

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE LIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2004

The one who first raised the torch

A 20th-anniversary tale, complete with all of the documents to back it up

BY CLAY EALS

When Elliott Couden wants to talk history, he doesn't do it empty-handed. A recent visit to the 92-year-old founder of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society at his Morgan Junction home to discuss the 20-year chronicle of the group starts and ends with paper — meticulously handwritten, chronologically organized and three-ring-notebooked paper.

How could it be any other way? A true historian documents the past and doesn't just recall it with vague anecdotes. So when Couden says that our society's first organizational meeting took place on May 24, 1984, there is no doubt he has the records to back it up. And just so you're sure, he'll read you the seven-point agenda and the 15 names from the sign-in sheet.

If anything, Couden is an organizer. So the task of starting up a historical society for the Duwamish peninsula didn't daunt him in the least.

"I knew what I felt would be a good format for going into it," he says. "I didn't know anything about historical societies, but I sure as heck knew something about structures."

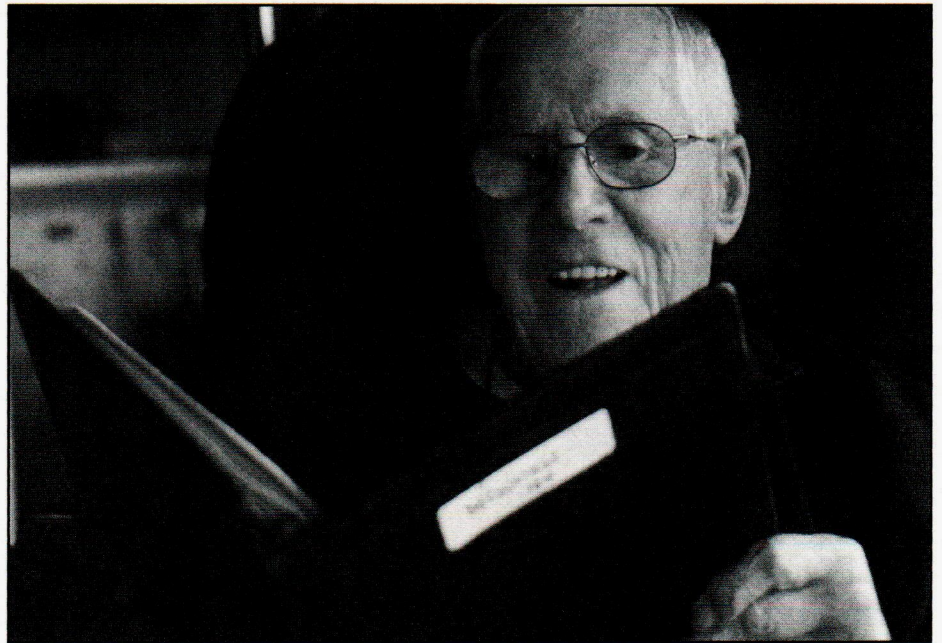


PHOTO BY CLAY EALS

A meticulous record keeper, Southwest Seattle Historical Society founder Elliott Couden looks through a binder full of documents from the society's early years.

On both scores, that's an understatement, given the tapestry of Couden's life, whose strands led inexorably to formation of our historical society.

Knowingly or not, when Couden first traveled to the Seattle area from St. Louis in the fall of 1936, he had history on his mind. He was looking for "a place to get my roots down," and as one of the biggest fans of Charles Lindbergh and the fledgling history of aviation, he landed in the very city dominated by the Boeing Co.

Giving himself 10 days to find a job, he

'I didn't know anything about historical societies, but I sure as heck knew something about structures.'

— Elliott Couden

(continued on page 8)

Log House Museum gift shop needs your name-calling skills!

The Log House Museum gift shop needs a moniker of its own. You can help us by creating a shop name to go on our new sign!

Come up with the winning shop name and receive a limited edition mug commemorating the Log House Museum's

100th anniversary and a \$10 museum shop gift certificate.

When you visit the gift shop, you will find a selection of quality books, enticing gifts for all ages, and toys for the curious, all related to the founding and natural surroundings of our Emerald City.

New books available at the Log House Museum gift shop:

Celebrating 150 Years: Architectural History of West Seattle's North End – Harbor Avenue, Alki and South Alki, by Brooke Best.

Written by society member **Brooke Best**, this publication explores the area's development and changing architectural trends over the past century and a half. Twenty properties illustrate the range of styles that found their way to the West Side and reflect the shaping influences of owners, builders, architects, materials, technological advances and economic times. Woven together with a wealth of illustrations, this book – funded in part by King County's Community Development Authority Special Projects Grants (2001 and 2002) and sponsored by the Allied Arts Foundation – promises to make readers more aware and appreciative of the area's local heritage and diverse building stock.

Sons of the Profits or There's No Business Like Grow Business: The Seattle Story 1850-1901, by William Speidel.

A lively and highly entertaining discussion of the founding men and women of Seattle, written by the man who "discovered" Underground Seattle. \$10.95

More Voices, New Stories: King County, Washington's First 150 Years, edited by Mary Wright.

From "Rethinking the Founding of Seattle" and

"Duwamish Valley Pioneers in Early King County History" to "Theatrical History of Seattle to 1930," this collection of 12 essays written by members of the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild focuses on the social, cultural and ethnic history of our area. These are new and vital stories which add additional insight to our local history. \$17.95

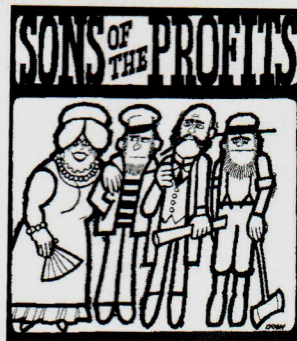
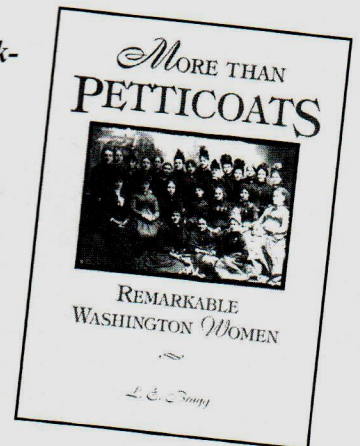
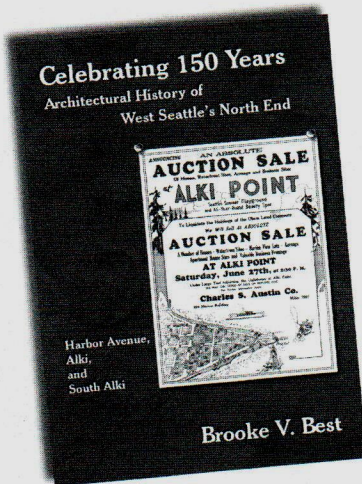
More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Washington Women, by L. E. Bragg.

Gathered stories of 16 extraordinary women from Washington's past, from Kick-Is-Om-Lo, Chief Seattle's daughter known as Princess

Angeline; and Thea Foss, the original Tugboat Annie; to Mary Denny, the "Mother of Seattle." These tales wind through 19th-century Washington and weave stories of strength, hardship and humor. \$12.95

If You Lived With the Indians of the Northwest Coast, by Anne Kamma.

This wonderful children's book tells what it was like to grow up in a land of mountains, forests, beaches and villages. Informative and colorful, this book will keep all ages engrossed! \$5.99



All proceeds from the gift shop benefit the South-west Seattle Historical Society and the Log House Museum, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

No better way to begin the new year than with firm, enthusiastic support!

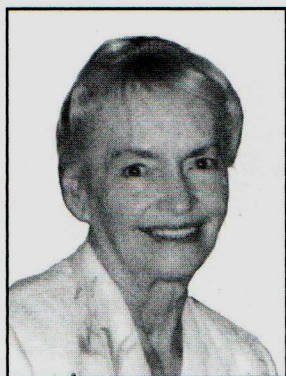
BY JOAN MRAZ
SWSHS PRESIDENT

W hew, what a year was 2003! Those who say we need to expect change and thrive on it surely know what they are talking about. Through it all, however, I'm both proud and humbled to say that our society is beginning a new year with the firm and enthusiastic support of loyal members like you, as well as the community as a whole.

Here's a look at some of the high points of 2003 and where we're headed this year:

After implementing a strict budget in early 2003, with cuts in expenses and staff hours, our board created the volunteer position of office manager, and former president and board member **Carol Vincent** has graciously filled the position, taking up some of the slack and covering many office duties. The successful fund-raising activities last year – the High Tea, the Auction, and the Annual Fund Drive – allowed us to continue operating at this same level, and we anticipate that we will not have to make further cuts in 2004. We deeply appreciate the wonderful support of the membership in these efforts.

Our board voted to set aside 10 percent of fund-raising proceeds to build up a reserve operating fund and is establishing an endowment fund through the Edward Jones company to provide a means for long-term stability for our society and museum. This fund will allow members and the community to invest in the future of our society and the "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum. Remember, we must raise the operating expenses for the log house and museum because we are not subsidized as many other museums are in other municipalities. We have received



\$3,500 annually in operating support from the Cultural Development Authority of King County, but most other grants are for programs, not operating expenses. We are applying for grants for operating expenses that we find are available.

Our society moved further down the road in formalizing its partnership with South Seattle Community College. I met with **President Dr. Jill Wakefield** to draw up a written agreement between the two organizations. SSCC has generously provided space for archiving our society's collection. In return, the society will create means for students' electronic access to our collection for research and provide other heritage programs.

Our board's Facilities Committee for the log-house building recently secured a \$7,000 grant from the Cultural Development Association (CDA) of King County toward emergency repairs of the railing of the handicap ramp and other safety features. Also, the Department of Neighborhoods of the City of Seattle awarded \$9,000 toward the completion of the West Seattle High School exhibit that opened last June. The Education Program is marketing the new acclaimed *Welcome to the Greenland* children's activity book, written by **Pat Filer** and **Cathy Fulton**. Under the direction of Collections Manager **Andrea Mercado** our society's collection is being digitized and moved to SSCC. A permanent museum exhibit is being planned to tell the story of the history of the Southwest Seattle area. Our popular tours of the museum by students, seniors, tourist groups and groups in general are continuing to be scheduled.

In another move that promises hope for our continued vitality and viability, our board initiated a move to form the Seattle Heritage Coalition under the Association of King County Heritage Organization (AKCHO) to promote the heritage community, seek sustained support from the City of Seattle and expand support for heritage organizations within Seattle. (See story on page 5.) I've been privileged to serve as the interim chair of the task force that is establishing the citywide coalition.

'Please don't be shy about bringing others into the fold. Remember, you are the best example and voice for our society in generating enthusiasm for the vision we all share.'

– Joan Mraz

(continued on page 5)

Mayor Nickels visits museum, affirms support for goal of city fund to bolster operating expenses

BY CLAY EALS

There's nothing to boost your spirits like having the mayor come to visit. Especially when he lives in your neighborhood, when he's familiar with your needs and when he encourages you seek city funds to help keep your door open.

Greg Nickels, Seattle's first-ever mayor from West Seattle, made a mid-term, 15-minute house call on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 27, to our "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum. Accompanied by a half-dozen city staff and local activists, the mayor's visit was one of 10 stops on a two-hour tour of the Duwamish peninsula.

Our society's president, Joan Mraz, along with board members Peggy Fox and Clay Eals, ex-president Merrilee Hagen and member Kay Francisco, were on hand to greet Nickels and guide him through the museum and gift shop. A dominant topic of conversation was the newly formed Seattle Heritage Coalition, which seeks to secure Seattle City Council approval of a modest city fund, starting in 2005, for helping Seattle's heritage organizations with their operating expenses. (See story on page 5.)

"I look forward to working with you on this," Nickels said. "We've expanded what was the Seattle Arts Commission to now being the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, so at least someday when the economy gets a little bit better, we'll be able to expand the programming as well.

"I'm not going to make you any promises today. I'm still looking at having to cut about \$10 million out of the city's (2004) budget. Looking ahead to 2005, we're opening new parks, new libraries and new community centers, and when those (proposals) went to the voters, no money was set aside to do that, so it's a pinch. But (the Seattle Heritage Coalition) is something I'm very sympathetic to."

Nickels pointed out that as a King

County Council member in the 1990s, he spearheaded creation of a similar county fund, which has granted operating-fund support for our society and dozens of others around the county. The county fund in 2003 totaled about \$110,000, which was divided

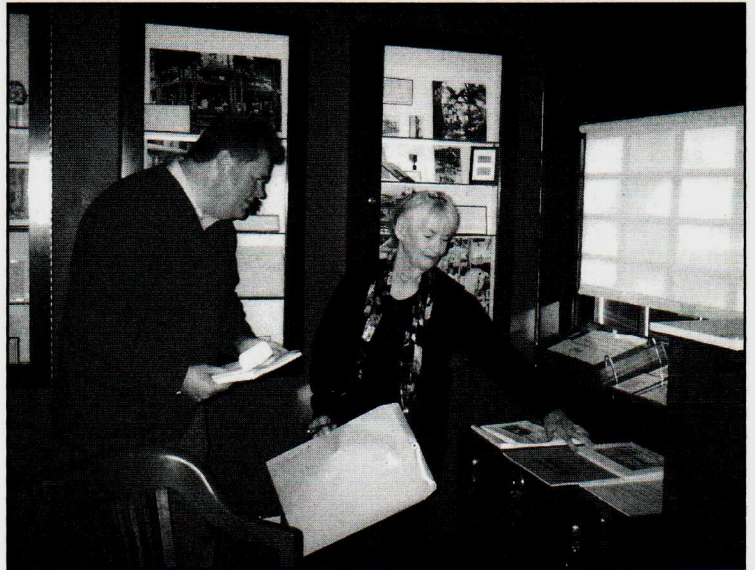


PHOTO BY PEGGY FOX

Joan Mraz shows the society's recent oral-history books to Mayor Greg Nickels during his Jan. 27 visit to the museum.

among 31 heritage groups.

"It's amazing what organizations like this can do with a relatively (small allocation of money). You can leverage it so many times," he said.

Mraz pointed out that the city governments of Renton, Shoreline and Issaquah help subsidize the operating expenses of heritage organizations in those areas. Nickels responded jovially.

"I assume that part of the pitch that you'll give will include those numbers of what those cities are doing," he said with a smile. "That'd be helpful. You can embarrass us into it."

The artifact that struck the mayor most in our museum's current display on the history of West Seattle High School was the school's former telephone switchboard.

"I brought a group over from Yakima from the technical college when this was still operating, and we went from West Seattle High School to have lunch at the

'It's amazing what organizations like this can do with a relatively (small allocation of money). You can leverage it so many times.'

— Mayor Greg Nickels

New voice for city's history groups

Seattle Heritage Coalition sets first rally for Feb. 23 at MOHAI

Imagine this future for our society:

- We secure regular financial help for our operating budget from the city of Seattle.

- We receive assistance and support from other city heritage organizations on issues of critical importance.

- We join forces with the rest of the city's heritage community to gain a greater voice and visibility in addressing issues of common interest.

The newly formed Seattle Heritage Coalition, launched last fall by the Association of King County Heritage Organizations, seeks to make this vision a reality for the city's 75-plus history groups.

The inaugural meeting of the coalition is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Museum of History and Industry, 2700 24th Ave. East, Seattle.

The first order of business is a goal highly attractive to our organization and the city as a whole — to secure Seattle City Council approval in December 2004 of a modest, competitive grant program to which heritage organizations could apply for assistance with operating expenses. The aim is for such a program to be part of

the city of Seattle budget in 2005 and each year thereafter.

By pursuing this goal, the coalition will build a fellowship of organizations that can provide mutual support and speak as a unified voice. Support for the coalition is pouring in from around the city.

"History is power. Where would we be without it?" says **Dick Wagner** of the Center for Wooden Boats. "Numbers of people are power. When we all speak together on historic preservation, the power will be awesome."

"Other cities around the region support historical societies and museums with money, and even staff. Seattle does not," chimes in **Mikala Woodward** of the Rainier Valley Historical Society. "We rely on the county for most of our grants. The work of small heritage organizations strengthens our communities, and these groups should get tangible support from the city."

"Heritage is for everyone," adds **Marianne Forssblad** of the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard. "Let's make it more visible. A heritage coalition will effectively bring it to the front."

For more information, contact **Joan Mraz**, the coalition's interim chair, at 206-246-9009 or <mraz@jps.net>.

'Other cities around the region support historical societies and museums with money, and even staff. Seattle does not . . . The work of small heritage organizations strengthens our communities, and these groups should get tangible support from the city.'

— Mikala Woodward, Rainier Valley Historical Society

Current efforts pave way for vital, viable future

(continued from page 3)

The board will be working hard this year to expand membership and gain more widespread recognition for the continued growth of our society and museum. Look for us throughout the community and Seattle as a whole, and please don't be shy about bringing others into the fold. Re-

member, you are the best example and voice for our society in generating enthusiasm for the vision we all share.

If you have ideas for helping us serve as the voice of heritage for our Duwamish peninsula, don't hesitate to give me a call at the museum, 206-938-5293, or e-mail me at <loghousemuseum@comcast.net>.

Nickels 'sympathetic' to needs of heritage organizations

(continued from page 4)

telephone museum, and West Seattle was using this (switchboard)," he told Mraz. "This very same piece was the centerpiece of the telephone museum. It was just right in the lobby. I'm surprised they're not still using it."

In the gift shop, Nickels asked if sales were helping provide significant revenue

for the society. Mraz said that sales are rising steadily, and Hagen pointed out that Seattle history books and the society's colorful Afghan, commissioned in time for the city's Sesquicentennial in 2001, are popular items.

"We've got a couple of those," the mayor said of the Afghan. "One we kept, and one or two we gave away."

Elshin mural from 1937 can inspire today's West Seattle students, New Deal art expert tells 30 attending society's annual meeting

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

The three-paneled Jacob Elshin mural on display in the West Seattle High School Library isn't an abstract

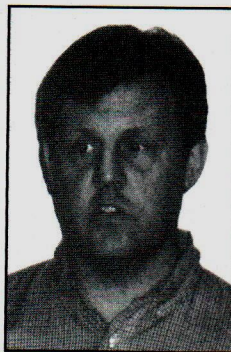
work of art from nearly 70 years ago. It's a concrete illustration of how young people can achieve their dreams, says New Deal art expert **Roger Van Oosten**.

"This mural can still speak to students and inspire them to do good things," Van Oosten told 30 people attending our society's 2003 annual meeting last Nov. 16 in the library.

Van Oosten, a Montlake resident and downtown public-relations executive who has a special interest in federally funded art from 1930s America, was the featured speaker at the yearly event, at which officers and new board members for 2004 were elected.

During the Great Depression, the federal government, led by President Franklin Roosevelt, responded to a 40 percent unemployment rate by launching employment programs under the National Recovery Act and, later, the Works Progress Administration, Van Oosten said.

Each federal agency had its own art program, he said, and out-of-work painters, sculptors, textile artists and others soon began competing for commissioned pieces destined for public display. The work paid



Roger Van Oosten

\$20 a week.

"In the 1930s, they did not hand you a check, they gave you a job," Van Oosten said. "They said if you're an artist, you're going to paint ... and their art had to inspire and lift up the spirits of people."

The three themes typical of New Deal art were to represent historical events, juxtapose the past and future and show people working hard, he said. Those themes are incorporated in the three-paneled Elshin mural, which was installed in 1937 in the WSHS auditorium, moved in 1952 to the WSHS lobby, hidden away between bookcases in the early 1960s and recently rediscovered, restored and installed high on the upper west wall of the library prior to the fall 2002 reopening of the remodeled school.

In the mural, Elshin, an émigré from St. Petersburg, Russia, depicted the 1851 landing of the Denny party as well as subsequent bartering with Indians and timber logging. The mural, the artist's first, shows particular sensitivity to Native Americans, Van Oosten said.

"This mural is a spectacular treasure," he said.

The photos in Van Oosten's slide show included murals from around Puget Sound, many of which survive at the Seattle Art Museum, the University of Washington, the Museum of History and Industry, the University Post Office and Renton Public Library, and some of which have been destroyed.

2004 board members elected

PRIOR TO Roger Van Oosten's presentation, the slate of officers and board members for 2004 was introduced and elected.

The society's returning officers are **Joan Mraz**, president; **Aleta Woodworth**, treasurer; **Joey Richesson**, board secretary; and **Betty Broughton**, membership secretary. The new vice president, a former board member, is **Shirley Tupper**. Their terms run through December of this year.

New board members, whose terms run through 2006, are **Judith Bentley**, English instructor at South Seattle Community College; **Dickie Crumm**, manager of Endolyne Joe's restaurant; and **Peggy Fox**, marketing and office worker.

The audience also heard a brief presentation by **Tom Rasmussen**, Alki resident and newly elected member of the Seattle City Council, who expressed his strong support for the society and its activities.



PHOTO BY CLAY EALS

Northwest Art & Frame owner Dan Reiner has supported our historical society since the society's earliest days.

Northwest Art & Frame owner likes to 'give a little back' to the community

BY CLAY EALS

For Dan Reiner, being a business sponsor of our society fits into his overall business philosophy.

"It's a way of reciprocating, because the community has always been good to me," says the owner of Northwest Art & Frame at 4733 California Ave. S.W. in the West Seattle Junction. "When you're a part of the business community, the local things interest you: the historical society, ArtsWest, the YMCA. We get requests all the time for door prizes and sponsorships, and we do most of them. It's a way to give a little back."

Reiner got his start in the business as a part-time framer in 1967 when the firm's name was Hi-Yu Arts Center and the 1,500-square-foot store was located a block north of its current site, in the storefront now occupied by the American Cancer Society's Discovery Center.

Over the next four years, Reiner became a full-time framer, managed the frame shop, managed the entire store and then bought the operation. He gave the business

its current name, and about 1980, he moved it a block south, the former site of Junction Hardware. Later, when an optometrist next door moved on, he expanded Northwest Art & Frame by one storefront. The store now covers 7,000 square feet, and Reiner has opened frame shops on Mercer Island and on Aurora Avenue North.

The shop has evolved from being a center for feather flowermaking, candles and resin grapes to a headquarters for arts, crafts, hobbies, greeting cards and gifts. Through it all, Reiner is proud of the longevity of his staff. Five of his framers, for instance, have worked for him for 12 to 14 years. "We've also put a lot of kids through college," he says.

Northwest Art & Frame has supported our society since the society's earliest days. For example, when our society launched its first Homes with History Tour in 1989, Reiner chipped in the framing for now-and-then photo mementos for participating homeowners.

Our society's thanks go to Reiner and our other dedicated business sponsors.

Our society's business sponsors

Admiral Mortgage

Alki Homestead Restaurant

Assurance Escrow

Chelan Café

Evergreen Money Source

Hecker and Feilberg

Northwest Art & Frame

The Pacific Institute

Sposari's Concrete and Materials

Villa Heidelberg

Washington Title

Wiseman Appliance

Society took shape from Couden's 'Dream'

(continued from page 1)

first knocked at Boeing's door, but the airplane giant, which was producing prototypes for the B-17 bomber, told him he didn't have enough factory experience to be hired. Unfazed, Couden drew upon his department-store work in St. Louis and landed a position at Frederick & Nelson, which he knew was "a very highly regarded organization here with roots and tie-ins with Marshall Field in Chicago."

While his dad had sent him a trunk full of personal items, once he had secured a job in Seattle Couden left everything else in Missouri. "There was a lot of stuff I would never see again, and I realized how futile it is to collect things and then have to leave them all behind," he says.

Couden quickly plunged into making history of his own in Seattle. Just prior to the dawn of World War II in 1941, he passed a real-estate broker's exam, then won a job at Boeing, as a production expeditor. He essentially worked two shifts, serving the aeronautic war effort while selling homes in a huge, 377-house development south of Roxbury Street. Over the next four decades, with the steady support of his wife, **Erma**, and their three children, he became a booster and leader in the White Center business community, holding down various positions with its commercial club and helping found its Lions Club.

By the early 1980s, he had helped the commercial club (which had evolved into a chamber of commerce) to collect photos and other artifacts relating to White Center. But soon arose a loss that became an inspiration.

"Unfortunately, one of the fellows who was president put our files in his wife's women's clothing store in White Center, and I found out later that she went through bankruptcy, losing all the merchandise in there, along with the file cabinet with all of our records. It just sort of disappeared from sight.

"That was the thing that really moved me to action. I had already retired from my business, but I was still attending meetings

of the chamber. So I got up and raised Cain about it. I said that it appeared to me that there was no local structure dedicated to historic preservation and that we should take appropriate action."

His chamber colleagues saw the opportunity to seize Couden's fervor, appointing him (along with the director of the White Center Library, **Robin Rothschild**) in mid-1983 to investigate whether the area from Alki to Burien had a historical facility.

And investigate they did. Couden reported to the chamber on Aug. 23, 1983, that no such organization existed, and he proposed that the chamber test the local sentiment for establishing one.

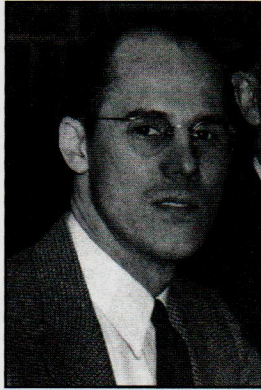
"I realized that West Seattle is unique because it's so separated on this peninsula, and there was a lot of history most people didn't know about," he says. "I just sort of snatched the idea out of thin air."

Again, the chamber gave Couden its blessing, and he was off and running. On Oct. 17, 1983, he met with South Seattle Community College's newly formed Humanities Advisory Committee, headed by **Joan Mraz** (our current board president). His contacts there and elsewhere in the community led Couden to convene an organizational meeting for our society the following spring, on May 24, 1984.

The meeting was held at SSCC, whose president, **Jerry Brockey**, was a longtime friend of Couden, whose children Brockey had taught at Chief Sealth High School. (Brockey later helped the society obtain public non-profit status for the society and provided space at SSCC for the storage of our collection and for our board to meet.)

The 15 people who attended that morning gathering (including his wife, Erma) could not help being galvanized by Couden's vision, embodied in a two-page essay entitled "My Dream." (See full text, page 10.) Its inspiration came both from Couden's life experience and from activism in America's other Washington.

In the 1960s, amid controversy over open housing and the racial "red-lining" of



SWSHS ARCHIVE PHOTO
Elliott Couden, 1945.

Come visit with the founder in May

The 20th anniversary of our society is coming up on May 24, 2004, and the Executive Board is planning a reception that month at our Log House Museum. It will be an opportunity to visit with founder Elliott Couden and his wife, Erma. Stay tuned for details on the time and date!

home sales, Couden became a citywide voice of tolerance and compassion as member and later chair of the Seattle Human Rights Commission. Inspired by the "I Have a Dream" speech of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963 in the nation's capital, Couden let a heritage-related dream take root in his own mind and heart.

"I used to clip all the write-ups about King in the paper when he was being beat up down South and thrown in jail," he says. "I didn't deliberately copy his speech, but apparently he planted a seed in me about how dreams are important. Also, I was aware of the cost of infrastructures in the city and how much we take for granted those that are here when we come into the picture. Somebody before me had dreams to do something about it, and that very much impressed me."

Of course, Couden knew that dreams don't always garner unanimous support. "You always have people who say, 'Forget it,' but you also have people who say, 'That's exactly what we need. We should support the leadership that's willing to bring it on the agenda.'"

Couden clearly found people in the latter category. Twenty years, a history book, a moviehouse landmarking, a handful of home tours, a thriving museum and scores of events later, he's a happy founder.

"I'm tremendously gratified by those people who brought their torch up and said, 'Here, light mine. I want to get in this parade.' It's been very impressive," he says. "I also think we've really made a lot of other organizations of this type sit up and take notice about how active and responsive our society has been."

Such sentiment doesn't mean that Couden is content to sit back. Ever the organizer and organizational historian, he

relentlessly advocates for board meetings to operate by Robert's Rules of Order and tirelessly campaigns among board members for updated by-laws and rosters.

There's no denying, though, that the greatest role that Couden has played in our historical society may have been summoning the energy and vision to start it up. In



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MENDENHALL
With characteristic good humor, Elliott Couden sports an "on top of old fogey" cap while enjoying lunch with his wife, Erma, during a June 1998 historical society picnic at Alki Beach.

his own way, he expresses that, with a twinkle.

"The beginnings of Seattle are inextricably tied in with the West Seattle area, and it was sort of amazing that nobody had ever done much of anything about bringing that to the attention of people, especially the ones that live right here in this area," he says. "The historical society plays quite a role in making people proud of the area that they live in."

Speaking of pride, he notes, before the visit is over, "By the way, did you see Wednesday's paper about White Center?" He's referring to a front-page story in the Nov. 19, 2003, *Seattle Times*, headlined "White Center at a crossroads: Home-grown experiment in renewal." Couden says he's glad the civic community he worked in for decades is getting prominent attention, but he declares that far too much of the newspaper article was negative.

"It's unbelievable," he says. "I saved it."

'I realized that West Seattle is unique because it's so separated on this peninsula, and there was a lot of history most people didn't know about. I just sort of snatched the idea out of thin air.'

– Elliott Couden

'I'm tremendously gratified by those people who brought their torch up and said, "Here, light mine. I want to get in this parade." It's been very impressive.'

– Elliott Couden

'My Dream'

BY ELLIOTT COUDEN

Editor's note: Society founder Elliott Couden read this eloquent essay at a meeting of persons interested in the formation of an historical society, at South Seattle Community College, on May 24, 1984. He re-read it at our membership picnic on June 26, 1994.

'I do firmly believe that there are enough people in this Southwest Seattle area who care enough to meet our opportunity to form, undergird and develop a viable, exciting format whereby we and others may preserve our heritage for the education and benefit of future generations. We can do for others what others have done for us.'

— Elliott Couden

As an active and involved participant in many organized activities, I do not see this gathering as "just another meeting." In fact, to me it is the beginning of the fulfillment of a long-term dream — one that began many years ago, one that has been waiting for the "moment of truth."

That "truth" is a growing awareness that the forces of change in the society we have grown up in are ever-accelerating, with no let-up, no time to become familiar and comfortable with any given period in our time, and hardly time to look forward to new problems and new opportunities ahead, much less time to look back at a world we thought we once knew, but which we shall never see again.

The future holds no terror for me, for I am persuaded that reason will prevail over the threat of annihilation. Rather, at the rate of societal change I have experienced, there is a fair chance that even I may see changes and improvements for mankind that in the past might have required generations in terms of time. I do take a little time, now and then, to think about the changes I'd like to see take place, no matter how long it might take in achievement. And I spend even a little more time evaluating and savoring the great people I have known and the great times I have experienced in days gone by.

Some say that one should not spend time dwelling upon the past. "Think only of what lies ahead," they say.

Personally, I find it a bit difficult to do much planning for the future unless I can understand where I'm coming from! The past does contain much of worth for all of us. It is our heritage, and it is our

culture — good, bad or indifferent. It is those in the past who cared enough to provide me with conveniences and needs of educational facilities and tools; water, sewer and street improvements; and a system of laws designed to provide equal access and opportunity, with security for me and my family, and my neighbor and his family.

But names and faces and structures and organizations begin to fade with the passage of time. Are all these not worthy of remembering and appreciating and passing on to later generations?

All over this nation — yes, all over King County — there is a proliferation of historical societies and museums, coming into being as our historical consciousness has intensified.

Our local research has produced the astounding fact that the area most dear to us, associated with the earliest history of Seattle, from Alki Point, the Duwamish Waterway and Pigeon Point all the way to Burien, has no known official organization dedicated to the preservation of historic information, artifacts and museum pieces relating specifically to this territory.

By default, much of what could be preserved is lost or becoming dissipated or moving to facilities outside of our neighborhoods.

I do firmly believe that there are enough people in this Southwest Seattle area who care enough to meet our opportunity to form, undergird and develop a viable, exciting format whereby we and others may preserve our heritage for the education and benefit of future generations. We can do for others what others have done for us.

The educational aspects are what appeal to me the most. The field is wide open. We have already received assurances of resource support, we have governmental support, we have the freedom to fashion this in any direction or format we wish.

I want to find out if others share my dream. I solicit your responses.

New endowment fund to exemplify quest for stable revenue sources

Our society is about to embark on a new phase in its history.

In 1992 our society took on a tremendous challenge when it accepted the community's trust in its ability to manage the carriage house of the Fir Lodge estate as a museum. Over the past 12 years, the society has proved its commitment by developing and maintaining the Log House Museum as a community institution.

There should be no doubt that the society will remain dedicated to the successful operation of the museum. And with the continuing responsibility of administering the Log House Museum, we are committed to providing stable sources of revenue to assure its continued success.

Society board members have long dreamed of initiating an endowment fund

for the purpose of providing investment-producing income for the long-term financial health of the society and museum. The board is in the process of adopting an endowment policy and will be working with **Gregory Theobald**, investment representative for the Edward Jones company, to discuss actions and set up procedures to ensure the endowment fund becomes reality early this year.

In future issues of *Footprints*, we'll tell you more about bequests, individual charitable trusts, life insurance, deferred gifts and other methods of planned giving that we hope will answer any questions you have concerning this topic. If you have any questions please contact **Carol Vincent** at the museum, 206-938-5293.

With the continuing responsibility of administering the Log House Museum, we are committed to providing stable sources of revenue to assure its continued success.

In memoriam

Lifelong West Seattle resident and well-known Burien Meats owner, John A. Kaloper, 81

Historical society member and lifelong West Seattle resident **John Anthony Kaloper** passed away peacefully Nov. 6, 2003, surrounded by family. He was 81.

Born on the Duwamish riverside to parents **Victor** and **Matilda Kaloper**, John was raised in a supportive community of Dalmatian immigrant fishermen and their families. He attended Holy Rosary Grade School and graduated from West Seattle High School in 1941.

At a young age, he went to work at Lowman Lunch in Pioneer Square. He apprenticed at a meat market in the Pike Place Market. After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy and served in WWII from 1942 to 1946. Because of his prior training he volunteered to cook and cut meat in the Aleutian Islands.

Upon his return, he worked in the meat business and operated his own market,

Burien Meats, in Burien for 40 years. People came from miles around for "Johnny the Butcher's" Country, Potato and Italian sausages.

John was a long-standing member and contributor to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and member of the "Founders Circle" of the Log House Museum.

He loved fishing with his son, grandsons and extended family members, making several trips to Alaska. His photograph appeared in Alaska Sport Fishing Magazine with a 50-pound King Salmon.

When John was not working, he spent his time with his family, his proudest legacy. He is survived by **Dorothy**, his wife of 53 years; his children **Christie Jones** and husband, **Tom**; **Elaine Montgomery Matheson**, and husband **Steve Matheson**; **John Kaloper** and his wife **Julie**; **Carol Weigand** and husband **Jack**; and his brother **Victor S. Kaloper** and wife **Danica**. He had 11 grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by family and people whose lives he touched.

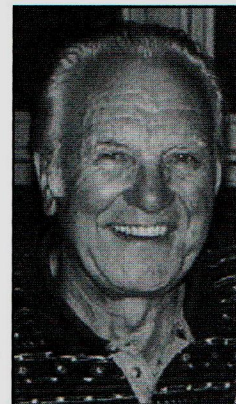


PHOTO COURTESY
KALOPER FAMILY

John A. Kaloper

Ways abound to volunteer this year

BY CAROL VINCENT
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Did you make a resolution this year to get out and meet more people or get more involved in your community? There is no better way to make those things happen in your life than to volunteer for programs sponsored by the South-west Seattle Historical Society and the Log House Museum.

The society's listing of 2004 events in this issue of *Footprints* (please see page 16) offers an opportunity to plan ahead, not only for fun events to attend, but events to share in as a volunteer.

Why not choose an event and team up with a friend or relative that you've been meaning to spend some time with? Here are some possibilities.

- **Home Tour** (Saturday, June 5) – greet people at one of the home sites for three hours and receive a free ticket to the home tour that day!

- **Hi-Yu Sidewalk Sale & Street Festival** (Friday through Sunday, July 9 to 11) – staff our society's booth at the Hi-Yu festival for three or four hours.

- **Hi-Yu Parade** (Saturday, July 24) – Have you always wanted to be in a parade? Here's your opportunity. SWSHS participates with members dressed in historic costume. Nothing appropriate to wear? We've got costumes available or ideas for all ages!

- **Garden Tea** (Sunday, August 22) – The first annual tea was held last year and was a popular and successful event. At least 20 servers and helpers will be needed this year.

- **Annual Auction** (Saturday, Oct. 2) – If you've never worked an auction before, you don't know how exhilarating this event can be! We need many people involved to make this a success – auctioneer, set-up and clean-up staff, people to acquire auction items, and many other positions. If auctions are what get your blood moving, this could be just the event you should participate in!

- **Garden Work Parties** (last Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon, February through October) – Join a group of volunteer gardeners who enjoy working together to make the Log House Museum's native plant garden a

pleasure for visitors to enjoy. Coffee and snacks provided.

- **Gift shop clerks** (during open hours, noon to 6 p.m. Thursdays, noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays) – Whether once a week or once a month for a three-hour shift, staff the gift shop, helping visitors choose and purchase unique items. You will be trained by the gift shop manager, and staff members are always available to answer questions that may arise.

- **Museum greeters** (during open hours, noon to 6 p.m. Thursdays, noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays) – Come once a week or once a month for a three-hour shift and greet visitors to the museum gallery. You'll receive training, and museum staffers are always available should issues arise.

Team up with other society volunteers who find that giving time to make the museum a thriving community endeavor is a rewarding part of their lives. For more information, contact me at 206-938-5293 or e-mail <loghousemuseum@comcast.net>. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



PHOTO BY JOEY RICHESSON

Volunteering to help at our society's Annual Auction can be exhilarating! Just ask (left to right) Carol Vincent, Marcy Johnsen and Aleta Woodworth, shown here at the 2003 Auction.

Why not choose an event and team up with a friend or relative that you've been meaning to spend some time with?

2004 membership drive marks log house's 100th birthday

Commemorative mug offered to anyone who requests a new, renewal or upgrade to the Pioneer level membership (\$100) or higher during 2004

This year the Log House will celebrate its 100th birthday. Built in 1904 as the carriage house for Fir Lodge, now the Alki Homestead Restaurant, the building now houses the Log House Museum that opened Nov. 13, 1997.

To honor this special occasion, our society is offering a limited edition commemorative mug to anyone who requests a new, renewal or upgrade to the Pioneer level membership (\$100) or higher during 2004. (Settler, \$250; Homesteader, \$500; Visionary, \$1,000).

The striking forest green mug is etched in gold with the museum logo and with the words "Pioneer Member." This one-of-a-kind mug will be available only during this campaign. The Society is making this preliminary offer to its membership before publicizing 2004 membership drive information to the community at large.

If you've been considering upgrading from the senior, student, individual or family membership level, the time is now! This is a limited-time offer and there is no better time than during this centennial offer. Call us at 206-938-5293 and we'll make the necessary changes, or you can mail in the form below with your credit card information or check or money order, to **SWSHS Membership Secretary, c/o Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116**. Your commemorative mug will be mailed to you via USPS.

MOVED?

Have you moved recently? Let us know your new address so you will continue to get *Footprints*. Call us at 206-938-5293.

2004 Centennial Commemorative Membership Drive

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Membership level:

Pioneer: \$100 Settler: \$250 Homesteader: \$500 Visionary: \$1,000

Payment:

Check/Money order enclosed Credit card: Visa/MC

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Mail to: SWSHS, 3003 61st Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116

'Astounding' \$12,075 results from 2003 annual fund drive

Last fall's end-of-2003 annual fund-raising drive for our society topped \$10,000 for the first time and totaled \$12,075.

"This astounding level of grassroots support for our society will make possible the continued operation of our Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum," said **Joan Mraz**, society president. "In a time of especially tight budgets, we deeply appreciate every contribution, no matter what level."

JoAn Schmitz Fulton, a former society board member and a part of one of West Seattle's most prominent founding families, said donations are a tangible way to show gratitude for our society's work in preserving the area's heritage.

"When you have the heritage of a family that has always given back to the community, I've just always tried to follow the pattern, as I've seen a need," she said.

"To me, respect for resources and knowledge of place and the community in which you were formed requires us all to

keep in memory the names and deeds of those who went ahead of us.

"Where would we have gone with our grief and hurt on 9-11 if the Alki Boy Scout troop had never erected the Statue of Liberty at Alki? Where would I have learned first-hand about plants, forests and the beauty of nature without the access to parks and greenbelts so close to Alki school? Our beautiful shoreline access is to be cherished and enjoyed by all, not abused by a few.

"We are stewards of the good places and people who have built this community over the years, and we don't want to forget our roots, so we must continue to feed them."

Chiming in is **Mary Lou Richardson**, another longtime society member who is part of West Seattle's well-known Barnecut family. She likes "the fact that the museum is there and that there are so many people interested. I wish there were more," she said.

Everyone who contributed to the annual fund drive deserves our heartfelt thanks.



JoAn Schmitz
Fulton

Thanks to our 2003 Annual Fund Donors!

Marian Ambaum de Leuw
Shirley and Ralph Anderson
Deb Barker-Shaw
Judith Bentley
Claire Berry
Lance Brittain
Barbara Roach Callow
William and Wanda Carney
Ronald J. Champoux (Boeing
Matching Fund)
Marjorie Beede Christianson
John and Lois Constantine
Elliott and Erma Couden
Peggy Cullor
Fred and Marjorie Dau
Marty and Ann Dirks
Betty Dolan
Clay and Meg Eals
Pearl Ebert
Shirley Egan
Nels Ekroth
JoAn Schmitz Fulton
Verda Hansberry

Sharon and Steve Huling
Marcy Johnsen
Dorothy May Johnson
Lora Yates Johnson
John and Dorothy Kaloper
Ardath M. Karr
John and Jackie Kelly
Maxine Kobylk
Rita Krueger
Ken and Fay Lowthian
David Maginnis
Elizabeth S. McAdams
Duse McLean, Thistle Press
Ruth and Wayne Moore
Joan Bailey Mraz
Andrew L. Nelson
Greg and Sharon Nickels
Hilva Novota
Kenneth and Donna Olsen
Ann Owchar
Sharon Peck
Virginia and Eilbert Prestegaard
Michael Purdy

Alexandra Pye
Mary Lou Richardson
Joey Richesson
Larry J. Richter
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Robinson
Charlton and Eugenia Runke
Nancy Seibold
Morest Skaret
Beverly Smith (In honor of Hans
Martin Smith)
Gail and Glen Terrell
Lou and Diane Tice
Lorraine Toly
Mark Vadakin
Carol and Charlie Vincent
Virginia A. Vinton
Jeannette Wenzl
M. Kay Whelan
Patricia J. Williams
Kennedy Wise and Anne Bentrrott
Patricia Wright
Audrey Zemke



PHOTO BY JOEY RICHISSON

Auction raises \$11,589

Special guest and Carnation resident Karolyn Grimes (who played Zuzu in the film "It's a Wonderful Life") and her partner Chris Brunell pause with Audrey Zemke, one of our society's board members, during the highly successful second annual auction last October at South Seattle Community College. More than 100 people attended the event, which raised a net of \$11,589 and featured special getaway trips, original artwork, movies filmed in Seattle and many other odds and ends, including a Zuzu doll donated by Grimes.

Dolled up

The pioneer craft of barley-doll making proved to have 21st century appeal during a hands-on workshop held Dec. 6, 2003, at the Log House Museum. Led by (from left) Katie Kingen, Emily Hogan and Emily's daughter Lucy Hogan – along with Katie's mom, former society board member Kathy Kingen (not pictured) – the fourth-annual event drew an enthusiastic group of adults and children. In addition to fashioning the embroidery-faced dolls, participants heard stories of difficult times on the prairie when everyday life was wrought with danger. The popular workshop is rescheduled for Dec. 4, 2004.



PHOTO BY DAVID KEITH

Check out our society's coin-collection cans!

Our society's efforts to seek community financial support have extended to the checkstands of several local merchants, and the results are beginning to pay off.

Since mid-2003, special coin-collection cans have been placed at the checkstands of several businesses, including Northwest Art & Frame, Cat's Eye Cafe, Husky Deli and Wiseman's Appliance & TV.

In addition, Metropolitan Market (formerly Admiral Thriftway) tried a novel approach, rotating a society coin-collection

can into place at the grocery's espresso bar during a portion of the month of October only. This netted our society \$558.49.

We are grateful for the generosity of Metropolitan Market and its customers, and we are eager to further build upon the relationship. The grocery, a leader in its field, has been a longtime supporter of our society, starting with its role in promoting ticket sales for the 1992 reopening of the Admiral Theater, for which our society led the successful 1989 effort to secure city landmark status.

Be sure to look for our society's coin-collection cans at the checkstands of merchants throughout West Seattle and White Center, and make those cans jingle!

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

Calendar

February

Membership Drive begins.

Monday, Feb. 23 – **Inaugural Meeting of the Seattle Heritage Coalition**, 7 p.m., Museum of History and Industry, 2700 24th Ave E., Seattle.

April

Book Signing Event, date/time to be announced.

Saturday, April 17 – **Volunteer Recognition Reception**, location/time to be announced.

May

20th Anniversary Celebration of SWSHS Founding, Log House Museum, date/time to be announced.

Quarante Club Open House, Log House Museum, date/time to be announced.

June

Friday, June 4 – **WSHS Alumni Reunion**, West Seattle High School, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 5 – **Homes With History Tour**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July

Sunday, July 4 – **SWSHS Annual Picnic**, Log House Museum Courtyard, 1 to 4 p.m.

Friday through Sunday, July 9 to 11 – **Hi-Yu Sidewalk Sale & Street Festival**, Alaska Junction, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Homes With History Tour



PHOTO BY DICK SHERMAN

Mark your calendar for the **Homes With History Tour**, set for **Saturday, June 5, 2004**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sites already confirmed for the tour include the Bennett residence (pictured above), which was formerly the Sixth Church of Christian Science; the lodge at Camp Long; the newly refurbished West Seattle Library; and the Villa Heidelberg. Preorder tickets by calling the Log House Museum at 206-938-5293.

August

Sunday, Aug. 22 – **Garden Tea**, location/time to be announced.

October

Saturday, October 2 – **Annual Auction**, South Seattle Community College, 6 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

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March 2004

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28	29	30	31★			

April 2004

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June 2004

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			



MARCH

- 25 Thursday ~ 6:30–8:30 PM
Techniques and Tools in Gathering Community Histories
Facilitator Cathy Fulton of Capturing Memories will show us simple methods for gathering and organizing community stories and creating work plans for project interviews or workbooks. *This workshop is made possible with funding from a DON Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant.*
- 31 Thursday ~ 6:00–8:00 PM
SWSHS Author Book Signing
Featured authors include: Brooke Best *Celebrating 150 Years*; Clay Eals/Brad Chrisman *WestSide Story*; Pat Filer *All Aboard for Luna Park*; Pat Filer and Cathy Fulton *Welcome to the Green Land: A Children's Activity Guide to the Birthplace of Seattle*; Ada Hallberg *Elvida, Daughter of Harbor Avenue*; and Morest Skaret *Morey's Bench*.

APRIL

- 15 Thursday ~ 5:00–8:00 PM
Quarante Club Open House
The SWSHS honors the Quarante Club, a 97-year-old literary and social club of West Seattle. A small exhibit will feature some of more than 1000 research papers that have been presented through the years by club members. Refreshments will be served.
- 23–24 Friday ~ 9:00 AM–5:00 PM & Saturday ~ 3:00–7:00 PM
Interview/Scanning Days for the WSHS Exhibit/Diversity Book Project. Interviews by pre-scheduled appointments only.

JUNE

- 4 Friday ~ 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Open House to "Un-veil" the Diversity Book AND Open House for WSHS Alumni
Visit the Museum to meet the WSHS students who have completed a research project examining the diversity of the student body of WSHS through the years. *This project has been funded by a DON Neighborhood Matching Fund grant.*
- 5 Saturday ~ 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
"Homes with History" Tour
Visit some of West Seattle's unique historical homes.
Call 938-5293 for ticket information.

For more information about any events, call the
Log House Museum at (206) 938-5293