

San Juan Historical Museum

Post Office Box 441  
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Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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MOVING? Let us know!

If you're moving soon, or have moved recently, give us a call at 360.378.3949, or send us an email at museum\_admin@sjmuseum.org with your new address. Keeping our mail list up to date helps keep wasted postage costs down. Thanks!

## 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*

**Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**This is a (check one)**  Renewing Membership  New Membership

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

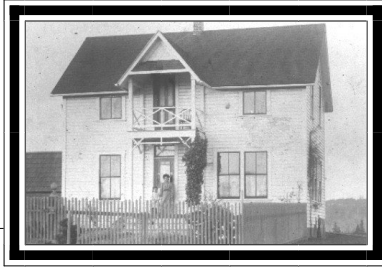
Please mark your Membership level:

\$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

Winter 2008

## 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  
Bookkeeper

Sue Madden  
Volunteer & Research  
Coordinator

Nancy McCoy  
Museum  
Coordinator

## A Membership Message From the Museum President, Mary Jean Cahail

Hello to all. My name is Mary Jean Cahail and I am the new president of the San Juan Historical Museum for 2008. With the new year, comes a call for memberships—either renewal of your membership or new memberships.

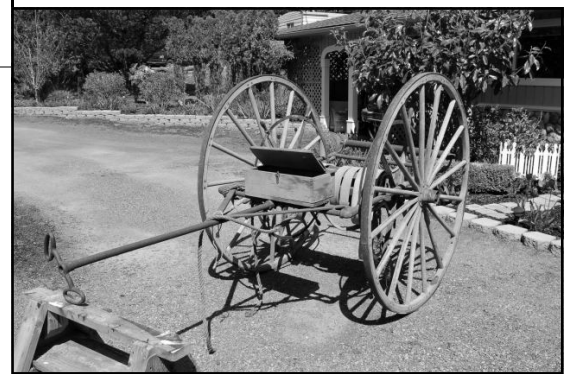
We encourage those who have had memberships in the past to renew their memberships and we encourage and seek new members. There is a membership applica-

tion form on the back page of this newsletter. It just takes a few minutes to complete and then put in the mail. Memberships are from January 1-December 31. Membership categories are: Individual-\$15, Family-\$25, Senior-\$10, Business-\$35, Sponsor-\$50, Benefactor-\$100. Of course, if you can be more generous, it is appreciated. Perhaps you may wish to gift a membership for your family or friends.

Our Museum is the “history” of our island. Maintaining the history is crucial to our island and county. Our Museum’s purpose is to conserve and preserve permanent collections of artifacts and archival material to be studied, exhibited and interpreted for its instructional, cultural, historical, scientific and enjoyment values.

Our Museum is a non-profit permanent institution. Our needs are many. There is much to be done for the upkeep of our collections and buildings. Volunteers and staff are needed to keep the Museum operating and open. Most of the buildings need repair. New exhibits need to be researched and developed to keep visitors coming. Our annual programs need funds to make them happen. We have many visitors from all over the world, the United States, Washington and the San Juans. We also have regular school groups from the mainland and Elderhostel classes that come to view our Museum.

Why is a Museum important? A museum is a place to share knowledge and a safe place to explore ideas. It is a vital partner in our communities, a source of civic pride and accomplishment. It provides people and communities with a sense of place and identity by giving context to the past and present. The Museum is the keeper of a shared heritage that represents peoples’ achievement and roots.

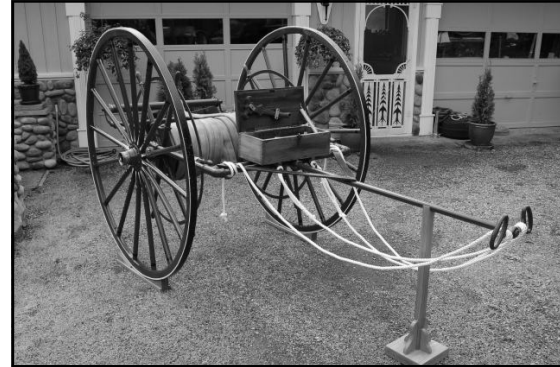


*Hose Cart #2 before restoration.*



## *Jail to Receive new Roof*

The first jail in San Juan County could never be described as comfortable. It is a small, 16' X 22', one story rectangular building with a hipped roof topped with a small pointed steeple. Its construction is unusual for today—stacked wood, which was often used in pioneer jail construction. The walls were made of horizontal layers of wood studs stacked on top of each other and spiked together at regular intervals, making it difficult and time-consuming for prisoners to dig out of the walls. The jail was originally constructed by J.L. Farnsworth and Newton Jones near the San Juan County Courthouse in 1894 for the cost of \$234.50. It stood on the south side of the courthouse, and was later moved to the west side. In the 1960s the jail was declared the worst jail in Washington state. The building was condemned by the County Health Department in 1971 and was then used for storage until it was moved to the San Juan Historical Museum grounds in 1981.



According to a May 1978 Journal article, Buck Gates who had served as the undersheriff and then town marshal, said the old jail always left a deep impression on anyone who got locked up there. "They didn't want to come back after a little time in there," Gates said. The simple interior consisted of an entry hall that ran almost the length of the south side of the building and three equal sized cells. The cells each measured 7' wide X 8' deep. Each cell door had a small barred window 46" from the floor.

The Historical Society has researched and created an fascinating exhibit housed in the jail about early crimes and criminals in the county, as well as, descriptions of many of the early law enforcement officers.

## *MUSEUM HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT COMPLETED BY BOYD PRATT*

Architectural historian Boyd C. Pratt of Mulno Cove Research and Design has just completed an extensive study of the historic buildings on the San Juan Historical Museum grounds. The resulting report offers an assessment of the historic character of the buildings, as well as serving as a guideline for potential future maintenance, rehabilitation, renovation, and restoration of as well

### SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*, Secretary*  
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Barbara Fry      Mike Nash

Carla J. Higginson, Legal Counsel

### *Memorial Gifts*

#### **For Virginia Reed Sandwith**

from David & Phyllis Adelman

Alice Berenz

R.W. Brunkow & Carol Marston

Julie Capron-Ashcraft & Thomas Ashcraft

Sondra Sundstrom Debeauclair

Barbara C. Fry      Robert P. Guard

Steve & Maria Johnson

Al & Priscilla Nash

Charles & Bette Reed

*Thank you! We would like to thank all of our members and donors who have contributed to the San Juan Historical Museum over the past months. We couldn't do our work without you!*

Pat Ball  
Robert & Margaret Critchlow  
Craig & Jill Dorsey  
Joel Douglas  
Dodie Gann  
Glen & Noel Garrett  
Jerome J. Hammond  
Jim & Jackie Huesman  
Ron & Sheron Johnson  
James & Louise Lane  
Shirley Lothrop

John Marx & Georgia Baciú  
Jean & Florence McAlary  
Doris (Scribner) Miller  
Jack & Sondra Raub  
Caron (Boyce) Touliatos  
Irene Vandersluys family  
Shirley Zyph



## *MEET THE BOARD Kitty Wade Roberts*

My island heritage goes back four generations on my mother's side of the family. I guess that alone would qualify me to have such a profound interest in my family and island history. I was born and raised on San Juan Island, went to school and graduated here. Our family lived on Little Road until I was 6 years old. We moved to town when my father, Leith Wade became foreman and eventually President of the Friday Harbor Canning Company.

After I married, my husband Kip and I left the San Juans for about seven years and then returned in 1960 to raise our four children. We've been here ever since. Over the years, our children have blessed us with seven incredible grandkids-six boys and one girl. We also now have two great granddaughters.

My involvement with the Historical Museum began in the 1090s when my mother, Beryl Boyce Wade, donated her time as a docent. I thought it was a marvelous way to greet local folks and meet new ones from all over the continent and share the island history. Right after my retirement from the Friday Harbor School District in 1996, I decided to give it a whirl and volunteer at the Museum myself. I loved it and eventually was asked to serve on the Museum board as a Corresponding Secretary. As a docent and board member, I've been with the Museum twelve years.

I was asked what my proudest contribution for the Museum was. That is a difficult question, as I feel all of our goals and dreams for the Museum are notable. I do have to say I have enjoyed and always looked forward to the Friday Harbor Elementary 3rd graders yearly visitations to the Museum. What a wonderful age, with their eagerness to learn, for me to share island history and impress upon them the importance of learning more about their heritage.

### *Museum wish List:*

- volunteer Vital Statistics newspaper clipper
- heavy duty furniture dolly
- docents for the 2008 season

### *Memorial Gifts*

**For Janet King Robbins**

from Kip & Kitty Roberts

**For Kenny Nash**

From Nancy J. Hansen

