



San Juan Historical Society & Museum

Winter 2014

San Juan Historical Society & Museum

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

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Saturdays 1–4 pm

*or by appointment
Please call 378 - 3949

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Moving right along with the MHI

Over the winter the steering committee for the Museum of History and Industry (MHI) project has been developing the specific structure and content of the initial exhibits within the barn from the general ideas presented last year. We have been guided by design sketches done by Peter Chan, visits to other museums, extensive local advice, and the realities of the available space.

We have also changed our earlier decision to present the MHI as primarily a warm weather facility and are now planning to provide heat in the building. This will allow a much greater use of the museum by school groups through the winter. In turn, it will strengthen our educational position in applying for various grants. It will also provide a more stable environment for the preservation of the artifacts in the displays.

We have removed a collection of agricultural equipment in the central portion of the barn to off-site storage in preparation for the insulation work that will allow for efficient heating later. Once that work is done, the partition construction in that part of the barn will be completed.

The first area to open will be the summary displays in the entrance atrium. In addition to the video presentation of island development and the introductory material in the entry areas to the

FISHING, FARMING, LOGGING, and LIME wings, a generous donation will make possible the planned 3-D map of the island in the center of this space.

The layout plan for the **FISHING** wing is complete and construction there will follow that in the atrium. We are very happy to report that Roche Harbor Resort has offered to underwrite the development of the **LIME** wing. As a result, that exhibit will follow **FISHING** and planning for those displays are in the early stages.

As always, we are interested in improving our collection of items and information. In particular, we would like to have more fishing material for consideration for use in those displays. Contributions of equipment, pieces of boats, photographs and stories from our general period of interest (1850-1950) would be greatly appreciated. We also need more members to be actively engaged in this project. Please call Director Kevin Loftus if you have any amount of time you can give.

- Don Nixon, MHI Steering Committee



Members of the Leos group, Morgan and Ashton Timmons and Griffin Cuomo help move larger equipment to off-site storage as we continue to develop the MHI.

*Partial funding of the barn expansion project was made possible by grants from the Heritage Capital Project Fund administered by the Washington State Historical Society.

Milk house restoration

The Milk House is one of the four original buildings remaining from the King family farming era. Dating from the early 1900's, it stands as a significant remnant of a largely bygone agricultural era on San Juan Island.

With major restoration work completed in recent years on most of the other buildings on the museum campus, the milk house was the last building needing attention to address the deteriorated condition of the structure. A combination of the elements and time had resulted in extensive rot and decay to the small structure.

Architectural historian and museum member Boyd Pratt, developed an action plan to ensure as much of the historical fabric of the structure was maintained. Local contractors, Alan Smith of Hoot Creek Construction and Albert Gonzales of Local Islands Roofing were chosen to perform the necessary work.

The scope of work included the replacement of the asphalt shingle roof with period correct cedar shingles. Structural elements were evaluated and new material was integrated where needed. Individual boards of siding were replaced as necessary with the exact pattern, which is still being manufactured. A period correct window replaced the existing rear Plexiglas window for a historically accurate look. Lastly, new siding and structural members were treated with a light milk wash paint to maintain the interior patina while the exterior was entirely painted.

The project was funded through a San Juan County Historic Preservation Grant and contributions from individual donors. Significant cost savings were realized through discounts on materials through Browne's Home Center and an in-kind donation of labor from contractor Alan Smith. Additional savings were realized by replacing only what elements needed replacing. As a result, the project came in well under the original budget amount!

We have now completed the series of major restoration projects which we have been working on for the past five years. With help from many, we have ensured that our historic structures will continue to serve as important reminders of the past.

Our thanks to the San Juan County Council, Browne's Home Center, Alan Smith of Hoot Creek Homecraft, Albert Gonzales of Local Islands Roofing, Boyd Pratt and a number of individual donors for your help in making this project possible.



Before: A picture worth a thousand words?



During: Contractor Alan Smith working his magic.



After: The end result nearly leaves us speechless!

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We thank you for your support!

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P. O. Box 441
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The museum is a recipient of 2014 grant funding from San Juan County lodging tax funds. We thank the San Juan County Council and their lodging tax advisory committee for this grant award. We thank the islands lodging owners and their guests for their continued financial support of the museum. Proceeds derived from this grant help to defray operating expenses.

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