Admiral totem pole to rise again on June 6 at Log House Museum

Unveiling of beloved, restored icon to draw students, mayor, executive, Duwamish Tribe

The colorful totem pole that welcomed residents and tourists at the city’s Belvedere View Point Park from 1966 to 2006 has been fully restored and soon will go on display at our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum.

The public unveiling ceremony featuring the student bodies of both Alki and Schmitz Park elementary schools, public officials and the Duwamish Tribe takes place at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 6, 2014, outside the museum at 3003 61st Ave. S.W.

A portion of 61st Avenue Southwest east of the museum will be closed to make room for the crowd. Overhead group photos and video will be taken and made available afterward.

Big turnout expected

“Given that it is so beloved and that it hasn’t been seen standing and in good shape for many years, we are expecting a big turnout,” says Clay Eals, executive director.

If you are planning to attend the half-hour unveiling ceremony, please arrive early. “We are particularly pleased that so many local elementary-age students will be present,” Eals says. “This event will create memories to last a lifetime.”

Carved by Boeing engineers Michael Morgan and Bob Fleischman from a log harvested from Schmitz Park, the totem pole stood at Belvedere View Point Park from 1966 to 2006.

It is a replica of a totem pole carved in 1901 by natives of the coastal island region of British Columbia and brought to Belvedere View Point Park 75 years ago, in 1939, by West Seattleite and Ye Olde Curiosity Shop owner J.E. “Daddy” Standley.

Recognizing the deteriorated condition of the 1966 totem pole, Seattle Parks and Recreation removed it in 2006 and replaced it with a uniquely designed and unpainted story pole carved by Duwamish member Michael Halady, a descendant of Chief Seattle.

Restored pole to stand in garden

The restored 1966 totem pole will stand next to our museum in the native-plant garden, facing east along the 61st Avenue Southwest arterial, just one block.

(Story continues on page 6)
An old friend returns for our next generations

Can you hear it? The past is calling us to the future, in the voices of our children. Restoring and raising the totem pole that stood sentry from Admiral Way for 40 years, and celebrating it with a huge coming-out party, surely ranks as the biggest single undertaking of our historical society since we acquired, restored and opened our Log House Museum building 17 years ago.

The excitement is palpable. Just ask around. And when you join us on the morning of June 6 for the unveiling (come early!), your sixth sense will pick up the unmistakable buzz from the generations to come.

Why do we love totem poles?

Totem poles have universal appeal. But this one, with its arresting animal and human personas in deep hues, generates a particularly visceral reaction. I've known its beckoning since I was a kid. As the first volunteer Bob Carney puts it, every time he saw the totem pole, "I knew I was home."

What exactly is the attraction? In large measure, it's the faces. We are programmed from birth to respond to faces. It's also the notion of a story told. Even if we don't understand the precise tale being presented, we just love stories. They are lifeblood.

In addition, there is the yearning, troubling and heart-rending cross-cultural saga of Native Americans and settlers in our hometown and across our nation that fascinates, draws us all in.

Another factor is sheer height, coupled with location and longevity. For exactly 75 years, a pole rising some 20 feet in three incarnations, has towered and presided over the best postcard view of our city.

The good times just keep coming! Join in the fun

Hello, all! What an exciting and busy time it is, and the good times just keep coming.

I'm not a hiker, but I was thrilled to be among 100-plus attendees to meet and hear Lou Whittaker speak on May 19 at his (and my) alma mater, West Seattle High School. Lou was warm and engaging and told tales of how growing up in West Seattle shaped his future as an outdoorsman. If you missed it, see video excerpts on our website.

Next up on Friday, June 6, is the long awaited unveiling of the Admiral totem pole at our museum. Lovingly restored by Artech, it will stand tall for years to come. Be there right at 10:30 a.m. - in fact, get there early - so that you can be part of this historic event. Local students will attend, as will many luminaries, such as our childhood friend, our new Mayor Ed Murray, Duwamish Tribal chair Cecile Hansen and King County Executive Dow Constantine.

Do you remember the old Spokane Street Bridge? This year marks the 30th anniversary of what I still call "the new bridge" that replaced it. The kickoff is 6 p.m. June 12 at Hotwire. Check out the next page for many ways to celebrate.

And last (well, not really THE last), at 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, June 22, we showcase one of West Seattle's beautiful homes, with a tour of The Gatewood Bed & Breakfast. A bonus: descendants of all five owners will be present to add their personal history to the tour.

So I hope you will join in the fun and bring your family and friends!

Marcy Johnsen, board president

( Fukky how kids increasingly don't understand that term: "What's a postcard?")

On June 6, the street outside our museum will swell with people, 1,000 or more. Many hundreds of them will be local school children absorbing an "I was there" memory (and a group photo) that they can summon decades from now when many of us adults are gone.

Often I say (guided by our founder, Elliott Couden) that our historical society is basically about kids. After all, we adults already "get" history. The June 6 unveiling will tangibly demonstrate that we can and do serve children with the dazzling awe of history. Our accompanying "Reaching the Sky" exhibit will do the same inside our museum walls.

The morning after

But what will happen after the June 6 hoo-hah recedes? Many will stream by to take photos of each other in front of the pole and to witness its profound presence. Eyes will widen. So will grins. There will be moments of silence. Tears, too.

And who knows what inspirational quests will be launched, especially in the souls of the young?

One thing is for certain. An old friend, unseen in its original, glorious state for far too long, is about to return, looking good as new and gazing at us from the backdrop of our museum - awakening the childlike wonder in us all.

Clay Eals, executive director
Join us for 30-year bridge-a-versary!

Can it really be 30 years since the high-level West Seattle Bridge fully opened to the public? Time flies, and we’re in a mood to celebrate. So we are joining Hotwire Online Coffeehouse and other West Seattle businesses to create a series of 30th anniversary events this summer called “Bridging the Gap”! Here’s the slate:

Thursday evening, June 12, 2014

An exhibit of photos telling the story of the West Seattle Bridge and earlier bridges across the Duwamish River will open during West Seattle Art Walk at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 12, at Hotwire Online Coffeehouse, 4410 California Ave. S.W. The exhibit is curated by Sarah Baylinson, museum manager, and assisted by longtime collection volunteer Bob Carney.

The event also marks the debut of a 30th anniversary “Bridging the Gap” T-shirt, based on the original design, manufactured at Seattle Logo Pro in the Junction and to be sold for $20 apiece. Graphic artist David Kelliher, who created the design for Robinson Newspapers in 1984, will be on hand to sign the T-shirts, and Hotwire’s “Bridge Blend” coffee beans will debut the same night. A portion of proceeds from sale of the T-shirts and coffee beans will go to our historical society.

The T-shirts also will be on sale at West5 Lounge in the Junction as well as at our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum. The exhibit at Hotwire Online Coffeehouse will run through mid-July 2014.

Friday, July 11-Sunday, July 13, 2014

Hotwire Online Coffeehouse-hosted booth will be part of West Seattle Summerfest, in the West Seattle Junction. Staffed by “Bridging the Gap” T-shirt-wearing historical-society volunteers, the booth will feature interactive art in which visitors can color themselves atop the West Seattle Bridge. “Bridging the Gap” T-shirts and “Bridge Blend” coffee beans will be available at the booth as well.

Monday evening, July 14, 2014

Thirty years to the day from when the West Seattle Bridge was fully opened to the public, we will sponsor “Bridging the Gap: The Full Story Told by Those WhoWere There,” a free panel presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Speakers include former Seattle Mayor Charles Royer; his brother, Bob Royer, former Seattle deputy mayor; Tom Rasmussen, Seattle City Council member and former aide to then-Seattle City Council member Jeanette Williams; Phyllis Lamphere, former Seattle City Council member; attorney Gerry Johnson, former aide to U.S. Sen. Warren Magnuson; Bruce Wasell and Tom Mahoney, city bridge project engineers, and others. The venue will be the Hotwire Online Coffeehouse courtyard or a nearby hall in case of inclement weather.

(History note: The high bridge didn’t open all at once. Following the ramming of the low-level bridge by the freighter Chavez on June 11, 1978, construction on the bridge began in 1980. Eastbound lanes opened to the public on Nov. 10, 1983, and westbound lanes opened on July 14, 1984.)

Saturday evening, Aug. 2, 2014

On this special night, “Bridging the Gap” T-shirts and “Bridge Blend” coffee beans will be on sale before and during the showing of the 1993 PG-rated feature film “Sleepless in Seattle,” partially filmed in West Seattle.

“Sleepless” will be screened as part of West Seattle Outdoor Movies in the Hotwire courtyard. Proceeds from refreshment sales go to our historical society.

Here is the original 1984 “Bridging the Gap” T-shirt design, augmented by a 30th anniversary banner. The design will be used on the 30th-anniversary “Bridging the Gap” T-shirts that can be purchased for $20 apiece. A portion of proceeds will go to our historical society. The T-shirts will debut at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, at the Hotwire Online Coffeehouse.

The T-shirt designer, former Robinson Newspapers graphic artist Dave Kelliher (above), will be on hand that night to personally inscribe the shirts.

Give the gift of a membership!

It’s easy. Visit us at loghousemuseum.info, click “Membership,” print the form, fill it out and mail it in with a check or credit-card number. Or sign up in person at an event or at our Log House Museum.

Annual picnic Friday, July 4

Don’t miss our annual Independence Day picnic at noon Friday, July 4, 2014, in the beautiful courtyard of our Log House Museum. We provide burgers and hotdogs. You bring other potluck items and your sparkling personality!

We have honey for your honey

To go with our current exhibit, “Telling Our Westside Stories: Work,” we are stocking Shipwreck Honey made by Daniel Sullivan, a beekeeper in the Aki neighborhood. Stop in and pick up a one-pound jar for $15 or a mini-Honey Bear container for $3.
‘Still a home’

Five families fill up this charming Gatewood lodge over 104 years – you can hear their stories June 22 at ‘If These Walls Could Talk’ tour

By BRAD CHRISMAN

There are places in West Seattle where the past is present.

Sit at the base of an old-growth cedar in Schmitz Park, and experience what the densely forested landscape of our peninsula looked and felt like 160 years ago, before settlers arrived and claimed the trees. Hike the switchback trail at the northwest corner of Lincoln Park, look west and behold the same view that has captured park-goers for decades.

The Gatewood Bed & Breakfast at 7446 Gatewood Road S.W. also is such a place.

Built in 1910, standing proudly on a tree-shaded, half-acre slope, the Craftsman lodge-style home survives with its historical charm fully intact.

On Sunday, June 22, 2014, it will be the site of our historical society’s second-annual “If These Walls Could Talk” home tour, to run from 3 to 5 p.m.

(Tickets are $10 for members, $15 for non-members.)

If the walls of The Gatewood Bed & Breakfast could talk, they would tell the story of five families – Harper, Clark, Frost, Odeikirk and Hayes – who have called the place home over the past 104 years.

During the June 22 home tour, the inn will provide the setting for a reunion of sorts, as members of all five families will be in attendance to share memories and reacquaint themselves with the building’s history.

Owner honors previous families

Margaret Hayes, who bought the house in 1987, made a point of honoring the previous four families when, in 2012, she and her daughter, Mary Hayes, decided to convert it from a residence to an inn. Today, the four upstairs bedrooms are marked with placards bearing the families’ names.

Also fittingly, the building has been carefully restored inside and out to give guests a sense that they’ve been transported to an era when West Seattle was a simpler, quieter, greener place.

Margaret recalls her first impression upon seeing the house 27 years ago.

“I remember the trees,” she says. “I remember looking out the windows and seeing the vegetation, and that was really attractive because you felt like you were in a park. You feel like you’re not in the city, but yet you’re right there in the city.”

Indeed, to this day there is an obvious contrast between rustic Gatewood Road and the fully developed streets just a block or two away.

“I remember I’d come home from work on the weekend and I’d hit the bottom of that driveway and it would just feel like, ‘Ahhh,’ because I knew I’d be at home for the weekend,” Margaret says. “There’s a spaciousness that’s relaxing.”

Restoration covers nearly every inch

Maintaining that relaxing environment, it turns out, took a lot of work. Starting in 1994, Margaret and her husband, Ray, rolled up their sleeves and began a restoration project that would eventually touch practically every inch of the 4,100-square-foot home.

First, they “attacked the electrical,” Margaret
wood paneling and retaining original windows.

In other cases, they made alterations but stayed true to the home’s 1910 sensibilities, rebuilding the fireplace with salvaged brick and installing radiators that Ray, a plumber, rescued from an old apartment building.

The result is today’s comfortable inn, which opened to guests in June 2013 and is finding a niche as a guesthouse for area residents who need a place to put up out-of-town friends and relatives.

Increasingly, notes Mary, West Seattle residents live in condos and apartments. “They need somewhere for their family and friends to stay,” she says. “That’s what we really targeted. If we take care of West Seattle, it will take care of us.”

**Gatewood new part of West Seattle**

Today, locals would not question the notion that Gatewood is part of West Seattle. But in 1910, when **Francis and Pontine Harper** built their new abode, the neighborhood technically had been in West Seattle for only three years.

That’s because until the summer of 1907 – when the tiny city of West Seattle (in today’s Admiral area) annexed Alki, Youngstown, Spring Hill (the Junction), Gatewood, Fauntleroy and other neighborhoods, before joining the city of Seattle – Gatewood was just a trolley stop on the way to Fauntleroy and Endolyne.

Francis and Pontine, who were born in England, had immigrated to Seattle by way of Canada, where their six children were born. Francis, who had served as a captain in the British military and as a Canadian Mountie, found employment in Seattle as an agent for the Pacific Coast Steamship Co.

A photo shows the Harpers enjoying a tennis court that they built in the front yard. Today, the court is gone, but other features of the house and property look much the same as they did in the photo.

**First family present until 1931**

After Francis died in 1924, the Harpers continued to live in the house until around 1931, when they started renting it out. A new chapter began in 1940 as **Ed and Lottie Clark** bought the place and moved in with their daughters **Jean, Margaret and Dorothy**.

An accomplished cellist, Ed had worked as traveling musician during the Depression, according to his granddaughter **Anne Moody** (Jean’s daughter).

“He was in an orchestra and went from town to town,” she says. “They said they kind of avoided feeling poor during that time because they were on the road. I mean, he was not well-paid at all, but

(Story continues on page 6)
New exhibit to complement Admiral totem pole unveiling
(Continued from page 1)
south of Alki Beach, where a party of white settlers landed on Nov. 13, 1851, and encountered the native Duwamish Tribe, prompting the city’s founding.

“City parks gave us the 1966 totem pole on the understanding that we would restore it and raise it at our museum,” says Marcy Johnsen, board president of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. “We are thrilled that after eight years of planning, fundraising and other work, the day is drawing near when it will stand tall again in West Seattle.”

Exhibit explores totem poles
To coincide with the unveiling of the 1966 totem pole, the historical society will launch a new mini-exhibit, “Reaching the Sky: Totem Tales of West Seattle,” inside the “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum, curated by Sarah Baylinson, museum manager, assisted by volunteers Alan Peterson, Bob Carney, Lissa Kramer and Brad Christman. We are also producing a traveling exhibit and brochure about the peninsula’s totem poles. These interpretive activities are generously funded by 4Culture.

For several years, we have worked with Artech Fine Art Services of Seattle to restore the 1966 totem pole to its original, colorful glory. Major contributors to the restoration include Artech, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and Seattle City Council member Tom Rasmussen.

1910 Craftsman lodge was ‘a playland’ with music, dancing
(Continued from page 5)
because they were moving from one town to another, they didn’t have to think about it.”

The lodge, by then 30 years old and in need of repair, was considered a “white elephant” when the Clarks bought it, Anne says. “No one wanted that house. That wasn’t a desirable place to live at all. But they absolutely loved it.”

Music found a home in the Clark years. Ed gave piano and accordion lessons in the basement, and family gatherings often featured dancing on the main floor, which they called the ballroom or “big room.”

Spirited gatherings filled home
Moody fondly remembers those spirited gatherings of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

“I mean, that house was a play land,” she recalls. “The ballroom was basically empty except it had two huge bear rugs on the floor. It had couches on the outside and then a whole lot of empty hardwood floor. My uncle was into music and he had huge speakers placed around the room, so it was a place for dancing. It was fabulous.”

One of the upstairs bedrooms was Lottie’s costume-making room. “She would make fabulous costumes for us, among other fabulous things,” Moody says. “We would all dance, and it was just terrific fun.”

The totem pole to be unveiled is the second of three totem poles that have graced Belvedere View Point Park, at the crest of Admiral Way in the north end of West Seattle, since 1939. The history of the three is both prominent and iconographic.

“When we make presentations to community groups, we often ask what served as Seattle’s Space Needle before the Space Needle, and audiences respond almost instinctively,” Eals says. “The answer, of course, is the totem pole, and for 75 years the city’s most emblematic totem pole has stood at the Belvedere View Point Park.”

Three poles have graced viewpoint
In its three incarnations, a totem pole has anchored a sliver of an auto turnout, serving as a sentinel over one of the most popular views of downtown.

The 1966 totem pole will become a beacon for our museum and easily our largest displayed artifact other than the 1904 museum building itself.

It will help draw the attention of thousands who have visited the museum and tens of thousands of new visitors, including those who frequent nearby Alki Beach every summer.

Because our exhibits will tell the story of interaction between cultures, they will draw together all segments of West Seattle and the communities beyond, just as the 1966 totem pole itself did for 40 years at Belvedere View Point Park.

Over the years, the building was home to three more families: the Frostes from 1965 to 1969, the Odekirk from 1970 to 1987 and the present Hayes clan. But the story almost ended before the Hayeses took ownership.

“It had been on the market a couple years,” Margaret says. “We were the second or maybe third offer. One of the other offers, if not both, were from developers. They wanted to knock the house down because there are three city lots here.”

Luckily for those who appreciate historic preservation, the Hayes offer prevailed, and today the building gets rave reviews in its new role as a home away from home for out-of-town visitors.

Sarah Barton, Margaret’s niece who serves as the resident innkeeper, says the family’s focus on taking care of West Seattle is working. Often, families “don’t have room for Grandma and Grandpa,” she says. “Grandma and Grandpa are totally fine staying here.”

Sometimes, a whole extended family will come over to the house—children playing in the yard, adults gravitating to the comfort of the living room.

“It’s fun,” Barton says. “It’s still a home.”
Lou Whittaker speaks to 110 at alma mater West Seattle High

West Seattle native Lou Whittaker credits his hometown’s beauty and ruggedness and strong sense of community for his successful career as a mountaineer and guide.

This was Whittaker’s theme during a two-hour fundraiser for our organization Monday evening, May 19, at his alma mater, West Seattle High School.

Whittaker, 85, spoke to a crowd of 110 gathered in the school’s theater.

In a session that included the showing of a 52-minute 2013 documentary “A Life in the Mountains,” Whittaker told fond stories about his (and his twin brother Jim’s) long uphill walks in their boyhood neighborhood of Fauntleroy, along with his scaling of the human-made Schurman Rock in Camp Long and his Boy Scout experiences in West Seattle.

Whittaker described team-building, based on his ascents of Mount Everest and his favorite peak, Mount Rainier (he lives nearby in the town of Ashford during spring and summer months).

He also encouraged adults in the audience, and their children, to make “health deposits” by walking and bicycling, the same as people make deposits of money in a bank.

Series features genres galore: fiction, poetry, sports, youth

Join us for the popular “Words, Writers & West Seattle” series. It’s Monday each month at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village. (An exception is when Independence Day falls on the first Friday, so the event will be July 11.)

Starting with June 2014, all sessions in the free series run from 5 to 7 p.m. (one hour later than previous sessions).

Volunteer chair of the series is Dora-Faye Hendrickx.

If you attend and purchase any book while you are there, 10 percent of the proceeds go to our historical society!

Friday, June 6, 2014, Brenda Peterson, The Drowning World (Delphinius, 2013-14, young adult)

Friday, July 11, 2014, Harold Taw, Adventures of the Karaoke King (Lake Union Publishing, 2011, adult fiction)


Friday, Sept. 5, 2014, Molly Ringle, Perspex’s Orchard (Central Avenue Publishing, 2012, young adult)


Friday, Nov. 7, 2014, Sandi Doughton, Full Rip 9.0 (Sasquatch Books, 2013, science)

Big thanks to volunteers who made it possible for us to put on the Whittaker event:
- Bethany Green, volunteer coordinator.
- Kelly and Brian Hight, who filmed a promotional video and designed the event flier.
- Lisseth Guel, South Seattle College student who photographed the event.
- Mark Jaroslaw, contributing videographer.
- Ann Anderson, Deanna Armstrong, Frances Gifford, Inez Lindsey, Nancy McPhee and Fiole Vane, who greeted and guided attendees and processed donations.
- WSHS students Tony Ventimiglia & Connor Grisset.

Additional thanks to:
- Our media sponsor, Robinson Newspapers.
- Mountaineers Books and Laszlo Pal, director of “A Life in the Mountains,” for donating a portion of book and DVD proceeds to our organization.

The biggest thanks go to Lou and his wife, Ingrid, for undertaking this event out of the goodness of their heart!
# What’s coming this spring, summer and beyond in 2014

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Friday, June 6</td>
<td>10:30-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Unveiling of Admiral totem pole, Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W. (pages 1-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 6</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 7</td>
<td>11 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Volunteer Intro, Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 12</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Launch of “Bridging the Gap” photo exhibit and T-shirt celebrating 30th anniversary of West Seattle Bridge, Hotwire Online Coffeehouse, 4410 California Ave. S.W. (page 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 22</td>
<td>3-5 p.m.</td>
<td>“If These Walls Could Talk,” tour of The Gatewood Bed &amp; Breakfast, 7446 Gatewood Rd. S.W., $10 members/$15 non-members (pages 4-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 4</td>
<td>noon-3 p.m.</td>
<td>Annual Picnic, Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W.</td>
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<td>Fri-Sun, July 11-13</td>
<td>all day</td>
<td>“Bridging the Gap” booth at West Seattle Summerfest, West Seattle Junction (page 3)</td>
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<td>Friday, Aug. 1</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
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<td>11 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Volunteer Intro, Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8</td>
<td>11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Champagne Gala Brunch, Salty's on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave. S.W.</td>
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Southwest Seattle Historical Society board meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the South Seattle Community College President's Board Room. You are welcome to attend!