



San Juan Historical Museum

Winter 2010

San Juan Historical Museum

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

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### **Administrative Office Hours**

*Tuesday thru Friday*  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
or by appointment.

### **Museum Tours**

*November through March*  
Tours may be arranged  
by appointment.  
Please call 378 - 3949

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Board of Trustees

Mary Jean Cahail, *President*
Edith Dickinson, *Vice President*
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Carla J. Higginson

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### **Museum Staff**

Kevin Loftus, Director  
Jacki Riley, Research

## **A look back at the year that was...**

My, how times flies when you are having fun! What a fun, exciting and busy year 2009 was here at your museum. As we are well into the new year, a look back at a few of the many highlights of 2009 is in order.

Where to begin? How about the Fireside Chat at the library in January? A total of 162 (a library event attendance record I am told) folks attended a night of storytelling from esteemed long-time islanders. In February our book, Images of America—Friday Harbor was released and met with rave reviews. The new foundation under the King house was completed before the summer season. We had an active role in the many Friday Harbor centennial events. The year ended on a high note with the approval of a Historical Preservation and Conservation Easement granted by the San Juan County Land Bank.

The centennial celebrations and heightened interest in local history brought many visitors to the museum for tours, events and research. Many people visited to buy the Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor books. School tours from Ellensburg Middle School (286 students, parents and teachers over a two day span) and South Bend Middle School. Local school tours from Spring Street, Stillpoint and Friday Harbor Elementary schools. Group tours from Exploritas (formerly Elderhostel) brought 318 active older adults to our museum to learn our rich history.

We took the museum on the road too! Special events at the San Juan Island library, Lakedale Resort, Village at the Harbor and even on a cruise ship! Exhibits culled from our collection were displayed at Friday Harbor High School, the San Juan Community Theatre and the county fair. Author Mike Vouri and myself presented the Friday Harbor book to local service organizations and ace volunteer Diane Timm sold hundreds of copies at Friday Harbor Marketplace.

The centennial year will be tough to top. We will continue to make our museum a better place for everyone to visit, learn and enjoy. Stay tuned and please stop by for a visit. We welcome your input and you can even join in on the fun and volunteer if you like. We have no shortage of projects! Thank you to all the individuals, businesses, and partners who have helped us to showcase, present and preserve our unique island history.

*Kevin Loftus—Director*

## A special thank you!

In the course of operating the "business" side of the museum one person deserves special recognition. For over the past 15 years our legal council, Carla Higginson, has graciously donated her time and services on our behalf. Carla is the great-granddaughter of Christopher Rosler, who served under Capt. George Pickett during the Pig War crisis and Anna Pike Rosler, a Tsimshian, Native American.

Carla takes time out of her pressing schedule as an attorney on San Juan Island, to lend us her support and legal expertise. Carla assists us in navigating through legal matters, advises on policies and procedures and looks after the best interests of the museum in these matters.

Thank you Carla for all you do on behalf of the museum, your assistance is greatly appreciated!

### *From the Friday Harbor Journal - 1950's*

#### Brand New—Big Value 9.6 cu. ft. PHILCO Refrigerator



*Cold  
from  
Top  
to  
Bottom*

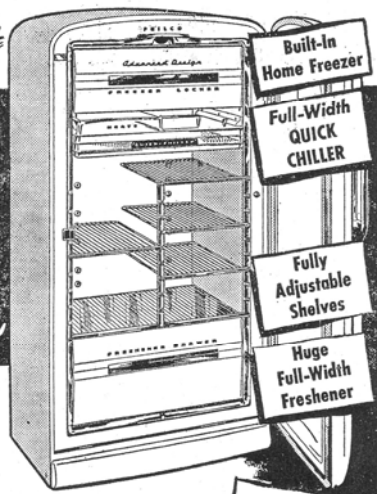
Yes—here is  
real refrigeration  
from  
top to bottom  
—suited to all  
kinds of food!

**It's the Greatest Advanced Design  
Philco Ever Offered at the Price!**

Never before at its price—so many advanced features—so many new, exclusive conveniences—such built-in quality! Come in . . . see for yourself why we call it "America's best buy in a deluxe refrigerator!"

SEE IT NOW!

Roberts Hardware and Furniture  
Friday Harbor, Wash.  
Phone 380



PHILCO 906  
\$ 329.50  
**EASY TERMS**

## News and happenings

### Book Sponsorship

We wish to express our deep gratitude to Ted Middleton and Rob Roy McGregor for their generous financial contributions that will allow us to publish Images of America-San Juan Island. Both also contributed to funding the Friday Harbor book. Thank You!

### Land Bank Preservation Easement

Last December the San Juan County Council unanimously endorsed a San Juan County Land Bank proposal, to place a Historic Preservation and Conservation Easement on three of our historic buildings.

The museum received \$200,000 which will go towards restoration and repair of the King farmhouse, carriage house and root cellar. Already \$68,000 has been expended to put a new foundation under the King house.

We wish to thank the San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan County Council and Friday Harbor Town Council for their support and endorsement of this proposal.

### SJI Community Foundation Grant

We wish to thank the San Juan Island Community Foundation for a grant of \$1,000 which was used towards the purchase of a new office color copier. In fact, this newsletter was printed in-house on the new copier.

The copier will allow us to print our newsletters, copy our historic photographs and much more. The added savings of doing these tasks ourselves will save a substantial amount of printing and time each year.

### A warm winter at the museum

We have upgraded the heating system in the Resource Center! Board President Mary Jean Cahail is most pleased with the results!

## New and renewing members

The following individuals and businesses have renewed or become new members of the Society since our last newsletter. 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!*

### Business Sponsors

Animal Inn  
Allen County Indiana Public Library  
Friday Harbor Drug  
Homestead Mobile Home Park  
Horshu Feed and Supply  
Island Architecture  
Islander's Insurance  
John L. Scott Real Estate SJI  
Petro San Juan  
Benedict Restoration & Repair, Inc.  
Store More Storage Inc.  
The Gourmet's Galley

### Individuals and families

David J. and Mary Ann Anderson  
Mary Jane Anderson  
Mary Jane and Mark Anderson  
Patrick and JoAnn Ballenger  
Ron and Sharon Ballough  
David and Sondra Bayley  
Brenda Beckett  
Scott Benedict  
Arne and Judy Bentzen  
Jim and Linda Bergquist  
Greg and Patti Black  
Tex and Ruby Blankenburg  
Jim Boyce  
Gys and Sandy Bruins  
Sally Bryan  
Jane and David Cable  
John C. Carlson and  
Kristy Wade Carlson  
Corinne Carter  
Paul, Elizabeth  
and Stephen Chadwick

Sam and Emily Connery  
Sharron Crinean  
Janis and Don Crosby  
Sarah Crosby  
Ebie (Elizabeth) Currey  
Vikky and Vince Daucunias  
Cady and Kyle Davies  
Patricia and Cynthia Destaffany  
Edith Dickinson  
John and Louise Dustrude  
Patricia Fairweather  
Sonya Arend Flaherty  
Phil Fuehr  
Rick Galer  
Noel and Lois Gallanger  
Dodie Gann  
Jeanie and Jim Garrett  
Janna Gingras and Liz Illg  
Lynette (King) Guard  
Jerome Hammond  
Alan R. Hancock  
Francie Hansen  
Nancy Hansen (Nash)  
Bill Harrah  
Florence and Mel Harrison  
Catherine and John Heckel  
John and Kathleen Kang Heric  
Colin O. Hermans  
Jim and Jackie Huesman  
Alice Hurd  
Garreth Jeffers  
Sheron Johnson  
Romona Jones  
Tristen Joy  
Maggie King and Bette Story  
Diane Kinnaman

James Lane  
Bill LaPorte  
William A. Lawson  
Katie and Kyle Loring  
Shirley Lothrop  
David Lumsen  
Walter and Ruth MacGinitie  
Tracy and Mark McClintock  
Virginia McGeary  
Florence M. McRae  
Janet and Malcolm McWhorter  
Jim Meredith  
Doris Miller  
Richard and Susan Millington  
Albert and Priscilla Nash  
Bob and Vonnie Nichols  
Chris and Betsy Pope  
Lin Pearson  
Ruthe Ramirez  
Charlie Ratcliffe  
Doug and Barb Ray  
Donna Riley  
Jerry St. Dennis  
Annette Schaffer  
Trim Schribner  
Brent and Kelly Snow  
Peggy Roark Slentz  
Margaret Stack  
Gordon Steele  
Gary and Linda Thompson  
Sidney Thorson  
Diane Timm  
Laura Tretter  
Julia and Mike Vouri  
Richard and Mavis Wade

## *In Memoriam*

### For Helen Senior King

Jane and Tom Cable

### For Susan Meredith

Grace Swan

### For Juanita Rouleau

Mary Jane Anderson  
Linda Ericksen Bergquist  
John C. and Kristy Wade Carlson  
Noel and Lois Gallanger  
Etta M. Tuck Hill  
Patrick and Marti Hughes  
Margaret Mc Rea  
Edwin and Inez Nichols  
Kip and Kitty Roberts  
Ed Rouleau  
Marshall Sanborn & Beth Helstien  
Grace Swan  
Irene Vandersluys

### 2009 in pictures



*Jazz pianist David Bayley performing at the Silver Tea and Quilt Show*



*Our Town exhibit at San Juan Community Theatre*



*Living history, Encampment at the museum*



*Authors Mike and Julia Vouri signing the bestseller Images of America—Friday Harbor*



*King house awaiting a new foundation*



*Board President Mary Jean Cahail*

## Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

**Tuesday March 9, at 12:00 noon  
in the Etta Egeland Resource Center**

Please join us for our annual meeting and selection of Board of Trustee officers for the coming year. All members of the Society are invited 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.

Historian, author and Board of Trustee Member Mike Vouri will give a presentation on our upcoming publication, *Images of America—San Juan Island*. Mike has been selecting photographs from the museum's collection and has discovered some real gems in the process.

### The wreck of the *America*

In heavy fog on Sunday August 30, 1914, a San Juan Island legend began. Below the Hannah farm on the west side of San Juan Island, the *America*, a sailing ship turned barge ran aground on the rocky shore.

The *America* was a three-masted full-rigged Down Easter built in Quincy, Massachusetts in 1874. The *America* hauled cargo from New York and Boston to the Far East until purchased by the James Griffiths Company in 1906. The ship was converted to a barge and plied the waters of Puget Sound until that fateful day in 1914. The vessel was loaded with a shipment of coal and was being towed by the tug *Lorne*, when it hit the rocks and eventually sank. The *Lorne* was later salvaged.



*The America (left) and the Lorne.*

By August of 1914, The Great War had started in Europe and Britain had recently declared war on Germany. Local legend has it that the *America's* cargo of coal was intended to be offloaded to a German vessel waiting in the Haro Strait. Despite U.S. ties to Britain, someone had contracted to have a load of coal sold to Germany for their war effort.

In 1959 San Juan Island resident Roger Loring was the first person to dive on the wreck. He had heard stories of the wreck from his high school teacher, Ed Hannah, who was a young boy when he heard the ships hitting the rocks below his family farm years before. Many artifacts were salvaged most notable being the rudder and figurehead. The rudder is on display here at the museum and the Columbia figurehead displayed at Rosario Resort on Orcas Island.

Recently, the Hannah family has donated several items from the *America* to the museum, including parts of the rigging and posts from the deck railing. The true story of the destination of the cargo may never be known, but the legend of the *America* is forever ingrained in the historical fabric of San Juan Island.

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Friday Harbor  
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Support the San Juan Historical Museum and  
help us to preserve the rich history of San Juan Island

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*Please detach this form at dotted line and return with your donation to San Juan Historical Museum PO Box 441 Friday Harbor WA 98250*

**Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

***I would like to volunteer!***

Please mark your Membership level:

***I would like my newsletters emailed to me.***

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

In addition to my annual membership dues, I would like to contribute a tax-deductible donation of:

\$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to designate my additional donation for the King House Restoration Project

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to designate my additional donation for \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make your check payable to San Juan Historical Museum.***