

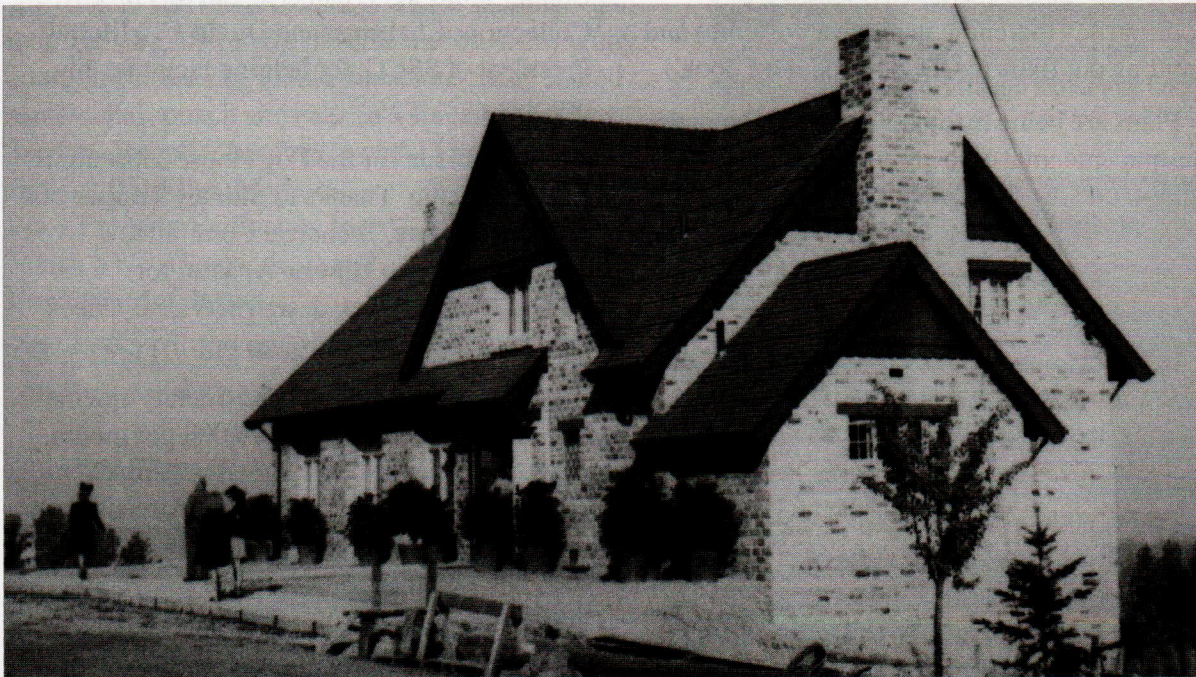
Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXXXVI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2001



This 1941 photo of The Lodge at Camp Long is courtesy of Camp Long.

SWSHS annual meeting to help Camp Long celebrate 60 years

Thanks to the progressive thinking and hard work of Judge William G. Long and the Works Progress Administration 60 years ago, Southwest Seattle has Camp Long today. SWSHS will hear from folks who knew the Judge and old-timers who actually built the Lodge and Schurman Rock, believed to be the

first man-made climbing rock in North America, at the Annual Meeting Nov. 3 at Camp Long.

The celebration goes on after the meeting. Camp Long will offer a spaghetti dinner with salad, bread and dessert at 5:30 p.m. that day

Annual Membership Meeting, Saturday, Nov. 3

Camp Long Lodge, 5200 35th Ave. S.W.

2 p.m. Refreshments

2:30 p.m. Business Meeting And Election

4 p.m. Program: *Camp Long's 60th Anniversary*

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President's message

Springtime keeps SWSHS busy

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

Web Site:

www.loghousemuseum.org

Current exhibit:

"The Spirit Returns"

The Society had a busy and productive springtime.

The "Homes With History Tour" May 12 was very successful, thanks to many wonderful volunteers and committee chairmen **Merrilee Hagen** and **Carol Vincent**. The Annual Member's Picnic July 8 drew many members out on a sunny day for food and fun. The West Seattle Hi-Yu parade had a Society contingency marching in pioneer costumes and handing out fliers for the new memory book.

Plans are being made for participation in the Sesquicentennial of the founding of Seattle celebration in November. The Museum exhibit, "The Spirit Returns" A Duwamish and Pioneer Story, has been extended through November 2002.

Contractors have finally completed the last of the construction work on the Museum, shoring up the second floor and finishing off that area.

The Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development provided funds for this capital project. Special thanks go to **Dan Aarthun**, Capital Projects Director, and to **Leavengood Architects**, project designer. The next task facing the Society is to caulk and paint the logs and exterior of the Museum. This will be more expensive than anticipated, so donations of time, materials and money for this needed and necessary maintenance of the Museum will be sought.

The Oral History Project, funded with a grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, has been completed and provides a wonderful video, "West Seattle Stories," and a popular new publication "Memories of Southwest Seattle Businesses," both available for viewing in the Museum and for sale in the Gift Shop. An unveiling reception was held at the Museum July 26. Thanks to Project Director **JonLee Joseph**

and Museum Director **Pat Filer** who worked very hard on this project and to **Dave Bockmann** and **Jim Diers** from the DON.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society's Collections Committee will begin work on cataloging the SWSHS Collection and moving it to the Archive room provided for the Society in the South Seattle Community College Library building. Thanks to **Carol Vincent**, Collections Chairman and **David C. Mitchell**, President of SSCC, for helping facilitate this process.

The web-site for the Log House Museum is up and running. Thanks to **Shirley Tupper** and **Kevin Burrows**, Technical Committee Chairmen, and to **Dianne Arasim** for volunteering her web design services. Check out: www.loghousemuseum.org.

Operating expenses for the Society and the Log House Museum, over \$4,000 per month, come from many sources: membership dues, contributions and gifts, interest, proceeds from the Gift Shop, admissions from the home tour, and the Annual Sustaining Fund Drive in the fall. Each area contributes a part.

Grants do not usually cover operating expenses, but do support programs. The Society has been fortunate, though, to receive grants from The Seattle Foundation Colman Fund and King County Heritage for some operating funds that will help with part of the expenses for this year only. (See grants report.) The Annual Sustaining Fund Drive this fall will add some of the funds necessary to continue to operate the Museum and programs at a quality level. An endowment program is being set up to receive gifts to the Society that can keep on giving.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for any of the Society's many activities, please call (206) 938-5293.

-- **Joan Mraz**
President

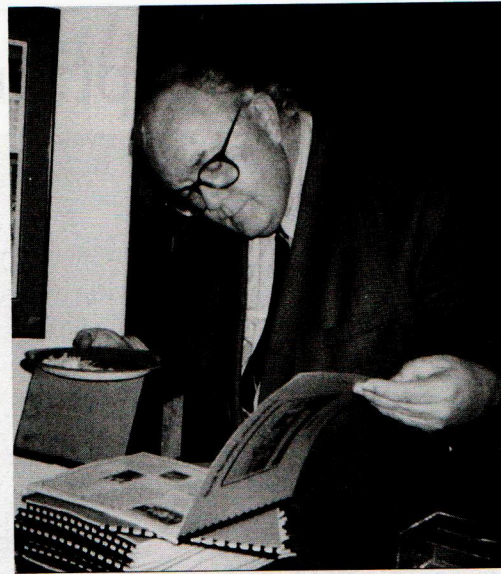
Memory Book, oral history participants celebrate projects

Like high school seniors circulating their yearbooks, members of the Long-Timers Group eagerly flipped through the latest memory book July 26 at a reception marking the publication of the book and the completion of the Oral History Project and video.

Long-timers, memory book contributors, oral history storytellers and interviewers, SWSHS members and their guests gathered for the celebration in the sunny courtyard at the Log House Museum. They shared sandwiches, punch and cake in a spread put out by **JonLee Joseph**, coordinator of the Oral History Project; **Pat Filer**, Memory Book Project coordinator; **Joan Mraz**, SWSHS president; and **Barbara McGlothern**.

The Oral History Project consisted of interviews with

[See CELEBRATION, Page 9]



Gary Gaffner, a pioneer descendant and oral history narrator, looks through a memory book in the gift shop.

What a delightful gathering it was on Thursday. Thank you for the book, journal and pen ... The video was delightful and it was great to see the faces of the speakers. The lunch was great, too.

— Sister Rose Marie Dillman, S.P.



Ken Lowthian (left), Dick Thurston and Bob Hallberg are spearheading a Scouting memory book.

Photos by Joan Mraz and Pat Filer



Merrilee Hagen holds her doll and her watercolor of a Beach Drive business.

Arthur Susumi, an oral history narrator in the 'West Seattle Stories' video, with Sherry Boswell, oral historian.



Dr. Don Eastly, one of the oral history video narrators, visits with Jim Diers of the Department of Neighborhoods.



Job Description: SWSHS Trustees

Responsible to: President, Board of Trustees

Term: Three years for trustees, one year for officers, (unless serving by special appointment or filling an unexpired term.). May be re-elected

Purpose: To determine planning and policy decisions, assure adequate funding, objectively monitor programs, and evaluate personnel.

Specific Duties:

1. To be knowledgeable about and strongly committed to the mission and goals of the organization.
2. To attend board meetings regularly (10 meetings and one weekend day retreat yearly).
To become informed in advance of agenda items.
To ask discerning questions, constructively participate in

deliberations and vote according to one's convictions.

3. To assume a major responsibility on at least one working committee.
4. To work in areas where one's background would be of value.
5. To contribute financially or with other resources to the best of one's ability.
6. To work with other board members and staff to be sure the budget policies and program efforts are consistent with the organizations objectives.
7. To recommend others who could serve on the board.
8. To suggest names of prospective donors.
9. To be willing and able to further the mission, goals and objectives of the organization.
10. To be a member of the organization.

Thank you to the contributors to this issue of Footprints:

Joan Mraz

Merrilee Hagen

Carol Vincent

JonLee Joseph

Pat Filer

*-- Ann Holiday,
Editor*

Board nominations sought

[Continued from Page 1]

to benefit the camp's nature education programs. Vegetarian sauce will be available. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. For tickets call Camp Long, (206) 684-7434.

The Board of Trustees is seeking nominees to serve on the board of the Society. Nominations

will be presented, and the candidates voted on, at the annual meeting. Anyone who would be interested, or who knows of anyone who might be interested may contact the Nominating Committee by sending mail to Nominating Committee, SWSHS, 3003 61st Avenue S.W., Seattle WA 98116 or by leaving a message at (206) 938-5293.

Just click on www.loghousemuseum.org

SWSHS' Birthplace of Seattle Museum has been launched into cyberspace. Visitors will find a brief description of the current exhibit, Museum hours and a link to a directional map at the World Wide Web address www.loghousemuseum.org.

Dianne Arasim, an Alki web designer, volunteered to design the web site and get it up and running. She is working with the Technology Committee, **Kevin Burrows** and **Shirley Tupper**, as well as **Pat Filer**, Museum director.

State grant helps with facelift

Log House shored up, pigeons sent elsewhere

The Log House Museum underwent a facelift over the summer. Like a good facelift, its visual effect is minimal, but its benefits are many.

The floor has been shored up and new floor covering installed. The carpet and linoleum could not be matched, so it is merely "coordinated." The sway in the hallway is gone and the cracking and groaning of the floor has ceased. The work was done by Webberly Construction

SWSHS contracted with Critter Control to get rid of the pigeons on the roof. They were making a mess and beginning to be a sanitation and health issue. Critter Control closed off the space under the eaves and applied prickly-looking landing strips to keep the birds away. They are a bit noticeable, but can be removed after time has passed and the pigeons have finally realized their nests are blocked.

The other new addition is the sign on the corner. It was made by artist Dennis Roux from old logs that were removed from the building when it was renovated; Roux also made the benches in the courtyard and at the bus stop with salvaged logs.

The projects were included in a grant from the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

The exterior of the Log House Museum was the only line item in the grant that could not be covered with current funding. The waterproofing technique and materials necessary for correct waterproofing of an old restored log structure, according to consulting architect **David Leavengood**, are highly specialized. The logs on the south and west sides then



SWSHS President Joan Mraz and Log House Museum Director Pat Filer celebrate completion of the state grant-funded construction project at the Museum with general contractor Gary Webberly.

would have to be scraped and prepared for painting.

Leavengood selected **Pete Rudie** for the job, but his bid was much more than remained in the state grant at the time

"The bad news is that we need to do this waterproofing and painting or we may lose those logs again," said Museum Director **Pat Filer**. "Those are the sides that receive the most punishment from wind and rain; and the new logs are being damaged quickly because they are becoming saturated by rainwater which gathers in the large cracks that are forming as they dry.

She said she hoped to cover part of the costs with a grant. Painting the north and east sides of the Museum as well as the railings and porch will be accomplished by a volunteer team, whose contributed time was used as match in the grant application. A small group from Windermere Realty (Fauntleroy) has volunteered to help under their community service program.

"I remember buying a piece of cheese from a big wheel kept under glass on an old marble soda counter at the back of Mrs. Byrne's store. She felt the blade of the biggest knife I had ever seen and pronounced it too dull, wiped it on her apron, and trudged out to the curb of the street where there was a metal edge, and proceeded to sharpen that huge knife. Then she'd come back in the store ... and with both hands, she chunked off a slice of that good cheddar. After wrapping it, she said, "There! Now, what else would you be needin'?"

*-JoAn Schmitz
Fulton*



Photo by Ann Holiday

Erma Schwartz and George Shephard compare old times at West Seattle High School, their alma mater.

Picnic gathers memories

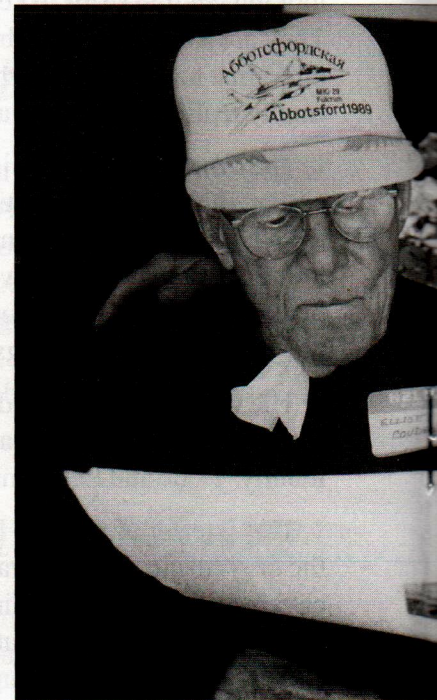
The annual picnic has long been one of the perks of SWSHS membership. This year's picnic combined the reminiscences of 102-year-old **George Shephard** and a special performance of youngsters from the Duwamish Language and Dance Group with good food and great weather.

As usual, **Joan Mraz**, **Carol Vincent** and **Merrilee Hagen** coordinated the event and **Marge** and **Neal Saffer** kept the burgers and dogs grilling on the barbecue.

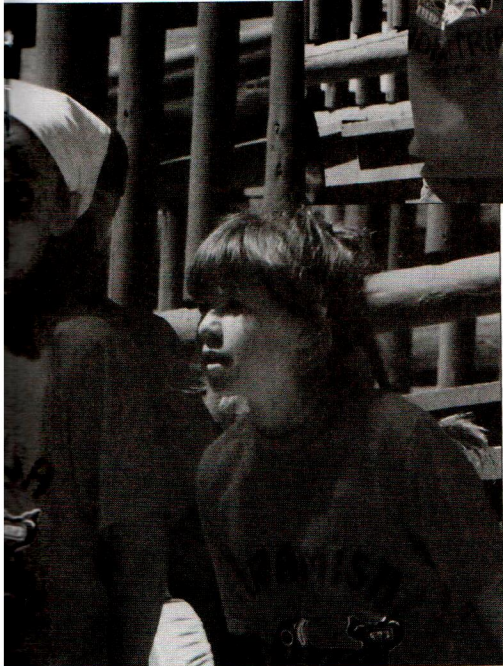
Founding president **Elliott Couden** held court among his many friends and well-wishers, and **Shephard** charmed fellow guests with amazing stories from long ago.

The Duwamish group, made up of Duwamish descendants from 3 to 12 years old, conducted their introductions and singing in Lushootseed, the traditional language of the Duwamish and other Coast Salish Native American tribes. **Cecile Hansen**, Duwamish tribal chair, accompanied them on the drum.

Although it was only their second public appearance, people are already talking about inviting them to perform at the November 13 Sesquicentennial event.



Founding President Elliott Couden and his contributions to the business memo



Cecile Hansen (right) beats time for the Duwamish Language and Dance Group in their performance at the SWSHS picnic. Participants included Jared Broadway and Blake Shelafoe (above) and Olivia Johnson and Ashley Shelafoe-Broadway (left).



and Museum Director Pat Filer look at memory book.



Volunteer chefs Neal and Marge Saffer lend their grilling expertise.

Betsy Ross Detroit, founding member, was daughter of pioneer family

When the Depression hit, there were many people who received fruit and vegetables for their families in a kind of "back door" business where only a thank-you was payment. There was no way Tony LaCamera could enjoy his table if he knew other children were not being fed.

-Arlene LaCamera Berg

SWSHS founding member **Betsy Ross Detroit** died August 3. She served on the Board of Trustees as secretary in 1998 and 1999.



Eugene and Betsy Ross Detroit attended the annual membership picnic in June.

Born and raised in Wenatchee, she was a daughter of a pioneer and was active in the Pioneer Association. She moved to Seattle as a young adult.

She is survived by her husband, **Eugene Detroit**; a son, **Joel Jensen**; and a daughter, **JonLee Joseph**, who headed the recently completed Oral History Project.

Betsy Detroit was a community activist at the level of working with heritage and community organizations to improve the neighborhood. She also was on the boards of AKCHO, Arts West, and many other organizations. As founding donors of the Historical Society, she and her husband are commemorated in the Donors Circle.

"She was one classy lady," said longtime membership secretary **Carol Vincent**. "We'll all miss her."

Operations, Sesquicentennial activities to benefit from recent grant awards

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society has received three grants totaling nearly \$18,000 for Sesquicentennial activities and operation of the Log House Museum.

The Seattle Foundation awarded \$8,000 for operating expenses; King County Sesquicentennial Sustained Support gave \$3,250 for operating expenses and special projects; and the Department of Neighborhoods granted \$6,650 for the Sesquicentennial.

"Thanks to all of you who volunteered hours, which were used to match the DON grant," said Museum Director **Patricia Filer**. "Grant writing is very exacting, exasperating and exhausting. The administration of grants is equally time-consuming and tedious. **Joan Mraz** and **Lynn Swindlehurst** do an extraordinary job of managing the fiscal administration of the many grants that we apply

for and are awarded. Their roles are thankless and invisible."

Most of the projects that have received recent recognition have been made possible through grants, specifically heritage education programs and publications (King County) Memory Books and Oral History (DON) and the current exhibit (Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development).

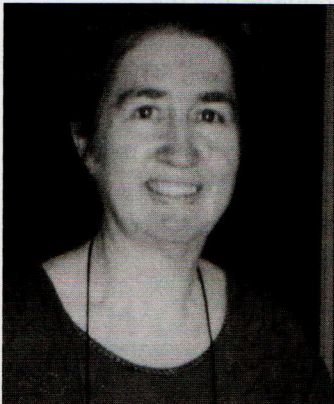
"Without the careful administration of these grant monies, we would not have the great reputation that we have with the funding agencies and would not continue to be awarded needed funds to continue to fulfill the missions of the Log House Museum and the SWSHS with creative and well-received projects and activities and to operate the Museum," Filer said.

Celebration marks projects' completion

[Continued from Page 3]

Southwest Seattle old-timers, for inclusion in "West Seattle Stories," which premiered at the reception. The production team from Sadis and Vaughn was given kudos from the crowd for this glimpse into the lives and memories of some of the oral history narrators.

Tom Brady and **Bill Ransdell**, who spearheaded the collection of many of the stories for the "Memories of Southwest Seattle Businesses" book, unveiled the oversized



Cathy Fulton produced 'Memories of Southwest Seattle Businesses.'

exhibit copy of the book in the Courtyard. Everyone who contributed to the project received a personal copy. The book is available for sale in the Gift Shop.

Roger and **Cathy Fulton**, proprietors of Capturing

Memories, put the book together and were on hand to meet those whose stories they memorialized in the publication. The cover is a watercolor of a Beach Drive grocery store, painted by **Merrilee Hagen** in the 1960s when she was preparing her portfolio for her application to art school. She attended, bringing with her a vintage doll whose leg was repaired in a doll hospital in one of the Beach Drive storefronts.

Regina Frye's sepia-toned portraits of selected oral history narrators were on display as part of the celebration of the unique lives of some of these extraordinary storytellers.



JonLee Joseph, Oral History Project coordinator, greets guests at the reception table.

Jim Diers represented the city's Department of Neighborhoods, which has recognized the importance of identifying, collecting and sharing the stories of the community's elders by awarding the SWSHS the grant that funded the Oral History Project.

'The Spirit Returns' wins recognition

The SWSHS received a Certificate of Recognition for "The Spirit Returns" at the Association of King County Historical Organizations' annual awards ceremony May 29 at the Museum of History and Industry.

President **Joan Mraz** accepted the award on behalf of SWSHS, the Log House Museum, and "The Spirit Returns" exhibit committee. **Arlene Wade, Cecile Hansen, Lucibelle O'Grady, Ruth Moore, Edith Johnson** and **Pat Filer** attended to share in the honor. **JonLee Joseph** nominated the exhibit to the AKCHO awards committee for consideration.

Just want to tell you how much I have enjoyed the Oral History Project. Sharon Boswell was a delightful person to talk to and to relate my years of growing up in Fauntleroy. I had no idea when I volunteered to participate in the program what it would involve. I feel honored to have been included ...
-- Beth McAdams

Collections prepares to move into new home at SSCC library

The distinctive square hatboxes were black with a pink top which stated "The Topper Shop – Junction Shopping Center – West Seattle." The customer received her hat in a box that was sized to just accommodate the size of the new hat. The box held the edge of the hat safely in place. A black ribbon reached from the bottom of the hatbox and tied neatly across the pink box lid. Today, two of these hatboxes reside on my closet shelf, holding hats that are older than my grown children. I still wear the hats."

-Barbara K. Callow

The SWSHS now has an archive room in the new South Seattle Community College Library Building to house its collections. The room was included in the plans for the library from its inception.

SSCC President **David C. Mitchell**, librarians **Mary Jo White** and **Randy Nelson** and history instructor **Judith Bentley** and SWSHS President **Joan Mraz**, Collections Chair **Carol Vincent** and Trustee **Shirley Tupper** have begun discussion on the plan for use of the room and establishing the collections in the archive.

Heritage consultant **Candace Lein-Hayes** will advise in the process of cataloging the items in the collection, entering data into the computer, packaging the objects properly and moving them up to the archive room. As the collection is archived, it will be accessible via the new Past Perfect computer program. The committee has applied for a grant from the King County Heritage Commission to help with this project. The commission has recommended that the society receive it.

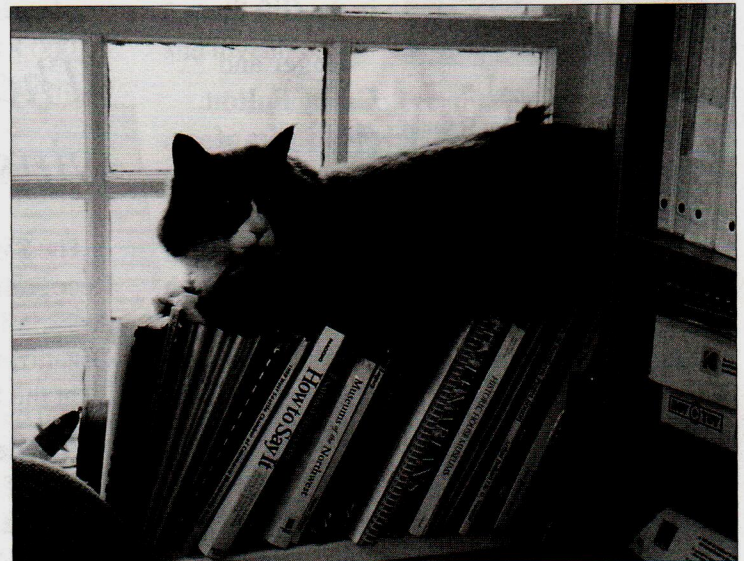
The SWSHS collection consists mainly of photographs and archival materials from and about the history of the Southwest Seattle-Duwamish Peninsula area. The Society is continually adding materials to the collection as people from the community bring in and donate old photographs, interesting documents, and articles of historic significance. Anyone with materials to donate may bring them for consideration on Thursday afternoons.

That's when Collections Committee members **Robert Carney**, **Jackie** and **John Kelly**,

Don Kelstrom and Chairman **Vincent** meet at the Log House Museum to work on the collections. Anyone who would like to join the team may drop by the Museum on Thursdays after 3 p.m. or contact Vincent by leaving a message for her at the Museum, (206) 938-5293.

SWSHS's connection to the college goes back to when founder **Elliott N. Couden** was on the humanities lay advisory board chaired by Mraz at the college. Couden was looking to begin a historical society.

In 1984, SSCC President **Jerry Brockey** offered a home at the college and the administrative help to get the Southwest Seattle Historical Society established as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. The relationship has continued ever since. Monthly board meetings and many annual membership meetings are held at the college, and now the archive room is another extension of that connection.



Chives, the 'Museum cat,' catches some sun in the director's office. Chives actually lives across the street, but has adopted the Log House Museum as his second home. He is a favorite of the children's tours. He won't be moving to the SSCC campus.

Speaker Series continues with early images

Warren Winge will bring his slide show of early West Seattle images to the Log House Museum Sept. 13 for the continuing Speaker Series programs.

The lectures are usually offered the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Next month, however, **Kate Duncan**, will speak and sign books on Monday, Oct. 22.

Duncan's new book, "1001 Curious Things," is an in-depth look at Ye Olde Curiosity Shop on the downtown waterfront. The shop opened in 1899 and is known for its souvenirs, curiosities and historically significant objects such as Chief Seattle's Hat and Princess Angeline's tumpline, both on loan to the Museum and featured in "The Spirit Returns," the current exhibit.

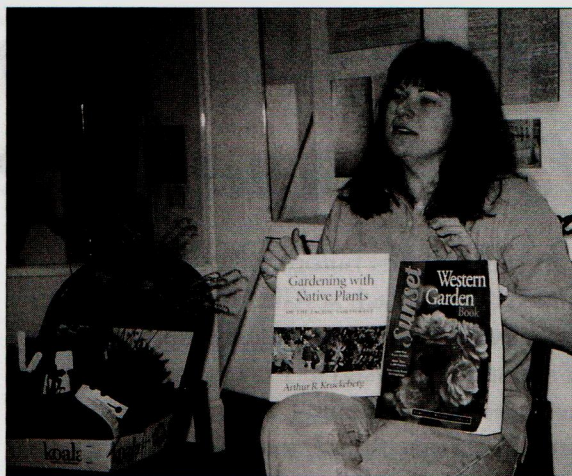
In May, **Cecile Hansen** made a presentation about Duwamish heritage and the process of

Duwamish join Pioneers for Hi-Yu

A group of Duwamish Tribal members joined the costumed SWSHS representatives in the Hi-Yu Parade July 21.

The Duwamish youngsters sang and drummed their way down the street, accompanied by **Melissa Hagen** and friends **Josh Bye, Susan Collicott, Dan Walatek, Aja Schmit, Helen Free, Stacy Thurston** and **Doug Turner**. Melissa has organized the Society's participation for the past few years, and this year dressed the group as the Denny, Low, Terry, Bell and Boren pioneers.

The ladies wore dresses appropriate to the era along with petticoats, bloomers, aprons and bonnets. The men wore clothes along the line of Pa Ingalls' "Little House on the Prairie" wardrobe. The participants made their pioneer costumes.



Horticulturist Leslie Galloway shares some resources in her May talk on native plants.

regaining tribal recognition. She invited members of the audience to help the tribe by writing letters of support to the Bureau of Indian Affairs when the time is right. .

July's Speaker was **Dorothy Poplowski**, who gave an interesting year-by-year description of Hi-Yu and the Seafair Pirates' history. She inspired the Museum to try to set up a means by which to work with the Hi-Yu organizers to collect old photographs, newspaper, articles, memorabilia and other information about the annual event.

In our Gatewood neighborhood, there was an ice cream parlor, owned and operated by Mr. King. I was always fascinated by the little round table and chairs with the curled wire legs. An occasional treat there was very special.

-Mary Lou Richardson

"The Duwamish children were thrilled to be in the parade this year and we hope they will join us again next year," Melissa said. Tribal Chair **Cecile Hansen** and two other adults accompanied them.

"We were very touched that you asked us to join you in the parade and we thank you for including us," Hansen said.

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Seattle afghans

*Purchases aid in operation of the SWSHS Museum
and its programs.*

Memories, mementos sought for Sesquicentennial events

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In 1851, the first European-American settlers landed on the beach at Alki. In 1905, their arrival was commemorated with the dedication of a monument. And in 1951, during centennial of the landing, a time capsule was buried near that pioneer monument.

As SWSHS and the city move toward Seattle's sesquicentennial, the Society is looking for people who have memories, stories or mementos of any of these events to help celebrate the 150th anniversary Nov. 13.

Everyone is invited to the celebration, which will include a re-enactment of the landing of the schooner Exact at 2 p.m. The Yankee Clipper will play the role of the Exact, as it has in prior re-enactments and celebrations.

Plaques commemorating the women who helped found the city and the native people who helped them survive the first winter will be added to the monument and dedicated at that time. Tully's Coffee and Alki Market are donating coffee and Stockpot soups.

The final stop will be an open house at the Log House Museum to see the "Spirit Returns" exhibit and a traveling exhibit on the Centennial activities at the beach in 1951 (including the Time Capsule) and the dedication of the monument in 1905.

Anyone who has photos, newspaper articles

or other remembrances of past year's commemorations may call **Pat Filer**, Museum director, at 938-5293. An insert in this issue of *Footprints* will help spark memories of centennial events at Alki.

Afghan to help mark 150 years of Seattle

At a recent Long-Timers meeting, **Barbara Callow** presented information about specially designed afghans that other groups have used for fund-raising with great results.

She proposed that one be designed for the Sesquicentennial featuring a shoreline map of West Seattle and pointing out specific landmarks and historical sites including Duwamish sites, pioneer sites and turn-of-the-century sites as well as other historical landmarks. The SWSHS Board of Trustees realized that this could be a valuable fundraising opportunity and assigned its development to a committee.

"It could be a good gift shop item for the Sesquicentennial and for Christmas presents this year," said Museum Director **Pat Filer**. "We might as well take advantage of our location and our 'Birthplace of Seattle' moniker for the Sesquicentennial."

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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