



Winter 2011

San Juan Historical Museum

*Preserving the history
of Friday Harbor and San Juan Island since 1961*

San Juan Historical Museum

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

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### Administrative Office Hours

*Monday thru Thursday*  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
or by appointment.

### Museum Tours

*November through March*  
\*by appointment.  
Please call 378 - 3949

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Kevin Loftus, Director

## Peeling away history

by Kevin Loftus, Director

The new year dawns with more improvements being made at your museum. We had hoped to take advantage of the perceived “winter lull” that we always think will happen. Not too surprisingly, that does not seem to be the case again this year, which is actually a good thing!

Work is nearing completion on painting and wall repairs being performed to the interior of the King House. The upstairs rooms needed the most attention after foundation problems were addressed nearly two years ago. Robert Strasser and his crew at Best Painting in Friday Harbor, have spent a great deal of time fixing cracks and applying new paint to the interior walls of the 117 year-old structure.



*Extensive wall damage was revealed under layers of paint & wallpaper.*

One of the more interesting aspects of the project has been to look at the history of the walls. By that I mean, peeling away layers of paint and wallpaper. We have seen some interesting “eras” of paint and wallpaper that have adorned the walls over the years. The Lawson Room had a fair amount of cracking, all the way down to the wood lath boards from the original plaster process. One could see the plaster process through the layering. We noted different colors of paint gave way to wallpaper which gave way to paint which was then wallpapered over and on and on it went.



All of this may seem like a stretch for an interesting article, but for us it has been an interesting experience to peer into the past history of the King House. Thanks goes to Robert & Debbie Strasser and Daniel at Best Painting and Boyd Pratt for assistance in this process.

*At left: Original paint and wallpaper applied to upstairs foyer walls.*

## Remembering Roy Franklin



Roy during flight training for the United States Navy, 1943

Roy Franklin, an island aviation pioneer, passed away on February 3. Roy was a legend in many ways and left a lasting legacy of service to the island communities. Roy was a Navy carrier pilot in WW II and returned to his home state to establish a successful commuter airline, build an airport and perform hundreds of medical flight evacuations. He did that all while prevailing against numerous adversities that came his way during the early days of flight in the San Juans.

In November 2008, the Historical Museum hosted Roy for a talk about his book "Island Bush Pilot." That evening Roy captivated us with stories about his life and his adventurous flying days, all served up with wit and humor.

We wish to honor Roy by sharing a little of his story to honor a great man who did so much for so many. Below is a reprint of an article Roy wrote for this newsletter in 1998.

### ***The Bushman***

by Roy Franklin

*Many long time island residents remember the days before medivac helicopters made a ride to the hospital quick and relatively easy. This was the day of the "Bushman" (tail #N-27782). The Bushman was introduced to San Juan County in April of 1954 by Island Sky Ferries Inc., the local Air Taxi Co. owned by Islander Roy Franklin (twenty years later the name of the company was changed to San Juan Airlines Inc.). This airplane was the first one in the county with the capacity to carry a full stretcher, plus attendants. It was used for twenty five years as the County's air ambulance. During those years, the Bushman carried thousands of people on scheduled and chartered flights, as well as the sick and*



*dying to the mainland, flying day and night out of every conceivable cow pasture, airstrip, and even sometimes off an island beach. During those busy years, the Bushman flew over 500 medical evacuations from the Islands. She was also the last "Gull Wing" Stinson in the States to be carrying the U.S. Mail, which she did for years between Anacortes, Lopez and Friday Harbor. The Bushman had a job in the mountains as well. For 23 fire seasons, the Bushman was under contract to the Mt. Baker National Forest. Her job was to drop supplies by parachute to fire-fighting crews, trail crews and mountain top fire lookouts and to transport weary smoke jumpers back to their Eastern Washington Methow Valley jump-base. She later flew an additional five fire-seasons out of Port Angeles for the Olympic National Park. San Juan Airlines and the Bushman were sold in 1979.*

## Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

**Tuesday March 8, at 12:00 noon  
in the Etta Egeland Resource Center**

Please join us for our annual membership meeting and election of Board of Trustee officers for the coming year. All members of the Society are invited and encouraged to attend.

We will also be honoring our volunteers who provide so much needed support to the museum throughout the year. A light lunch and refreshments will be served.



*Board member, docent and super volunteer Romona Jones begins a little spring cleaning outside the barn.*

### *In Memoriam*

**For Derry Gislason**

Cyndy Gislason

**For Etta Egeland, Juanita Rouleau,  
Ed & Peggy Tuck**

Bob & Vonnie Nichols

### **New & Renewing Members**

*since last newsletter publication*

Higginson Beyer, P.S.  
Charlie Ratcliffe  
Store More Storage  
-Jim & Jeanie Garrett  
Rob McGregor  
Ted Middleton  
Jane & David Cable  
Thompson & Associates CPA's  
-Dick & Mary Thompson  
Joyce Sobel  
Doug & Barb Ray  
Mitzi Stack  
Edith Dickinson  
Jim & Patsy Scribner  
Irene Vandersluys  
Bert & Arlene Gaulke  
Patrick & Jo Ann Ballenger  
Shelle Cropper

David & Mary Ann Anderson  
Arne & Judy Bentzen  
Sam & Emily Connery  
Gary & Linda Thompson  
Pat Ball  
Ruby & Tex Blankenburg  
Eugene & Donna Alexander  
Jerry St. Dennis  
Ruthe Ramirez  
Dale & Carol Marble  
San Juan Pest Control  
-Steve & Bobbi Billmyer  
Nedell Lanros-Crawford  
Grace Swan  
Susan Swan-Esposito  
Jody Burns  
Dan & Eileen Drath  
Shirley Lothrop

Craig & Jill Dorsey  
Archipelago Consulting  
-Lynn Danaher  
Charlie & Nancy Lindenberg  
Sharron Crinean  
Barbara Clary  
Steve & Judy Kennedy  
Pam & King Fitch  
Mel & Florence Harrison  
Michael Nash  
Shirley Zyph  
Sally Bryan  
Molly & Maurice Liebman  
Rick Galer  
Diane Timm  
Patrick & Marti Hughes

We truly appreciate your support in helping us to preserve the history of San Juan Island. Memberships are a vital source of revenue for the museum. We could not continue our work without your support and involvement! **Thank You!**

San Juan Historical Museum  
Post Office Box 441  
323 & 405 Price Street  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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