



KITSAP
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM

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The Kitsap Historian

Fourth Quarter 2009

In Memoriam

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Don Serry May 21, 1923 to October 5, 2009



Three KCHS Presidents, from left, Mark Williamson (2007-09), Bill Slach (1992-96), Don Serry (1984-86)



Don and Past KCHS President Paul Middents (2006-07)



Jean Lenihan and Don



Volunteer Appreciation Night, December 2007, Distinguished Board Member (1980-2007) recognition

Going Digital
KCHS is moving into the digital age. Soon we will be sending notices, updates, and our Newsletter electronically to those wishing to subscribe. Standby for more information.

We hope you enjoy this Newsletter. Your editors:
Prudence McCabe
and
Eric Dahlberg

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Williamson

As 2009 draws to a close I want to express my pride and admiration to the men and women who make OUR Historical Society the success it is. I have been a member of many organizations during the past 60 years (both professional and volunteer) and I can safely say I have never seen a more dedicated, self-sacrificing, hard-working group in my life. Thank you.

Since our last newsletter, Board Members have continued with individual fund raisers. These have been well received, helped us financially, and have served as an effective out-reach. We hope our guests enjoyed themselves and will want to become members. These events have raised about \$15,000 which will see us through this year. Well done, Board Members

We have been notified by Kitsap County that their grant to us for 2010 has been cancelled due to monetary constraints. This year their help has constituted about 1/3 of our operating money. As frugally as we have been operating, such a cut will have serious repercussions for 2010. We have made an appeal to the County and they have agreed to hear us.

Now for the Good News! The Nominating Committee has identified some really fine prospective new Board Members for 2010:

Susan Daniel, whom I appointed to fill a vacancy, is a retired attorney and wife of our Vice President, Gary Beanland. She brings excellent qualifications, has served on several County Boards and brings both talent and new ideas to us.

Anita Williams, who most of us know and admire, agreed to come back to the Board. Her energy, creativity and enthusiasm as Chair of our Fund Raising Committee has been the life blood of our organization.

Karen Flynn has served as County Auditor for 21 years and is a native Kitsaper. She is dedicated to community service and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge about our area.

Dave Peterson is our County Clerk and has served on several Boards. He also served with the school district and is qualified as an attorney. Dave lives in one of the new condos on Washington Ave. and will have the shortest commute to the Museum.

Our newest Exhibit opened on November 6th **Read All About It! History in Print**. Nina Hallett is to be commended for an excellent job. The Mezzanine looks terrific.

Remember **Seabeck Old Fashioned Mill Town Christmas** on December 13th. Sincerely, Mark Williamson.

A TRIBUTE

DON SERRY: There have been many, many words said about Don Serry over the last two months. There is a lot to say and, we have some to add. After all, he had been a part of our Museum and the Kitsap County Historical Society for 28 years. He talked about the early days, when items were displayed in a few cases, then a room here or there, then a building of its own. The Museum moved many times over those years and he had been there, helping every step of the way.

His friend and fellow KCHS past president, Paul Middents says of Don, "His enthusiasm for local history was contagious and his involvement sincere and complete." He had a way of seeking others to share his enthusiasm. Another past president, (do you see a pattern here?) Carolyn McClurkan tells how Don hired her for an archivist job which turned into volunteering and a position on the Board and "the most expensive job I've ever taken!"

There are many more remembrances but our Newsletter is not long enough to contain them. Looking back over Don's life, we look back over the life of our Historical Society and are amazed and humbled by both.

Thank you for your Support of KCHS

We can never say thank you enough to all of you who have supported the Kitsap County Historical Society this past year. **You have made it possible** for us to continue our dedication to preserving the past and fulfilling our commitment to the community. **You have been a part** of the many accomplishments we have made in 2009, of which we are very proud. **You provide us enduring vitality** by being KCHS members, giving to our Annual Fund, supporting our events, volunteering, sponsoring our projects, and providing in-kind services. **Thank You!**

Anita Williams,
Fundraising Chair

Visit our website
<http://www.kitsaphistory.org>

Our Staff	Board of Trustees	
<p>Prudence McCabe <i>Executive Manager</i></p> <p>Joyce Davison <i>Administrative Assistant</i></p>	<p>Mark Williamson <i>President</i></p>	<p>Annetta Butler-Knight <i>Historic Sites Chair</i></p>
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	<p>Suzanne Frech <i>Treasurer</i></p>	<p>Susan Daniel</p>
	<p>Sara Nell Davis <i>Secretary</i></p>	<p>Alyce Eagens</p>
	<p>Nina Hallett <i>Chair, History Book Project</i></p>	<p>Alan Lowe</p>
	<p>Carolyn McClurkan <i>Archivist</i></p>	<p>Libby McKnight</p> <p>Russell Neyman</p> <p>Wendy Priest</p>

CURATORS REPORT Nina Hallett, Acting Curator

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT.... has nothing on the Kitsap County Historical Society! In the last *Historian* we asked for a hay trolley, fork, and tracks so we could demonstrate the use of them in the Pole Barn next year. Guess who contacted us? Edie McKelvy has these items in her basement! How she ever had room for the blacksmith's setup and the hay tracks, trolley, and fork boggles the mind. When we were there to pick up the blacksmith equipment it did not seem that large! Thank you Edie for coming to our rescue again. Your basement seems to be a treasure trove - what else do you have down there?!

The Museum's lobby has a small recreation of the Bremerton News Office as part of our latest exhibit, "Read All About It: History in Print"



Lobby exhibit

Photo by Eric Dahlberg

The safe is one that has been stored in the Museum's basement for a very long time and we didn't know anything about it except that the knob had a label on it - DO NOT OPEN. So, of course, we opened it and not without difficulty. One of the door hinges is broken (explaining the DO NOT OPEN warning!). The lock had been drilled out of the door and when we opened it (carefully) we found the accession number on the inside. When we read the accession file we discovered the safe had been donated in 1967 but no one knew the combination. It wasn't until 1974 that the Historical Society was able to get a locksmith to drill out the lock and open the safe.

Those of you who are long time members may remember that at about that time the Society benefited

from the estate of Rosamond Johnson and purchased the waterfront Silverdale Bank building. Then from our experience in 1995 and 1996, we know what a horrendous job it is to pack up all the artifacts and safely transport them to a different site. The locksmith repaired the safe's lock and contacted the Museum to install it, but the safe was buried in the turmoil of the move and could not be found!

Now the safe has surfaced and we're determined to repair it. Parts that have been carefully saved have been reapplied to the outside and other decorative pieces and a caster need to be welded into place. We thought it would look nicer if it had some kind of lock on the door front. So, Gary Beanland started calling locksmiths and happened to contact *Anytime Lock & Safe*. Guess what! Not only was he the original locksmith that worked on the safe, but he has repaired and saved all the lock parts for 35 years! Our hero! And what are the chances of that happening? Thank you Mike Forbragd. He will reinstall the lock when the door hinge repair is completed.



Safe in the lobby exhibit Photo by Eric Dahlberg



Quiz Decks available in our Store

HAPPENED IN :

October 1950, on the seventh, the Agate Pass Bridge connected the north end of Bainbridge Island to the Kitsap County mainland. This bridge replaced a car ferry service that dated from the 1920s. The cost of the bridge was \$1,351,363 and was repaid by a 35 cent car and driver toll in one year.

November 1942, on the fifteenth, the USS *Washington* (BB-56) sank the Japanese battleship *Kirishima* in the second battle of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The *Washington* was the last battle ship to sink another battleship with gunfire. This action blunted a counterattack against the U.S. invasion of Guadalcanal. The *Washington* served throughout World War II.

December 1966, on the seventeenth, the superferry *Hyak* was launched at the San Diego's National Steel & Shipbuilding Company. This was the first of four of this class ferry. The *Kaleetan* was under construction and the keels for the *Elwha* and *Yakima* had been laid. These ferries were financed by \$23 million in state bonds and federal funds. The *Hyak* went into service on the Seattle-Bremerton run during July 1967.

MUSEUM STORE

Hurry! Take advantage of the 20% December Member's discount. There are lots of stocking stuffers and, remember, all purchases help the Museum.



FROM THE ARCHIVES Carolyn McClurkan

Someone asked, "What are the Archives, actually?" In a nutshell, the Archives of the Kitsap County Historical Society is the collective memory of Kitsap County. In a "stream-of-consciousness" description, it contains the corporate memory of the Historical Society: minutes of Board meetings, annual reports, financial records, newsletters, and correspondence. But, it also contains the only memories of by-gone parts of Kitsap County which played important roles in the development of the culture and soul of the County's inhabitants. Records of Granges in several sections of the County; papers from at least one lost city (did you know there used to be a Forest City by Port Orchard?); cemeteries; the Enetai Hotel (for years the largest hotel in Bremerton); menus from by-gone restaurants.

Documents of by-gone businesses, and ledgers of past logging companies, are all there.

Our Archives are also the repository for other organizations:

Bremerton Symphony

Bremerton Community Theatre

Bremerton Central Lions Club

Bremerton Rotary

The Retired Teachers of Kitsap County (and the proof sheets for the book they published on the history of Kitsap Schools).

Local community newsletters from Kingston to Lone Rock.

Notes and research for books (Fred Perry's histories and Frank Wetzel's collective memory "Victory Gardens and Barrage Balloons").

Master's theses about the County and the notes and research for same.

The papers of distinguished Kitsapers including:

Homer Jones (Charleston and Bremerton mayor, U.S.

Representative after World War II) whose papers include the pen used by President Harry S. Truman to sign into law one of Homer's laws.

Dr. & Mrs. Hendrick A. Barner (he the founder of the Kitsap Medical Society,

she the founder of the Bremerton Garden Club).

Gerry Howe Bruckart from the South Kitsap pioneering Howe family.

Memories, through tapes, videos, written recollections of Kitsapers who lived through World War II and its huge impact on Kitsap County, and from those families who started businesses throughout the County: the Langers, the Farrells, the McBrides, the Lents, the Dahls, the Sorianos, the Christensens, to name a few.

What else?

Scrapbooks, collected and loved by one family, but reflective of everything happening in Kitsap County. Wonderful diaries kept faithfully by pioneers, providing a window into a lifestyle long-gone from Kitsap. It was a hardscrabble life in many ways. And who now knows what it took to be a single mother in the middle of a depression, when you had to find a place to board your child here since the only jobs were in Seattle, and you only saw her on weekends? But there WERE real jobs for teenagers to have after school, candling eggs in Kitsap's main industry, shipping eggs all over the States.

All these are the infinite wisdom stored in the documents in the Archives.

But what about the photos? Ah, the images - black & white, on glass negatives, nitrate, and acetate negatives, many deteriorating as we write. To save them, we need a NEGATIVE scanner, large enough for 8X10 glass negatives. Can you imagine the photographer lugging these negatives around??.

We have thousands, yes, thousands of photos by Harry Ward, who single-handedly documented the life of South Kitsap (with a little Bremerton thrown in) from the 19-teens through the 1950's. Some printed, some negatives, all need TLC.

The Gowdy collection also numbers in the thousands, all in slides.

Also there are the works of an

unidentified Poulsbo professional photographer (100's of images), plus the hundreds of other images contributed over the years by Kitsapers from all parts of the County. Lodges, clubs, family outings, the Kitsap County fair, life on the farm, picnics and excursions. Think of those wonderful images provided by KCHS that have been published in the *KITSAP SUN* every Sunday - a **tiny** sampling of the treasures being stored in your Archives.

And paper artifacts:

Music sheets, magazines, post cards, greeting cards, catalogs, address books, high school year books, city directories, plat maps, other maps, Kitsap County Fair posters, OTHER posters, political memorabilia, graduation diplomas, professional certificates - all treasures saved by Kitsapers and now showing 21st century Kitsapers what life was all about a century ago.

Of course, a description of the Archives doesn't begin to do justice to the actual artifacts in the artifact storage areas. The Kitsap County Historical Museum houses enough artifacts that (were there staff enough to do the actual physical changing!) our exhibits could be changed once a month for several years.

We have many other things in addition to the wonderful artifacts on permanent display throughout the galleries and at the Pole Barn.

Textiles: garments from the 1890's through the 1940's, with representation through the 1970's: some masculine (top coats, military uniforms), most feminine (wedding dresses, formal gowns, evening wraps, undergarments, bathing suits, summer frocks, winter shirt-waists, skirts, and gloves), children's clothing of all descriptions, and shoes.

Other textiles: quilts, weavings by Mrs. Lindstrom, developer of the famous Bergman loom, rugs, banners, sheets, blankets, table linens, and lace.

Furniture: chairs from the first Courthouse, blackboards and other

FROM THE ARCHIVES *cont*

materials from schools, bricks from the first paved street (Washington Avenue), tiles from the Art Deco Golden Building, memorabilia from early businesses, and newer start-ups, (ledgers, wine glasses and mugs, thermometers and calendars) early TVs, radios, typewriters, and other office equipment.

The fabulous Art Deco Foot-X-ray machine, to test the fit of the shoe from the '50s. (Smithsonian Magazine says there are only 50 or so left in the country!)

Sports equipment (skiing, skating, football for example).

Clocks and watches in addition to our street clocks (Fourth Street's Jorgen Nelson and Callow Avenue's Moeller clocks), and the clocks displayed at the front of the Museum. The collection includes grandfather clocks, and numerous other unique timepieces.

Farm equipment: blacksmithing, plows, harrows, tillers, seed planters, poultry, dairy, haying tools, various fruit and grain sorters, potato digger, tractors, steam engine, and other implements.

Household goods and equipment: jars, washboards, washing machines, all forms of kitchen items.

And the tools! Tools from all facets of Kitsap industries from boatbuilding to barrel making.

More about these and others items in *FROM THE ARCHIVES* at a later date.



Kitsap County Historical Society
&
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

“SAVE THE DATE!”

“History & Heritage 2010”

Antique Show

Sales & Appraisals

Saturday April 17, 2010 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday April 18, 2010 10:00am - 4:00pm

President's Hall - Fairgrounds Complex
1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd, Bremerton, WA

Kitsap County's **only** antique and appraisal show!

We are in the midst of mapping out the important ground work for the **2010 History and Heritage Antique Show – featuring Sales and Appraisals** to be held at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds Saturday, April 16 and Sunday April 17, with a private champagne *preview night* on Friday, April 15. More dealers are expected in 2010, from the communities of Port Angeles, Sequim, Seattle, Port Townsend, Olympia, as well as many from Kitsap County. Appraisals will be conducted both days, and seminars and special features are all part of the upcoming event. The Puget Sound Genealogical Society joins us

in this annual fundraiser. This year, KCHS will be planning all the publicity (under the able leadership of **Vickie Barrier**) and the Preview Night (with chairs, **Natalie Bryson and Bonnie Schorup**). We are also recruiting additional appraisers. More volunteers who can give some time to the planning process would be welcomed. If you are interested, please contact Anita Williams at: rod83anita@comcast.net.

Later, we will be asking for many more to help during the event so... please keep the dates in mind and know that a really fun volunteer opportunity awaits you in April 2010.



Invest in the preservation of your history by contributing to the Annual Fund Drive of The Kitsap County Historical Society Museum

I would like to contribute to the **2009 Annual Fund Drive** of KCHS. Please list my contribution as coming from _____

(please print name of individual or institution)

___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ \$500 ___ \$1000 ___ Other

___ My check is enclosed.

___ Please charge my Visa/MasterCard for \$ _____

Credit Card number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Authorizing Signature: _____

Thank you so much. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

****Please note that this is separate from your membership dues.****

MEMBERSHIP

To take advantage of the 10% Membership discount on Museum purchases and Eat Your Way events, just send in this form and become a member

Join or Renew

- Benefactor \$1,000.00
- Sustaining \$500.00
- Sponsor \$250.00
- Patron \$100.00
- Family \$40.00
- Individual \$30.00
- Individual Senior/Student \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Method of Payment

Check Visa MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER Bill Slach



Bill as docent



Photos by Gary Beanland

Bill Slach's primary volunteer focus is the Museum's database - thousands of items needing to be recorded there. However, you can see from these photos that he is quite adept at multi-tasking and is just as good with a sledge hammer as a computer. We also call on him to be a docent and/or "man" the front desk. His willingness matches his abilities and makes him a valued volunteer.

Bill himself says, "Ask not what the world needs; ask what makes you more alive. Because what the world needs are people who are more alive." When I read this anonymous quote in *Competitor* magazine, I had

to ask myself, how does volunteering at the Museum make me more alive? I feel I am contributing to my community and Kitsap County. When I give tours to seniors or school children, I try to make history come alive for them. Finding a connection to the past for each group to relate to is very important. If I see that spark of an idea light up their faces, I am just a bit more alive myself.

Not everyone has the time or energy to volunteer in the Museum. But I believe all of us can contribute by informing others of our Society's mission, activities, and exhibits. Share this Newsletter!

FROM THE RESEARCH CORNER Bonnie Chrey

For the past two years I have been involved in the effort to locate the photographs that were originally published in the "Brown Book" (*Kitsap County: A History*). It was thought that there were negatives made of all the photos in the book, but this was not true! We found that we were missing many family photographs. How do you track down family members after 30+ years? That is what I have been doing. If you are lucky enough in this endeavor, can they locate the pictures? Numerous photos had no credit, were they ours or a family's? The Sidney Museum and Art Association, Poulsbo Historical Society, and the Bainbridge Museum have all helped us in this hunt and loaned us photos.

We have a big push to find all the photographs by the end of the year. After that, we will publish the book

without the photos we cannot locate. It's a shame that some families will not have pictures of their ancestors to accompany the family article. Here are some of the missing photographs:

Photo of Angie Harrison featured in Book III (Bremerton), page 65

Mary Gunderson (photo courtesy of Anna Gunderson Sorey), Book V (South Kitsap), page 134

J. S. Ingalls, founder of Burley Colony, Book V, page 116

The James Edward Pearson family (photo courtesy of Bertha Mead), Book V, page 85

Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ivan Thackston (photo courtesy of Florence Fleming), Book V, page 77

Agusta Schold (photo courtesy of Virginia Stott), Book V, page 76

If any of you can help, please let us know!

FACILITIES Gary Beanland

When you walk into the Museum, you notice something is different. It's the mezzanine ceiling painted slate blue, matching other areas of the Museum. In preparation for the History of Print exhibit, the walls needed to be totally patched, sealed, and painted. Eric Dahlberg, Bill Slach, Mark Williamson, and I took on this task with an onerous deadline to leave time for the exhibit installation.

Behind the scenes, there has been a tremendous amount of work going on with the Museum's infrastructure. Preparations for additional insulation in the attic area were completed and a layer of R-38 was installed. The preparation for the insulation job paled in comparison to the masonry chimney removal. To eliminate a maintenance headache and potential water intrusion into the Museum, the masonry chimney was removed to below the roof line and the roof subsequently patched.

Approximately eleven tons of chimney brick and mortar were removed. The rubble was loaded into five gallon buckets, then lowered through the roof hatch to the attic, down five stairs for staging at the alley way door. From here it was handed down to my

truck, and driven to the recycling center. Adding to the misery was the flue full of rubble from a previous reduction in the chimney's height. Bill Slach was a dedicated worker on this project, and I was also assisted by Eric Dahlberg, Mark Williamson, and George Willock.



Photos from top of this column clockwise: Buckets down the hatch; Another truck load (Photos by Gary Beanland); George at the lower attic receiving area; Pile of rubble (Photos by Bill Slach); The beginning of the take down, four courses of brick down at this point (Photo by Eric Dahlberg).

KITSAP COUNTY: A HISTORY BOOK UPDATE Nina Hallett

We have chained the editor, staff, and volunteers to their respective desks. We have no idea whether this will speed the production of the book, but we live in hopes! One of these days, your patience will be rewarded. Dear Santa, could we have a reprinted book for Christmas? I/we've almost been good!



1. I enclose my check for _____, made out to the **Kitsap County Historical Society**, for _____ presale copies of the third edition of **Kitsap County: A History** at \$54.30 (\$50 + tax) (add \$5.00 per book for out-of-area mailing).

Please charge my Visa/MasterCard account # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ (_____) (Exp. Date: _____) for _____ presales copies.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Tel #: _____ - _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

2. Enclosed is my check for _____ as a donation as a **Sponsor** (2 lines, 25 spaces each) or a **Benefactor** (3 lines) for the reprinting. My personal information is as above. Acknowledgment is as follows:

**Kitsap County
Historical Society
Museum & Store**

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E-mail: khsinfo@kitsaphistory.org

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Permit #42

MUSEUM HOURS
10 AM - 5 PM
Tuesday through Saturday
Admission:
Members FREE
Children under 7 Free
Children 7 to 17 \$1
Adults \$2
Family \$5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

November 6th - First Friday, Exhibit Opened on the Mezzanine,
History of Printing: READ ALL ABOUT IT

DECEMBER

December 1st - KCHS Board Meeting, 5:15 pm
December 4th - Annual Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
December 13th - Old Fashioned Mill Town Christmas, Seabeck
December 24th to 29th - Museum closed, Merry Christmas

JANUARY

January 1st - Museum closed, Happy New Year!

FEBRUARY

February 2nd - KCHS Board Meeting, 5:15 pm
February 5th - New Exhibit Opens, 100th
Anniversary of Scouting

See this Newsletter
and more on the web
at
www.kitsaphistory.org

**EXTRA!
EXTRA!**
**READ ALL ABOUT IT!
HISTORY IN PRINT**
The Kitsap County Historical Society Museum announces a new exhibit: Read All About it: History in Print. Walk through an 1898 print room and a 1903 newspaper office scene: read articles and advertisements printed from 1865 to the present day and gaze at a piece of machinery that hasn't been used in over 50 years. Please join us in celebrating and remembering an impactful and important piece of American history.
ON DISPLAY NOW until October 2010!
Kitsap County Historical Society Museum
280 Fourth Street
Bremerton, WA
Open Tues. - Sat. 10am-5pm
For more information, please call 360-479-6226
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