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The Kitsap Historian

January 2008

Thank You Members and Volunteers Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Night

IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Volunteer Appreciation Night	1,4
President's Message & New Board	2
Historic Sites: Preservation Efforts	3
Paul Middents Receives Award	3
Museum Funding	5
2008 Calendars are Here!	5
Don Serry, Historian	6,7
First Friday Programs	6
Archivist's Message	8
Director's Message	8
Exhibit News	8
Curator's Message	9
Antique Appraisal Fair	9
Intern News	9
Gala	10
History Book News	11
Museum Store	11



Paul Middents presents Don Serry with "Board Member of the Decade" award. *Photo by Gary Beanland*

Thank you to all our members and volunteers! We simply could not operate the Museum without you. In 2007, volunteers at KCHS Museum contributed 4,747 hours of time. WOW!

On Friday evening, December 7th, 2007, a crowd gathered at the Museum to celebrate this past year's accomplishments. Members and volunteers enjoyed a potluck dinner. The Museum was decked out for the holidays and a festive atmosphere prevailed.

Several of our volunteers were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. As always, it was difficult to choose whom to honor for the year. The Staff and Board truly appreciate all the help they receive from our volun-

teers. A special award was given to outgoing Board Member, Don Serry.

Don has served KCHS with distinction for nearly 28 years. He has been involved with the organization from top to bottom. - from being Board President to moving bookshelves in the basement. Don will continue to serve as a member of the Advisory Board and our Historian. In honor of KCHS's 60th anniversary, Don shares his recollections in a separate article.

During the evening we also recognized our Volunteer of the Year, Lucille Leighton. At 91 years young, Lucille faithfully volunteers every Thursday at the Museum.

Cont. pg. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Mark Williamson

After serving on the Board of Trustees for three years, most recently as Vice President, I am a relative new-comer. Especially compared to years of service donated by some of the Board.



As your new President, I hope to borrow freely from this font of knowledge. The past year saw some major changes, most of which were encouraging. The departure of Helen B Louise as our Executive Director left us at

loose ends for a while; but our Curator, Jane Roth Williams and Executive Assistant, Prudence McCabe, stepped in and worked long hours to keep things running smoothly. Jane has agreed to serve as Interim Director for the coming year. She and Prudence are doing a great job.

My goal this year is to build on our recent progress. We are very fortunate to have two new Board Members, both of whom bring great credentials. Mike Botkin has served with distinction at Kitsap Community Resources. We hope that he will use his knowledge of fundraising and grant writing to help us become more financially sound. Jim Portune also brings talent to our Board. He loves local history and

sports. He is well versed in media relations. Welcome to you both.

For years Board members have each served as Committee Chairmen, and done much of the work themselves. For us to grow, I would like to see these committees expanded to include other Society members. We need to be more inclusive. (This process has begun on our Museum Facilities Committee and Nominating/By-Laws Committee.)

I would welcome anyone to volunteer to help on any of our Committees. In addition to those listed above there are:

- Public Relations (Eat your Way, Gala),
- Historic Sites (Walking Tour),
- Education, Fundraising,
- Nominating / By-Laws,
- Membership, Exhibits,
- Kitsap County History Book, and
- The Kitsap Historian Newsletter

We are saying Aloha to Don Serry who is leaving the Board after a very long and productive tenure. We are fortunate that Don is to stay with us on our Advisory Board.

Our new Kitsap County History Book is due out this October. There is still time to get your copy. It will be a high quality volume.

In closing, I would like to say, tell your friends and neighbors about our wonderful Museum and invite them to become members. There's a lot to see and do.

Happy New Year, it's going to be a great one!

Changing of the Guard

New Board Members and Officers were announced at the First Friday Volunteer Night in December.

Our newest Board Members are Mike Botkin and Jim Portune.

Mike is the Project Director for Kitsap Community Resources and is just finishing work on the new KCR Bremerton Community Services Center at 8th and Warren. He has worked in community development, grant writing, and fundraising for non-profit organizations over 25 years, with jobs in public radio and television, the American Cancer Society, and as a consultant. Mike is a Leadership Kitsap graduate (Class of '98), and served on the Board for six years and was president during the 2004-2005 year. He has been a resident of the County for over 30 years.

Jim Portune has been an active participant in Park & Rec, Kitsap-Bremerton Athletic Roundtable and Toastmaster's International. With a primary focus on athletics, he was the assistant boys basketball coach at Central Kitsap High for three seasons, assistant men's basketball coach at Olympic College for seven seasons, and head girls basketball coach at Bremerton High for a season. He has worked as the Sports Director for KITZ Radio (1400AM), Sports Information Director at The Evergreen State College, Kitsap BlueJackets Public Relation / Media Director, and Asst. Athletic Director Olympic College. He currently manages the Olympic College Athletic and BremertonFootball.com websites.

Jim has been a resident of Kitsap County since being assigned to the USS Michigan (SSBN 727)(BLUE) in 1989. Before retiring from active duty in 1999, Jim served as an Electronics Technician, US Navy Recruiter, Command Career Counselor and security at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC). He also coached the All-Navy Men's Basketball team for the 1993 & 1994 seasons.

After 28 years on the Board, Don Serry is "retiring" to the Advisory Board. Don has promised to continue to stay involved. We welcome his many years of expertise and know he will continue to be a great asset.

In January new Board Officers take their posts. Paul Middents, who has admirably served as President these past few years makes way for Mark Williamson to succeed him. Carolyn McClurkan, who has fulfilled the role of Past President for quite awhile, is grateful that Paul is taking her place. Gary Beanland is our new Vice President and George Willock our new Secretary. George, who has faithfully served as Treasurer will be replaced by Janice Poepoe.

Our Staff	Board of Directors	
<p>Jane Williams <i>Interim Director/Curator</i></p> <p>Prudence McCabe <i>Executive Assistant/Research Coordinator</i></p> <p>Heather Guindon <i>Administrative/Curatorial Assistant</i></p>	<p>Mark Williamson <i>President</i></p>	<p>Carolyn McClurkan <i>Archivist</i></p>
<p>Advisory Board</p>	<p>Gary Beanland <i>Vice President</i></p>	<p>Annetta Butler <i>Historic Sites Chair</i></p>
<p>Al Colvin</p> <p>Roger Horne, RADM, USN (Ret.)</p> <p>Ralph Munro</p> <p>Don Serry</p> <p>Helen Langer Smith</p> <p>Ambassador Edward Wolfe</p>	<p>Janis Poepoe <i>Treasurer</i></p>	<p>Virginia McBride <i>Museum Store Manager</i></p>
	<p>George Willock <i>Secretary</i></p>	<p>Anita Williams <i>Fundraising Chair</i></p>
	<p>Paul Middents, Capt. USN (Ret.) <i>Past President</i></p>	<p>Libby McKnight</p>
	<p>Nina Hallett</p>	<p>Mike Botkin</p> <p>Jim Portune</p>

HISTORIC SITES

Amendments to Bremerton's Comprehensive Plan Strengthen Preservation Efforts

On December 19th, 2007 the Bremerton City Council adopted several amendments to the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Of note was the amendment to the Downtown Regional Center Sub-Area Plan. This amendment provided the strongest guidance to date on the importance of retaining historic residential and commercial structures in order to preserve the distinctive character and quality of an area.

One of the city's early efforts in historic preservation focused on the Highland Avenue neighborhood. In 1986, the Comprehensive Land Use Element identified the neighborhood as one recommended for preservation and rehabilitation of historically significant houses. A consultant hired in 1999, stated: "within this district, incentives should be employed to retain and reuse older structures that can provide depth and character to the identity of the area." As Bremerton revitalization progresses, the Highland Avenue area faces increased pressure from development. The amendment adopted Dec. 19th is certainly timely for this neighborhood, as well as others in the downtown area.

The amendment calls for creation of a Certified Local Government (CLG) in

2009. This is a program established by the National Park Service and to date there are over 1200 communities or cities in the United States that are CLG's.

There are several CLG's in Washington with the closest being Bainbridge Island and Gig Harbor. The advantages to becoming a CLG are many. They include the establishment of a local Historic Preservation Commission for inventorying existing sites and structures.

Once identified, historic properties may become eligible for protective regulations and tax incentives. There are also government grants available to offset the cost of conducting inventories, the necessary relevant studies, and assessments. Individuals with historical backgrounds can be appointed to local boards, giving the community a voice in the planning and design processes. The CLG's are generally administered at the state level. To learn more about CLG's go to our state's Department of Archaeology and State Pres-



Priest home on Highland Avenue

Photo by Wendy Priest

ervation website:

<http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/LocalGovernment/Overview.htm>

The Kitsap County Historical Society Museum has been asked to actively participate in the creation of a Bremerton CLG. Our own Historic Sites Committee has started the process of adding many of the city and county's historic sites to the Washington state database. Watch this column for more information as we progress toward a CLG.

Paul Middents Receives Award

Our own Paul Middents is a man of many talents. Paul was recently awarded the prestigious Fellow Award by the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors at a local chapter meeting where he had presented a well received program. Only two NAWCC Fellow Awards were given out this last year in the Pacific Northwest. The members who receive this award are those who have done outstanding work in support of the organizational goals. The major goals are the preservation and proper restoration of all antique horological items and the education of others.

Paul has been a member of the Association for 38 years and has held numerous positions including Chapter President, Vice President and Committee Chairman. He has given many programs on horology within the organization as well as to other interested groups. He has written numerous articles for the Associations "Bulletin" and



Leon Jaussaud presenting Paul with the Fellow Award.

Photo by Leon Jaussaud

articles for other related publications. Paul was instrumental in saving and restoring Bremerton's two street clocks and three

unusual high quality clocks from the Bremerton Naval Shipyard which are now on display in the Museum.

Cont. from page 1

During the past year she persistently sorted an index card accession culling obituaries for the Archives. Volunteer Morna Blessing, and friend of Lucille, graciously gives her a ride to the Museum. Lucille says walking rather than driving is one of her secrets for longevity.

Gary Beanland was selected as our Board Member of the Year. Gary has spent countless hours working at the Pole Barn Exhibit at the County Fairgrounds. He supervised the installation of curtain drains around the perimeter this past spring and fulfilled the role of Staff member during the Fair. Without the drainage improvements, our artifacts would have been flooded during the heavy rains in December. Gary also regularly helps out around the Museum with odd jobs and maintenance.



Gary setting up for an oral history session at the Kitsap county Fair.

Photo by Susan Daniel



Above: Vickie Barrier receives prize for correctly guessing 2007 volunteer hours. Left: Lucille receives Volunteer of the Year Award from Interim Director Jane.

Photos by Gary Beanland

Our Volunteers!



Suzanne Arness
 Vickie Barrier
 Gary Beanland
 Nichole Bettencourt
 Morna Blessing
 Laura Boyle
 Pete Britton
 Annetta Butler
 Carol Campbell
 Bonnie Chrey
 Sig Chrey
 Albert Calvin
 Brett Dahlberg
 Eric Dahlberg
 Susan Daniel
 George Davis
 Richard Eskridge

Cindy Flaherty
 Ray Garrido
 Maureen Gregg
 Nina Hallett
 Eileen Hendrickson
 Roger Horne
 Tyler Houston
 Claudia Hunt
 Marvel Hunt
 Randy Hunt
 Leon Jaussaud
 Ann Kluge
 Carolyn LaFountain
 Lucille Leighton
 Jean Lenihan
 Ernie Lopez
 Duey McBride

Virginia McBride
 Gene McClelland
 Carolyn McClurkan
 Edith McKelvy
 Libby McKnight
 Michael McKnight
 Roger Meyer
 Ellen Middents
 Paul Middents
 Julie Miller
 Arthur Morken, JR
 Ralph Munro
 Andrew Oakley
 Cheryl Oakley
 Lon Overson
 Joanne Owen Jogerst
 John Paulk

Patricia Peat
 Janis Poepoe
 James Portune
 Steve Priest
 Ruth Reese
 Lloyd Relph
 Angela Rice
 Marv Rice
 Lester Schmuck
 Donald Serry
 Albert Sheets
 Ursuline Sheets
 Diana Shoemaker
 Barbara Simmons
 Charles Simmons
 Bill Slach
 Helen Smith

Paula Smith
 Howard Struve
 John Thomas
 Bob Ulsh
 Sandy Ulsh
 Dick Vlist
 Russ Warren
 Peg Watson
 Anita Williams
 Ariana Williams
 Robert Williams
 Rod Williams
 Janice Williamson
 Mark Williamson
 George Willock
 Edward Wolfe

How is a Museum Funded or...But I just sent you money for...

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why isn't the Museum free?

Money is an ever present concern for any non-profit and, contrary to popular opinion, a large sum is provided by those of you reading this article. Visitors are sometimes surprised to learn that the Museum, the exhibits, and programs are not FREE. There is an assumption that we are a public institution paid for by taxes from the County. We are the County Museum, and the County does contribute approximately 20% of our monthly expenses but we are a private non-profit and only partially supported by them.

Why should I become a member? I donate to other Museum fundraisers.

Memberships are the foundation from which all other support springs. It is the bottom of the pyramid. It is the base from which our volunteers, board members, and other support comes. And, it contributes financially in exponential ways. When applying for grants it is important to show that the community places value on our services; our membership list plays a critical role in demonstrating this.

I contributed to the Annual Fund; why has my membership expired?

The Annual Fund and Membership are very different entities. Members receive tangible benefits such as reduced prices for tickets to special events and admission to the Museum. These benefits are not tax deductible while contributions to the Annual Fund are a donation and fully deductible. If you have questions about what to deduct for your income taxes, it is best to check with your accountant.

How do fundraisers, such as the Gala, fit into the financial picture?

Money raised at a fundraiser is usually spent for a stated purpose. It is used, in some way, to further the mission of the organization. For example, this year Gala funds were raised for Museum technology to make our Collections more accessible to Kitsap County residents. Funds will be used to purchase computer software, hardware and fund staff time for data entry. The funds must be applied for technology purposes and cannot be used to pay, for example, the electric bill.

What about grants?

Foundations and organizations granting funds to non-profits have specific interests, and guidelines for what they will, or will not, fund. Most grants we are eligible to apply for are for educational or capital building purposes. Rarely are

there grants available for operating expenses. Or, once again, we cannot use such funds to pay the electric bill. When we receive grants we are obligated to prove that the money was used for the stated purpose. Many grants also have to be matched by our organization. For every dollar a funder supplies we may have to contribute one or two dollars. Grants require a significant amount of staff time to administer and fall under the category of "restricted" funds.

What is the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds?

This could be titled sexy and non sexy fundraisers. Giving for a specific purpose is fun – the giver can enjoy buying a specific item for the Museum, or funding a new exhibit. They can see where the money went and maybe even have their name put on it. These are restricted funds. Unrestricted funds are not fun. They pay the boring stuff: heating, lighting, cleaning, staff and all the other basic things that are necessary for maintaining an establishment where the fun stuff can happen. That money comes from Memberships, the Annual Fund, and smaller portions from Store sales and admissions.

Any more questions? Send them in and we will answer them in the next newsletter.

2008 Calendars Are Here!

Do you have your calendar for 2008 yet? If not, pick up one of KCHS's 2008 "A Step Back in Time Historical Calendar" featuring Kitsap County in the 1920s. You can see a photograph of "the Old Men's Race" along Front Street in Poulsbo, the famous "Cat Lady" of Keyport, the old Bremerton ferry wharf, Bremerton(Union) High School's orchestra and first band... and much more.

The production of this interesting calendar was a joint project with KCHS and the students from Bremerton High School's 2007 commercial arts classes, and was sponsored by Kitsap Credit Union.

Calendars are \$10 each and support the mission and operation of the Kitsap Historical Society and Museum.

Get Your Copy Today!

Sponsored by
**Kitsap
Credit Union**



FIRST FRIDAY PROGRAMS

February 1st — Pioneer Dance Music of the Far West

Did you ever wonder what the first settlers in Kitsap County did for fun? Join us for the first Friday in February when Vivian and Phil Williams play "Pioneer Dance Music of the Far West". Vivian and Phil are well known West Coast musicians



and have extensively researched not only the tunes played in Northwest lumber camps, farming settlements, and maritime communities, but the colorful history as well. Using the fiddle and other stringed

instruments they will play the music and tell the stories reminiscent of those early community dances.

March 7th — The Tribes of Kitsap County 6:30 pm



Leonard Forsman, Chair of the Suquamish Tribe, will tell about the Indians who live in Kitsap County. For thousands of years these Coast Salish people hunted and fished, gathered native plants for food and clothing, and harvested the mighty cedar tree for canoes.

April 4th — Volunteer Appreciation Night

No Foolin'



Because we can't thank our volunteers enough and April is National Volunteer Month we are moving our Volunteer Appreciation dinner to April. Year end awards will continue to be given out, in December, at our Annual Meeting. Watch your mail for further details.

KITSAP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS IN 2008 Reflections from Our Historian Don Serry

Kitsap County Historical Society Museum will be 60 years old this year. In honor of that occasion, and because I am the Society Historian, and the oldest, longest serving Board Member, I have been asked to put down some of my remembrances of the early members and the museum. I have always been a history buff. I guess I inherited that from my parents who were always interested in historical things and historical places. In high school, US history and Washington State history were two of the subjects I got an A in. I am not sure exactly when my folks joined the Historical Society, some time in the early 70s. I did not join until 1978. As I was planning to retire the following year, I felt I would have some time to join the organization and get involved. And it didn't take me long to get involved. Within six months I became the Bremerton Director and then I became Vice-President of the Society for 1981, 82, 83 and the President in 1984, 85, 86. You join the organization and they put you to work. I have been a Director on the Board ever since I joined the organization. They don't have any trouble finding something for you to do.

I only know one plank owner who is still

alive, Gwen Sulonen. She lives out on Green Mountain. Her husband worked for me in the shipyard for a number of years. I knew a number of people who were in the organization initially. I knew Chloe Sutton and sat in several Historical Society meetings with her. Henry Hitt who was the Vice President when the organization was put together, was the stamp collector counselor for the Boy Scouts. I got the stamp collecting merit badge and I had to see Henry several times in order to pass that. Eleanor Van Elten and Elgie Hoffman were still involved in the Museum when we were in Silverdale. Frank Ryan, I knew through the Scouts. Oscar Hanburg - I knew all that family and Raymond was my best friend all through school. Art Holberg was one of the early members. Roy O'Hara's daughter is the mother of Norm Dicks, whom we all know. Jay Harvey Leach was a close friend of my Dad and Homer Jones, who was Mayor of Charleston. Rudy Campbell was one of the first people to start writing white papers about history and the Museum archives are full of stuff he wrote. I spent a lot of time in Charles Strong's store, was very much involved with his

boys, and knew Winifred, his daughter, who passed away a few years ago. There wasn't a song she didn't know and she would come to the nursing homes and play and sing them. I knew a lot of the early members. In going through the minutes of the early meetings it really shows how hard these people worked to put this Society together and keep it together. The early meetings were at the Court House and the first depository was there and our first displays in cases. I became really involved when they got a place in the old telephone building on Burwell Street and, again, when they went to Silverdale. My Dad and his friends were the ones moving stuff. I would hear them talking about moving all the artifacts from Burwell Street because some of it was pretty good size.

In the beginning they had representatives: Bainbridge Island representative, North End, South End and the Bremerton representative. The Kitsap County Historical society was an umbrella organization that took in all these little museums that were cropping up all over the area. Bainbridge Island had the little red school house, and, all of a sudden

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we had another museum at Port Gamble, and the Suquamish started putting together oral histories and setting up a museum. And there was always Port Orchard, which had the Sidney Museum and the Log Cabin before that. They wound up in the old Masonic Hall. When we moved out to Silverdale, we had our meetings in the library because there were too many of us for the Museum. During our time there I added two additions. We funded these things helter skelter, any way we could, and had these things built. Trouble was we built one on County property. They were very good about it when they discovered it; they did a quit claim deed.

One of the things a lot of people have forgotten, now that the Naval Museum has that beautiful building, and people from Keyport to do exhibits, and the US government to help fund it, is how hard we fought to keep that facility alive. When the government tore down Craven Center where the Navy museum was, the City moved it into the old ferry terminal lunch room. We hauled all of that stuff up there, Dick Linkletter and a guy named Tennessee and me, and Frank Reh and his wife. We would go up there and open two or three days a week. It was just a hands-on thing with a lot of artifacts out on the floor and people could touch them or whatever. One of the big problems was the leaky roof. We'd spend half of our time with buckets catching water and moving artifacts around so they wouldn't get wet. Then the State decided to tear down the ferry terminal and we had to move the stuff again. This time the City rented space from Lou Weir up on Washington Avenue and the facility moved up there. Frank and Louise Reh were really in charge of that move. The sailors from the shipyard physically moved most of the stuff but the Rehs were the ones who took care of it and put it in the right place

and checked it off on the list to be sure they knew what it was and where it was. Shortly after that an organization was formed to take over the Naval Museum and the Historical Society was no longer required to do that. Which was great, we had enough problems of our own.

During my time in the Historical Society, while I was President, the Navy decided to take the Missouri away. The Society fought a real battle to keep it here. The ship had been designated as a National Historical Monument and was not to be moved. I made presentations to the Post Intelligencer newspaper and wrote letters to everyone, including the President, the Governor, the Secretary of the Navy. All we were able to salvage (because I had a friend in the shipyard



35th Anniversary of KCHS. Left to Right: Lee Tennison, Eleanor van Elton, and ?, Chet Ullin, and Elgie Hoffman

Photo KCHS Collection

who had a friend in Long Beach where the ship was taken) were two of the 40 millimeter quads. They were shipped here on a navy ship and unloaded in the shipyard and that presented a problem. The County backed their trailer into the shipyard and got them on, but then we had to figure out how to get them off. Initially, one was at the park at the end of the Warren Avenue Bridge and another in the park in Gorst. They are both now at the end of the Warren Avenue Bridge. That was one of my more memorable moments in the Historical Society.

It is scary how much history is lost because children are not interested in the stuff their parents leave them. A lot of it goes in the dump and no one gets to see it again. I was involved in the finding of some very important papers. One of them is the Croxton material. A little old guy showed up at the Chamber of Commerce office, when they were in the old telephone exchange, with boxes of Croxton letters and papers. Croxton was the first Mayor of Bremerton, the Superintendent of the power plant in the shipyard and the chief electrician. There's some great stuff in there. Another was Rudy Campbell, a very prolific writer, who wrote a lot of white papers which are in our archives. He was a graduate of the old Union High School in 1911 and was in the process of

putting together a book on the history of Bremerton football. We lost track of Rudy, and then one day I got a call from a woman who said her daughter had bought a house up on State Street and found a whole lot of bags of stuff that looked as though it had historical significance. I went to look and it turned out to be all of Rudy Campbell's stuff. There was everything in there. He had all the memorabilia from a son who had been killed in the mountain troops in Italy. He had written a family

history. The partial book on the football teams was there. I knew his son Pete Campbell and asked him if he wanted it. He said maybe his daughter would like it. The daughter took some and the rest is in the archives in the Museum. There is information in there on every ship that was dedicated in the shipyard from 1911 up until the time Rudy died. The ability to salvage that information is something I take a lot of pride in.

Another thing I am glad I took a stand on - when we were out-

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE Jane Roth Williams

As we begin a new year, I am excited about being the Museum's Interim Director. The Staff and Board have been busy exploring ways we can continue the positive progress experienced under Helen B Louise's leadership.

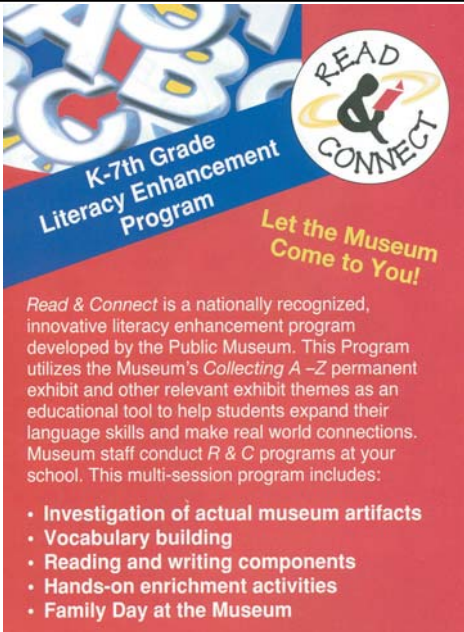
We have many ambitious goals for the year in the areas of Education, Membership, and Technology. We also plan to finish the Main Street Exhibit in July. As always we will have some outstanding First Friday programs so be sure to watch the Newsletter for details.

In this column I would like to discuss our plans in the area of Education and Membership.

For some time we have looked for a way to update our History Trunks that go out to schools. These Trunks were put together in 1989 with a Centennial grant and it is time they were revitalized. Thanks to our former Director, Helen, we learned of a museum education program called Read

and Connect. It is a highly successful program designed by the Grand Rapids Public Museum and it focuses on literacy. It is classroom based and uses museum objects to enhance a student's reading ability. As a follow up to the classroom work, students and their families are invited to visit the Museum, free of charge. In December, I attended a workshop in Milwaukee on replicating and implementing the Read and Connect program. In the coming months we will be pursuing grant monies to start the program.

The Staff and the Fundraising Committee have been looking at ways to improve Memberships options for businesses. In the next few months we will be remodeling the Library and offering it as a meeting room as one of the benefits of Corporate Memberships. The room will also be available to rent to other groups. Of course, it will still serve as our library.



Read & Connect is a nationally recognized, innovative literacy enhancement program developed by the Public Museum. This Program utilizes the Museum's *Collecting A-Z* permanent exhibit and other relevant exhibit themes as an educational tool to help students expand their language skills and make real world connections. Museum staff conduct R & C programs at your school. This multi-session program includes:

- Investigation of actual museum artifacts
- Vocabulary building
- Reading and writing components
- Hands-on enrichment activities
- Family Day at the Museum

EXHIBITS

Plans are underway for a new mezzanine exhibit to open in November 2008 and you can help. It's tentatively titled: **"What Do Kitsap People Collect?"**. The exhibit will look at the unique 'stuff' folks in our community find interesting. You can help us by recommending people

you might know who have a fascinating collection.

In July, look for the completion of our **Main Steet Exhibit** and a special celebration. Patricia Peat, who previously worked on the Exhibit has graciously agreed to head up the design work again.

ARCHIVIST Carolyn McClurkan

This fall your Archivist has attended two disaster preparedness workshops at the University of Washington. These two days have enabled KCHSM to update its disaster plan. We are talking with the Fire Department about holding an exciting training session!

Meanwhile, the Archives need your assistance. We have two faithful volunteers who come every Thursday and provide much-needed help in sleeving and interleaving. But we **DESPERATELY** need volunteers who are willing to learn some processing skills to work on our unprocessed collections (which are the unfortunate state of most of our collections). Researchers can't use the collections if no one knows what's in them!

And, can you type, but don't want to learn Past Perfect?? We also need people who can simply word process, for a myriad of chores, depending on your level of expertise. If you have the time, we certainly can find you a project!!

FUTURE MUSEUM TRIPS

Well, so far exactly three people have called expressing interest in a trip to the Washington DC area, that contains so much of our nation's history. Definitely not enough to start planning. We are speaking here of the fall of **2009**, people, but the planning needs to be started fairly soon, so I will need to have more response than I've received so far.

So, again, I ask that you call either the museum (479-6226) or me (377-2697) or e-mail the Museum (info@kitsaphistory.org) or me (carolynmclurkan@yahoo.com) if you **THINK** you may be interested. You might mention preferred destinations in the DC area, or restrictions (not much walking, etc.)

I think that if we don't have more interest demonstrated by the end of March, we will cease thinking about this destination.

Thank you Ray Garrido for hosting our website. To view this Newsletter in glorious color go to our website: www.kitsaphistory.org and click on "Newsletters"



CURATOR'S MESSAGE Jane Roth Williams

There's Gold in Them Thar' Archives

You will recall that my last article for this newsletter was about the 1857 reproduction dress I made for the County's 150th anniversary. My inspiration for making the dress centered on my curiosity about who the first women settlers might have been in Kitsap County. I surmised that they were likely married to either mill owners, their employees, or sailors. A check of the 1857 census lists a few women at Port Gamble and Port Orchard but none at Port Madison or Seabeck. By the 1860 census several more women and families had arrived.

Next I searched our Archives and Library for possible photographs of women from that time period. Fredi Perry's book, *Seabeck: Tide's Out, Tables Set*, gave me clues about where to look. In our Archives I found some wonderful portrait photos of Marshall and Julia Blinn and William J. and Cassandra Adams. Marshall and William were partners in Adams, Blinn & Co. They saw a pressing need for lumber in the booming San Francisco, which had burned several times since the Gold Rush of '49. William had first tried his hand as a grocer only to have his building burn twice. He and Marshall established the Washington Mill Company at Seabeck, Kitsap County's fourth lumber mill, in 1857. While the Blinn family lived in Seabeck, the Adams family remained in San Francisco where William marketed the lumber and, later, the ships also produced by their company.

In October, Nicolette Bromberg, the Visual Materials Curator at the University of Washington Libraries, visited our Museum and presented a special program for First Friday. She talked at great length on caring for and identifying old photos. Armed with a wealth of information from Nicolette's lecture, I began to research the photos.

The photos are of the "Carte de Visite"

style: small albumen prints, 2½by 4 inches, mounted on cardboard stock and produced during the period 1860 -1900. They were most popular during 1859-1866 and, during a brief period in the Civil War, were required to have a special "revenue" stamp on the back. Because of their small size several prints were combined on one large photographic plate, keeping their cost reasonable. For this



Cassandra Adams Photo, KCHS Collection, Gift of Mrs. F.X. Olanie

reason, the photos were often used as "calling cards". This might explain how these photos were donated to KCHS. They were given by Mrs. Frances Olanie. Her husband was born in Seabeck in 1889.

Several of the photos have the name and address of the photographer printed on the back. The photo of Cassandra Adams is pictured above and was taken in San Francisco by William Shew. Mr. Shew also saw an opportunity to cash in on boom times. He lived in New York

and had learned photography from Samuel Morse, of telegraphic fame. Soon after the discovery of gold he boarded a ship for San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama, arriving in 1851. His camera equipment followed on a ship that came around Cape Horn. Due to all the fires burning structures to the ground, Mr. Shew initially established a portable photography business. He later moved to a more permanent location on Montgomery Street. The photo of Mrs. Adams, unlike most others from this era, is easily dated. On the back can be found a "revenue" stamp dated January 9th, 1865.

As you can see from this example, we truly have a "gold mine" of information in our Archives.

In addition to the information gleaned from the photos, I uncovered some additional interesting facts about Mr. and Mrs. Adams. The Adams & Blinn Company named one of their

ships, *Cassandra Adams*, after Mrs Adams. The bark was built in 1876 at Seabeck, and shipwrecked in 1888 near Destruction Island, on its way from San Francisco to Tacoma. And, Cassandra and William were the grandparents of none other than Ansel Adams!

NEW INTERN



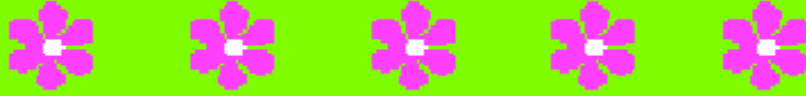
Welcome to **Jenny Dellert** is our newest intern. Jenny comes to us from Olympic College where she is a student in the Integrated Multimedia program. She has a background in anthropology and is taking this opportunity to add new skills and gain experience in the museum field. Jenny will be working on a special photo project in collaboration with the Kitsap Sun. Beginning soon, KCHS photos from our Collection will appear weekly in the Sun.

Antique Appraisal Fair

This year's Antique Appraisal will be held Saturday, April 12th at **Silverdale Community Center** - 11am-4pm. For more information call KCHS at 479-6226 or Puget Sound Genealogical Society, 874-8813



FOURTH ANNUAL KCHS GALA CELEBRATES THE 60'S



It's the Sixties! We're cruisin' Pacific, doin' the "twist", dancing to the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Shirelles, Fabian and the Beach Boys, wearing mini skirts and go-go boots, paisley shirts and long hair.

Step back in time with us and celebrate this remarkable time in our history by capturing all the good memories of the decade at the 4th Annual KCHS

"Step Back in Time" Gala.

Saturday, October 4, 2008

The early stages of planning for this popular event are already under way. If you'd like to help, let us know. We're looking for 60s cars, creative ideas and compelling memories.

Whatever you do, mark the date on your 2008 calendar now, and join us for this *grooovy*, swingin' 60's party. You were there then! It won't be the same if you're not there with us on October 4.



Paddle Raisers and Sponsors for the 2007 Gala

Thank You!

Commissioner Jan Angel
 Ms. Suzanne T. Arness
 Mr. Gary Beanland
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Blockhus
 Ms. Donna Gay Boyle
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 Mr. and Mrs. George Willock
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice D. Willyard
 AMB Edward Wolfe
 and Wendy Miles

Kitsap County History Book News Nina Hallett

There is still a little time left for you to submit any additions or corrections to your family's history - but not much!! Our editor is making great strides and it's time to start putting in the corrections, etc. So please let us have your information as soon as possible. Send it to me (Nina Hallett) at the museum, 280 4th St., Bremerton, WA 98337. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at home at 206-842-7343. I'm not in the museum much on a regular basis so any message left there may take a while for me to reply.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Helen Langer Smith and the Kitsap Bank have joined this venture as **Partners** to assist with the publication costs.

In the meantime, if you haven't reserved your copy of the new edition of *Kitsap County: A History*, don't forget there is an order form on our website, or call the museum for a copy. Since our last newsletter, the following have added their support to our list of contributors by ordering advance copies or making a financial contribution.

Bremerton Central Lions
Kingston Middle School Library
Commissioner Jan Angel
Donna Gay Boyle
Susan & David Bray

Commissioner Josh Brown
Kathryn & Tom Coleman
Lisa & Eric Dahlberg
Mitch & Jan DeRidder
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Bruce Morris
Mayor Kathryn Quade,
City of Poulsbo
Helen Langer Smith
Marie & Theodore Spearman
Gwendolyn Sulonen
Glenna & Lennis L. Veach
Becky & Stan Welch

Cont. from page 7 growing the Silverdale building, the Executive

Director and Curator wanted to move the Museum to the Peterson farm in Central Valley. It consisted of a big farm house and a bunch of barns. The facilities were not adequate, it was difficult to find, and access was limited. So, we held out, and I think we made an outstanding selection when we moved into the old National Bank of Commerce building on Fourth Street. Real Estate was down and we were bidding on the future upturn in Bremerton which we are experiencing now. Once again, I was involved in moving. The main driver at that time was Wally Kippola. He was dying of cancer and he would take a nap in the furnace room and then come staggering out and we would work on more stuff. I spent a lot of time in the basement installing walls and installing toilets and moving shelves and material and helping with the exhibits. It was a busy, busy time but if it hadn't have been for Wally we would never have gotten it done. He was the driving force.

The Historical Society and the Museum have been really close to my heart over the years. For the first 25 or 26 I was able to physically and financially contribute. Recently, because of medical problems I have not been able to contribute physically, but have continued to work on committees and support it financially and attend Board meetings. For years I collected scouting material and have what I consider to be the best collection of scouting memorabilia in Kitsap County and maybe in the State of Washington. Not only things I collected but that other men who grew up in scouting collected: Orville Schultz and Bob Knox are two who have made large contributions. This material is particularly special to me and occasionally I get to drag some out of the archives and display it for people who are interested in the history of scouting. I was co-author of a book on scouting history published in 1990 when guys were still alive who had been involved when it originated here in Kitsap County.

I would certainly encourage any of you reading this dissertation to get involved with the society, if not physically, then financially. It costs \$7,500 a month just to keep the doors open without doing anything such as patching the roof or doing any of the other things that need doing.

Museum Store Virginia McBride

ATTENTION SHOPPERS YOU ARE HELPING

Most women love to shop – some guys do too. Some times after you have been on a shopping spree you feel guilty. You do not have to have those feelings when you shop in our Museum Store. You can have the fun of shopping and know that you have contributed to KCHS's operating costs. All of the profits from the store are returned to the treasury to fund museum expenses. SHOP, FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT if you are a Museum Member.

For the year 2007 the store contributed \$4600 to the operations of the museum. In 2008, wouldn't be great if we could increase that amount? Please think about dropping in and checking out our Kitsap County and Northwest books. Besides our books we have lots of gift items that make

great birthday gifts, hostess gifts and mementos for your visitor's trip to our area.

Our Silverdale video has been a popular item and we now have a Bainbridge Island video. Also, what a great way to see history unfold. Read about the early Puget Sound navigators, Bremerton, and Puget Sound Navy Ship Yard history. Celebrate our area.

We still have some of our 2008 calendars left. They are great reminders of the "good old days" in Kitsap County. The artwork is compliments of the Commercial Art Class at Bremerton High School. Kitsap Credit Union generously underwrites this project each year and we thank them for this wonderful support.

Come on in – we take credit cards, checks and even cash.
See you soon – we hope!

Virginia McBride

**Kitsap County
Historical Society
Museum & Store**
280 Fourth Street
Bremerton, WA 98337
Phone: (360) 479-6226 Fax: (360) 415-9294

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

January 19th - Board Retreat for Kitsap County Historical Society Board

January 29th Tuesday - 5:15 p.m. Kitsap County Historical Society Board Meeting at KCHS

FEBRUARY

February 1st – First Friday – 6:30 p.m. “Pioneer Dance of the Far West” fiddle tunes, Phil & Vivian Williams

February 18th – Monday – President’s Day

MARCH

March 4th – Tuesday - 5:15 p.m. Kitsap County Historical Society Board Meeting at KCHS

March 7th – First Friday – 6:30 p.m. “Tribes of Kitsap County”, Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Chairman

March 23rd – Easter

MARCH

April 1st – Tuesday – 5:15 p.m. Kitsap County Historical Society Board Meeting at KCHS

April 4th – First Friday – 6:30 p.m. Volunteer Appreciation

April 12th – Antique Appraisal Fair, Silverdale Community Center, 11am to 4pm

April 24th – Bremerton Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at the Museum

**VISIT
REMEMBER
LEARN**