

Calendar bulges with events — See page 12!

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE LI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2003

Your 'family' needs you now

BY JOAN MRAZ, CLAY EALS
AND JOEY RICHESSON,
ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

When we're in trouble, we often turn to family for comfort, advice and support. Even if the communication itself is difficult, we check in with family to find common ground.

You're part of the family of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. You hold dear the unique heritage of this peninsula — named for the Duwamish people — that we call home. You understand the value of preserving and interpreting artifacts of the past and present for the generations to come. This is the fiber, the life-blood, the common ground of our family.

You also undoubtedly have heard the phrase: "Out of adversity comes great opportunity." With that in mind, the Executive Board comes to you this month with a singular message: Monumental opportunity is at our collective doorstep.

How far we've come

In one more year, your society will celebrate its 20th anniversary. In the first decade, we got our feet on the ground through visible events and projects (the *West Side Story* history book, annual home tours, state Centennial activities, the Admiral Theatre landmarking), all of which stirred a deep passion for community history. In the second 10 years, the activity intensified and focused on the purchase, restoration and operation

Please turn to page 2

*West
Seattle
High
School
exhibit
that
opens
June 6
beckons
you to*



PHOTO FROM 1934 KIMTAH (WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK)

Visit 'Rich Traditions'

Could there be a better name for an exhibit showcasing the incredible history of the newly renovated West Seattle High School than "Rich Traditions"?

For 85 years, the landmark school has been revered as the educational and social heart of West Seattle. Your historical society will celebrate the school's commitment to Westside students with a nostalgic, informative exhibit at the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum that opens **Friday, June 6**.

Can you help with photos, memorabilia, time?

If you have photos or memorabilia from WSHS days, it's not too late to loan them for "Rich Traditions." Or get in on the fun and help plan and install the exhibit! The committee — **Bob Carney, Don Kelstrom, Shirley Tupper, Patti Quirk, Karin Enger, Megan Sheppard, Marcy Johnsen, Betty Broughton, Anna Lia, Cathy Fulton and Pat Filer** — welcomes your participation.

For more photos from the exhibit, see page 4, and for more info, call **206-938-5293**, or e-mail loghousemuseum@attbi.com.

As an exhibit prelude, at 7 p.m. **Thursday, May 29**, the historical society will host a presentation on how the historic-three-paneled Elshin mural in the WSHS library was discovered and restored.

Act today to insure survival of historical society, museum!



To volunteer your skills or for more information, contact your historical society at the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum by calling 206-938-5293 or e-mailing <loghousemuseum@attbi.com>.

The officers of your historical-society board — Joan Mraz, president; Clay Eals, vice president, and Joey Richesson, board secretary — wrote this article. Please feel free to contact them at the phone number and address above.

The Executive Board extends its sincere appreciation to J.B. Webster, longtime member of the historical society, for his support, financially and with professional referrals, which are helping the society meet the challenges of an austere time.
Thanks, J.B.!

Continued from page 1

of your society's beloved jewel on Alki Beach, the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum, a destination for school tours, a hub for the circulation of authentic education kits and a home for inspiring, riveting and award-winning exhibits.

The progress has been incredible, but your historical society now lives in an uncertain time. The troubled economy extends its reach to every one of us. The evaporation of the boom years of the 1990s has dried up sources of governmental and foundation funding at the very time that your society is straining to keep the heat and lights on and pay staff to make sure there is something worth seeing when visitors arrive.

How we're coping in 2003

The board has pared 2003 expenses to the core, cutting staff hours nearly in half and reducing the open hours to just 12 a week by closing the museum on Fridays. The board also has outlined an ambitious fund-raising plan that seeks stability by securing regular, yearly contributions. The fact remains, however, that if fund-raising falls short, the board soon will be forced to make further cuts that risk the museum's viability.

This is the kind of information that family members share with each other. Many of you already have heard this message via the board's telephone campaign this winter. It is serious stuff. Relatively quickly, your Log House Museum has become part of the community's heart, but its day-to-day survival is by no means assured.

How you can help

So we ask you — and all other members of the historical-society family — to pull together and take action today to help resolve this fiscal crisis. Every one of you can do something tangible to insure the viability of your society and museum. How, you ask? Here are several concrete ways:

◆ **PULL OUT** the membership form inserted in this edition of *Footprints*, photocopy it and **give copies to family members and friends**. If you live here, grew up here or work here, no doubt some of your family and friends feel the way you do about the Duwamish peninsula. Bring them to your museum. Tell them why it's vital to the community. By receiving a gift membership from you or by making their own financial commitment, they will be able to express the same passion for community heritage that you feel. A family survives only if it continually adds new members. **Help our family grow.**

◆ **FILL OUT** one copy of the form yourself and **climb just one notch on the membership ladder**. If you're an "individual" member, climb to "family." If you're "family," become a Pioneer,

and so on. Send in your check — perhaps with an added contribution on top of the membership — today. And make a commitment to maintain your membership in 2004 and in each year beyond.

◆ **JOT DOWN** three of your **skills or hobbies** that could help the society and the museum. Here are ideas: Do you like to garden? Do you enjoy greeting people? Are you a good saleswoman? Are you a home handyman? Do you like to organize files? Do you enjoy speaking to small groups? Is it fun getting to know and keeping in touch with people in the neighborhood? Are you good at writing thank-yous? Are you a whiz at computer databases? Particularly in tough times, volunteers are invaluable to the historical-society family, so call or e-mail and sign up today!

◆ **VISIT** the museum's well-stocked Gift Shop. Whose birthday, wedding, graduation or anniversary is coming up? For any occasion, the Gift Shop has the perfect item, from unique, multi-colored Sesquicentennial afghans to books, videos, children's toys and attractive polar-fleece jackets. Why patronize an out-of-neighborhood mall when you can simultaneously find endearing and enduring gifts and support your historical-society family? **Make the Gift Shop your first shopping stop.**

◆ **REMEMBER** the business sponsors of your historical-society family. Their names are on the next page. As true community citizens, they deserve your **regular patronage and sincere thanks**. Many of them soon will devote checkout-counter space to your society's new coin-donation cans. **Make those cans jingle!**

There are many other ways to aid your family during this time of adversity. For example, you could **join the Executive Board** and, with your gift of time and leadership, help steer your society through murky financial waters to a triumphant future. Whatever you do, however, don't set this edition of *Footprints* aside without taking a specific step to bolster community heritage and stabilize the future of your society.

Encouraging signs

There are bright spots to hold onto. Your society is not in the red financially, and your board has vowed to be a responsible steward of each tax-deductible contribution. We have re-energized volunteer recruitment. We are planning, with major help from alums, a financially austere but elegant exhibit on the history of West Seattle High School that is to open in June. In these pages of *Footprints*, the evidence of vitality is everywhere.

But please, don't just look. Take a bold, tangible step forward.

Today.

Your family needs **you** — now more than ever.

Business sponsors lead the way to support heritage

BY MARCY JOHNSEN
EXECUTIVE BOARD TRUSTEE

Communities survive and grow by helping each other. We are thankful that we can count on our friends, old and new, for their support in preserving the past and perpetuating the legacy we create every day.

A most grateful thank-you to our original business sponsors who have renewed their support for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and the Log House Museum. Your steadfast commitment is greatly appreciated:

- ◆ Alki Homestead Restaurant
- ◆ Chelan Cafe
- ◆ Northwest Art & Frame

We also are excited to share news that we have the commitment of these new business sponsors this year. A big thank-you and welcome to our heritage family:

- ◆ Admiral Mortgage Inc.
- ◆ Assurance Escrow
- ◆ Evergreen Money Source
- ◆ Hecker and Feilberg
- ◆ The Pacific Institute
- ◆ Sposari's Concrete
- ◆ Villa Heidelberg
- ◆ Washington Title
- ◆ Wiseman's Appliance and TV

Spotlight on Wiseman's Appliance and TV

Wiseman's Appliance and TV, owned by Dan Wiseman, has been a well-known business in Southwest Seattle since the 1960s.

The owner's father, Cal Wiseman, started his business at home before moving into a shop at the Morgan Junction. A new location in the Admiral Junction came in the late 1960s.

Dan Wiseman began working with his dad at an early age in 1966 and continued his career after graduating from high school in 1971.

He is a well-known, active member of the community. His involvement has included serving as president of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce and the Anti-Crime Council. Also, he was president of the Mayor's Small Business Task Force under Charles Royer, was re-appointed by Mayor Norm Rice and won the Mayor's Small Business Award in 1999. He also won the Orville Rummel Award for outstanding community service.

Dan, daughter **Christina**, longtime employee **Barbara Johnson** and **Dale Schindler** (formerly of Dick and Dale's) are part of the sales team at Wiseman's, 2619 California Ave S.W.



PHOTO BY CLAY EALS

Dan Wiseman, business sponsor, pauses in his shop.

Memberships, sponsorships, bequests, gifts of all kinds — and the relationships with those who give them — are the foundation upon which we can build support and sustain our excellent Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum!

Want to suggest a business sponsor? Call Marcy Johnsen at 206-706-1588.

Keep clam with Dorpat at second Dinner/Auction in October

One of the biggest events of the fall to put on your calendar is your historical society's second annual Dinner/Auction. The only trouble is, the date is not firm yet.

Co-chairs **Merrilee Hagen** and **Sigrid Wilson**, both members of the Executive Board, have targeted the event for **Saturday evening, Oct. 4**, so you can at least pencil in that date. A formal confirmation will be issued this summer.

As with last year's entertaining and successful Dinner/Auction, the event will be held in the Jerry Brockey Center of South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave. S.W.

Already, great items have been set aside for festive bidding, including original paintings, Native American baskets, chinaware and an

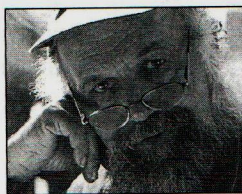


PHOTO BY JOSEF SCAYLEA

Paul Dorpat

irresistible package donated by Seattle photo historian **Paul Dorpat**. It consists of lunch at Ivar's Acres of Clams for 35 people, a presentation by Dorpat about the history of Ivar's and Spud Fish &

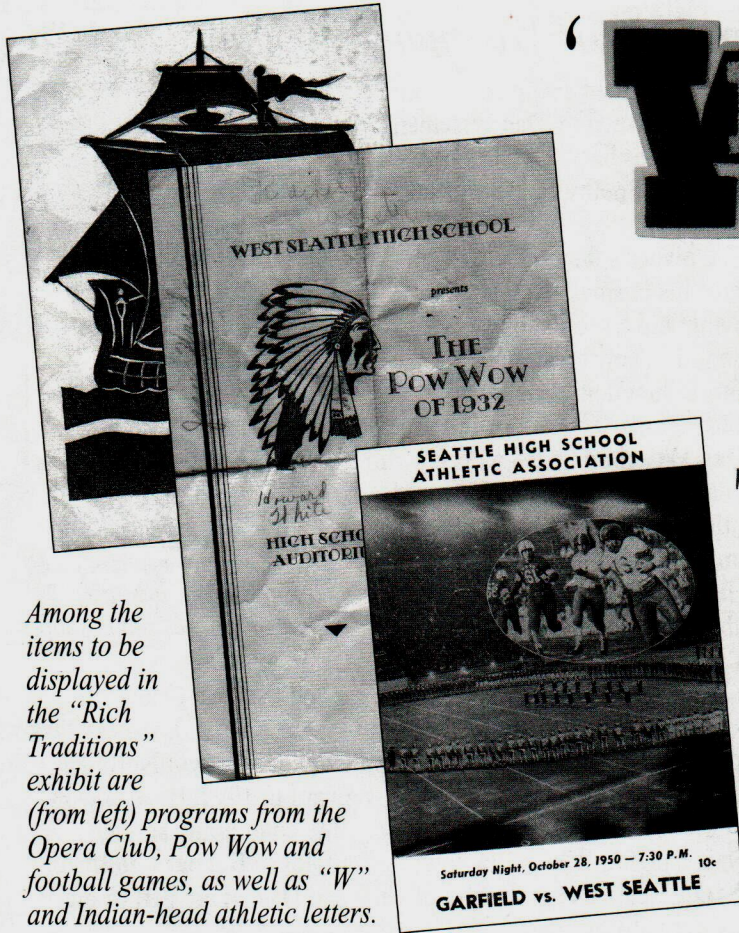
Chips and several of Dorpat's historical books.

"We need lots more items, large and small," Hagen said. "Keep us in mind when you are doing your spring cleaning. We would love handcrafted items, as they were very popular last year."

All proceeds, of course, will benefit your historical society and Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum.

If you have auction questions or items to donate, please call **Merrilee Hagen** at 206-356-9610 or **Sigrid Wilson** at 206-762-1172.

A big thank-you to **Graphics Plus**, 10007 13th Ave. S.W., 206-762-3554, the printer of *Footprints* since our 1984 inception!



Among the items to be displayed in the "Rich Traditions" exhibit are (from left) programs from the Opera Club, Pow Wow and football games, as well as "W" and Indian-head athletic letters.

W estside High, my alma mater ...

Throughout the summer, your historical society will hold events in conjunction with "Rich Traditions," the West Seattle High School exhibit that opens **June 6**. The events will include a celebration at neighboring Hiawatha Park and a presentation on architecture along Harbor Avenue, Alki and Beach Drive. Stay informed by watching the *West Seattle Herald/White Center News* and visiting <http://www.loghousemuseum.org>. Don't forget to visit the museum Gift Shop for unique gifts with a flavor of West Seattle history!



Donors to 2002 Annual Fund Drive: Thank you!

These historical-society members and supporters contributed to the drive from December 2002 through February 2003. Thank you all!

Jeanne Arvidson
Maureen Bailey
Judith Bentley
Claire M. Berry
Al Bostrom
Robert Carney
Ronald Champoux
Brad Chrisman
Ed Chrisman
Marjorie Christiansen
Jerry and Eva Costacos
Peggy Cullor
Fred and Marge Dau
Else dePalmo
Verna J. Draper

Clay and Meg Eals
Virginia Eals
Natalie and Rodney Earnest
Pearl Ebert
Nels Ekroth
James R. Ellis
Ralph Eskenazi
Steve and Judi Finney
Marianne Had
Merrilee Hagen
Bob and Ada Woodhouse
Hallberg
Verda R. Hansberry
Robert and Renee Harm
Patrick E. Hiebel
Sharon Huling
Marcy Johnsen
Bruce Johnson
Dorothy Kaloper
Ardath Karr
Jacqueline Carey Kelly
John E. Kelly
Richard and Arlene Kennedy
Maxine Slate Kobylk
Mickey Kraut
Sarah Luthens
Floyd Madsen
Glenna Martz
Beth McAdams
Jane McInchak

Duse McLean
Vivian McLean
Mirsepasy Law Offices
Mark and Bridget Mraz
Joan Bailey Mraz
Steven R. Mraz
Louise North
Ernest Nuler
Kenneth and Donna Olsen
OMNI Builders
Eilert and Virginia
Prestegaard
Michael E. Purdy
Alexandra Pye
Mary Lou Richardson
Ned J. Richmond
Neal and Marge Saffer
Nancy E Seibold
George F. Shephard estate
Judy Pigott Swenson
Barbara Tokas
Lorraine Toly
Carol and Charlie Vincent
Nancy L. Viney
Karl Wahlberg
Mr. and Mrs. Richard E
Warren
Jean Osborne Wilhelm
Patricia J. Williams
Patricia Wright
Audrey Zemke



Departing longtime members of the Executive Board (from left) Lynn Swindlehurst, Carol Vincent and Arlene Wade are honored at the Jan. 2 board meeting.

PHOTO BY JOAN MRAZ

Your 2003 Executive Board and staff

- ◆ President: **Joan Mraz**
 - ◆ Vice President: **Clay Eals**
 - ◆ Board Secretary: **Joey Richesson**
 - ◆ Membership Secretary: **Betty Broughton**
 - ◆ Trustees through 2003: **Julie Burrows, Merrilee Hagen, Sigrid Wilson**
 - ◆ Trustees through 2004: **Joan Bateman, Marcy Johnsen, Bob Joyner, Diane Tice**
 - ◆ Trustees through 2005: **Patricia Kloster, Dick Sherman, Shirley Tupper, Audrey Zemke**
 - ◆ Outreach/Operations Manager: **Pat Filer**
 - ◆ Collection/Volunteer/Gift Shop Mgr: **Andrea Mercado**
 - ◆ Operations Assistant: **Patti Quirk**
- More info: 206-938-5293, e-mail: loghousemuseum.org,
Internet: <http://www.loghousemuseum.org>.

Society's artifacts get proper cataloguing, thanks to dedicated volunteers, county grant

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society has just passed a major milestone — the completion of the first phase of accessioning, cataloguing and storing archives and objects within the collection.

Because of work completed with the help of a grant from the King County Landmarks & Heritage Commission Hotel/Motel Tax Revenues (now the Cultural Development Authority), the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum now has the beginning of a comprehensive and state-of-the-art computerized catalogue.

Carol Vincent, last year's Executive Board vice president, initiated this stage, with leadership support from **Joan Mraz**, Executive Board president; **Pat Filer**, operations/outreach manager, and **Andrea Mercado**, collection/volunteer/gift-shop manager. "This is an especially important step in the preservation of historically significant artifacts," Mercado said.

Fir Lodge guest book

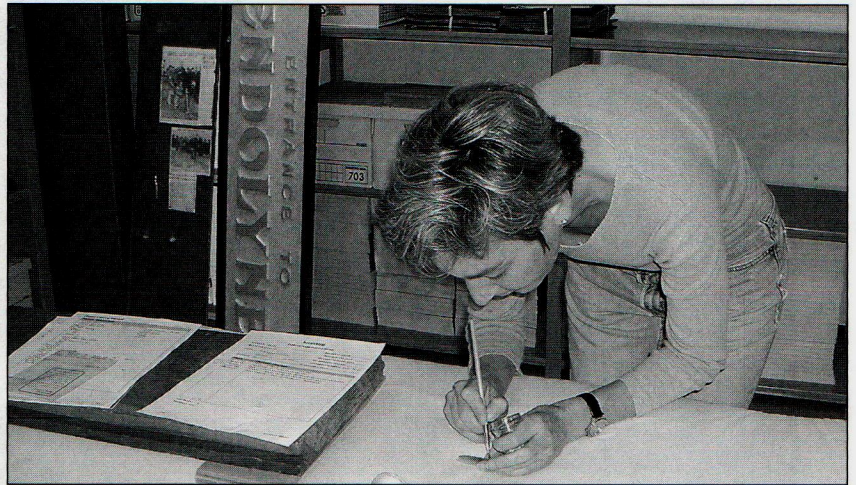
One perfect example of the project's impact is the Fir Lodge guest book, donated by **Paul Dorpat**. This registration book recorded the who's who of early Seattle, spanning a 25-year period beginning June 8, 1904. Some entries included caricatures and comical musings that reflect the humor and sensibilities of that time.

Prominent Seattleites **William and Gladys Bernard** owned the Fir Lodge, one of the first year-round homes built on Alki Beach. More recently, for decades the Fir Lodge has served West Seattle as the beloved Homestead Restaurant. Today the Fir Lodge guest book serves as a reminder of the Homestead's previous incarnation and important beginnings.

Some 600 items have been catalogued into an inventory database, making the collection more publicly accessible. Completion of the project, including the cataloguing of more than 1,000 local photos, probably will take at least another year.

Groundwork of volunteers

"Volunteers and collection committee members, as they have in the past, will play an integral role in making this project come to fruition," said Filer, who commended the groundwork laid by volunteers **Bob Carney**, **John and Jackie Kelly** and **Don Kelstrom**. She noted that much of the work completed was due to their dedication to the history of Southwest Seattle. Their work was

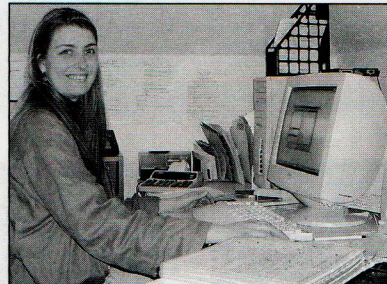


PHOTOS BY CAROL VINCENT

Robin Atlas, consultant, accessions artifacts in the historical society's collection room at South Seattle Community College. The original "Entrance to Endolyne" sign, marking the "end of the line" turnaround for the old Fauntleroy streetcar line, stands in the background.

recognized last year by the Association of King County Historic Organizations.

Robin Atlas, a local consultant, worked on portions of the project, and our society was fortunate to receive the assistance of West Seattle resident and former Executive Board member **Candace Lein-Hayes**, archivist with the Seattle office of the National Archives.



Andrea Mercado, collection/volunteer/gift shop manager, updates the collection database.

Do you have objects that you believe tell a story about the history of Southwest Seattle that you would consider donating to the historical society?

If so, please contact Andrea Mercado, collection/volunteer/gift shop manager, at 206-938-5293 or <merroam@yahoo.com>.

A grant from the King County Landmarks & Heritage Commission Hotel/Motel Tax

cultural development authority
King County Hotel / Motel Tax Fund

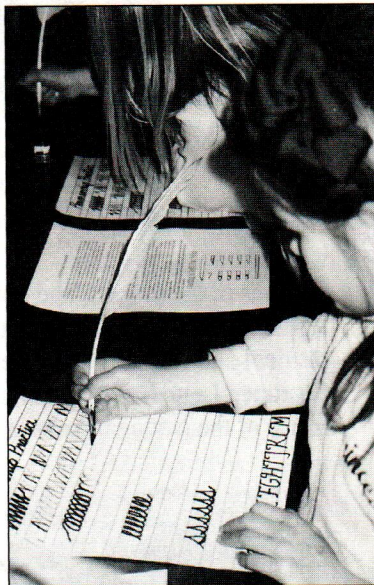
Revenues (now the Cultural Development Authority) helped your historical society begin a professional cataloguing of artifacts. This is the authority's new logo.



'It takes a village' — to maintain a museum!

Have you noticed how beautiful the grounds of your Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum are this spring? That's largely the result of a volunteer work party of teenagers from St. Paul's of Shorewood Lutheran Church in Shorewood, who supplied several hours of muscle on Saturday, March 1, to ready the museum's gardens and parking strips for visitors to enjoy this spring and summer. The hardy teen workers

included (from left) Serina Boisjolie, Michele Joyner (right), Executive Board trustee. If you are one, your historical society and museum will gain both inside the museum and out. Please contact 5293 or e-mailing <loghousemuseum@attbi.com>



PHOTOS BY PAT FILER

The write stuff

Garrett Boyd (left) and sister Brooks (above) were among the youngsters who learned to use a turkey feather quill pen during Pioneer School activities Dec. 6 at the museum.



Try this one-minute survey

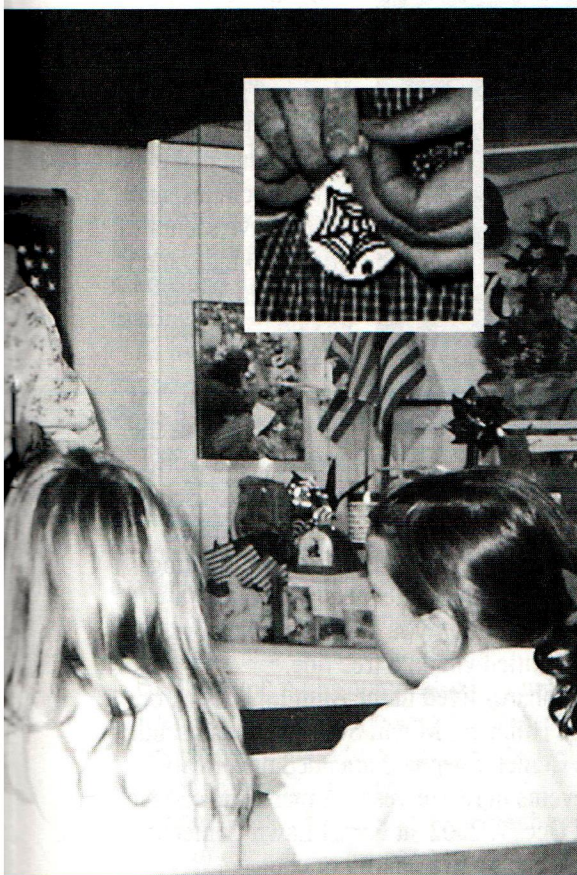
- ◆ Do you like to garden?
- ◆ Do you enjoy greeting people?
- ◆ Are you a good saleswoman?
- ◆ Are you a home handyman?
- ◆ Do you like to organize files?
- ◆ Do you enjoy speaking to small groups?
- ◆ Is it fun getting to know and keeping in touch with people in the neighborhood?
- ◆ Are you good at writing thank-yous?
- ◆ Are you a whiz at computer databases?

If you answered "yes" at least once, call or e-mail the museum today at **206-938-5293**, <loghousemuseum@attbi.com> to volunteer!



PHOTOS BY PAT FILER

Pilloud, Katie Sybouts, Amy Mason, contributing to the sprucing-up was Bob. We have a green thumb, or even a brown one. We greatly appreciate your skills and energy, and we would like to see you at the museum today by calling **206-938-5293** or <loghousemuseum@attbi.com> to find out more and to volunteer!



PHOTOS BY PAT FILER

A doll-op of crafts

Diana Fairbanks (left) leads a group of youngsters in making spinning toys (inset) during Pioneer School Dec. 13. (Right) Alex Berasoni and others don period costume Dec. 17 while using scraps and notions to make old-fashioned, cloth "barley dolls," complete with embroidered faces and hair. The finished dolls are gathered in a bowl (above). The hands-on workshop was conducted by Lucy and Emily Hogan.



Passings

Exhibit-room namesake and Alki descendant Hans Martin Smith Jr., 79

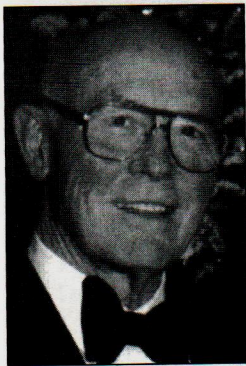


PHOTO COURTESY SMITH FAMILY

H. Martin Smith Jr.

One of Seattle's most prominent pioneer descendants — and the person whose family name graces the main room of our Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum — has joined his famous ancestors.

Hans Martin Smith Jr., whose great-grandparents Anna and Hans Martin Hanson settled at Alki Point in 1868, died April 5, 2003, from a subdural hematoma. He was 79.

His name lives on in your museum, as Smith's grown children, **Greg, Sally, Mickey** and **Bryan**, presented him with a surprise 74th birthday gift on Aug. 13, 1977 — a \$50,000 gallery-naming donation. The "Smith Family Gallery" plaque hangs in the main exhibit area at the museum. Its inscription dedicates the room "to the descendants of **Hans Martin Hanson**, Seattle's first Norwegian settler, and **Alfred and Lorena Smith**, builders of the historic Stockade Hotel on Alki."

Smith, a 48-year resident of Mercer Island, was a respected downtown business and civic leader who founded a real-estate firm and served as its president and chair until he turned its reigns over to his sons, Mickey and Greg.

A fifth-generation Seattle native who grew up on Alki, Smith was proud of his connections to

Seattle's history. His great-grandparents, along with their brother-in-law, **Knud Olsen**, bought 319 acres of Alki Point from **David S. "Doc" Maynard** in 1868 for \$450.

The Hansons and Olsens logged and farmed Alki for several years but soon began renting beachside campsites to city-dwellers from Seattle. In the 1890s, **Alfred A. Smith**, who had married the Hansons' daughter, **Lorena**, established a rustic store and hotel he called the Hotel Alki.

In 1903, Alfred replaced the hotel with a larger structure at the corner of 63rd and Alki avenues. Built with logs placed vertically, the hotel became the Stockade and stood as one of Alki's most recognizable landmarks for more than 30 years.

Smith often corrected those who used the modern mispronunciation for his childhood home, which in Chinook jargon is properly pronounced "Al-key." "When I was a little boy, I remember hearing people down on the beach saying 'Al-kye,'" he recalled in 1997. "Members of my family would nudge each other and say, 'Foreigners.'"

A public memorial service for Smith was held April 23 at the Four Seasons Olympic Hotel. Memorials may be made in Smith's honor to Seattle Goodwill Industries or a charity of choice.

Colorful storyteller George F. Shephard, 103

Shephard recalled delivering a newspaper paper to the home of a doctor, whose 'striking' daughter greeted him at the kitchen door. 'Just as I went to hand the paper to her, I went out of sight,' he said. 'I stepped into this coal chute, and down I went into the basement with my newspapers on my back and everything else. Goodness, what a furor that started.'

George F. Shephard, a historical-society member who lived most of his life in West Seattle and was featured in the society's "Tales of West Seattle" oral-history video, died Nov. 28, 2002. He was 103.

Shephard, most recently of Tacoma, was born Aug. 22, 1899, in Portland. Married to his wife, **Jessie**, for 80 years, he founded and retired from Airtec, a Seattle commercial air-conditioning firm. He was a life member of Alki Masonic Lodge No. 152 and was a past president of the Industrial Lions Club of Seattle.

His colorful stories enlivened "Tales of West Seattle," and interviews of him by oral historian **JonLee Joseph** are part of the society's collection.

Shephard recalled Admiral boyhood days when, he played on the retired bodies of two cable cars that had ran up California and Ferry avenues in the last decade of the 19th century and were stored by the old ferry landing on Harbor Avenue. "I can remember ... yanking at the bell, which, of course, some people didn't like," he said. "They stopped us kids from doing that."

Shephard recalled that as a first-grader he was present for the unveiling and first dedication of the Birthplace of Seattle monument at Alki, on Nov. 13, 1905. "They loaded us in a school bus, which was driven by a couple of horses, and the seats were around lengthwise of this wagon."

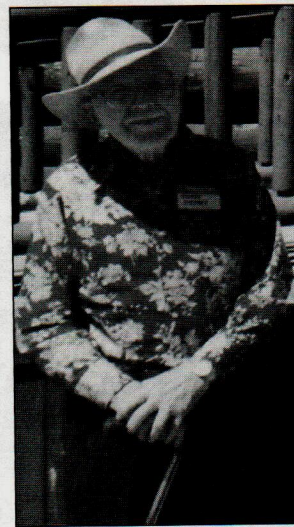


PHOTO BY PAT FILER

George Shephard visited the museum recently.

He said he and **Jessie** enjoyed amusement rides at Luna Park, particularly the Canals of Venice. "They'd draw the boat through and make its different circles, and they'd have scenes of different kinds, and it came from Venice," he said. "The merry-go-round also impressed them. "At the time, (it) was the largest in the world," he said. "We used to sit on the outside

seat, and as you went past the little arm sticking out, you could grab a little metal ring out of a holder. Pretty soon, if you got a brass ring or gold ring, that entitled you to a free ride."

The Shephards lived in the Admiral district, on Gatewood Hill, near Mount St. Vincent and south of White Center. Shephard attended historical-society events in recent years. A memorial service was held Dec. 7, 2002, at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Memorials can go to a charity of choice.

City engineer/Fauntleroy historian Roy W. Morse, 96

Roy Winchester Morse, a member of the historical society who headed the Seattle water and engineering departments for two decades and co-wrote histories of the Fauntleroy neighborhood, died Nov. 18, 2002, at Park West Care Center. He was 96.

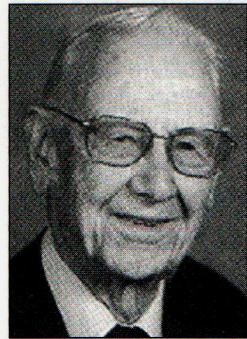


PHOTO COURTESY FAUNTLEROY CHURCH

Roy Morse

Morse, born in Seattle on March 14, 1906, lived in the Fauntleroy neighborhood for more than 50 years. He was married to his college sweetheart, **Elizabeth Hedges**, for nearly 73 years.

When his father, **Chester Morse**, who headed the city water department, died in 1949, Morse succeeded him. The former Boeing engineer went on to become city engineer in 1957, retiring in 1971.

His achievements include realigning Seattle streets to accommodate the construction of Interstate 5 and the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, and building dams that deliver water and hydroelectric power to Seattle.

An annual honor of the state chapter of the American Public Works Association is named the Roy Morse Award. He even went so far as to write his own epitaph: "Reliable Public Servant and Administrator."

Along with the late **Rick Brown**, Morse wrote "Fauntleroy Legacy," a book published 15 years ago that drew upon interviews with the neighborhood's families. He followed that with a second volume and wrote that "the church, the school and the community center" held Fauntleroy together.

At his Nov. 24, 2002, memorial service at Fauntleroy Church, Morse's daughter, **Alice Powell**, noted her dad's commitment to his profession, his church and the community.

"He was fascinated with ideas, with history and with language," she said. "His curiosity and drive to both learn and teach led him to write. ... He had a wonderful time interviewing a great number of people who have been longtime members of the community and of this church."

His "guiding philosophy" also was noted at the service: "Integrity and honesty in all things. Express appreciation to others for jobs well done. Be open in relation to others."

Memorials can be made to the church or a charity of choice.

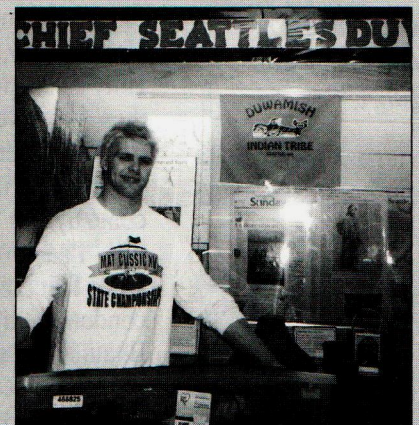


ALL PHOTOS BY PAT FILER

Holiday history
Debbie Dimitre (left) shares a poignant holiday story about a vintage quilt Dec. 19 at the museum. (Above) the historical society was represented in December at the Museum of History and Industry with an Alki pioneer tree.



Teens dive into past
Chief Sealth High student Jessica Labensky (above left), discusses "Diaries of West Seattle" with Sealth teacher Gary Thompson, who directs the oral-history project funded by the city Department of Neighborhoods. Your historical society is the sponsor of the project. (Right) Zach Filer, a John F. Kennedy High student and son of Pat Filer, operations/outreach manager, displays an exhibit on the Duwamish Indian tribe that he created for Cooper Elementary School this spring.



Nickels: It's 'important to preserve what created this community that we love'

Mayor outlines priorities, introduces one of his favorite films, at annual meeting at landmark Admiral Theatre

'It's important that we uphold the old saying that the thing that separates us from the animals is that we can learn. ... You don't learn, and you don't avoid making the same mistake over and over, unless you understand your history.'

GREG NICKELS
SEATTLE MAYOR

A big thank-you to Sheila Strehle, Karen Keegan and Viet Shelton of Mayor Greg Nickels' office for helping make possible his appearance at our annual meeting!

[The following is an edited transcript of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' speech during our historical society's annual meeting held Saturday morning, Nov. 16, 2002, at the Admiral Theatre, whose city landmarking our society championed in 1989.]

BY GREG NICKELS
SEATTLE MAYOR

Awarm West Seattle good morning to everybody. It's great to be here today for a lot of reasons. One, it's our neighborhood. We live six blocks away, and the fact that this theater is still operating is a testament to many of you in this room.

Preserving our history can be kind of an academic exercise, like the history books and two-dimensional learning of history that we so often get in our schools. But really, the preserving of history is a lot more. It's part of building community. If you don't understand where you came from, you really don't have much of a road map for where you're going as a people, as a community. It's important, as well, that we uphold the old saying that the thing that separates us from the animals is that we can learn. We need to prove that from time to time, but you don't learn, and you don't avoid making the same mistake over and over, unless you understand your history.

Moved here in 1961

My family moved to West Seattle in 1961. We came from Erie, Pennsylvania, and moving here was the best thing that ever happened to our family. We moved to a little place at first, near Holy Rosary, and we rented for a year. I went to Holy Rosary (School) that first year, first grade, then we moved to a house above Lincoln Park.

I remember the Granada Theater. My father used to take us kids there, we'd watch the organ come up, we'd listen to it, and we'd see movies like "Phantom of the Opera." It was a real tragedy when that building was torn down and replaced by condominiums. There was the old Haury's Boathouse/Seacrest Boathouse, that was owned by the city of Seattle. It had been purchased by Forward Thrust. The superintendent of parks let that building rot until the city brought in crews from the Navy brig out at Interbay to tear it down. Jefferson School was torn down and replaced by what is now Jefferson Square. Piece by piece by

piece, we were losing those physical pieces of history that allow us to remember what kind of a community we live in. And that's a tragedy. So the effort here at the Admiral, I think, was particularly important to preserve just a little bit of what has created this great community that we love.

The city of Seattle is a young city. We are just celebrating our 150th birthday, our sesquicentennial, and we have a lot of history yet to write. The voters of Seattle have just passed a monorail that will let us connect our neighborhoods, from West Seattle to downtown and out into Ballard. We are going to have the opportunity to make history by expanding that monorail system to truly get around our city without automobiles.

Our generation is going to build light rail, and we're going to connect Seattle, Tacoma and Everett and, again, give people a chance to move around without building another new freeway.

Replace the viaduct

We are going to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct and open up our city back to its roots, our water, and we're going to do it in a way that is seismically safe, because we learn from history.

I just returned from Kobe, Japan, a sister city of Seattle for the past 45 years, where I visited the grave of former Mayor (**Chujiro**) Haraguchi. As a young man, he visited Seattle, saw the Alaskan Way Viaduct and said, "We need one of those in our city," and they built it. In 1995, Kobe had a 7.2 earthquake, and the Hanshin Expressway toppled over, killing hundreds of people and cutting off transportation in their city. We need to learn from history. We need to learn from our neighbors and our friends. We need to tear down the viaduct before it kills people in our city.

Growing up in West Seattle was a great experience. My family moved away when I was going into seventh grade. We were a good Catholic family, got too big for the house, and we moved up to Capitol Hill, another great neighborhood. We were about a block from Holy Names Academy, an historic structure in our city, a wonderful school with an incredible tradition.

First mayor from West Seattle

But when it was time to buy a house, Sharon and I moved back to West Seattle because this was home, and to be the first mayor of Seattle from West Seattle is an incredible honor. It reminds us that we all make history every day and that if we show our respect for the history of our city, we can hope that our children and children's children will respect the things we do and build upon them.

That, I think, is the lesson of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and of the work you've done to preserve the Log House Museum, to

preserve those records, to give us a living history, a chance for us to commemorate what happened Sept. 11 in a meaningful and emotional way, to remember how we were affected as a country and as a people by that event in 2001.

In addition to the Granada, I remember coming here to the Admiral in second grade with my best friend from brand-new Our Lady of Guadalupe school. We saw a movie called "Battle of the Bulge," not exactly a classic, but it had a lot of action. I have great memories of this theater.

One of the saddest stories about the twinning of this theater (in 1973) was that when the workmen got up to the ceiling, they just cut the wires to the marvelous chandelier and let it drop. To me, that just says an awful lot.

Preserving the theater

We need to preserve what is here, and we need to understand that some changes are going to have to happen for this theatre to be preserved long-term. We need to figure out how we're going to make it work for this community, to continue to be a living and dynamic and vibrant part of our neighborhood, which it has been for so long. I think that we've seen some examples in our city where that has been done very successfully, and I look forward to having that occur here in the Admiral neighborhood.

Sharon and I are moviephiles. We've got 400 or 500 VHS movies, one of the largest collections in our neighborhood. My two favorite movies, "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Defending Your Life," are about life after death. I don't really know what that says. But a third movie that Sharon and I enjoy very much is "The American President." It is a production of Aaron Sorkin, whose TV show, "The West Wing," came out of material that was leftover after he made this movie. It is an uplifting movie much like Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life" or "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." It treats our elected leaders and as human beings and looks at how people can be involved in politics and public service and community in an honorable way. It is not the cynical look at politics and public service that we see so often, where people are driven by polls and focus groups before they decide what is right and wrong.

In politics at age 16

The film speaks to me because I decided to get into politics at age 16. My mother and I went to our precinct caucus in a neighbor's living room. It was 1972, the Vietnam War was raging, and we were sitting around talking about who we thought should be the next president. We were unanimous it shouldn't be Richard Nixon, and we were trying to figure out whether it should be Ed

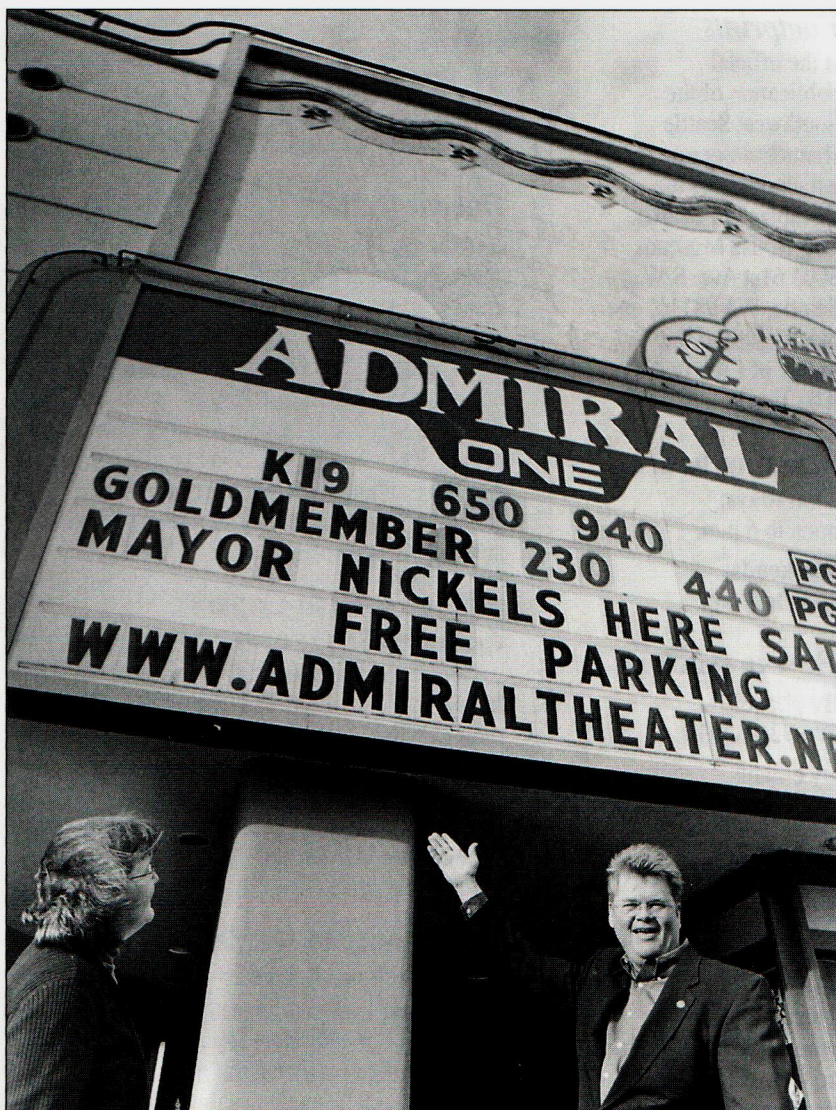


PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW E. DURHAM

Muskie, George McGovern, Shirley Chisholm or any number of other potential Democratic candidates. It was at that caucus that I discovered a passion for politics, that I felt that in talking to my neighbors, I could maybe change some minds. I got involved in a campaign after that and, again, felt that feeling, that I could make a difference.

Look people in the eye

That is what has kept me in politics and led to devoting my career to local government. At the local level, you get to look people in the eye when you make a decision, and you get to describe what it is that you're trying to accomplish. It's face to face. I think that's where America started, and that is where America needs to go if we're going to continue to be the greatest country on Earth.

So it's a great pleasure to be here this morning. It is a wonderful time in this great city, one where we are going to make history over the next few years. I salute the Southwest Seattle Historical Society for what you've done to respect our past and help us understand the lessons that it leaves for us. Thank you.

As his wife, Sharon, looks on, Mayor Greg Nickels points to his name on the Admiral Theatre marquee, on the morning of our annual meeting.

'That is the lesson of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and of the work you've done to preserve the Log House Museum ... to give us a living history.'

GREG NICKELS
SEATTLE MAYOR

Footprints

is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, which operates the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116, one block south of the Statue of Liberty on Alki Beach.

Museum hours

Thursdays:
noon to 6 p.m.

Weekends:
noon to 3 p.m.

How to reach us

By phone:
206-938-5293

By e-mail:
<loghousemuseum.org>

By mail:
**3003 61st Ave. S.W.
Seattle, WA 98116**

P.S.

Thanks to everyone who helped put this edition of *Footprints* together. If you would like to write, shoot photos or otherwise help produce *Footprints*, contact us at the above phone number and addresses!

What's happening this spring and summer?

Docent training

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Would you like to help visitors enjoy the exhibits at your museum? Would you like to help your museum raise funds by selling unique gifts? Then come to the next monthly training for docents, from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. at the museum. Afterward, you will be able to serve as an expert docent. There's a great take-away manual, as well. The next training will be **Saturday, June 7**. To sign up, please send e-mail to **Andrea Mercado** at <merroom@yahoo.com>.

Afghan sales at Capers

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 9-10

Don't miss this opportunity to take friends and family into one of the West Seattle Junction's most popular meeting places and gift stores, Capers. On this day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., your historical-society's Sesquicentennial Afghans will be on sale at a special price that includes a year's membership in the historical society. This sale will be repeated **Friday, May 23**.

Last chance to see First Response

THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 25

Have you seen your museum's exhibition of the memorials left at the foot of the Alki Statue of Liberty replica following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack? Have you shown the exhibit to family and friends? If not, don't miss "First Response: A community's grief, horror, hope and prayer." The last day it will be up is **Sunday, May 25**, after which it will be removed to enable installation of the next exhibit, "Rich Traditions," which opens on Friday, June 6.

'Exhibit of the Year'!

The Association of King County Historical Organizations was to bestow its "exhibit of the year" award on "First Response," at the organization's annual awards luncheon, Tuesday, April 29 (after the deadline for this edition of *Footprints*). More in the next edition. Congrats to all involved!

Heritage Fair

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 24 AND 25

The second annual Heritage Expo, sponsored by the Association of King County Heritage Organizations, will be held once again at the Maritime Heritage Center on Lake Union, in conjunction with the Northwest Folklife Festival. Your historical society and museum will be represented with a booth. Stop on by for an update on what our peer organizations are doing.

West Seattle High Elshin mural

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Don't miss this special speaker program in the West Seattle High School Library on the historic, three-paneled mural that hangs in the library of the newly restored and remodeled school. The 7 p.m. program is open to the public.

"Rich Traditions"

OPENS FRIDAY, JUNE 6

The opening of the long-awaited West Seattle High School exhibit will take place on the same day as the WSHS all-school reunion. See details, pages 1 and 4, and be sure to watch for exhibit-related events throughout the summer.

FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
c/o Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED


LOG HOUSE
museum
"THE BIRTHPLACE OF SEATTLE"

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 4960