Aren’t you **CURIOUS**?

Sunday afternoon, June 28, is your chance to see the place that J.E. ‘Daddy’ Standley called home in the Admiral neighborhood

**BY BRAD CHRISMAN**

Today, the home at 1750 Palm Ave. S.W. blends in inconspicuously with its surrounding neighborhood. To most, it would appear to be just another gracefully aging turn-of-the-century house on a sloping, tree-lined street.

For decades, though, it was a place where tour buses stopped and flashbulbs popped. It probably was the most gawked-at, talked-about residence in West Seattle.

“Everybody wanted to see it,” says 90-year-old Joe James, whose grandfather – Ye Olde Curiosity Shop founder Joseph Edward “Daddy” Standley – built the house in 1906. “Sightseeing buses used to stop there on their tours and let (Story continues on page 4)
This summer, let the conversations begin

Can we talk? More accurately, can we listen? We will have lots of opportunities to converse this summer – at our events, at festivals and even online.

The vehicle will be our first-ever community survey. The idea is for us to learn more about the communities of the Duwamish peninsula, to find out what you know about us and what types of programs you would like to see from us.

To serve you better

Our survey won't take much time, but it will achieve an big goal, to help us serve you better.

Curious? The survey is part of this summer 2015 edition of Footprints. Slip it out, take a look, fill it out and mail it back to us. Or, if you wish, go to our website, loghousemuseum.info, and fill out the survey online. It's that easy.

You'll be seeing us

Of course, we want to know more about you, our faithful members, volunteers, donors and sponsors. But we will go beyond the choir, asking longtimers and newcomers from all over our peninsula to take part, including those who may never have heard of us.

So look for this survey at multiple venues in June, July and August. At festival tables, we will feature a contest to guess how many Lincoln logs are filling a large vase. While kids come up with estimates, the adults can fill out the survey.

‘Becoming even more vibrant and visible this summer’

Hello, everyone! So much is going on. Have you been to tour museum lately?

If not, please stop in and meet our new museum manager, Lissa Kramer. Among her many talents and expertise, she is warm and engaging and is looking forward to meeting our members and newcomers, too. So please join us in giving Lissa a big welcome.

And thank goodness for all of you supporters! Because you care about history and preservation, our historical society is vibrant and visible as we fulfill our mission through education, advocacy and preservation – all with good fun as well.

Check out the calendar on page 8, and keep posted on our website and in our e-mail blasts (do we have your e-mail address?). This summer promises to be our busiest yet. Highlights:

- “If These Walls Could Talk” on Sunday, June 28, 2015 (see pages 1, 4 and 5).
- The launch of our first Alki Beach walk, led by volunteer Dave Hrachovina, during our Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 4, 2015.
- The West Seattle Outdoor Movies in the Hotwire Online Coffeehouse courtyard, Saturdays, July 11-Aug. 22, 2015 (see page 6).
- And then there are the Riverside Walking Tour, Morgan Festival Alki Arts Fair, West Seattle Summerfest, Delridge Day and much more.

We will be there. I hope you will find fun things to enjoy with us this summer! See you soon!

Marcy Johnsen, board president
Fifteen logs arrive for Homestead restoration

Fifteen fir logs arrived in the Alki Homestead parking lot Thursday afternoon, May 28, awaiting use in replacing damaged logs in the southeast corner of the building.

The logs are stored in a trailer that owner Dennis Schilling drove from Mountain Log Homes in Kalama, north of Portland. Each log is about 16-1/2 feet long.

Shoring to begin soon

Schilling said work will begin soon on shoring up the interior of the southeast corner of the Homestead to allow eventual replacement of damaged logs that have been marked for several months with blue tape.

In preparation for this work, Schilling’s crew installed anchor fence to surround the building’s front entrance as a protective measure.

There is no schedule for the log replacement, but it’s possible some work will have begun by the time of a group photo to be taken of 950 students from Alki and Schmitz Park elementary schools the morning of Friday, June 5, 2015. Speakers at the brief event will include King County Executive Dow Constantine and Seattle City Council member Tom Rasmussen.

Other work proceeds

Schilling has been consulting with a structural engineer, and his crew has installed temporary power and begun cleaning out non-landmarked, fire-damaged materials. Soon his crew will measure roof angles for its repair, as well as for restoration of the iconic Alki Homestead sign.

Dennis Schilling, owner of the Alki Homestead, displays logs he hauled to the site.

Enjoy food and history on our Alaska Totem Cruise

Cooking demos with Duke Moscrip, AYPE/Golden Potlatch tales with Dan Kerlee

The deadline is fast approaching to reserve space on our Sept. 19-26, 2015, Alaska Totem Cruise, sponsored by Duke’s Chowder House.

The last opportunity to sign up will be at our Annual Picnic on Independence Day.

Meanwhile, come join us for a FREE pre-cruise event 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 11, 2015, at our museum.

An image of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition south gate showing totem poles is part of the collection of Dan Kerlee (right), who will make presentations June 11 and on the cruise.

The event will feature Dan Kerlee, Seattle’s expert on the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (Seattle’s first World’s Fair) and the 1911-1914 Golden Potlatch, forerunner of SeaFair.

On June 11 and on the cruise, Kerlee will show slides about how both festivals presented Northwest Coastal Indian art and culture.

Cruise details
Sept. 19-26, 2015
ms Westerdam of the Holland America line
Special totem-pole education/excursions
$25 donation to us from each booking
Info: Mary Ehler, AAA Travel: 206-933-4103

Meanwhile, come join us for a FREE pre-cruise event 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 11, 2015, at our museum.

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Cruise to our museum!
6-8 p.m.
Thursday, June 11
A-Y-P/Golden Potlatch talk by Dan Kerlee
Duke’s chowder/bread
Totem wine
New Orleans-style Totem “snowballs”
FREE!

An image of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition south gate showing totem poles is part of the collection of Dan Kerlee (right), who will make presentations June 11 and on the cruise.

Duke Moscrip will provide onboard cooking demonstrations.
Curios and stories await you during June 28 home tour

(Continued from page 1)

people out to look at the yard. He had everything in there you could think of, from whale jawbones to whale vertebrae to totem poles to shell mounds.”

Often, visitors were allowed to venture inside.

“He had a lot of curios in the house, things that he had collected,” James says. “He had a miniature collection and an ivory collection and all of that. People would come up to the fence, and he’d invite them into the house and show them what else he had. My mother never knew who was going to come into the house. He was very friendly to these people and very proud to show them his collection.”

On Sunday, June 28, 2015, the home will be the site of our historical society’s third-annual “If These Walls Could Talk” home tour, to run from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are $10 for members, $15 for non-members.

You will be able to tour the residence (now owned by Katy and Erik Walum), view historical photographs of the house and property and learn about the remarkable life of Standley.

In addition, you will see a selection of curios and family keepsakes on loan from the Ye Olde Curiosity Shop, including a variety of Indian baskets, a 4-foot totem that greeted shop visitors in the early 1900s and an antique cradle that has rocked five generations of Standley children.

You also will meet Joe James, his son Andy James and other members of the Standley clan, who for 116 years have welcomed curiosity-seekers at their iconic Seattle waterfront store.

A veritable museum inside and out

If the walls at the 109-year-old home could talk, they would regale visitors with tales about the days when it was a veritable museum inside and out — a showplace decorated with so many treasures that some said if the Ye Olde Curiosity Shop ever burned, it could be reopened the next day with items from the Standley house.

Covering a large, hillside lot that stretched from Palm Avenue to Ferry Avenue, the property included a 6-foot high shell mound composed of “shells of all 7 seas,” giant whale bones, a Japanese tea house made of bamboo, a log cabin playhouse, a Chinese Mandarin sundial and reflecting pools. Perhaps most famously, the grounds — which Standley dubbed “Totem Place” — featured an impressive collection of totem poles that were carved by native people of the Northwest, British Columbia and Alaska.

“I think at one time he had 17 totem poles there in the yard,” James says.

Roots in Ohio and Colorado

Born Feb. 24, 1854, Standley grew up as the son of a Steubenville, Ohio, grocer. In 1876, he moved west to Denver, where he operated a store that specialized in tobacco, confectioneries, groceries,
imported delicacies and, increasingly over the years, curios such as Native American artwork and trinkets.

In October 1899, Standley and his wife, Isabelle, moved to Seattle. The young frontier town was in the midst of an epic boom, its streets teeming with men hoping to strike it rich in the Klondike. Standley, it seems, had no desire to join the hordes of prospectors on their way to gold country. Instead, he exercised his entrepreneurial muscles by appealing to people’s curiosity about strange things, exotic cultures and distant lands.

In late 1899, Standley established what he called a “Free Museum and Curio” at Second Avenue and Pike Street. He experimented with locations (82 Madison St., 813 Railroad Ave., 809 Second Ave.) and names (The Curio, Standley’s Curio, Ye Olde Curiosity Shop and Indian Curio) before settling on the name and location that would endure for decades: Ye Olde Curiosity Shop, at Colman Dock on Pier 52.

In 1906, the Standley family relocated from an apartment in Seattle to their new craftsman-style home in West Seattle, which was then a separate town with its own mayor and city council. (West Seattle would annex to Seattle in 1907.)

‘One-man chamber of commerce’

Standley, whose boosterish attitude would one day earn him a reputation as a “one-man chamber of commerce,” fell in love with the neighborhood he would call home for the remainder of his 86 years.

From the house’s upstairs windows, Standley could see across Elliott Bay to his waterfront shop. It was “the grandest view in the world,” he said. “It’s like a tonic, and anyone with a love of the beautiful and nature at her very best should certainly live to be a hundred on Puget Sound.”

Joe James recalls his grandfather’s house as a magical place to grow up, remembering that it had a magnetic effect on youngsters in the area. “The kids all came,” he says. “It was a great yard to play in. They came from all around.”

For several years running, in fact, Totem Place won a local “best home play yard” competition. “Finally,” James says, “they told us, ‘Look, you’ve got the best one, but if you win it again this year everybody is going to lose interest, so you guys come in second.’”

Standley legacy lives on

Today, the totem poles, tea house, log cabin and other novel features are just memories. But “Daddy” Standley’s West Seattle legacy lives on, if you know where to look.

One such place is Belvedere View Point, the spectacular lookout atop Admiral Way. In the 1930s, Standley lobbied the city to fix up the spot, which had languished as an overgrown, underused parcel of city land. Finally, induced by his offer to donate one of his prized totem poles, the city created the mini-park in 1939.

That colorful pole stood watch over Elliott Bay until 1966, when it was replaced by a replica pole which, in turn, was replaced by the current, unpainted Duwamish totem pole (more accurately called a story pole) in 2006. The 1966 pole–carefully restored as part of a campaign led by our historical society, and unveiled before 1,300 onlookers (including 900 youngsters) on June 6, 2014–now graces the garden of our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum.

The Walums, who bought the Standley house in 2005, say that it’s a comfortable place to raise their school-age children, Olivia and Henry.

The yard is smaller than it was back in its Totem Place days because the property was subdivided and a separate residence was built to the east where the Japanese tea house once stood. But the house still sits on a double lot, and the Walums say they plan to keep the space open.

‘We both love the style’

They say that their decision to buy the house was an easy one.

“We both love the style. We both favor old homes,” says Katy, noting that previous owner Galen Wilson did an excellent job when he undertook a major renovation project in 1992. “I’m really pleased. I feel like he really honored where the house came from and what it was before, while also bringing it a little more up-to-date and fresher feeling.”

But what clinched the sale for the Walums was discovering that they had their own family connection to the place. Erik’s grandmother, he explains, was one of the Ye Olde Curiosity Shop’s longest-serving employees, having worked there for more than 25 years.

“When we found out there was a Curiosity Shop connection to the house, knowing that my grandma worked there for all those years, it seemed like it was kind of meant to be.”

[The author, Brad Chisman, was editorial coordinator of the "West Side Story" history book. He is a former board vice-president and longtime volunteer for our historical society.]
Lissa Kramer begins as museum manager

Working with volunteers to create a fun and educational Alki beach walk. Laying the groundwork for the “Home” installment of the “Telling Our Westside Stories” exhibit. Helping create a community survey. Updating the cataloguing of artifacts. Aiding a variety of research requests.

These tasks and many more are the province of Lissa Kramer, who after an extensive search has been named the manager of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society’s “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum, effective June 1, 2015. Since late February, she has served as interim manager.

Kramer, who lives in Morgan Junction, has worked in museums and public programs for 15-plus years: locally at Issaquah History Museums, the Burke Museum and the Klondike Gold Rush Museum and in state, federal and nonprofit cultural and heritage positions in Alaska.

She holds a master’s degree in museology and a certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Washington, along with a bachelor’s degree in contemporary humanities from the University of Minnesota in Duluth.

“We had an impressive, wide-ranging field of candidates, and Lissa was the clear choice,” says Clay Eals, executive director. “Her unique combination of education, experience elsewhere and performance with us, plus her energy and enthusiasm, bode well for our organization.”

Kramer, who will work 24 hours a week, will be available for contact mostly on our open-hours days of Thursday to Sunday. Reach her at 206-938-5293 or lissa.kramer@loghousemuseum.info.

The faces behind the awards

The word “we” took on literal meaning when those representing us brought smiles to two recent ceremonies at which we were presented prestigious awards:

**West Seattle Chamber of Commerce**

(Above) Celebrating our receipt of the 2015 Nonprofit of the Year award from the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce at its Annual Awards Breakfast on April 2, 2015, at Sally’s on Alki were (from left) Hamilton Gardiner, board chair (chamber); Catherine Alexander, who will speak at our 2015 Gala; Marcy Johnsen, board president; John Bennett, former board member; Patricia and Rob Shiras of IT Headquarters (sponsor); Liz Day, Gala Committee; Kerry Korsgaard, board member; Lissa Kramer, museum manager; Dinah Brein, Admiral Theater manager; Dennis Schilling, Alki Homestead owner; Clay Eals, executive director; and Lynn Dennis, CEO (chamber). (Photo courtesy of West Seattle Blog)

**Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO)**

Gathering around the plaque representing the AKCHO 2015 Single Impact Award, presented April 28, 2015, at the AKCHO Annual Awards Ceremony at the Museum of History and Industry were (from left) Marcy Johnsen, board president; Joey Richesson, ex-board member; Bonnie Gromlich, board member; Denise Bisio, ArtSite; Irene Gehring, museum gardener; Ken Lowthian, ex-city water superintendent; Kerry Korsgaard, board member; Clay Eals, executive director; Tom Rasmussen, Seattle City Council and Advisory Council member; Tia Hallberg, board vice-president; Flo Lentz, ex-board member and preservation lead; 4Culture; Elliott Cooke, Diane Morgan and Martha Morgan, grandson, wife and daughter of totem carver Mike Morgan; Al Bentley, Facilities Committee chair; and Carol Vincent and Judy Bentley, ex-board presidents and Advisory Council members. The award recognized our June 6, 2014, totem-pole unveiling ceremony.

Join us at West Seattle Outdoor Movies -- six Saturday evenings

There’s something new at the always-free West Seattle Outdoor Movies this summer: us! Through a partnership with Hotwire Online Coffeehouse, our historical society for the first time will be the concessionaire for the popular series that screens favorite films on the Hotwire courtyard wall. This year, the series runs on these six Saturday nights: July 11 through Aug. 22.

The crowd numbers 250 or more, and we will sell popcorn, soda and other items for $1, with proceeds going to us. The gate opens at 5:30 p.m. for lawn-chair setup. Movies begin at dusk. Want to volunteer at a movie night? Call 206-938-5293 or e-mail volunteer@loghousemuseum.info.
Maritime’s medal of merit goes to John Kelly

The challenge on May 6, 2015, for Frank Immel, president of the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, was to list something that John Kelly hasn’t accomplished.

Kelly received the organization’s 2015 Medal of Merit during a dinner at the U.S. Coast Guard Museum. The 94-year-old native and lifelong resident of West Seattle (and longtime volunteer for us) has done more for local maritime education than is seemingly humanly possible.

As Immel said, he “has been actively involved in all things water-related since he was a child.”

In 1938, as a junior at West Seattle High School, he joined the Sea Scouts and rose to the commodore rank. He was one of the first to set foot aboard the Yankee Clipper, a vessel on which he sails to this day. “I am sure his 66 continuous years as an active Sea Scout is something of a record,” Immel said.

“Through his influence and personal example,” Immel said, Kelly “has been directly responsible for motivating several Sea Scouts into maritime careers, including at least one Coast Guard admiral, several Naval officers, a Washington State Ferry captain and many others who possess Cost Guard captain licenses.”

Kelly worked for several local maritime institutions (Edison Boat Building, Seattle/Tacoma Shipbuilding, Lockhaven Marina, Jensen Motorboat, MARCO) and served in World War II in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Big congratulations, John!

Native renewal

Tackling the removal of non-native plants in an initial plot of our Native Plant Garden next to the front stairway of our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum on May 14, 2015, were Scott Tuzzolino, landscape designer, and four other volunteers (from left) Irene Gehring, Judy Demetre, Deb Barker and project leader Kerry Korsgaard. The exploratory effort will help guide future work parties in refining and improving the garden in preparation for its possible inclusion in the 2016 West Seattle Garden Tour. Also helping to helm the project is Carol Vincent, former board president and Advisory Council member.

Enjoying our May 3, 2015, Volunteer Appreciation Party in the Sky Lounge of Youngstown Flats are (sitting, from left) Nainoa Jorg, Bob and Vicky Bruck, Meg and Clay Eals, Nancy McPhee, Inez Lindsay and (standing, from left) Frances Gifford, Dora-Faye Hendricks, Vicky Piston, Carol Vincent, Sandy Donnen, Tia Hallberg, Liz Day, Kerry Korsgaard, Sandy Hirano, Edie Neeson, Judy Demetre, Jerry Vandenberg, Marcy Johnsen, Dave Hrachovina and Marsha Vandenberg.

Words, Writers & West Seattle

Visit loghousemuseum.info. Visit our website, to see and hear video of previous authors’ talks in this series!

‘Words’ rolls on

Join us for the popular “Words, Writers & West Seattle” series on the first Friday of each month at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village. All sessions run from 5 to 7 p.m.

Contact chair Dora-Faye Hendricks at 206-280-9983 to book new installments.

Thanks to Barnes & Noble, from any purchases made while attending, 10 percent of proceeds go to us:


Friday, Aug. 7, 2015, Alice Ann Kuder, Since I Last Saw You (The Telltale Scribe, 2013, fiction)

Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, David Kanaas, Still Life with Badge (CreateSpace, 2013, novel)
FOOTPRINTS
Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
c/o “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116-2810
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Do we have your e-mail address? Let us know so that you can stay up-to-date! To get on the list, please e-mail volunteer@loghousemuseum.info.

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 “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum.

Calendar: Summer/Fall 2015
Words, Writers & West Seattle
Fridays, June 5, July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 5-7 p.m., Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, 2600 SW Barton

Thinking of volunteering? Come to one of these! Or e-mail volunteer@loghousemuseum.info
Volunteer Intro
Saturdays, June 6, July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3, 11 a.m., Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave SW

Morgan Junction Festival (table)
Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

“If These Walls Could Talk”
Sunday, June 28, 3-5 p.m., Standley home, 1750 Palm Ave SW.

Annual Picnic, Alki Beach walk and “This Place STILL Matters” group photo
Saturday, July 4, noon, museum courtyard, 3003 61st Ave SW

West Seattle Outdoor Movies
Saturdays, July 11, July 18, July 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Aug. 15, Aug. 22, dusk, Hotwire Online Coffeehouse courtyard

West Seattle Summerfest (booth)
Friday-Sunday, July 10-12, West Seattle Junction

Alki Arts Fair (table)
Saturday-Sunday, July 25-26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Alki Beach Park

Delridge Day (table)
Saturday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Delridge Playfield

Riverside Walking Tour
Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m., West Marginal Way & Marginal Place

Champagne Gala Brunch
Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m., Salty’s on Alki

Our board meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the South Seattle College President’s Board Room. You are welcome to attend!

Big thanks to our sponsors and supporters:
Southwest Seattle Historical Society Community Survey 2015

Thank you for being part of our first community survey. We appreciate your time! The purpose is to learn more about our communities, to reach out to neighbors across the peninsula and learn what you know about us and what programs you would like to see from us. Please mail this to us at the address above!

1. What is your neighborhood:

Your zip code:

2. What is your age range:

☐ 13-21
☐ 22-30
☐ 31-39
☐ 40-49
☐ 50-65
☐ 65-plus

3. Ethnicity:
Language(s):
Culture(s):

4. What is your occupation:

5. What do you know about the Southwest Seattle Historical Society?

6. Which types of programming and services do you feel are important to offer to residents and visitors?

☐ Interactive website
☐ Tours (museum, geographic, wildlife, water)
☐ Special-interest places and profiles
☐ Exhibits, artifacts and research
☐ Public events
☐ Other:

7. History is all around us. What are the ways you use or reference history to help you in your daily life?

☐ Use of maps and other geographic materials
☐ Genealogy (exploring personal family history, traditions, recipes, rituals)
☐ Media entertainment (documentaries, biographies, images)
☐ Equipment or tools used in daily life or workplace
☐ Visits to cultural and historical places
☐ Other:

8. What are your news and information sources for upcoming events and activities?

Founded in 1984, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society is the heritage organization for the Duwamish peninsula. We operate the “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum. www.loghousemuseum.info

Please mail this to us at the address above. Write on the back side if you need more room!