

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE LV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2004

Treasures await you at our society's Oct. 2 auction

What's your bid?

BY AUDREY ZEMKE

It's auction time again for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. The third-annual Dinner Auction is Saturday, Oct. 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at South Seattle Community College's Jerry Brockey Center.

There will be silent and live auctions as well as dinner. The attire is dress casual. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$400 for a table of 10, and parking is free. The auction benefits the "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum.

The auction has fantastic items to bid on this year. They include Pacific Institute's

success concepts seminar "Taking it to the Next Level"; a professional teeth whitening; anti-aging skin care products from Bio-

Therapeutic; a chance to "Get Organized"; an Endolyne Joe's gift basket; a Lifetime Vintage Select Membership from McCarthy & Schiering Wine Merchants; a



Antique opera glasses (left), china and glassware are among the items that will be offered at this year's auction.

Mariners basket; and a Lalaland basket.

The treasures don't stop there.

(continued on page 2)

Historian Dorpat chairs society's annual fund campaign

Seattle writer/historian **Paul Dorpat** has a well-deserved reputation for generosity to the local heritage community. So it should not surprise anyone that he would once again come to the aid of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

In agreeing to chair our society's 2004 Annual Fund campaign, Dorpat gives his

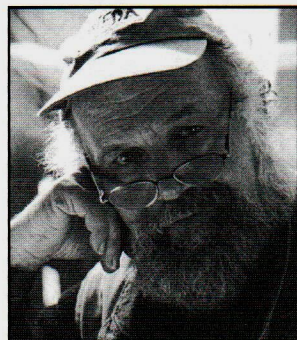


PHOTO BY JOSEF SCAYLEA
Paul Dorpat

name and love of history to help the "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum. Look for this year's Annual Fund letter sometime in September. You generously gave over \$12,000 in last year's drive. Please give generously again so that the 2004 Annual Fund donations will meet or exceed that figure. Be a part of preserving Southwest Seattle's history.

Inside this issue . . .

- Society launches search for professional museum director (page 3)

- Museum acquires extensive Lucille Mason Collection (page 5)

Merrill Gardens to host fall film series



Please join us for the fall film series at Merrill Gardens on the following Thursday evenings starting at 7:30 p.m.

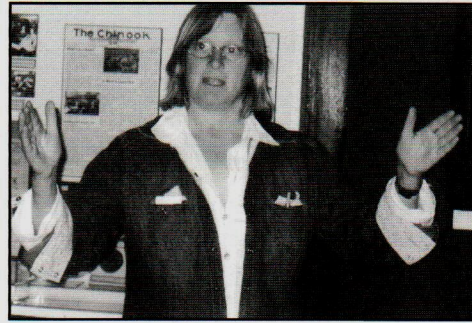
- Sept. 23
- Oct. 7
- Oct. 21
- Nov. 4
- Nov. 18

If you missed the film series held this summer at the Log House Museum, don't fret. The local-history documentaries will flicker back to life this fall at Merrill Gardens.

Scheduled for Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., the series will give attendees an opportunity to meet the producers, directors and community historians who were behind the creation of each film.

On Sept. 23, filmmaker **B.J. Bullert** will present *Alki: Birthplace of Seattle*, which tells the story of the meeting of this area's first pioneers and the region's indigenous people. **Ruth Moore**, the great granddaughter of **John and Lydia Low**, who landed at Alki in 1851, will be a special guest.

On Oct. 7, West Seattle native and Seattle Channel producer **Kelly Guenther** will present three documentaries he produced for Seattle's sesquicentennial in 2001 – *Alki Cultural Trail*, *Conservation of the Murals of West Seattle High School*, and *Reenactment of the Landing of the Alki Pioneers*.



Filmmaker B.J. Bullert will present "Alki: Birthplace of Seattle" on Sept. 23.

On Oct. 21, historical society board member **Clay Eals** will host a showing of two oral-history documentaries produced by our society – *West Seattle Stories* and *Tales of West Seattle*.

On Nov. 4, the film series will feature *Diaries of West Seattle* and *Diaries of Delridge*, documentaries that were created by the Sports and Marketing class at Chief Sealth High School. Teacher **Gary Thomsen** and students will be on hand to

participate in a question-and-answer session.

On Nov. 18, the series wraps up with a presentation of Bullert's *Chief Seattle*, a film that celebrates the life and legacy of the legendary Duwamish leader.

Merrill Gardens will supply refreshments and will show the films in a private video room. The series is open to the public, and parking is available on the street and at West Seattle Golf Course (across the street). Merrill Gardens is located at 4611 35th Ave. S.W. Thanks to **Joan Bateman** for providing funding.

Society's annual Dinner Auction set for Saturday, Oct. 2

(continued from page 1)

Bid on vacation escapes to Methow Valley, Treasure Island and others. Artwork by **Terri Burris**, **Adele Earnshaw** and **Merrilee Hagen**, and a print by Salvadore Dali, will be included in the auction. Have fun bidding on collectibles, heirlooms, and antiques such as glassware, vintage post-cards, books, furniture, sports memorabilia, a Matchbox car, a World War II pin, Civil War descendants' medals, a hat box from West Seattle's The Topper Shop, linens and a model lighthouse. There will be gift baskets, handcrafted items, gift certificates for local businesses and much more. Come see what treasures you can win for yourself or for Christmas presents. Thanks go to generous individuals and business for the wonderful auction items donated.

During the auction there will be two

opportunities to make tax-deductible gifts to benefit the museum's work. **Andrea Mercado**, the Society's collection/gift shop manager, will tell us about the historical society's collection and its current needs. **Clay Eals**, board member and the night's emcee, will tell us about the museum building's needs.

Fun-loving **Gene Willard** will be the auctioneer.

Let's all have fun and raise money for the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum. Volunteer to work the night of the auction. Invite your friends and introduce them to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. Buy tickets or a table of tickets. For information, to volunteer, or to buy tickets, contact the society at 206-938-5293 or online at www.loghousemuseum.org.

President's message:

Hiring a professional museum director will be a major step forward

BY JOAN MRAZ
SWSHS PRESIDENT

On Sept. 3, I sent a letter to members to share some exciting news – that our historical society is launching a search for a professional museum director.

As many of you know, the museum, acquired by the society 10 years ago, has been operating with dedicated part-time staff and a diverse cadre of volunteers since it was opened in 1997. Our museum has made many strides in the past seven years. We have put up four fine exhibits while shoring up our ability to build, catalogue and store our collection. All of this is to the credit of our staff and hundreds of members and supporters, including you.

Hiring a professional museum director will be a major step forward in the history of our organization. There are three major reasons that the Executive Board has voted to take this action:

(1) In its ability to provide professionally curated exhibits and maintain and enhance a professionally managed collection, our Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum must keep pace with other community heritage organizations in the region. Our excellent work so far has earned us acclaim and respect, but we need to proceed to the next level to ensure the viability of our artifact storage, cataloguing and display.

(2) Many agencies that offer larger grants for heritage do so only to organizations that employ at least one full-time professional museum director. We need to open the door and make ourselves eligible for these grants to ensure the financial viability of our museum.

(3) The Executive Board feels it necessary to reorganize the staff structure so that it can invest responsibility in one person

whom the board can consider the administrator. This will amount to a unified and not fragmented approach to staff management.

The new director will work 25 hours a week, with a planned start date of Dec. 1, and we plan to expand the job to a full-time level of 40 hours a week as soon as funds allow.

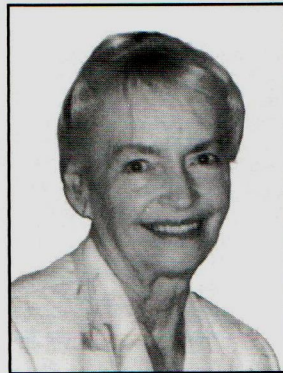
We have been extremely fortunate to have the dedicated services of two key staff in recent years: **Pat Filer** and **Andrea Mercado**. Filer, whose background is in

teaching and whose focus at the museum has been on exhibits and education, has worked for the society since January 1998. At times, she has been paid at a half-time level and, since February 2003, she has been paid at a quarter-time level. Mercado, whose background is in museology and whose focus at the museum has been on our collection and gift shop, has worked for the society since February 2002 and, since

February 2003, has been paid at a quarter-time level. Both quarter-time jobs currently held by Filer and Mercado will be eliminated one week after the new museum director begins work. We hope that eventually we can build up the treasury to such an extent to allow the new director to hire additional staff — including an office manager, whose duties have been performed entirely by volunteers for the past year and a half.

When we hold our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 13, it will be a perfect opportunity to welcome the new director and to recognize publicly the work of Filer and Mercado. We hope that you will attend the Annual Membership Meeting, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at Alki Community Center, and take part in this unique celebration of our historical society's past and future.

In the meantime, please see the museum director's job description at our society's Web site at www.loghousemuseum.org. And if you have any questions about any part of this transition, feel free to contact me or any other member of the Executive Board.



The 2004 Executive Board

President:
Joan Mraz

Vice president:
Shirley Tupper

Treasurer:
Aleta Woodworth

Board secretary:
Joey Richesson

Membership secretary:
Betty Broughton

Trustees through 2004:

Joan Bateman

Marcy Johnsen

Bob Joyner

Diane Tice

Trustees through 2005:

Patricia Kloster

Dick Sherman

Audrey Zemke

Trustees through 2006:

Judith Bentley

Dickie Crumm

Clay Eals

Peggy Fox

100 celebrate 100 log-house years

What better way for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society to celebrate the 100th birthday of its Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum than to bring together 100 members and friends for a group photo? The photo was taken during the annual Independence Day membership picnic, as participants filled the front steps of the museum and spilled out onto the sidewalk. The picnic itself drew a record-breaking crowd of about 120 during its three hours, and the fact that exactly 100 people posed for the photo was a fortunate stroke of coincidence!



PHOTO COURTESY SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help us reach our centennial goal of 100 Pioneer members

BY CAROL VINCENT

This year, the Log House Museum celebrates its centennial birthday. In honor of this special occasion, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society is offering an exclusive commemorative mug to renewing and new members who become society members at the Pioneer (\$100) or higher level. The goal of this year's annual membership drive is to gain 100 Pioneer members in tribute to this centennial.



This commemorative mug is available only to those who become society members at the Pioneer level or higher.

If you are a Senior, Annual or Family member, please consider raising your membership to the Pioneer level. If you have friends or family who would enjoy the benefits of membership in the society, what better time than now! Help us reach our target!

Thanks to our new Pioneers

We'd like to welcome these 2004 Centennial Pioneer members and thank them for their support:

Joan Bateman, John & Dahli Bennett, Claire Berry, John & Jean Broughton, William & Wanda Carney, Jane Conrad, Fred & Marge Dau of Admiral Antiques, Verna Draper, Shirley Egan, James Ellis, Joyce Entus, The Good Book, Verda Hansberry, Brooke Healy, Roger Hollings of the WS Herald, Sharon Huling, Illusions Beauty Salon, Marcy Johnsen and Joey Richesson, Bob & Joyce Joyner, K.C. Jung, Dorothy Kaloper, Patricia Kloster, Maxine Koblyk, W.H. "Bud" Lewis, Floyd Madsen, Joan Mraz, Oscar Mraz, Mary Lou Richardson, Connie & Forrest Ross, Jackie Scott, Lorraine Toly, Carol & Charlie Vincent, Jeannette Wenzl, Aleta Woodworth and Patricia Wright.

Museum acquires extensive Lucille Mason Collection

BY ANDREA MERCADO

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society's newest acquisition is from **Lucille Campbell Longevay Mason**, owner of Lucille's Photographic Salon, and her family.

The extensive collection has taken a team of collection staff and volunteers several hours to review. From portraits to postcards, this is a varied collection of relevant West Seattle materials. It is evident Mason has an avid interest both in our local Seattle history and photograph restoration.

There are clear examples of her careful restoration process through a series of before-and-after images. Mason has the focus and artistic skill to repair damaged or faded photographs, or create new images from separate photographs.

Mason began working in the family photography business in British Columbia at the young age of 15. She went on to study at the Vancouver School of Arts, where she learned the fine art skills which are evident in her restorations. She learned her trade in West Seattle as a portrait photographer at the studio of **Jesse Ebert**, who specialized in aerial images.

In the 1960s, she opened her own studio, where the variety of clients was neverending: Longacres Winner's Circle portraits, government missile silos in the Midwest, Frederick and Nelson hand-colored holiday photographs, and local

Seattle residents, pets and entertainer portraits.

The Lucille Mason Collection spans more than 50 years of Seattle history and allows the Southwest Seattle Historical Society to expand that much more on the story of West Seattle.

Our society is interested in donations of



PHOTO COURTESY SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This image from the Lucille Mason Collection shows the Portola Theatre in 1919, the year it opened near the corner of California Avenue and Admiral Way (part of the site of today's Admiral Twin Theatres). Posters advertise three silent films: "Anne of Green Gables," starring Mary Miles Minter; "The Invisible Hand," a serial Western starring Antonio Moreno; and "The Hall Room Boys," a comedy based on the long-running comic strip of the same name.

all kinds. If you would like to donate an item that tells a tale of the Duwamish Peninsula, whether it's from 153 years ago or yesterday, please contact us at 938-5293. E-mail: loghousemuseum@comcast.net.

Students unveil Diversity Project



West Seattle High School students (from front to back) Karianne Salonen, Sara Dubee and Nick Henscheid, and project manager Laura Hebert, relax at the Log House Museum after their Diversity Project exhibit book was unveiled on June 4. The project, funded by a Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund grant, celebrated the diversity of the school's student population through the years. The students participated by conducting research, compiling a database of WSHS alumni, identifying relevant photos and "Chinook" (student newspaper) articles, and planning the "unveiling" event. Henscheid also built the display stand.

Garden Tea raises \$1,760

Our society's business sponsors

Admiral
Mortgage

Alki Homestead
Restaurant

Assurance
Escrow

Evergreen
Money Source

Hecker and
Wakefield

Merrill Gardens
at West Seattle

Northwest Art &
Frame

The Pacific
Institute

Sposari's
Concrete and
Materials

Villa Heidelberg
Washington Title

Wiseman
Appliance



PHOTOS BY JOEY RICHESSON



It's hard to say which group had more fun at our society's second-annual Garden Tea – the guests or the volunteers. Held Sunday, Aug. 22, at Villa Heidelberg Bed and Breakfast, the event was attended by more than 80 and raised \$1,760 for the museum's operating fund. Attendees included a striking group of hat fanciers, and kitchen volunteers (from left) Patricia Kloster, Maureen Paris, Marcy Johnsen and Joan Mraz. Many thanks to Villa Heidelberg proprietor Judy Burbrink for preparing delicacies and creating an atmosphere of elegance; to the Pacific Institute and Diane Tice for their generous support; to co-chairs Kloster and Carol Vincent, who worked together to plan the event; and to all who pitched in to make the occasion a success.

Have you stopped by the Carriage House gift shop?

BY ANDREA MERCADO

Visit the Carriage House gift shop and discover new and vintage goods for you, your family and friends.

Some finds of this season are a limited-edition mug filled with delicious delectables, bright and comfortable designs in apparel, and vintage special occasion cards.

New books available at the Carriage House

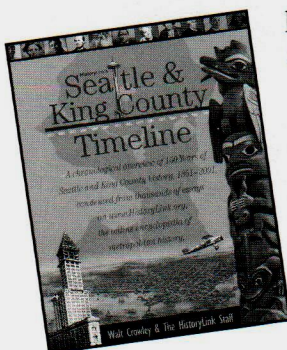
HistoryLink's Seattle and King County Timeline, by Walt Crowley and the HistoryLink staff. \$12.95

This efficient and highly entertaining book tracks the creators of modern day Seattle— Native Americans, settlers

and immigrants since 1851. With an abundance of historical photographs, trivia and headlines from the day, this is an excellent and enjoyable book to sit down with by the fire. "A must for any Seattle household," says the Seattle Times. "150 years of local history at a glance."

The Beachcomber's Guide to Seashore Life in the Pacific Northwest, by J. Duane Sept. \$19.95

A simple and straightforward guide to the most common creatures found at the beach, this is a perfect companion for any beachcomber – the family, school group, Sunday beach walker or the career naturalist. Each of the tidal animals and plants is clearly and accurately photographed in color. A must have for the beach!



Living at Riverside

*Editor's note: Following is Part 2 of 2 of a memoir written by **Barbara Jean Vincent Johnson**. It recalls the days of the 1930s and 1940s when the community known as Riverside – an area along the west bank of the Duwamish River that is primarily industrial today – was a thriving residential neighborhood.*

Riverside when I was young was a nice place to grow up. You knew who your neighbors were and you could leave your doors unlocked. Everyone trusted and helped one another.

My life was happy growing up. We did not know we were poor – until one time at school someone made fun of the coat I was wearing. It was given to me by a lady and it was a boy's coat. But I did not care as it was warm and I told the girl that made fun of me, "Well, at least it is clean and I am thankful to the lady that gave it to me." I guess I learned how to stand up for what I knew was right at a young age. It is not what you have but how you treat people that counts.

I also remember that we each had only one pair of shoes and they were not sewn very good, so when my sole came off, I had to tie it with string so it would not flap. I called them my talking shoes. Kids would make fun of me, but I did not care. I was so glad when Mom went to the Goodwill and found a pair for me for 25 cents. Then when the coupons were good again we bought new ones. They said we had to save the rubber for the war. It was funny when some of the kids who had teased me had their shoes start flapping. I said, "See, you got some of them talking shoes."

We had chores to do. Getting the eggs from the chickens and helping stack wood

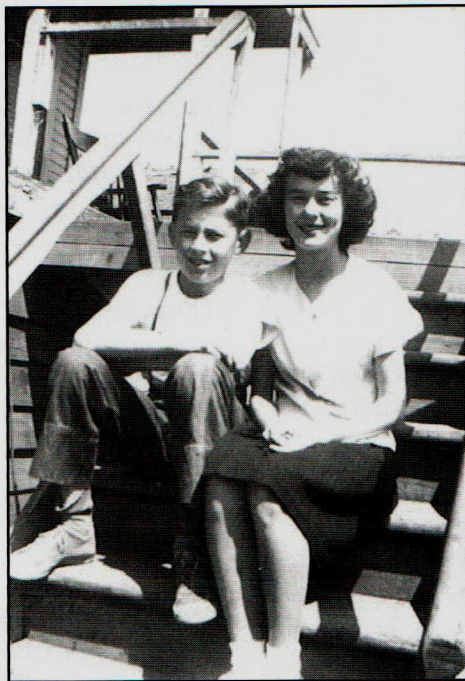
for winter and cutting it. Bringing wood in and putting it behind the stove for morning. I tried to wring a chicken's neck once and all it did was stagger, so Mom killed the chickens from then on.

In the neighborhood next to the Popich store on 17th lived a man named Boswell. Us kids were afraid of him because they called him Pegleg. He had a peg leg and they said he was a pirate. He owned some cabins that he rented out and I remember a family burned in one of them. Across the street from him were some more cabins and there was an Indian lady with her daughter who was in a wheelchair. She would always call to me to come and she would give me a list of things to get for her from the store.

On Marginal Way was Sid's service station. Across the street, there was a house that was rented and some more cabins, and then the old store that the Marine family owned, and then the Blaine Hotel. The hotel had lots of single men that lived there and we were told

to stay away. **Elsie Toby** and her parents bought the place, so we would go see her when she moved in – still being careful who we talked to.

I have fond memories of how we grew up – poor, but we all were poor in that time period. Riverside was a community of people who cared for one another, and today some still meet and talk about the old days. You cannot take away the memories of a child who skinned rabbits, picked vegetables in the garden and gathered eggs, could run to the store to get milk or bread for neighbors. Or my brother and sisters who learned from our parents to care about others. We may not have had much, but we learned from our neighbors and parents.



*PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA VINCENT MORELAND
Barbara and her brother Tom pose on the porch of their Riverside home around 1947.*

'We each had only one pair of shoes, and they were not sewn very good, so when my sole came off, I had to tie it with string so it would not flap. I called them my talking shoes.'

'Riverside was a community of people who cared for one another and today some still meet and talk about the old days . . . We may not have had much, but we learned from our neighbors and parents.'

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. Editor: Brad Chrisman.

Museum hours

Thursdays:
noon to 6 p.m.

Weekends:
noon to 3 p.m.

How to reach us

By phone:
206-938-5293

By fax:
206-937-4475

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

By e-mail:
loghousemuseum
@comcast.net

Web site:
www.
loghousemuseum.org

Annual Meeting set for Saturday, Nov. 13

Our Society's Annual Membership Meeting and election of officers and trustees will take place Saturday, Nov. 13, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Alki Community Center, 5817 S.W. Stevens St. At the meeting, we plan to welcome our new museum director (see story on page 3) and to recognize the outstanding work of **Pat Filer** and **Andrea Mercado**. Refreshments will be served.

'Rich Traditions' exhibit to close Sunday, Oct. 17

The current exhibit at the Log House Museum, "West Seattle High School: Rich Traditions," will close Sunday Oct. 17, the last day to view the exhibit. The museum will then be closed as our society prepares for the next exhibit.

Calendar

September

Thursday, Sept. 23 – **Fall film series presentation of the documentary *Alki: Birthplace of Seattle***, Merrill Gardens, 7:30 p.m.

October

Saturday, Oct. 2 – **Annual Auction Dinner**, South Seattle Community College, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct 7 – **Fall film series presentation of the documentaries *Alki Cultural Trail, Conservation of the Murals of West Seattle High School, and Reenactment of the Landing of the Alki Pioneers***, Merrill Gardens, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 21 – **Fall film series presentation of the documentaries *West Seattle Stories and Tales of West Seattle***, Merrill Gardens, 7:30 p.m.

November

Thursday, Nov. 4 – **Fall film series presentation of the documentaries *Diaries of West Seattle and Diaries of Delridge***, Merrill Gardens, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 13 – **SWSHS Annual Meeting**, Alki Community Center, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Thursday, Nov. 18 – **Fall film series presentation of the documentary *Chief Seattle***, Merrill Gardens, 7:30 p.m.

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

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