

San Juan Historical Museum

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

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\$50 Sponsor  \$100 Benefactor  \$25 Family  \$15 Individual  \$35 Business  \$10 Senior (60+)

**The Barn Project: I would like to make a special 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 2007

### 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  
Curator  
  
Sue Madden  
Volunteer & Research  
Coordinator  
  
Dolly Salazar  
Development/  
Operations Manager

It's been over twelve years since Mona Meeker first jumped headlong into the sea of history from which sprang San Juan Island. What began as a newcomer's fascination with the lore of her adopted home morphed into two years of hard slog, hours of intensive training, millions of words transcribed: The Oral History Project at the San Juan Historical Museum.

After attending a talk given by the late Beryl Wade, Mona, a retired school librarian, found her curiosity piqued. Knowing little about capturing personal histories, Mona nevertheless approached this museum's board with the idea of coordinating an oral history project for the museum. Lucky for us all, they agreed.

Mona and her crew of 11 volunteer interviewers (all of whom attended training workshops and lectures) produced an extraordinary collection of 32 personal histories of members of some of the island's pioneer families, all recorded on audio-tape, some on video as well, with photographs, family lineages, charts, and summary indices included. It is quite a handsome feather in the Museum's cap — a beautiful tapestry of island life — and is used frequently by islanders and off-islanders to research their own family stories. A great gift borne of one lady's affection for our past.

So, that's it, right? Work complete, project over? Of course not. This new millennium is nothing if not a digital dawn. And, being a historical museum, we *are* in the habit of preserving things.

Enter Vikky Daucinus.

A recent escapee from corporate America, Vikky now devotes herself to her true passion: preserving people's stories. As a member of the Association of Personal Historians and founder of Vikkyd Productions in Friday Harbor, she produces video tributes, scrapbooks and memoirs of family histories and experiences. "Every life is a story worth telling, and is part of a history worthy of reflection," she says.

Well, as luck would have it, fortune smiled, the stars aligned, and Destry rode again: Mona and Vikky were introduced at the Museum's Autumn Auction last fall. And boy, did they have a lot to talk about. Let's just call it "great minds thinking alike."

Already familiar with the Museum through her friendships with Museum staff, and now with Mona as her point person, Vikky has taken on the awesome task of digitizing our oral history collection. Each history will be preserved on CD, and in a format that can be loaded to digital media players (including iPods and MP3 players) — making the stories readily accessible to fresh generations for years to come.

*Contact the Museum for more information about our Oral History Collection. Our warmest thanks Mona Meeker for her great support of the Museum these many years, and especially for all her hard work during her just-ended term as a member of our Board of Trustees. Your enthusiasm is contagious, dear!*

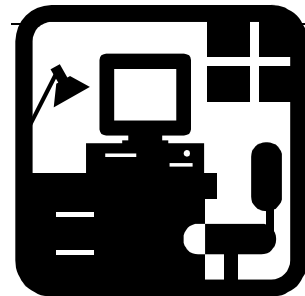
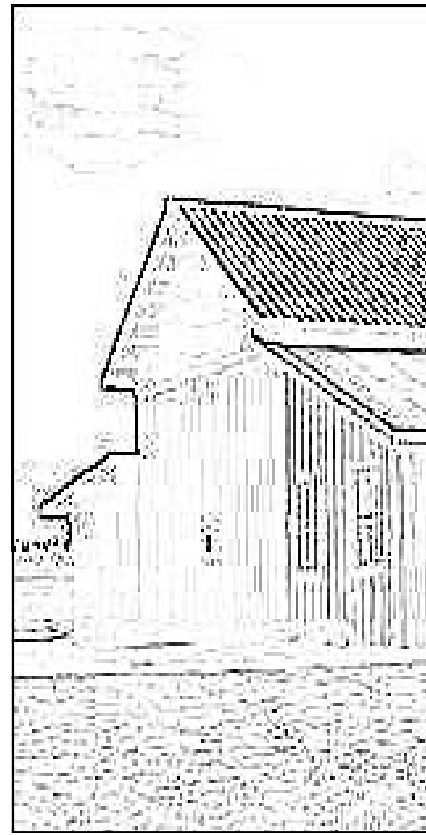
A Story  
Worth  
Telling:  
Oral  
Histories  
of San  
Juan  
Island

## The Year of the Barn.

Congrat-us-lations! The San Juan Historical Museum will be awarded a \$25,000 grant this fiscal year from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project Fund, toward Phase II of the Barn Project. This award is a matching grant funding one-third of the budget for this next stage of the project; we have to raise the rest.

With this grant, the Museum will complete the second wing of our onsite barn, transforming this modest 1980s structure into a faithful replica of a working barn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When it's finished, the Barn will showcase our exhibits of large-scale farming implements, as well as displays illustrating the island's historical industries, the Jim Crook collection of textile equipment, and hands-on activities for children and families. Our timeline for completion is summer 2009.

For more information on The Barn Project, or to get involved, email the Museum at [museum\\_admin@sjmuseum.org](mailto:museum_admin@sjmuseum.org), or call us at 360.378.3949



## And a little facelift for our library...

Our thanks to the San Juan Island Community Foundation for their generous support of our research facility upgrade. Through a grant from the Foundation, we'll be able to network our PastPerfect software, which we use to archive and manage our collections. We'll add an extra computer terminal in our research library, which will be available for use by guest researchers, who will now be able to search and view the same photos, data, artifacts and other archives as Museum staff. Our new library terminal will launch in March; interested researchers must reserve space in advance. *If you have a research question or request, or are interested in booking time to use the new research computer, please email [history@sjmuseum.org](mailto:history@sjmuseum.org), or leave a message for Sue Madden at 360.378.3949.*

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## Thank You!

We'd like to send a big thanks to all of our members and donors who have contributed to the San Juan Historical Museum over the past year. Without you, the Museum would be up the Puget without a skiff! And a very special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for going the extra mile with their extraordinary support in the last 12 months.

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#### In-Kind Donors

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Beth Hudson  
The Journal of  
the San Juan Islands  
Orcas Museum  
Dawn Schultz

### The Barn Project Supporters. Helping us count down to \$50k:

Ted Middleton • Glenn & Dianne Kaufmann  
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Cropper Family • Anne Pallinger • Sondra de Beauclair • Kenneth J. Higgins

## Autumn Auction

### Sponsors



In October, the Museum debuted what we hope will be a featured annual event: our Autumn Auction fundraiser. We welcomed a lively turnout of Museum supporters, and were touched to see such goodwill toward the Museum from so many members of our community. Our success is due in large part to the following individuals and businesses who contributed their goods and services:

Abbeville Press, New York  
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Kathleen Ballard Photography  
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