



# The Kitsap Historian

April 2010

## 100 Years of Scouting

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### SAVE THESE DATES!

First Friday: May 7  
Great White Fleet  
Harbor Fest: May 28-31  
First Friday: June 4  
Grandy Skiff  
Olde Fashioned Fourth:  
July 4



Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent addresses Boy Scouts and guests at the exhibit opening.

photo by Gary Bearland

The Boy Scouts of America celebrated their 100th anniversary this year. The Kitsap County Historical Society Museum's exhibit celebrates the early years of Boy Scouting in the county and the beginnings of Camp Parsons. Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent was on hand to open the exhibit during February's First Friday.

With text and photographs, the exhibit traces the origins of Boy Scouting from Lord Baden-Powell to the American founders of the movement. In exploring the early days of scouting in Kitsap County, the Museum has stressed the connection of scouting to the natural environment and has included natural elements throughout the exhibit.

The exhibit will continue until mid-June so there is time to visit and "track" wild animals through the Museum. Try identifying the animals and

birds in the exhibit's sound-track.

Fancy your skill at tying knots? We have a "knot bar" where you can demonstrate your knowledge, or not! Reminisce about your first camping experiences, see how your uniform differs from the early Scout Uniforms, try your hand at Morse code, and see if you can still complete the old Scout Camping Games.



Cub Scouts in the "campsite"

photo by Gary Bearland

## President's Message



photo: Scott Bartlett

Nearly every event, exhibit, or project that Kitsap Historical Society takes on involves collaboration with another organization or

group in the community. As we look forward to events in the next couple of months, we are helped and are helping to present and share the history and culture of our community.

In April, we welcomed visiting dignitaries from Kure, Japan, Bremerton's sister city, with a tour of our Museum including the timeline of settlement in Kitsap. Also in April, we joined with the Puget Sound Genealogical Society to co-host the popular two-day annual Antique Show and Appraisal event at the Fairgrounds.

As the collection of artifacts and archives becomes larger in a Museum, the amount of information and number of items become a major management challenge. Software is very helpful, but does not solve everything. Physical storage as well as digital storage issues must be resolved. And then how will all the information be kept in a manner that will be accessible for now and



Visitors consult with appraiser Jacque Strange at the 2010 History and Heritage Antique Show, held April 16-18 at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. The show was a huge success, thanks in large part to KCHS board member Anita Williams, co-chair of the event.

photo by Gary Beanland

for future generations? Libraries, archives, museums and institutions have much to learn from and share with each other on how to solve these issues. How can we do this best without duplicating each other's work, while allowing the most convenient sharing of information and systems? Once access can be provided digitally, KCHS will no doubt find ourselves moving, as other museums have, from being focused mainly as gatekeeper and preservationist to sharing these valuable resources in new ways, through advancements in media technology, allowing much greater access to our rich collection of history, and thus helping to build a community-wide sharing of cultural and historical perspectives.

Come with us on this journey. Join as a member, attend one of our events, or volunteer at the museum or at the pole barn during the fair. Come help with this newsletter, the website, or in any way you can feel you can contribute. We welcome expertise, interest and enthusiasm. You will find we have lots of positive interaction in our historical society. We are having fun going places. Join us.

Susan Daniel

## Distinguished Visitors



photo by Susan Daniel

Representatives and dignitaries from Bremerton's sister city of Kure, Japan visited the Museum April 16. KCHS Archivist Carolyn McClurkan led the group on a tour of several local museums.

Staff	Board of Directors	
<b>Scott Bartlett</b> <i>Curator</i>	<b>Susan Daniel</b>	<i>President</i>
<b>Sonia Wellington</b> <i>Executive Assistant</i>	<b>Alan Lowe</b>	<i>Vice President</i>
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	<b>Carolyn McClurkan</b>	<i>Archivist</i>
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	<b>Russell Neyman</b>	<b>Gary Beanland</b>
	<b>Anita Williams</b>	<b>David Peterson</b>
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## New Staff

As we enjoy spring and all the wonderful newness that it brings, we at KCHS are enjoying the fresh energy in our new curator and front desk executive assistant.



photo: Gary Beanland

### Scott G. Bartlett

joined us as our curator in March. Scott grew up in Gig Harbor. His undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and Music Performance are from Washing-

ton State University, from which he also spent a year abroad at the University of Edinburgh. He obtained his Museum Studies Certificate in Hawai'i while working on his Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology. In Hawai'i, Scott curated the exhibition *Tau Rima Tahiti: Crafting Performance*. This exhibition consisted of musical instruments, costumes, performance materials, and multimedia elements, as well as several special events. This exhibit was the result of Scott's diligent community fieldwork and collaboration with Tahitian performers and craftspeople in Hawai'i. Scott's outstanding exhibit can be viewed here:

[www.museum.hawaii.edu/exhibits/taurima](http://www.museum.hawaii.edu/exhibits/taurima).

Next time you visit the museum, expect a warm welcome by our new Executive Assistant, **Sonia Wellington**.

Now a resident of Poulsbo, Sonia brings experience as Client Services Manger and Executive Assistant for OnRequest Images in Seattle. Her event planning background as well as her technical skills have been a welcome addition to our staff.



photo: Gary Beanland

We continue on our quest for an executive director of the Museum, someone who can bring vision, energy and funding to our newly energized organization.

## Eat (and Drink!) Your Way Through Kitsap

The 8th annual *Eat Your Way Through Kitsap History* program has just been announced! Each event on the schedule features tours and historical presentations. Join us for one or all of these excursions:

- My Girl Drive-In & Museum
- Westinghouse/Lindbergh Estate
- Blakely Harbor Park
- Gardens of South Kitsap
- Early Days in Eglon
- Seabeck Loggers Breakfast

We're very excited to offer a BONUS event on this year's calendar: *Drink Your Way Through Kitsap History!* Join us on a Silver City



My Girl Drive-In

photo by Taffy Satter

Charter Bus as we drive by some of the oldest taverns of Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Silverdale. We'll stop at some establishments along the way, and finish up with a pub dinner.

If you have not received a flyer outlining this season's *Eat Your Way* events, please check the Museum website or phone 360-479-6226.

## Read All About It!



Exhibit Curator Nina Hallett

photo by Eric Dahlberg

*Read All About It: History in Print* continues in the Mezzanine Gallery. Featuring print material and artifacts from Kitsap and further afield, the exhibit explores the history of printing and the printing of history.

Exhibit curator Nina Hallett was inspired to show off these items by the closing of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* last March. The *P.I.* is only one of many newspapers that have recently gone by the wayside as digital media displaces traditional printing.

The exhibit features artifacts such as photographic equipment, print-

ing plates, and typewriters, including the daisy printer shown below.

Print materials include local and national newspapers reporting such seminal events as Abraham Lincoln's Assassination (*New York Herald*, 1865), John Glenn's orbit of the Earth (*Seattle Times*, 1962), Richard Nixon's resignation (*Seattle P.I.*, 1974), and the eruption of Mount St. Helens (*Bremerton Sun*, 1980).

From the printing press to e-books, *Read All About It: History in Print* opens a window on the facts and the artifacts that have informed our lives.

*Read All About It: History in Print* continues through August 2010.



Daisy Printer

photo by Gary Beanland

**If you are receiving this newsletter in the postal mail but would prefer to receive it via the Internet, please let us know. Also, copies of the newsletter are always posted on our website.**

## Volunteers

Being the respositor of history for the entire county is a big responsibility. Each day we hear unique stories from residents and former residents of their lives growing up in Kitsap. How do we capture our unique history and preserve and share it with as many people as possible? We simply could not do it without volunteers. Fortunately, we have terrific volunteers who keep us going.

Our Volunteer of the Year for 2009 was **Carolyn LaFontaine**. Carolyn volunteers three days each week as the registrar for KCHS. If you have brought in donations of documents or artifacts, Carolyn is probably the person you talked to. There is no person who knows the KCHS collections better than Carolyn.

**Bonnie Chrey** comes in every Thursday and Friday to research the many questions that come in to the museum. If Bonnie doesn't know the history, she hunkers down to find out. The photos she selects and furnishes to the *Kitsap Sun*, spark memories and the phone starts ringing. We try to capture all the information and encourage callers to please write those stories down. Send it by email or mail it or bring it in. The personal history makes our artifacts come alive.

**Eric Dahlberg** has provided computer and technical support for several years. He quietly and dependably backs up all the computers each week. His latest focus is learning to use our new high definition scanner to digitally capture and preserve the KCHS large photographic collection. His help is invaluable

Often, when you attend events at the Museum, you will find gracious **Ken and Judy Christopherson** at the door to greet you. Ken and Judy have also compiled a photo album of photos they have taken while at the events. The album is displayed in the lobby. Take a moment and view the images of the many fun events hosted at the Museum.

## Where do you find a vintage canoe?



Penn Yan canoe, ca. 1930

photo by Gary Beanland

Where do you find a vintage canoe? When the Boy Scout exhibit was coming together, volunteer curator Nina Hallett was looking for a vintage, perhaps canvas, canoe as the centerpiece for the lobby display. We received the generous loan of an orange 1970s aluminum canoe. Such a canoe was probably the type that many scouts used, but it seemed so, well, '70s. How to find a canoe with more history? Spread the word? Tell all our friends? Time was of the essence.

A foray onto Craigslist using the search words "vintage canoe" brought only one listing and it was sold. Or almost sold. Sale pending, it said. Inquiries were made to the

Lake Stevens seller. The buyer was in Port Orchard! A call to the canoe's purchaser, Richard, revealed that, yes, we could borrow the canoe. Could we keep it for a few months while he was out of town? Yes, of course. That would work out just fine.

Thus, the 16-foot-long canoe you see in the lobby is on loan from Richard Gardner, who resides on his boat, the M/V Deerleap. The canoe, it turns out, is a treasure. An "Owasco" model canoe, built by the Penn Yan (Pennsylvania Yankee) Boat Company, probably in the 1930s. It is of traditional wood and canvas construction, with the original cane seats. Many thanks to Richard Gardner for the loan of his vintage canoe.

## WE NEED YOU!

Come be a part of history while also serving your community, making new friends and learning about the amazing history of Kitsap County. Now more than ever the Museum needs volunteers of all skill levels, all availability and all interests. We have needs in visitor interaction, office support, archiving and collections, research, data entry and MORE! Whether you have one hour a month or one day a week we have a place and a need for you. Please contact Sonia Wellington at [info@kitsaphistory.org](mailto:info@kitsaphistory.org) or 360-479-6226 for more information.

**A special Thank You to the Admiral Theatre for hosting our volunteer appreciation tour and to Tim Ryan for corporate support.**

## Artifact Donation

Are you interested in donating items to the museum? If so, here are some things to consider:

General museum protocols place several considerations on the acceptance of donations.

- Donors need to own the artifact and have the right to donate it to the Museum
- Do we have other examples of the item? If so, is this item in better condition than what we have?
- Do we have space to store it?
- What will be the opportunities to put it on exhibit?
- How is it related to the history of Kitsap County?
- Do we have the expertise and/or resources to maintain its condition?

If you have items you think would fit in the museum's collections, you should call the Museum and schedule an appointment with our registrar, Carolyn LaFountaine. She volunteers Tuesday through Thursday.

Donated items also need financial support. Although at our Museum accessioning is done by volunteers, there are still costs associated with the computer systems (hardware, software, maintenance, and backup materials), the storage facilities, and environmental control systems. Objects requiring active conservation pose additional costs.

An important question donors should ask of themselves is, "Why is it important that the Museum preserves this artifact?" Please do consider donating your pieces of history; at the same time, become a supporting member to help us take care of them for you.

## New Hours

Starting May 1, we will begin summer hours which include Sunday. Our complete hours include:

Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 4pm

Sunday: 12pm – 4pm

## Curator's Column Scott Bartlett

Almost exactly one month into my job, I find myself planning not one but three temporary exhibits, as well as exciting improvements to our already wonderful permanent exhibits.



photo: Gary Beanland

The first exhibit appears in conjunction with Armed Forces Month and Rear Admiral Caldwell's presentation on the Great White Fleet during May's First Friday. With the vital assistance and know-how of Gary Beanland, the Wally Kippola Memorial Library will receive a minor makeover as a simple but flexible exhibit space. On display will be photos of the Great White Fleet, in Puget Sound and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. This small but impressive exhibit features original and rarely seen photos from the KCHS archives.

Also in May, the Museum will be participating in the second annual Kitsap Harbor Fest during Memorial Day Weekend. Our booth on the Louis Mentor Boardwalk will not only publicize the Museum (including a raffle for free membership), but feature an original and re-usable traveling exhibit on the Mosquito Fleet in Kitsap County. The Mosquito Fleet was the formative lifeblood of our region, spanning 1853 to 1940. As a travelling exhibit, it will be available for future festivals, outdoor events, and outreach activities.

Finally, hot on the heels of our *History In Print* exhibit, we are planning an all new mezzanine exhibit, set to open in September 2010. This ambitious exhibition will examine the role of bridges in Kitsap County. If you'd like to help explore this topic, please check out the call for oral histories on page 6 of this newsletter.

Exhibits are something I enjoy, both as a visitor and a producer. I think I bring a handful of skills to the museum that should make for some exciting, engaging, and elegant exhibits. I'm also from the area, so it's certainly nice that for a regional museum, I'm not quite starting with a blank slate. I'm excited to be a part of the Museum, and I'm jumping in with both feet.

Our mission is to "collect, preserve and exhibit the diverse culture, heritage and history of Kitsap County for the education and enjoyment of the public." Exhibits provide upward mobility for the collections: up from the basement and into view.

Rather than *exhibition*, with its, well... *exhibitionist* overtones, Francophiles use *exposition* to refer to a gallery display. To expose, to make public, to educate, to provide something new. Exposition also reminds one of the grand world's fairs, where visitors witnessed the latest inventions, discoveries, and peculiarities of the region.

Back to those upcoming exhibits: Curiously enough, it was Mosquito Fleet boats that brought Seattleites to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard to see the Great White Fleet in 1908; and during Seattle's 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, brought West Sound residents east and fairgoers west to visit the shipyard and an encore visit of the Fleet.

As curator, I have easy access to the collections, to learn and discover such facts about our holdings and our local history. But these tidbits aren't worth much if they're out of context, or hidden away in a dark basement. My biggest job perks are the surprises (and challenges) around every corner. Our mission and my intent is to make these stories public, accessible, and alive. Let me share them with you.

## Join now or renew your KCHS 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.

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor                | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining                | \$500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor                   | \$250   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                    | \$100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                    | \$40    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual                | \$30    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Senior/Student | \$20    |

name

address

phone

e-mail

Method of payment:

- Check    Visa    MasterCard

credit card number

exp. date

signature

## Harbor Festival

Over the 2010 Memorial Day Weekend, KCHS will have a presence at the 2nd annual Kitsap Harbor Festival on the Louis Mentor Boardwalk. The festival features music, events, crafts, tall ships, and a beer garden.

KCHSM will debut a new traveling exhibit, looking at the **Mosquito Fleet in Kitsap County**, and host a raffle for free museum membership. Stop by for a visit, or volunteer to help out at the booth!

## Mark Williamson

A big shout out to Mark Williamson, our recently retired past president. Mark's people skills are among the best. He served at the helm of the Kitsap County Historical Society and Museum for two years. He saw our organization through major transitions in exhibits, personnel, and community events. Mark continues to serve on our board and as chair of our nominating committee. Thank you Mark for all you have done and all you continue to do for KCHS.

## Prudence McCabe

If you have participated in any of the activities at the Museum in the past two or three years, you were no doubt greeted by our operations/executive manager, Prudence McCabe. During the times when we had no curator or executive director, Prudence held things together for us. She especially enjoyed representing the Museum at downtown community meetings. Our highly successful Olde Fashioned Fourth of July event was almost single handedly accomplished by Prudence in 2009. Her organizational abilities were a great asset to KCHS. Prudence moved on to other endeavors in mid-February. We wish her well and thank her for all her efforts on behalf of KCHS.

## Recent Acquisition

This satin and lace wedding dress was recently donated to the Kitsap County Historical Society by Judith Euritt of Poulsbo.



photo by Gary Beanland

Ms. Euritt's mother, Evelyn Ajax, wore the dress for her wedding in 1937. The

donation also included original photographs from the wedding. Evelyn's father was Edward Drake, who owned the Chico Store.

### Call for Oral Histories:

## "Bridges"

Do you have memories of bridge construction or a bridge collapse? Did you swim, dive, or fish near local bridges as a child? How have these everyday icons affected your life?

We are in the planning stages of a new mezzanine exhibit, scheduled to open in September, 2010. This exhibit will examine the role of bridges in our region, as community ties, roads of commerce, and architectural icons. Bridges have drastically changed our environment, and figure stongly in local memories.

We're collecting short oral histories on bridges in the public memory. Share your recollections and make them part of the exhibit. Please call the Museum to schedule an appointment to record your bridge memories.

## Research Corner

Bonnie Chrey

We have received a high number of research inquiries this year. Request counts fluctuate. Normally, I will get 12-14 requests. For March alone, more than 24 requests came in! My backlog depends on how involved the requests are. Some are quite simple to answer; others require research from various sources. The Museum provides a half hour of free research, after which, if patrons request additional time, a fee is charged.

One interesting request came in from a family in Texas looking for a death certificate and burial site for an ancestor who was a resident of Sunnyview Farm in Port Orchard in the early teens. Sunnyview Farm was the county "poor farm." Death certificates are kept by Kitsap County for only three years, after which they are sent to Olympia. I have notified the family of the address in Olympia to contact, and I've worked with the Puget Sound Genealogical to see if they have any information on the person, but they do not. I'll keep this request on the "back burner" (along with others), as I quite often find out information on one request while researching another.

We've had great response from readers of the *Kitsap Sun* when they publish our "Look Back in Time" photos in the Sunday Kitsap Life section of the newspaper. We have been able to identify the "Parks sisters" who were in a photo published last October, the members of the Bremerton High School Band, and the "Swingsters" from the early '40s. Most recently we've had great memories provided by patrons of the Chicken Coop Inn in Bremerton. That photo even brought us a couple of interior photos of the restaurant. We did not, however, get any response to a cute photo of young children dressed in white sailor suits (the photo appears to be from the '20s or '30s). There is no identification on the photo, and it was never given an accession number. It will remain a mystery photo for the time being!

## Manette Club Donates Grandy Skiff



The Grandy Skiff on its wall-mount, at the North end of Main Street.

photo by Gary Beanland

A handsome lapstrake-constructed wooden skiff built in Bremerton in 1919 by Lewis Grandy, a legendary name in Puget Sound boatbuilding, is now on display in the the Kitsap County Historical Museum. The skiff came to the Manette History Club from the Holt Karst family of Manette, who purchased the boat from Grandy in 1919. The Manette History Club, in turn, donated the boat to the Kitsap Museum when they no longer had a place to keep and display it. Ruth Reese, president of the Manette History Club facilitated the donation.

Lewis Grandy had apprenticed as a boat builder at the age of 10 in St. Louis and came west in the 1890s, lured by the Alaskan Gold Rush. He began building boats on Vashon Island, and as early as 1903 his rowing skiffs were much in demand by recreational

boaters. Launches built by Grandy were used by Thea Foss first to deliver supplies to sailing ships and eventually to tow ships into Tacoma, which was the beginning of the now international Foss Maritime towing company.

In 1917 Grandy moved to Bremerton and went to work as a boat builder at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. He also built boats at his home for private sale until the 1920s, when he and two of his sons, Willard (Bill) and Earl, established Grandy Brothers boat builders on Lake Union in Seattle. That business thrived until 1968, when fire burned it to the docks and the family decided to retire.

Don't miss a presentation by Ruth Reese on the history of this skiff and other Grandy Boats at our First Friday program June 4 in the Museum library.

## The Great White Fleet – May First Friday

Rear Admiral Frank Caldwell, Commander Submarine Group Nine and great grandson of an officer with the fleet, will recount the extraordinary story of the sixteen battleships sent by President Theodore Roosevelt to circumnavigate the globe as a demonstration of American naval power. Included in his presentation will be a description of the fleet's 1908 visit to Bremerton, as well as

Admiral Caldwell's personal connection to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, where he and his wife currently reside in one of the historic residences.

On display at the museum will be original photographs of the Fleet, drawn from the KCHSM collection.

Join us Friday, May 7, 2009, at 6 pm. Program is free but space is limited. Please contact the Museum for reservations.

**Kitsap County  
Historical Society  
Museum & Store**

280 Fourth Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Phone: 360.479.6226

www.kitsaphistory.org

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Permit #42

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## May

7 – First Friday: *The Great White Fleet* presented by  
Rear Admiral Frank Caldwell

27-31 – Kitsap Harbor Fest, premiering *The  
Mosquito Fleet of Kitsap County*

## June

4 – First Friday: *Grandy Skiff* with the Manette  
History Club

## July

4 – Third Annual *Olde Fashioned Fourth*

## August

25-29 – Kitsap County Fair & Stampede, including  
KCHS Pole Barn exhibits



The Westinghouse/Lindberg Estate on Manzanita Bay is one of the featured sites of the 2010 *Eat Your Way Through Kitsap History* series. For more information, see page 3.

VISIT

REMEMBER

LEARN