



# 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

### Board of Trustees

Mary Jean Cahail, *President*  
Mike Vouri, *Vice President*  
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Carla J. Higginson

### Museum Staff

Kevin Loftus, Director

## 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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*

*Trustee Diane Timm (at right)*

*Captain Pickett (Mike Vouri) cutting the cake*



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



*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  
Post Office Box 441  
323 & 405 Price Street  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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I wish to donate an additional amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.*