



San Juan Historical Museum

Summer 2008

The San Juan Historical Museum

PO Box 441
405 Price Street
Friday Harbor, WA
98250
360.378.3949
www.sjmuseum.org



Museum Hours:

September

Thursday—Saturday
10:00 AM– 4:00 PM

Sunday

1:00 PM– 4:00 PM

October

Saturday

1:00 PM– 4:00 PM

Or by appointment
Please call 378-3949



Museum Staff

Kevin Loftus
Director

Jen Fleming
Bookkeeper

Kimberly Kennedy
Intern

New Book on the History of the Town



View from King Hill in the early 1900s

Earlier this year, the Board of the Historical Museum approached National Parks historian Mike Vouri and his wife Julia about writing a town history for Friday Harbor’s centennial. Since this May, Mike and Julia have been at the Museum nearly every week, researching the history of the town and selecting information for the book.

The book is going to be published as part of Arcadia Publishing’s Image of America Series. These books use archival images to tell the stories of small communities in order to preserve their local heritage. Most of the photographs Mike is using in the book are from the Museum’s collection of nearly 2,000 images. Jim Cahail, who has lived on the island his entire life, helped Mike interpret the photographs and provided plenty of stories to go along with the photos. Other pictures came from the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, where photo historian Jeff Jewell unearthed several photographs of Friday Harbor taken by Wilbur Sandison, who Mike believes “really captured the flavor of small town life.” Other information came from the Museum’s archives and collection of old Journals.

The book will recount the early days of the town, when it was a bustling community with an economy based off the extraction of resources. The fish cannery dominated the Friday Harbor’s waterfront, and lumber and produce were shipped to the mainland daily. In the early 1900s, insurance was extremely expensive for the residents and businesses of Friday Harbor because there was no fire department in a town made up of wooden buildings. The problem of rising insurance rates expedited the process of incorporation. Once the town was incorporated, the local government could raise revenues through taxes to buy a fire truck.

Mike would like to thank Sandy Strehlou and Nancy Larson, the current and former town preservation coordinators. The late Tony Surina wrote several articles about his experiences in Friday Harbor that were very useful. Mike also thanks Nordine Jensen, Kitty Roberts, Mary Jean and Jim Cahail, Al Sundstrom, Richard Walker, Kris DayVincent, Jen Fleming, Kim Kennedy and Kevin Loftus.



4th of July in front of the Saloon Best

Friday Harbor's Centennial Celebration

This summer's fair marked the beginning of the town's Centennial celebrations, and the Museum is playing an active role in several of these activities. Kevin and Ann Peterson designed an exhibit for the fair that is a timeline of the history of Friday Harbor. It is made up of 3' x 5.5' banners, each representing a decade through pictures and text that describe what was going on in town at that time. The museum provided photos and captions for this exhibit.

The Museum is also working with Sandy Strehlou, the Town's Historic Preservation Coordinator, to chose newspaper articles, photographs, and text for a town history exhibit that will be displayed in the lobby of the San Juan Community Theatre in early 2009.

In addition, the Museum has provided photographs for the Lions Club 2009 Historic Centennial Calendar.

Look for calendars at local merchants. The museum will

Recent events

4th of July Pig War Picnic

The 4th of the July Picnic, put on by the Kiwanis Club and held at the Museum was a success.

Music on the Lawn

Island Rec's Music on the Lawn has been very popular, with large crowds arriving at the Museum every Wednesday night in July and early August.

Native American Lectures

Two lectures were held on July 19th at the museum by members of the Lummi Nation and from Turtle Mountain Chippewa. The lectures were entitled: "These Ancestral Islands: Oral History of the San Juan Islands," and "Cultural Lifeways of the Turtle Mountain Reservation." Exhibits of works by artists from the Lummi Nation and from Turtle Mountain Chippewa were also on display.

The Jim Crook Collection goes live

The Jim Crook Collection is an online collection that tells the story of a respected San Juan Island pioneer. Jim Crook's family homesteaded English Camp in 1875 shortly after the Pig War. Jim Crook's spirit of ingenuity and resourcefulness represent a way of life still valued and practiced on the island. Items in the collection include photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, equipment, clothing, audio interviews and video. To view the collection please go to: www.washingtonruralheritage.com

The Jail Has a New Roof!

Bailer Hill Construction and Local Islands Roofing re-roofed the original county jail just in time for the 4th of July Pig War Picnic. The museum wishes to recognize David Meiland, Al Gonzales, Ron Wilson and Dana Owens for their excellent work in completing this long awaited project in short order.



Before



After

SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary Jean Cahail *President*
Edith Dickinson, *Vice President*
Dave Hylton, *Treasurer*
Bonnie Peakes, *Secretary*
Kitty Roberts, *Corresponding Secretary*

Mark Fleming Mike Vouri
Steve Hudson Kelle Wilson
Romona Jones Richard Walker
Barbara Fry Mike Nash

Carla J. Higginson, Legal Counsel

Wish List

- A computer hutch for the Resource Center
- A scanner large enough to scan newspapers
- Donations for critical repairs around the Museum
- Heat for the Resource Center and the Farmhouse
- Signage for the Museum buildings
- Paint and painters
- Docents— if you would like to be a docent, call Romona Jones (378-2896) or Mary Jean Cahail (378- 2294)

THANK YOU! We would like to thank all of our members and donors who have contributed to the San Juan Historical Museum over the past months. We couldn't do our work without you!

Benefactors

Alice Berenz
Barbara Fry
Phil Fuehr
Rick Galer
Dodie Gann
Les and Betsy Gunther
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Marge Scribner
Connie and Guard Sundstrom
Irene Vandersluys
Richard & Mavis Wade
Boyd and Lovel Pratt

Businesses

Animal Inn
M & W Auto Sales
San Juan Interiors
Hawley & Nicholson, PS

Individuals

Alan & Corinne Carter
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Sally Watt
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Arlene Pomeroy
Emily Reed
Margaret Schafer
Judith Sgro
John Wade
James Meredith
Bonnie Peakes
Fran Chevalier
Grace Swan
Peggy Roark Slentz
Anne Pallinger
Ruthe Ramirez
Ramona Jones

**A special thanks to summer intern
Kim Kennedy**

The museum bids a fond farewell to our summer intern, Kim Kennedy. Kim was a 2005 graduate of Friday Harbor High School and will be entering her senior year at Tufts University in Boston. Kim is majoring in history and library science.

Through her resourcefulness, Kim secured a grant through Tufts to be able to work at the museum and was compensated entirely through the grant.

Kim provided support with digitizing our photo collection, creating newsletters, fielding research requests, being a docent, assisting in cataloging The Jim Crook Collection, setting up displays and assisting with research for the Friday Harbor centennial book.

It was a pleasure to have Kim at the museum this summer. Kim has a bright future ahead and we wish her the very best in her career pursuits.

The Museum wishes to thank...

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Rick Galer | Julie Cardill |
| Laura Tretter | Jim Meredith |
| Floyd Bourne | Edith Dickinson |
| Heidi Lewis | Barbara Fry |
| Bonnie Peakes | Shirley Zyph |
| Jacki Riley | Donna Alexander |
| Richard Walker | Sally Thomsen |
| Romona Jones | Laura Robinson |
| Kitty Roberts | Jerry Jameson |
| Ruthe Ramirez | Barn cleanup helpers |

***Save the date
Historical Museum's
Fall Auction***

Great items to bid on, including a week on the Oregon Coast, a night in our historic jail, historic photographs and much more!

**Join us at the Mullis Senior Center
on October 18, at 4:00 p.m.**

**“Taste of Friday Harbor” Buffet
Cash bar.**

Tickets: \$20

If you have any items or services you would like to donate to the Museum to be auctioned off, please call Kevin Loftus at 378-3949.

Book Talk at the Museum

On Wednesday November 19th at 7:00 pm, Library Director Laura Tretter and outreach coordinator Beth Helstien will present “Talking about Friday Harbor History Books.” The presentation will focus on a selection of books set in or around Friday Harbor in the last 100 years.

Memorial Gifts

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| For Marie Greenfield | For Hirona Yasuda |
| Joyce Sobel | Kendo Yasuda |
| Robert and Phebe Hirschel | |

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Help the Museum save money!

While we love keeping our members up-to-date on museum news, printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter is expensive for the Historical Museum. If you would like to receive your newsletter via

*Fall Auction
Please join us
Saturday, October 18!
Details on page 3*

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.

Yes! I would like to volunteer!