on upgrading the exterior lighting, a project of the state Capital Grant.

Filer, Lee Johnson, Lynn Swindlehurst and **Bennett** are managing the grant expenditures. John is overseeing the contractors and bidding process.

Grant money from the King County Sesquicentennial Sustained Support Program championed by County Councilman **Greg Nickels** was used to supplement existing programs at the Log House Museum, including the Speaker Series, collections and heritage education. Educational pamphlets and postcards supporting the current exhibit "The Spirit Returns" were designed, written and produced for school children involved in the school tours programs and for heritage education research projects.

The grant also provided funds for some landscape maintenance and bookkeeping and it purchased specialized computer software designed for small museums to identify, document and record their collections. This will provide professional archiving capabilities to the current collections procedures.

Pioneer, Duwamish descen

[Continued from front page]

Maritime Heritage Society.

Also to be seen through November are:

Longhouse Pole – on loan from **Greg Watson**,
created by **Roger Fernandes**

Cat Tail mats, small baskets, family photos,
cedar bark vest – **Mary Lou Slaughter**

Trade beads, Basket collection, Tool collection
– adz, mat creasers, fishing point – dog hair
blanket, family photos – **Myron Overacker
Family**

Small basket, scarper – **Merrilee Hagen**

*We enjoyed the
interesting
stories you
shared. We
knew that the
Low's stayed at
Alki because
we read it in
our book.*

*I liked
everything but
most of all, I
liked Mr.
Boren's
toothpick.
Sincerely,
Toshio*



Lorelle Sian-Chin and Cecile Hansen

Chief Seattle Hat and Princess Angeline's
carrying strap – on loan from **Joe and
Tammy James** (Ye Olde Curiosity Shop)

Fish hook, berry baskets, small paddles, small
canoe model – **Chet Blackington**

Model of *Exact* – **Puget Sound Maritime
Historical Society**

Flat Iron – **Jacqueline Carey Kelly**

Sextant – **John Kelly**

Duwamish carved whale – **Dwuamish Tribe**

Pioneer Bonnet – **Daughters of the Pioneers**

Portrait of John and Lydia Low, pioneer
shaving kit, trade beads in woven basket –



Patricia Ely, left, and her sister, Mary Holmes, right, keep warm

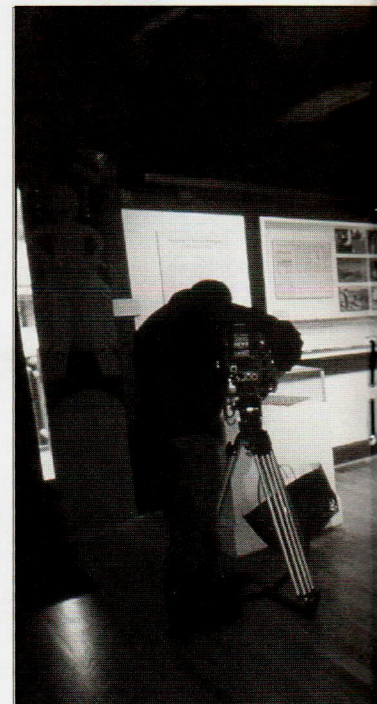
Pioneer Association of the State of Washington
Heirloom Low family Quilt, fancy wool jacket, hand
mirror and hair pin bowl – **Ruth Moore**
Low Family Bible, Poetry Book, handkerchief –
Valerie Bruns

Bell Family Oregon Trail artifacts (wooden water
bucket and dipper, oxcart jack, grease bowl); Tuxedo
and top hat, feather
fan – **Gary Gaffner**

Boren family artifacts –
Carsen Boren's
porcupine
toothpick,
arrowheads –
Jessie Cochran

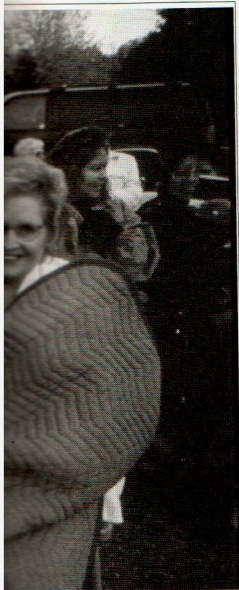
Doc Maynard's
medical tools,
Sweetbriar china,
camera, 1850's log
house building
tools, Photos –
**Museum of
History and
Industry**

Artifacts from
archaeological dig –



Cameraman films exhibit for the e

dants



with a friend.

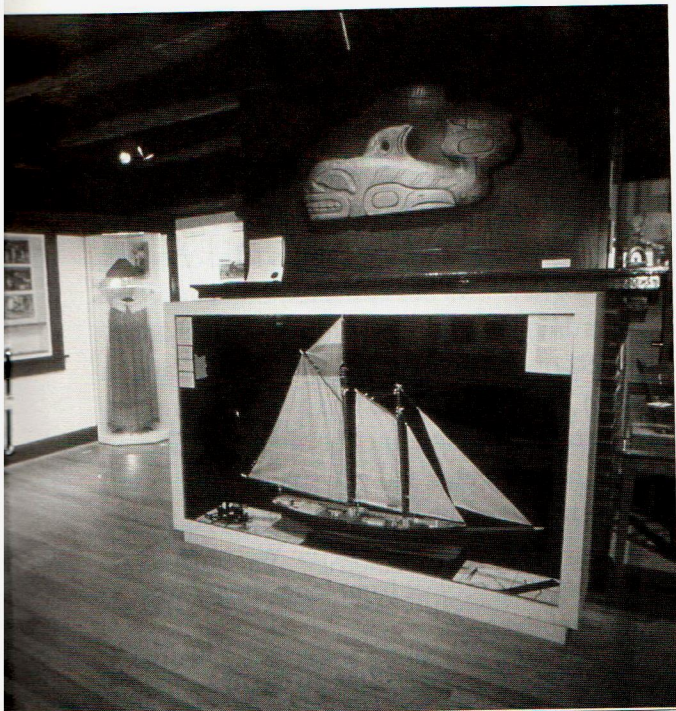
Photos by
Deborah
Mendenhall



Members and friends take a first look at the exhibit after opening ceremony.



Killer whale, Duwamish crest,
by Tlingit carver Abner Johnson



evening news.

Thanks for showing us around the Log Cabin Museum. I'm going to ask my mom if I can come to the Museum again. You have taught me a lot of new things that I didn't know. Thanks, John

Port of Seattle through the **Burke Museum**

- Large paddle and bird rattle – **Ralph Anderson**
- Cedar bark cape – **Vi Hilbert**
- Ox Yoke – **Martin Smith**

The artifacts help bring alive the story of Seattle's first people for the school groups that traditionally visit after the Christmas holidays. One of the traditions of school tours is that each child is allowed to choose a gift from the Gift Shop – a postcard or bookmark.

To commemorate "The Spirit Returns" exhibit, a new set of post cards has been designed, based on artifacts or stories about the Duwamish and the pioneers. On the back each says "Our class visited the Log House Museum today," and, says Museum Director Pat Filer, they're ready to be mailed to Grandma!

Also new for the exhibit is a set of six flipbooks for school projects. They can be purchased for \$1 each, or \$5 for the set. The post cards also are available for purchase. All proceeds support the Museum's heritage education program.

"The Spirit Returns" will remain on view until November.

'Chief Seattle' to be at SAM

As usual, we thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Alki and the Log House Museum. Your new exhibit is exceptional! We always love to hear your stories – I'm waiting to hear you on NPR (maybe you have already been interviewed!) Sincerely, 3rd grade teacher at Shoreline

A special showing of "Chief Seattle," **BJ Bullert**'s latest documentary film, followed by a panel discussion, will take place March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Seattle Art Museum.

"Chief Seattle" tells of Chief Seattle, an eloquent leader, and of the difficult history he and his people endured. Following the screening, Dr. Bullert will lead a brief discussion with **Cecile Hansen**, a Duwamish descendant of Chief Seattle, Duwamish council member **James Rasmussen** and historians **David Buerge** and **Alexandra Harmon**.

The film, sponsored by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, is available for viewing in the Log House Museum video viewing room during Museum hours and is for sale in the Gift Shop. KCTS Channel 9 will air "Chief Seattle" in prime time on Saturday, March 31, at 8 p.m.

The SAM showing and panel discussion are

BIA recognizes Duwamish as tribe

After years of thwarted attempts to be recognized by the federal government, the Duwamish Tribe is about to get the nod from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The BIA announced in January that it was reversing a 1996 decision not to recognize the tribe, which has been seeking recognition since 1977. The BIA said the new decision was based on evidence it had in 1996 plus information received after that.

The 560-member tribe will be known as the Duwamish of Renton. Its members are descendants of the tribe that met the first settlers at Alki in 1851.

"Our immediate focus is to build our cultural center - a traditional long house on the **Duwamish River**," tribal chairman **Cecile Hansen** told the Associated Press.

co-sponsored by the Native American Arts Group. It will be held in the Nordstrom Lecture Hall of the downtown museum. For tickets, call the SAM ticket office at (206) 654-3121 Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other documentaries produced by Bullert and sponsored by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society are "Earl Robinson, Ballad of an American," "Alki, Birthplace of Seattle" and stories on Duwamish life by Professor Kenneth Tollefson.

Bullert, Hansen and Rasmussen are members of the SWSHS and James serves on the Board of Trustees.

Luna Park lives in new book

All Aboard for Luna Park, a short history of West Seattle's turn-of-the-(last)-century amusement park, is on the shelves at the Gift Shop.

The small book was funded by a private donation from the John Bennett family. Researched, designed and published by Museum Director **Pat Filer** and **Cathy Fulton** of Capturing Memories, it was presented at the October speaker series.

All Aboard for Luna Park was a labor of love for Filer, who has collected Luna Park postcards and memorabilia for 20 years. **John Bennett** owns and operates Luna Park Café on Avalon Way and also has had a keen interest in the nostalgia surrounding the old park. The book's many photos and newspaper articles tell about Luna Park, its heyday and its demise, as do recollections collected in the West Seattle Memory Book project from long-timers who remember the park.

Proceeds from book sales go to the operations of the Museum.



Photo by Joan Mraz

A class of third-graders from a Shoreline elementary school gives full attention to a talk about "The Spirit Returns." The Shoreline schools send all their third-grade classes to the Log House Museum each winter. 'It is an important mission of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society to provide innovative and challenging educational opportunities for our community's youth, and the school tour program is achieving that,' says Museum Director Pat Filer.

Decor straight from the past

The Log House Museum's Christmas decorations were straight from the past in December.

Stories passed down in the Low family, one of the original Alki settler families, tell of a garland made of purple tissue paper, which had been stuffed into the toes of shoes for the trip on the Oregon Trail.

Katy Kingen, daughter of Christmas chair **Kathy Kingen**, made a garland like the one described for the Christmas tree placed in the Pioneer Section of the "Spirit Returns" exhibit. Katy also strung popcorn, cranberries and snow apple into garlands for the trees, as described in other family histories.

Outside, evergreen garland donated by the South Seattle Community College Floristry Department, along with red bows and white

icicle lights, added to the holiday spirit. More evergreen boughs adorned the plate rails and fireplace mantel indoors. **Michael Prihoda**, former SWSHS trustee, heads the Floristry Department.

Speakers programs with **Roger Fernandes** and **Debbi Dimitri** were attended by 25 to 30 visitors each.

The barley doll workshop ended up with barley and fabric scraps scattered around the room – evidence that the 28 participants had a wild and fun time. **Lucy** and **Emily Hogan**, the barley doll workshop teachers, donated all profits from the workshop materials fees to the Museum (\$48).

Kathy Kingen purchased some seasonal inventory for the gift shop and donated the cost of those purchases to the Museum.

*Thanks for the free post card. I decided to keep it for the memory. I loved your artifacts. I can't believe the quilt was treated so carefully. I loved the stories. Sincerely, Julia
P.S. I learned a lot!*

Collections needs old cotton

Museum Collections is looking for donations of old 100% cotton sheets for encasing clothing, and making garment bags for storage.

Collections volunteers are putting an archival storage plan into action. With a King County Heritage Commission grant for special collections storage equipment, Room 25 at South Seattle Community College is ready for occupancy. **Mary Jo White** of the Resource Center and other SSCC personnel made this happen. The SSCC site will serve as auxiliary archives, and long-term plans include a research link with SSCC's Resource Center.

Computers, purchased with the recent State Capital Grant, are now in place at the Museum. A specially designed software program will

Sesquicentennial ideas blossom

*My favorite exhibit was Doc Maynard's tool kit. I liked the story about him and the Low baby's birth. I also liked the old camera. I had no ideas cameras existed back then!
Peter*

A mural and a re-enactment are among the activities proposed to mark the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the landing of the area's first European-American settlers Nov. 12, 1851.

At a recent brainstorming meeting artist **Diana Fairbanks** described plans for a mural depicting the landing at Alki and Museum volunteer **Penny Earnest** suggested adding a bronze plaque to the Landing Monument to list the names of the women in the original landing party – now listed only as “and wife.”

The re-enactment of the landing would feature the Sea Scouts' ship “Yankee Clipper” as the “Exact,” the schooner that brought the first settlers. A bike/car tour map marking and describing historic sites also was proposed at the meeting organized by the Alki Community Council and SWSHS.

Celebrations, events and projects are being planned citywide, and grants are available for worthy projects. Plans and development of ideas must be start soon to take advantage of the grants. Anyone interested may call the Log House Museum at (206) 938-5293.

enable the tracking of the Log House Museum collections. University of Washington Museum Studies Program intern **Thea Bloomfield** will train staff this spring in the use of the Past Perfect software as her practicum for the course. **Carol Vincent** has been taking the Collections Management Course in the Museum Studies Program to assure that the SWSHS's Log House Museum follows standard criteria for collections care.

A special thanks to Carol and to **John and Jackie Kelly, Robert Carney and Don Kelstrom** for all their hard work with the Collections Every Thursday afternoon, they gather to process incoming gifts, make plans for storing and preserving the collections and still find time to chat about West Side history.

Volunteers are needed to catalog and care for manuscripts and books and to handle the textile collection. Call the Museum at (206) 938-5293 if you're interested in helping out.

Big and small homes signed for spring tour

A cute Craftsman cottage with a fascinating “Alice in Wonderland” closet in the bedroom and a splendid 10,000-square-foot sea captain's house with widow's walk are among the ten houses lined up for this year's Homes with History Tour 2001.

As is traditional, the tour is the day before Mother's Day, Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., allowing time for the tour and (hint!) lunch at a local restaurant for Mom.

Opening ceremonies will be at the Log House Museum at 9 a.m., with coffee, juice and bagels. Tickets for the tour are \$10 each, and proceeds help support the Museum.

Volunteers who work a three-hour shift as hosts in the homes receive a free ticket. Shifts are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. To volunteer, call **Merrilee Hagen** at (206) 932-0460 or **Carol Vincent** at (206) 937-6744.

Oral History update

The current Oral History Project is nearing completion. All the elders in this round have been interviewed, and filming for the video is about to begin, reports **JonLee Joseph**, project director. **James Rasmussen** will compose the music to go with the video. Here are highlights of an interview.

Teacher Sarah Luch recalled school days

Sarah Luch, who died recently at age 91, was a physical education teacher at Madison Junior High School in West Seattle for many years, retiring in 1971 after 13 years as a counselor. She was interviewed last summer.

I went to college, my first year Washington State College ... the next three years, University of Washington... I did earn a scholarship ... because I was Valedictorian of my class. The scholarship amounted to one semester's free room rent at a dormitory ... \$35!

I graduated in the Physical Ed Department. There were 21 graduates. Two of us out of the 21 got jobs.... Things weren't very prosperous then. I was extremely lucky.

My first teaching job was in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.... After three years there (in 1933), they ... cut out Physical Ed, music and a study hall supervisor. So, I thought, I might as well go back to University and get a master's degree.

... About a week before school started, I got a telegram from the Seattle Education Department.... I came to Seattle and worked in a grade school, teaching Physical Ed.

...I got a contract for the next year... However, my contract was less than that of a man they hired as a shop teacher, right out of college! And he'd had no experience, at all. They hired him and paid him a higher salary!

I thought, "That isn't fair." Because I've had five years of experience, that ought to be worth something! So I went to the Superintendent's office, talked to his secretary, and told her I thought my experience was worth something. She said, "... I'll take it up with the Board." So ... I got a new contract.

A friend of mine had a similar experience.

She went down and complained, and A.C. Pelton, a man who was head of the Physical Ed. Department in the school system, told her if she was unhappy with what she had, she could look elsewhere for a job. So, I thought, "Wasn't I lucky?" I talked to a woman (laughs) instead of a man.

I was at Madison for many, many years ... I think I was there the longest of anybody.

... The Physical Ed. Department put on a pageant, or performance every year. I had about 600 girls. You blew a bugle, and they'd all perform something. Then you'd blow a bugle, and they'd do something else. Or you'd blow a whistle and they'd do something else. So that was a big performance – the Field Day.

... Our school programs were well attended by the West Seattle public. They had great respect for the school, and for the teachers.... Our Christmas program was spectacular. We put it on two days, so everybody could see it. ... Now, Christmas time, (laughs), they get together, and maybe they sing, Jack Frost, or something like that. No mention of Christmas, which is kind of sad.

Author, landscape architect on Speaker Series calendar

Brenda Wilbee, author of the six-book "Sweetbriar" series about Louisa Boren Denny, will present the March Speaker Series program March 8 at 7 p.m..

The series chronicles the life of pioneer Louisa Boren, who left Illinois in the spring of 1851 with the Denny Party to go west on the Oregon Trail and was the first bride in Seattle.

Landscape architect Leslie Galloway who will discuss using native plants in garden or landscaping plans April 12. A second speaker is to talk about local plants in Native American cooking, weaving and ceremonies.

*I loved the hat that Chief Seattle wore. It was funny to hear about Moses getting free ferry rides to trade with the Curiosity Shop because he was special. The picture of Chief Seattle with his eyes closed is really interesting.
Sincerely,
Gina*

A message from the president

Our Business Sponsors:

*Chelan Café
Homestead
Restaurant
Northwest
Art and Frame
Business
owners who
support of the
cultural
heritage of our
region receive
an engraved
plaque to
display in their
place of
business,
recognition in
Footprints and
listing on a
perpetual
plaque to be
placed at the
Log House
Museum.*

Looking ahead to this year and beyond there is much to do. The new board will have a planning retreat to discuss long-range plans on Saturday, March 29, at The Pacific Institute.

For this year our programs are well in place, the Oral History Grant Project is nearing completion, the exhibit "The Spirit Returns" is drawing many new visitors to the museum, the "Chief Seattle" video documentary is available for viewing at the museum, the children's tours are under way, the Heritage Kits are being circulated to grade schools, the lecture series on the second Thursdays is very popular, the Long Timers are meeting regularly on the third Thursdays, and the Collections Committee is cataloging the collection and readying our space at South Seattle Community College for archives.

The state grant funding is being put to good use, and for this spring the architect is drawing plans for shoring up the second floor. Bids are going out for that and exterior painting. The "Homes with History" tour is being planned for May with many beautiful homes scheduled.

We will have our annual summer picnic at the Log House in July, and in August we will participate in the Hi-Yu Parade. Plans are beginning for Founder's Day Nov. 13 and we will have Christmas at the Log House in December.

We have been fortunate with grants this past year to help us sustain our programs. The state Capital Improvements Grant for allowed us to

upgrade the museum and help with the cost of the exhibit, a Department of Neighborhoods grant helped fund part of the Oral History Project, grant money along with contributions supported the video documentary, and a \$3,000 grant from King County was used for staff help and programs.

The operating expenses for the museum, about \$4,000 per month, are something we must bear ourselves through membership dues, contributions, activities such as the home tour, gift shop revenues and fundraisers. We are presently applying to the Seattle Foundation for a grant to help with operating expenses.

The Fall Sustaining Fund Drive brought in over \$8,000, enough for two months' operating expenses for the museum. Warm appreciation and a hearty thanks to all those who participated. (See the list of donors on Page 4.)

Remember, you can give to the museum with your time and talent as well. There are many volunteers who help, and we treasure their time and energy and ideas. We offer our volunteers warm appreciation and hearty thanks as well.

The Society has long planned to establish an endowment fund that would grow and be a source of some stable income. We have received a gift from the estate of **Erma Erickson** that could make this possible. The Board has asked the Finance/Budget Committee to study this and come to the next Board Meeting with some proposals.

-- Joan Mraz, President

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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