



San Juan Historical Museum

Fall 2011

San Juan Historical Museum

PO Box 441
323 & 405 Price Street
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360-378-3949
www.sjmuseum.org
www.historicsanjuans.org

Administrative Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Museum Tours

November—March

Tours may be arranged at
any time by appointment

Please call 378 - 3949

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Marking 50 years

It all began for us when this small notice appeared in the Friday Harbor Journal of February 16, 1961. It marked the first decidedly public attempt to organize the growing interest in preserving the legacy and history of San Juan Island.

Historical Society

Where? — City Hall
When? — Friday, February 17th
Time? — 8:00 P.M.

Come and let us know if you think San Juan Island should have an Historical Society to preserve all those treasured articles and antiques so many of us want kept for posterity.

Prior to that date, numerous individuals had already begun their activities in this labor of love. In the excellent 1975 chronicle by Mrs. Niva Durhack (available in the museum archives) many memorable island residents are singled out for their interest — among them

O.G. Well, early editor of the Friday Harbor Journal

Milo & Sadie Smoots who combined to raise \$7.50 towards financing a home for the "Island's Treasures"

Mrs. Etta Egeland, called the "torchbearer" of the past and present

Mrs. Julia Jensen, "public spirited" school teacher

Mrs. Florence Blashfield, president of the Primrose Society

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hall, of the Orcas Island Historical Society

*Mr. Charles Schmidt, 1961 County Prosecuting Attorney
and many others!*

30 interested citizens attended that February 17th, 1961 meeting which included familiar old island family names such as Hannah, Mullis, Nichols, Carter and Rouleau among others. Two subsequent meetings resulted in the "Articles of Incorporation" for the San Juan Historical Society and on April 13th, 1961, the first nominating committee presented their slate of Officers:

Mrs. Julia Jensen — President

Mr. Clifford Dightman — Vice President

Mrs. Myrtle A. Lowell — Recording Secretary

Mr. Burt Winne — Corresponding Secretary

Mr. Al Nash, Jr. — Treasurer

The first San Juan Historical Society Board Members were:

Mrs. Ella Dightman

Mrs. Marion Hannah

Mr. Charles Schmidt

Mrs. Etta Egeland

Mr. Walter Nichols

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Notable firsts that year included the first bake sale in June, which netted \$34.50; a first offer of property for a museum site from Mr. Clifford Dightman; the first memorials, to honor Ray Edwards, Judy Buchanan and Hazel Carter. It is further noted that total receipts for the first year of the San Juan Historical Society was \$86.00 from bakes sales and memorial contributions and \$16.50 for dues. Along with bank funds of \$298.20, the total balance of funds for the year 1961 was \$348.20!

A lot has happened in the 50 years since the San Juan Historical Society was founded. From humble beginnings of items kept in home-made wooden cabinets in the county courthouse to the present museum grounds encompassing over an acre of green space with eight buildings. We proudly look back on our own history and marvel at the sheer amount of items in our collection. Thousands of photographs, documents and artifacts. Large, small, curious, interesting, unique—and a few mysteries—best sum up our collection.

We are fortunate that far sighted individuals were willing to undertake the cause of preserving our local history. Along they way, many individuals and groups have helped to further the cause and mission of our organization. Thanks to all who have helped us these first 50 years and here's to the next 50 years!

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 18, 2011



Jim Meredith always looks dapper in his Royal Marine uniform

Captain Pickett (Mike Vouri) cutting the cake



Island history runs deep with (l to r) Al Sundstrom, John Wade & Jim Cahail

Trustee Diane Timm (at right)



Weaving demonstrations (above)



Islanders with deep family roots take in the festivities



Trustees Mike Vouri & Mike Nash (at left)

A round of thanks



Rick Galer's custom made arbor welcomes visitors to the King House

In large and small ways, through financial support and by kind gestures assistance comes to us in many forms. The common thread is it all makes a difference. We recognize a few of the many individuals that have given of themselves to make your museum a better place for all to enjoy. Thanks to:

Ted Strutz for his time and expertise in mounting photographs in the King House when interior painting was completed.

Rick Galer for his all around continuing generosity, behind the scenes fix-it projects and the entry arbor (photo at left) for the King House.

Jim Cahail who mows the lawn & keeps the grounds looking beautiful year after year.

To our docents who welcomed thousands of visitors to the museum this year. Thank you Romona, Ruthe, Judy B., Shirley, Judy C. Diane, Mary, Mary Jean, Pat, Barbara, Deanna & Shaun. With your help we have enjoyed a 14% increase in visits versus 2010!

Restoration updates

From past newsletters, you have learned that we have been putting forth much effort into building restoration. We have made progress in the past few years and we are not done yet! Here is a sampling of what has been completed in the past few years:

King Farmhouse – new foundation, rain gutters, porches, interior & exterior paint.

Carriage House – new roof, rain gutters, siding, doors, interior & exterior paint.

Root Cellar – new roof & rain gutters.

The Jail – new roof & exterior paint.

Resource Center – upgraded plumbing, heating system, electrical service, interior & porch paint.

Barn – installation of electrical power and rain gutters.

Scribner Log Cabin – exterior window repairs.

The major work performed on the King Farmhouse, Root Cellar and Carriage House was made possible by the sale of a Historic Preservation & Conservation Easement to the San Juan County Land Bank. A special thanks to the Land Bank and the San Juan County Council for their support and approval of the Historic Preservation & Conservation Easement. Other sources of funding came from you, our members. Thank you all for your support! *(Photographs courtesy of Boyd Pratt)*



Carriage House before



Carriage House after

A gem on display

It is always rewarding when descendants of early pioneers of the San Juans visit the museum and even more so when we have an item from their forebears on display. This happened recently when June Jensen's son was visiting from Oregon and noticed his great grandfather's compass on display. He had remembered seeing the item as a small child and remembered his mother donating it to the museum. The following note was written when the compass was donated in 2005.

Gentlemen or Ladies:

Please find enclosed a 100 plus year old compass that belonged to Burt Florian Chevalier, my Grandpa. Burt was the first mailman to the outer islands. It has been told that he went out in his little boat when even the big ships would not venture out in rough seas. Burt had four children born at Roche Harbor. In later years they all moved to Stuart Island where he had 800 acres. My mother Myrtle was the oldest of his children. This is how I came to have the compass. I really believe that Grandpa would be very proud to have his compass on display in your museum. I really enjoyed my tour of your Museum when I stopped in several years ago.

Best Wishes, June N. Jensen



Burt Chevalier's trusty compass

Upcoming events



Exhibit Opening ***Wednesday November 16, 5—8pm***

School is in session. Come and view our new exhibit, Washington Schoolhouses. This traveling exhibit profiles the history of schoolhouses and the establishment of the public school system in our state. The exhibit features added school related artifacts from our collection, including photographs of a number of the early schoolhouses on San Juan Island. The exhibit was designed by the Washington State Historical Society and board member Fred Yockers. Open through January 30.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration ***Thursday December 1, 5—8pm***

Start your holiday season off right by attending a time honored island tradition. The event is our way of saying thank you to our members and the community for your continuing support. The museum buildings will be decorated in holiday finery and Phil Mayer will be back with the winter wonderland train set—a delight for children of all ages! Enjoy calorie packed goodies galore, world famous Ivar's clam chowder, chili (vegetarian too!), hot apple cider, traditional caroling and Kirk Fuhrmeister & friends belting out sing-a-long holiday tunes. Come one, come all and come hungry!



In Memoriam

For Alex Mc Rae
Lynette Guard

For Margaret Mc Rae
Mary Jane Anderson
Betty Nash
Carol Smith
Ruthe Ramirez
Irene Vandersluis

For Etta Egeland & Juanita Rouleau
Ed & Barbara Rouleau

For Etta Egeland & W.A. Rouleau Family
Ruth Tuck Youngberg
& S. Joyce Tuck Lowe

For Jerome Hammond
Janis & Don Crosby
Andra Schaub
Jeffrey & Johanna Zinn

For Beverly Steele
Gordon Steele

For Bette Reed
Pam Nielsen
Minakshi & Dhanvant Madhani
Shirley Williams
Pam Nielsen
Ellen E. Balls
Ann Beach Edington

**For Kendo Yasuda, Haru (Yasuda) Matsumura,
Jack McMurray, Juanita Rouleau,
Ed Tuck, Norm & Tootsie Mills**
Gary & Shawna Yasuda

For Kristy Wade Carlson
Mickey Burton
Ed Rouleau
Kitty & Kip Roberts
Orvald & Christine Belter
Lil Bennett
Eric Miner & Donna Karls

Nancy Nash Hansen
Kitty & Kip Roberts

New & Renewing Members*since last newsletter publication***Business Members**

Store More Storage
Jeanie & Jim Garrett
Islander's Insurance
San Juan Interiors
Homestead Mobile Home Park
Scott Benedict/Benedict Restoration
Island Architecture
Nina LeBaron
M&W Auto Sales
Wendy Pinnow
Zehner Construction
Harbor Rental & Saw Shop
Kings Market

Individuals & Families

Lynette King Guard
Noel & Lois Gallanger
Brent & Kelly Snow
Malcolm & Janet McWhorter
Mark & Jane Burton Bell
Dodie Gann
Helen Sawyer & Howard Schonberger
Sally Bryan
Lois & Herb Cunniff
Patti & Greg Black
Deanna & Robert Magley
Mary & Colin Hermans
Stephen Hudson

Sonya Arend Flaherty
Linda & James Bergquist
Leonie Griswold
Judith Kotras
Vikky & Vince Dauciunas
Connie & Guard Sundstrom
Margarite Jennings
William Galligan
Barbara & Ed Rouleau
June Vynce
Jim Boyce
Marge & Trim Scribner
Darlene & Thomas McCarthy
Judy Sheridan
Kevin Roth
Richard Walker
Gary & Shawna Yasuda
Judith Kotras
David & Sondra Bayley
Lynda Guernsey
Priscilla Nash
Betty Nash
Jo Ann Roe
Carol Smith
Gary & Shawna Yasuda
Brenda Beckett
Susan Swindells
Virginia McGeary
Chris & Betsy Pope

Gordon Steele
Shaun Hubbard & Harold Kawaguchi
Howie Rosenfeld & Carrie Lacher
Peggy Roark Slentz
John King
Elizabeth & Alan R. Hancock
Sidney Thorson
Fred & Peg Hoepner
Mary Ellen Judge
Jane Stoddard
Romona Jones
Kelle & Gene Wilson
Kitty & Kip Roberts
Mary Doerflein
Phebe & Robert Hirschel
Don Hickthier
John Peters
Robert Guard
Eunice Normet
Bob & Vonnie Nichols
Louise & John Dustrude
Anne Pope & Bill Green
Alice Hurd
Alice Berenz
Peter & Sharon Barsness -Toxby
Andrew Montgomery
Marie Pavlik
Katherine, Todd & Robert Shelton

To all our contributors, your support makes a difference! **Thank You!!!!**

San Juan Historical Museum
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Please make payable to San Juan Historical Museum, PO Box 441, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

The San Juan Historical Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax i.d.# 23-7022221.