

San Juan Historical Museum

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### Support the San Juan Historical Museum today.

For more than 50 years, the San Juan Historical Museum has worked to interpret and preserve our island's rich heritage. Your tax-deductible gift will help us develop new exhibits, lectures, and programs, buy archival supplies to maintain the photographs and artifacts entrusted to our care, preserve our historic buildings, and so much more.

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*Detach this form at dotted line and return with your donation to San Juan Historical Museum PO Box 441 Friday Harbor WA 98250*  
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**This is a (check one)**  Renewing Membership  New Membership

**Yes! I would like to volunteer!**  
**Please contact me!**

Please mark your Membership level:

\$50 Sponsor  \$100 Benefactor  \$25 Family  \$15 Individual  \$35 Business  \$10 Senior (60+)

**The Barn Project: In addition to my membership gift, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation toward the Barn Project of:**

\$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check or money order payable to The San Juan Historical Museum. Do not send cash.**



# San Juan Historical Museum

*Summer 2007*

## The San Juan Historical Museum

PO Box 441  
405 Price Street  
Friday Harbor, WA  
98250  
360.378.3949  
www.sjmuseum.org

### Museum Hours:

*June thru September:*  
Tues., Weds., Thurs.,  
Sat., Sun.  
12 Noon — 3 P.M.

*October, April, May:*  
Saturdays, Noon-3 P.M.

*November through March:*  
by appointment only

### Museum Staff

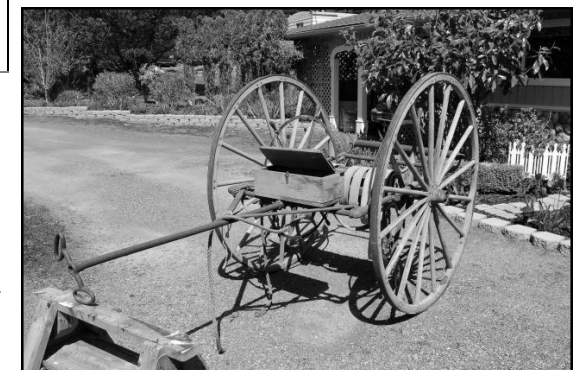
Jen Fleming  
Curator

Sue Madden  
Volunteer & Research  
Coordinator

Dolly Salazar  
Development/  
Operations Manager

## Rebuilding Hose Cart #2 By Rick Galer

*This spring, the Museum received a wonderful gift from retired Fire Marshall Rick Galer: the restoration of a 90-year-old fire hose cart in the Museum's permanent collection.*



*Hose Cart #2 before restoration.*

### A Little History

The Fire Department was started in 1909. Both hose carts arrived in Friday Harbor in 1915. Each cart cost \$115.00 (approximately \$8000.00 in 2007 money). According to Bud Geneste, the carts were kept in his Carriage House on Harrison and 'C' street, because it was downhill to town from there.

The Firefighters pulled the Hose Carts, which carried 500 to 600 feet of 2 or 3 inch hose, at about 750 lbs., to the fire hydrant nearest to the fire, hooked up the hose, then pulled the cart with the remaining hose to the fire. Gene Wilson said that in the 50's and 60's they pulled the carts behind pickup trucks. (That would explain the welded 'V' brackets on the pulling pole.)

Fire Departments all over the Country had hand-drawn hose carts from 1880 through 1930's. Hose cart companies used to race to fires to see who could apply the 'first water'. They also had statewide competitions.

From the information I see on the internet, the old hose carts are now few and far between. Here in Friday Harbor we have the two original hose carts in almost original condition and the bill-of-sale to go with them.

### Restoring Hose Cart #2. April 23, 2007

Photographed Hose Cart #2 as is, upon arrival at my shop. I then wiped it down and lightly sanded it, looking for clues of color or existing paint and decoration. Set the frame up on two saw horses and removed the two wheels. When I took off the tool box it literally fell apart. The wood was so dry there was no glue left on the finger joints. The tool box may have been original to the cart, but the bottom and the way it was attached were not. Someone made adjustments some time in the 1940's or 50's.

The right side of the frame was welded at the axel joint and a "V" bracket was added to the front pulling pole. The entire frame was sanded and wire brushed.

*(Article continues inside)*

## Restoring Hose Cart #2, cont.

It was then treated with a coat of linseed oil. After an hour the excess oil was removed. The frame was dried for three days, and then a coat of metal primer was applied followed by two coats of "Regal Red" Rustoleum oil base paint.

The axe and axe handle bracket were the only two parts replaced. The tool box was re-glued; a new bottom and top were built, all cleaned, lightly sanded, oiled and varnished. The proper fittings were collected and added to the box. The white pulling ropes replaced the old broken hemp lines.

Both cart wheels were sanded; one wheel had two small repair splices added. The other wheel required new fellows made of white oak. Both wheels received two coats of thinned Linseed Oil (1/2 paint thinner, 1/2 linseed oil), let dry for two days and painted with two coats of "Regal Red" oil based paint. The replacement axe and axe bracket were donated by the Friday Harbor Fire Department. The decorations are recreations of what I found during clean-up and some of what I thought fit. If kept inside, the cart should be good for another 100 years.

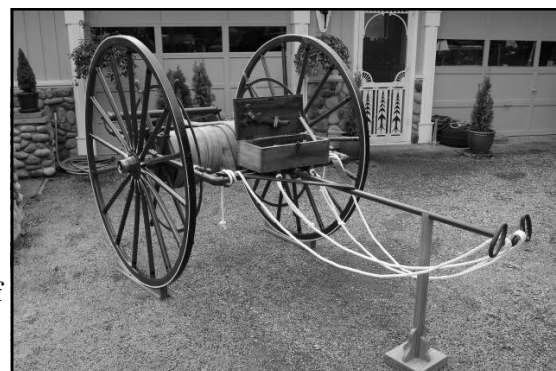
### A Little History of Rick Galer

I came to Friday Harbor in 1980 and joined the Town Fire Department in 1981, then became interested in Fire Department History and Town History.

In 1984 I retrieved one hose cart and the 1923 Cadillac fire truck from the museum, borrowed Lawson's hay trailer and put the both of them in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, with the intent of raising money to finance restoring them.

By 1985 I became station Captain, and as luck would have it Paul Whittier and his "Screen Door & Flying Machine Co." offered to rebuild the Cadillac and the hose cart. (Thank you to Sam Fry for the work on the Cadillac and Ken Reynard for the work on the hose cart).

I served as the Town Fire Chief from 1990 to 1995 and as the San Juan County Fire Marshal from 1995 to 2005. Now that I am retired I have the time to go back to the Museum and finish the work that I started, i.e. rebuild the 2<sup>nd</sup> hose cart and build a history display of the "First 50 years of the Town of Friday Harbor Fire Department".



Hose Cart # 2 after restoration.

### SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Romona Jones      Richard Walker  
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Carla J. Higginson, *Legal Counsel*

### Memorial Gifts

For Wally Mullis and Ole Mathisen,  
from Mary Jane Anderson

For Mary Gresli and Cleave Vandersluys  
from Joanne Campbell

For Margaret Tarte  
from Noel & Lois Gallanger

## Docents Bring History to Life

Come and join the great group of wonderful people and history buffs who share the history of San Juan Island with our visitors! Each year, our volunteer docents guide over 7,000 guest through the Museum's diverse exhibits, and help make the experience fun and educational.

In addition to giving tours, docents may take part in Museum events and meetings throughout the year — including the Saturday lecture series and the year-end holiday party. Becoming a docent for the San Juan Historical Museum is a great opportunity to be a part of island history, and make new friends from all over Puget Sound.

After a brief training session, all that's required is a commitment of at least one day a month during the Museum's regular visiting hours. For more information or to sign up, contact Sue Madden at 360.378.3949, or [history@sjmuseum.org](mailto:history@sjmuseum.org).



## New Artifact Donations

- Three baby dresses and a Christening Gown., from Cindy Mullis
- Framed bill of sale for a fabric fire hose and cart, from Rick Galer
- King Family antique bassinet., from Karrie King
- Balance scale to go on display with our collection of medical items, from Sam Connery
- Handmade braided rug made by Medea Scribner, to be displayed in the bedroom of the Scribner Log Cabin, from Marjorie Scribner.
- Homestead map of the island, and a pair of antique egg crates, from Frank Buchanan
- Hand-made wrench used in shipyard to build the Mohawk", from Bill Taylor
- 100-year-old rice kettle used in the fish cannery, from the family of Ole Mathisen.
- San Juan County ballot bag, from Kitty Roberts

- And a special thanks to Gerry Jameson for donating his time and materials to create numerous display signs for the Museum

*Note: Do you have antiques that might be of interest to the Museum? Contact curator Jen Fleming to discuss a possible donation. Items should be in good or better condition, and correct provenance is appreciated.*

Save the  
Date!

### Autumn Auction

Our biggest event of the year!  
Live and silent auctions, hors d'oeuvre  
and wine buffet. At the Grange Hall.  
Tickets \$25 each.

Saturday,  
October 20