

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE XXXXVII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2001

## Seattle's Sesquicentennial

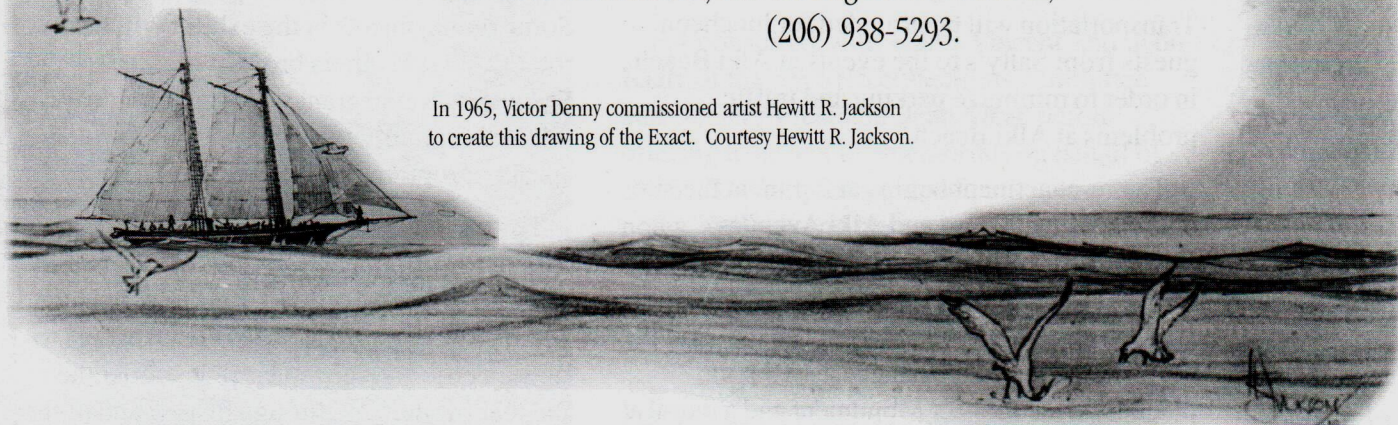
November 13, 2001

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society and Alki Community Council invite you to join us in commemorating Alki's historic role in the development of the city of Seattle.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 11:30 am | Founder's Day Luncheon, Salty's on Alki                             |
| 2:00 pm  | Reenactment of the Landing of the Alki pioneers                     |
| 3:00 pm  | Introduction of Dignitaries and Special Guests                      |
| 3:15 pm  | Unveiling of the Pioneer Monument Plaques and the Alki Market Mural |
| 3:45 pm  | Reception at the Log House Museum                                   |

For more information, call the Log House Museum,  
(206) 938-5293.

In 1965, Victor Denny commissioned artist Hewitt R. Jackson to create this drawing of the Exact. Courtesy Hewitt R. Jackson.



*It's not too late to volunteer to help with Sesquicentennial events!  
Call the Log House Museum to become a part of the celebration.*



## 150 years of history

# *Luncheon revives tradition*

*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

**Current exhibit:**  
"The Spirit Returns"

**Gift Shop:**  
New for the Holidays -- Commemorative afghans! Shop open during Museum hours.

Northwest historian **David Buerge** will recount the early history of Alki and its first inhabitants, the Duwamish Indians, and the first pioneers, the Alki Landing Party, at the Founders' Day Luncheon Nov. 13 at Salty's on Alki.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society is re-establishing the Founders' Day Luncheon tradition, which was begun by the Alki Women's Improvement Club in the early 1930s. Grants from the Mayor's Sesquicentennial Task Force will help with the events of the day.

Pioneer and Native American descendants, as well as historical society members, Pioneer Association members, elected officials, local business leaders and the community at large are invited. (See reservation form on Page 7.)

The *Yankee Clipper*, as the *Exact*, will sail past Salty's on its way to the re-enactment of the landing of the pioneers at Alki Beach.

This will be the first official event of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and Alki Community Council's Sesquicentennial Commemorative Program of Events that day. Transportation will be provided for luncheon guests from Salty's to the events at Alki Beach in order to minimize parking and traffic problems at Alki Beach.

The re-enactment begins at 2 p.m. at the site of the landing at 63rd and Alki Avenues Southwest. It will use the script developed for the 1951 centennial re-enactment and also used at an event staged by SWSHS in 1987. Following the introduction of special guests at 3 p.m., plaques on the Pioneer Monument and a mural at the Alki Market will be unveiled. A reception at the Log House Museum will cap off the day's events.

The mural, by local artist **Diana Fairbanks**, will allow the viewer to get an idea of the relative sizes of three modes of transportation

seen at Alki over the years – the *Exact*, a Native American canoe and a Metro bus. The interior of the *Exact*, which carried 63 persons and all their belongings and supplies on the nine-day voyage from Portland, has been compared in size with the interior of a Metro bus.

The grant will fund the mural and an informational brochure that will be available for visitors. A postcard version of the mural will be a complementary souvenir for guests at the event.

"The Spirit Returns," the Log House Museum's Sesquicentennial exhibit, will remain on view for another year. It was opened the year preceding the actual Sesquicentennial in order to allow time for Museum guests and area school children to learn about and understand the story of the first people of Alki, the Native Americans, and of their interaction with the first settlers.

Since its opening on Nov. 13, 2000, more than 4,400 Museum visitors, including 2,500 school children, have visited the exhibit. It received an Award of Excellence from AKCHO in the exhibit category this past year. Some of the objects in the exhibit will be rotated out and others brought in. The Sesquicentennial grant will help provide for this and for publicity, a web site and related speaker programs and events.

The traveling exhibit project has been adopted by **Bob Carney** and **Don Kelstrom**. They have reserached old West Seattle Herald, Seattle Times, and Seattle P-I newspapers to find specific and relevant articles about the Pioneer Monument through history and of the Centennial events at Alki in 1951.

Artifacts from the Centennial Celebrations at the Pioneer Monument, some of which have not been seen in 50 years, will be displayed at the reception as part of the traveling exhibit.



# Museum adopts memorial artifacts

After the events of September 11 in New York and Washington, Alki's Statue of Liberty became a quiet gathering place, a place for people far from the sites of the terror to leave their expressions of public and personal grief.

As the flowers wilted and wind and dampness began to take a toll on some of the poignant written notes, Log House Museum visitors asked what the Museum planned to do to help conserve the expressions of community grief, anger and support.

Museum Director **Pat Filer** called the Seattle Parks Department, which maintains the site, and **Karen Luetjen**, collections curator at the Museum of History and Industry, who sent her to an Internet chat room to find out about protocol for collecting such expressions.

She got responses from a number of places, including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Columbine High School and Oklahoma City.

Artifacts and notes left at the Vietnam wall are picked up at midnight every night, kept as "lost and found" for 30 days, then considered part of the collection if not claimed.

At Columbine, nothing was saved except through photographs. As time and weather



Photo by Pat Filer

John Kelly begins dismantling the memorial.



Photo by John Loftus

Flowers, flags, candles, notes were some of the expressions of grief, anger and support.

took care of the memorial, its natural demise was accepted by the community and considered a healing process.

The Oklahoma City bombing site, as a crime scene, was closely monitored. Most of what was left there eventually was collected in anticipation of a museum at the site.

Pat consulted with **Carol Vincent** and **John Kelly** of the SWSHS collections committee and Society President **Joan Mraz** before offering to accept the memorials on behalf of SWSHS. Volunteers helped pick up the soggy notes, artifacts and photos, and dispose of the dead flowers and hardened candle wax.

The papers were dried and smaller ones were put in plastic page protectors in binders. The artifacts were listed, cataloged and boxed for storage and possible future use for research or in an exhibit, web site or publication.

"It is a very powerful collection," Filer said. "It is a great responsibility to protect and preserve this very intimate piece of this community's heart and spirit. It is an honor to have earned that trust."

*SEMPER FI*

*We are  
bloodied but  
unbowed.  
We are grieving  
but defiant.  
We are the  
Land of the  
Free, and  
the Home of the  
Brave.  
We will never  
forget.*

*With Gratitude  
to our Fire-  
fighters and  
Police  
One result of  
this tragedy is  
that ordinary  
citizens are now  
acutely aware  
of how willing  
you are to put  
your lives at  
risk to protect  
us.*

*My 11-year-old  
daughter and I  
thank you for  
what you do to  
protect us in  
normal and  
abnormal  
times. You are  
very much  
appreciated and  
valued. Keep  
your spirits up.  
We will not  
surrender to  
fear, and we  
will not take  
you for  
granted.*

*Just an  
ordinary citizen  
and neighbor,  
George*





Photos courtesy Camp Long

Judge William Long stands by Pollywog Pond on the newly cleared grounds of the camp that bears his name. Mount St. Vincent is visible at the top of the hill.

# Camp Story

the jungle. They likewise were impressed with its possibilities for an all-city camp. Ben Evans of the Park Department was also enthusiastic.

*This is the simple story of a beautiful camp and a great rock. These two things did not just happen, or did nature place them there. They were built by the hands of men from the design created in the mind of a great man.*

## The camp ...

It started with a telephone call from Archie Phelps to Judge William Long in the year 1937. Archie was a member of the Seattle Park Board, acting as a liaison representative of the city in the West Seattle Golf Course by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the United States government.

Archie said to Judge Long, "There is a 68-acre corner of the golf course tract that is not being used for golf. I have stopped the cutting down of trees because I think it would make a wonderful campsite for the Boy Scouts of West Seattle. I wish you would come over and take a look at it and see what you think."

Judge Long explored the tract with Archie. They fought their way through brush, nettles, briars and fallen trees. Where the Parade Ground is now located, the place was a swampy bog. The whole tract was a jungle. The Judge thought the tract had great possibilities for a campsite, not merely for the Scouts of West Seattle but for the kids of the entire city.

The camping chairmen of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls were called in, and together they braved

A committee of 17 representatives of all the

youth groups was formed and together they started planning for the camp project.

At this point, Clark Schurman came into the picture. He was famous for having developed a wilderness camp for his own Scout troop. He was also recognized as an outstanding expert in camping and mountaineering. The Park Department and the committee selected him to draw plans

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*Learn more about Camp Long at the  
SWSHS Annual Membership Meeting*

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2001. Camp Long Lodge, 5200 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW

Refreshments, 2 p.m.,

Business Meeting And Election, 2:30 p.m.

Program: *Camp Long's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, 4 p.m.

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for the project. He and Ben Evans searched the nation for ideas on what other communities had developed. The results of that research were poled with the experience and ideas of local leadership, and out of all this, Clark Schurman produced the initial plan, which was approved by all the committee.

But plans are not self-executing without a little money. Those were the depression years, and money was not exactly easy to come by. So there had to be a lot of persuading, maneuvering, finagling, scrounging, snaffling and even a little benevolent larceny to translate those plans into reality. Here is what happened:



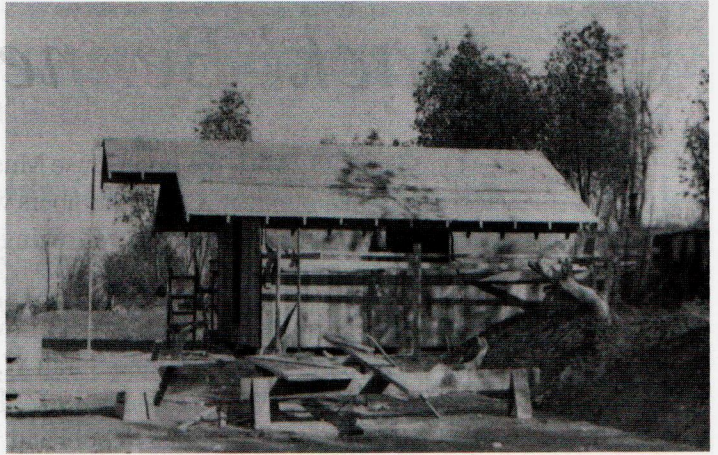
# ... Long ... ... of a dream

The Park Department, through the bulldog persistence of Archie Phelps, induced the City Council to consider putting up some money. Mrs. F.F. Powell, then a counsel member, beguiled the Council into making a small appropriation. The WPA was induced to furnish manpower to match the city money. So the project started. The Seattle School Board was dismantling an old school building; some of that lumber found its way into camp buildings. There also was lumber and materials from a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, quietly transported to Camp Long. The city was repaving East Madison Street and the old stone paving blocks became part of the main lodge.

While the project was under way, Archie Phelps was elected to the King County Board of Commissioners and built a sawmill for the county. Some more lumber was brought in.

Even the Superior Court got in the act. A nursery was in receivership. The bankrupt estate had a lot of ornamental trees of doubtful value on the market. These trees became a living part of the park. It was by these creative means that Camp Long was built.

In addition to the problems of financing and construction of the camp, there were some crucial questions of philosophy and policy to be settled. Some contended that the camp should be used for baseball, tennis, football and other playfield activities. Schurman maintained his stand against all activities outside of climbing and camping.



Cabin 8 under construction at Camp Long.

Another battle was fought over the question of camp participation. Should the camp be limited to group activity under the designated supervision, or thrown open to any and all kids who chose to use the space? It was decided, and still remains the policy, that all participation must be under the guidance and direction of responsible adult leadership. So, because Schurman was firm, this camp has been dedicated for 60 years to the goal of better camping

[See ROCK, Page 8]



Camp Long is dedicated in a ceremony on the Parade Ground on November 3, 1941.



# 'Jack' Bennett loved sea, land

On March 25, 2001, the Log House Museum lost one of its Founders' Circle members when **John W. "Jack" Bennett** died following a short battle with cancer.

Jack was born Nov. 2, 1911, at 1411 Lowman Drive. His parents, John A. and Sarah W. Bennett, moved to West Seattle in 1907. He attended Gatewood Grammar School and graduated from West Seattle High School in 1931.

Like many natives of the Pacific Northwest, Jack developed a love of the water and the forests early in his life.

He told of a summer vacation at Zenith Beach when he was 9 or 10. He and a friend built a raft of driftwood, stocked it for the voyage, and set sail for China. After several hours at sea, the Coast Guard spotted the raft and returned the adventurers to their parents.

His love of forests, perhaps, grew out of their destruction. He remembered sitting at his bedroom window during a hot, dry summer, watching the sky glow red at night, lit by the forest fires in the distant mountains.

Water and the forests continued to influence choices he made for the rest of his life. After graduating from West Seattle High School and spending a term as a forestry major at the University of Washington, he joined the Merchant Marine and worked for the Cleveland Lines. He finally made it to China, touching ports there many times in 1932-34.

He then headed east to Washington, D.C., where he obtained an AA degree and worked until the late 1930s, when the pull of the ocean took him back to sea in the U.S. Navy. In September 1941, while on shore leave in Manhattan, he met his future wife, **Barbara Budlong**. They were married in 1945.

He remained in the Naval Reserve after World War II, and served in Korea. After 34 years of combined active duty and reserve service, he retired with the rank of Commander.



John W. 'Jack' Bennett surveying the forests of Whidbey Island.

In 1975, both Jack and Barbara retired and moved from Virginia to the Pacific Northwest. They built their dream home on Whidbey Island with a view of Puget Sound. Barbara died five years later, and for the next 20 years Jack split his year between Whidbey and a cabin deep in the forests of Okanogan County.

While living on Whidbey Island, he brushed up his surveying skills and spent many an hour finding boundary lines in the forests and rolling hills that cover the island. It was said that he could "sense" where survey markers were to be found after others had searched for them in vain.

Late in 2000, however, when he could no longer live alone because of his illness, he returned to West Seattle, as full of love for his "home town" as he was when he left in 1934.

Survivors include his son, **John Bennett**, supervisor of construction, maintenance and restoration of the Log House Museum.



**SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S  
FOUNDERS' DAY LUNCHEON**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2001**

**SALTY'S ON ALKI  
1936 HARBOR AVENUE SW  
SOCIAL TIME 11:30 a.m. - LUNCH AT NOON  
\$30 (CHILDREN \$12)  
NO HOST BAR**

**Come celebrate the Sesquicentennial  
Watch the schooner *Exact*, portrayed by the *Yankee Clipper*, sail by on her way to the re-  
enactment of the first settlers' landing on Alki 150 years ago**

**Showing of the video *Alki, Birthplace of Seattle***

**YES! I would like to attend the SWSHS Founders' Day Luncheon**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Luncheon includes Caesar salad, bread, butter, dessert, coffee and tea)

GRILLED SALMON # \_\_\_\_\_ TABLE OF 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
GRILLED HERB CHICKEN # \_\_\_\_\_  
VEGETABLE NAPOLEON # \_\_\_\_\_  
Total # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to SWSHS)**

Mail to: SWSHS Founders' Day Luncheon 3003 61<sup>st</sup> Ave SW Seattle, WA 98116

VISA or MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\$5 of cost is tax-deductible. SWSHS is a 501(c)3 TIN #91-1297010



# Rock is on path to Mt. Rainier

**Our** [Continued from Page 5]

**Business Sponsors:** and better climbing. Let us forever stand steadfast for that goal.

*Chelan Café* **The Rock ...**

*Homestead Restaurant*  
*Northwest Art and Frame*

Schurman Rock is a peculiar looking thing some 25 feet high, 15 feet across and fantastically irregular in shape. For 60 years, thousands of kids and adults have climbed, crawled and slithered up and down it, over it, and around it.

*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.*

Mountaineers use the rock as a basic training tool for future mountain climbers. It was named Monitor Rock by its designer, who conceived that Clark Schurman had a vision of creating a structure that would incorporate every important mountaineering rock problem that the climber would encounter in actual climbing. He read many technical books on the subject and combined that research with his own practical experience. He spent one full winter making a clay model of the dream structure; then he specified the materials

to be furnished and supervised the details of placing the conglomerate into a finished structure.

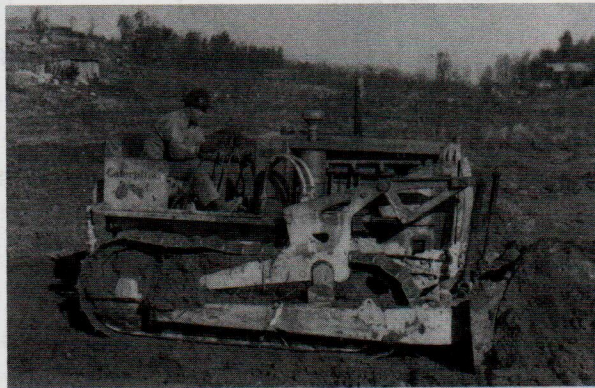
The WPA foreman and workers thought they were dealing with a madman, but they built it according to his orders, and Clark Schurman's dream of Monitor Rock became a reality.

Mount Rainier was an ever-present element or inspirational challenge in Schurman's life. It was no coincidence that he set this rock upon a hilltop with an unobstructed view of Mount Rainier. He

wanted the rock to be the first step toward the summit of Mount Rainier, and when a youngster had mastered the problems of the rock, he could stand upon its crest and view his ultimate mountain-climbing goal – the top of Rainier. Above all things he wanted for kids to be happy

camping and climbing, which to him meant safe camping and climbing. His dream has been coming true for 60 years. Thank you, Clark Schurman.

*Reprinted with permission of Camp Long.*



Bulldozer clears Parade Ground land at Camp Long.

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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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