



# San Juan Historical Society & Museum

*Fall 2018*

*You won't want to miss this:*



## 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL



*Sunday, September 16*

*2 - 5 p.m.*

*San Juan Historical Museum*

*405 Price St.*

*\$5 suggested donation*

- *All of our heritage buildings will be open*
- *Enter the vintage hat contest and win fabulous prizes*
- *Bowls of vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce & toppings - yum!*

### ***From the Director: A brisk summer***

Summer is a great time at the museum, buzzing with activity. Annual events like the July 4th Pig War Picnic and the Music on the Lawn concert series alone bring over 4,000 visitors to the Museum.

We have also been welcoming tour groups from the Road Scholars. This will be another banner year for us with the program which is scheduled to finish out the year with 36 guided tours which will bring just over 1,000 attendees.

We have also been enjoying a robust summer with casual visits to the Museum by visitors to the island. They have come to us from many far flung locations such as: Albuquerque NM, Roswell GA, Lincoln MT, Colorado Springs CO, New York City NY, Columbus, OH, Cambria CA, Boston, MA, Scottsdale, AZ, Ft. Worth TX, Vienna VA, Centerville IN, Reno NV, Wimberley TX, Arlington VA, Carrollton KY, Boise ID, Cape Cod MA, Gillette NJ, New Orleans LA, Shanghi CHINA, London UK, and Sandefjord, NORWAY and last but not least, Orcas Island.

We are more than happy to show visitors our museum and share our vast collection of island history. It is always gratifying to hear the kind words bestowed upon us by those that take an interest in what we have assembled for the past 53+ years. It prompts us to reflect and recognize all that has been done instead of all that needs to be done.

I thank you, our members, for all that you have given to us which allows us to showcase the wonderful history of our island and share it with visitors from near and far. -Kevin Loftus

*A recent Road Scholar tour participant sits in at the pump organ in the King House for an impromptu performance and a beautiful rendition of the "Song of San Juan." An old time island favorite from the early 1900's.*



### ***Notes from Volunteer Coordinator Diana Mancel***

Your time is valuable, and the Museum knows there are many organizations on the island vying for you to volunteer. Here is what we offer to potential volunteers:

Come talk to us about your vision of volunteering at the Historical Museum - we'll discuss your interests, your available time, and your skillset. Having fun and making a difference are our main goals!

Together, we will match your vision with one (or more) of our projects.

We will meet first to outline the scope of your project, what supplies you need, and how many (if any) additional volunteers you will need.

The Museum belongs to this community, and you will be creating a legacy by volunteering. Your time is valued and appreciated, and you will always have a mentor and a volunteer coordinator to assist you in creating the best possible volunteer experience for you.

#### ***How to volunteer?***

- Come by our Resource Center at 415 Price during administrative hours and visit with us.
- Give us a call at 360-378-3949 and leave a message.
- Email [volunteer@sjmuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@sjmuseum.org) or [museum\\_admin@sjmuseum.org](mailto:museum_admin@sjmuseum.org)

## *Volunteer Project Updates*

***History of Buildings:*** Mike Hansen and his team are ramping up on site visits and further research for this project. We will be contacting owners regarding any history they can contribute, and working with the governmental entities for their records on the buildings as well.

***Digitizing Photos:*** Regina Kammer, Andy Zall and D. K. Hollis have spent the last year working on establishing scanning guidelines, researching existing images and adding a substantial amount of information to the archival image database. This project continues as more photos have been found, and new information has come to light. Soon this group of volunteers will be reaching out to the island community for additional photos for the Museum, by offering Scanning Days. Bring your prints and snaps to the Museum, we will scan them in with your notations on the story they represent and give your treasures back to you the same day. Watch for upcoming dates!

***Museum Tech:*** Alan Roochvarg has worked with the donated computers for the Resource Center to bring the museum technology into the 21st century – no easy task. There are now volunteer stations for at least five people to work at the same

***Ships / Boats of the Island:*** Ron Hansen and his team are continuing their research on the ferry boats that plied the waters around San Juan Island from 1888 to 1920, concentrating on ten specific vessels. This project was one of the most popular ones presented at the Show and Tell program in March and the information uncovered by Ron has been delightful and amazing. Look for another talk soon!

***Landscaping:*** Mo Sloane is ready to highlight some areas of the Museum grounds

for enhancement. Romona Jones continues to weed and prep the existing landscaping, but we can always use more folks to pull on the garden gloves and dig in (literally). Dale Francois has wielded his pressure washer and paint brush to great effect. Over the summer, Rich Norris handled the mowing and trimming of the grounds, with the assistance of Chopper, our robotic lawnmower.

***Archive Records:*** Lynn Weber-Roochvarg has taken on one of the most critical projects at the Museum; the archival and accessioning records. Working from six different sets of records dating over 50 years, Lynn and her team are slowly organizing and updating the accession records. Plenty of volunteer work available on this project!

***Artifact Research and Exhibits:*** Diana Mancel and Kevin Loftus are heading these teams, working on new Jail and King Farmhouse exhibits, and the work on the Museum of History and Industry.

Many of the projects that developed from the 2017 Archival Project, such as a review of artifacts, sorting through ephemera, textiles, books, and the family history collections. currently housed at the Museum. There are many 2-hour projects (begin and end within two hours) for those interested volunteers who just have a bit of time to spare but still want to make a difference.

*Volunteer Dale Francois powers away the grime on a bell near the King Farmhouse. Dale and his pressure washer have made a noticeable difference around the grounds this summer.*



## *My San Juan Historical Museum Volunteer Experience*



*Eleanor, deep in the archives. We are grateful to plant the history bug for her. She has been a great volunteer for the last two years and has helped a great deal. See you next year!*

My name is Eleanor Shippen. I am a high school senior from Nashville, Tennessee and the eldest granddaughter of Pam and King Fitch, longtime Museum members and residents of Friday Harbor. Every year my family and I come from Tennessee to spend the summer on this beautiful island, and for the last two years, I have been dedicating my time to something a little more important than

eating ice cream and beachcombing for sea glass. This is my second year volunteering at the Museum, and out of everything I have noted for my college resume, the experience and opportunities I've had during my time at the Museum have been some of the most influential that I've had.

During my time working under the patient and dedicated volunteer coordinator Diana Mancel and director Kevin Loftus, I have gone from a history nerd just wanting to help

out and get some volunteer hours to someone who is learning the tools of the museum and archival trade and growing into something I've come to love.

Last year I worked with photos of unidentified individuals (we call these UFOs), scanning them and transferring them into books which were distributed around the island in the hopes of identifying a few. This year, I was able to co-create an exhibit with Diana focused on the evolution of technology on the island (coming out this fall). I worked side by side with her, combing through the collection and studying exhibit organization. I was able to propose the exhibit idea to Kevin in addition to conducting research and planning out the exhibit, all of which are vital experiences to have when entering a museum job or history career. I was also able to guide guests and open the Museum a number of times, broadening my experience from behind the scenes to actively representing the Museum.

I greatly appreciate the opportunities that were given to me! I have learned so much about how to run a museum, create an exhibit, and provide a service to a community. I have seen that there's nothing a little elbow grease can't do, and that a museum isn't a museum unless it's got local heart.

### ***MHI farming exhibit commences***

Work has already started on the farming wing of the MHI and will continue through the end of the year. Big changes are in store as we tell the story of San Juan Island's farming heritage. This project is very exciting as there is much to tell and we have many artifacts to back up and illustrate the extensive agricultural history.

Funding is in place to begin and we will need additional funds to complete the project which will fill the largest exhibit area of the

MHI. We also need stories and personal recollections of the glory years of farming on the island. If you would like to help monetarily or otherwise, please let us know.

We continue to add content to the Lime and Logging wings and the lights on the map of the island located in the Atrium have been a big hit this summer. Thank you to all donors to the MHI who are helping to bring this part of our island history to life.

## *New exhibit coming: Now and Then*

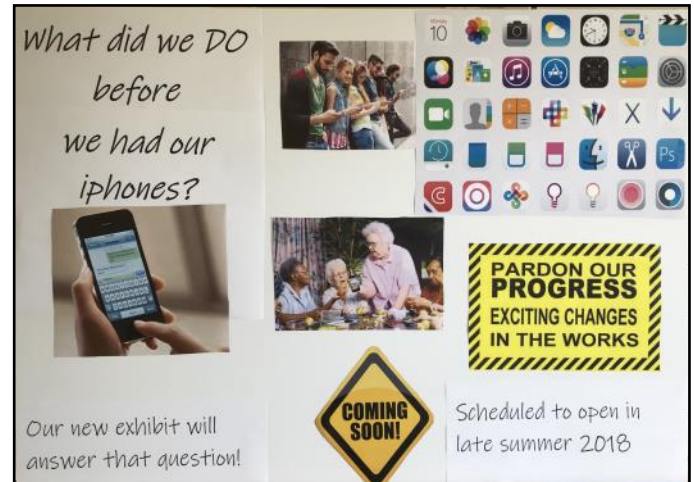
Touch an icon on your iPhone and suddenly you can take a photo, listen to music, find out what time it is, what day it is, compose a note that includes that photo you just took and send it to a friend, check your bank balance, do some math, check on the answer to a trivia question, or watch a movie. That is the Now portion.

But back “Then” the photo involved a separate piece of equipment, you had to contact your friend via the mail or telegram, you used a pen or pencil and wrote cursive for this communication, you went to a movie theater to view a film, and if you wanted to make a call, you had to find a phone that was plugged in somewhere to do so.

“Now and Then” is a new exhibit in the King Farmhouse for those of us who remember the “Then” while we are struggling to embrace the “Now”, and for giving us a method to explain “then” to the “Nows” in our group.

The Museum has chosen eight sets of icons, and using the Museum’s artifacts, arranged the physical objects that were once utilized to accomplish the task that Now happens with an icon engagement on your cell phone.

The exhibit is scheduled to open this fall. Watch for announcements!



## *From the collection*



To commemorate the nation’s 200th birthday, Islanders prepared a book of the History of Friday Harbor, in 1976. The contents were mostly typewritten

accounts by the island’s churches, clubs, organizations, government, schools, and parks. Mrs. Neva (Roy) Durhack accepted the monumental task of putting this book together, and someone created a carved wooden binder for the collection.

This is fascinating reading; there are records

within these pages of how clubs were started, the history of the County Fair, the Golf Club, and of clubs and organizations no longer in operation (Degree of Honor, Photo Club, etc.). This slice of history is now 42 years old, and has never been updated.

If anyone would like to read their organization’s entry and update it, contact us! We could work towards a new issue for 2021 and entitle it Friday Harbor, Volume II, 45 years later!

This book is composed of the History of approximately 50 organizations that have been instrumental in making Friday Harbor the town it is up to this Bicentennial Year of 1976.

It was compiled by the Bicentennial Chairperson, Mrs. Roy (Neva) Durhack that each organization may research and enjoy their History and that it be chronicled for the pleasure of those who follow and take pride in their past achievements.

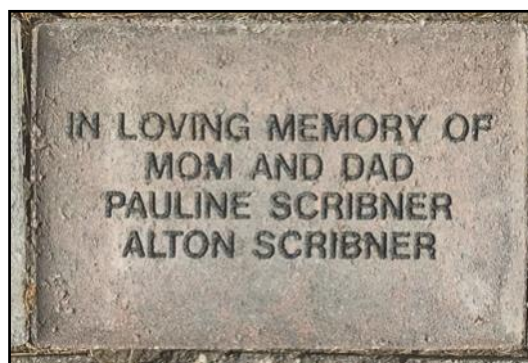
### *Trivia from the archives*

- 1st San Juan County Fair was held October of 1921 in the San Juan Cannery Building. 1st carnival with rides was 1927. 1930 had the first fireworks, 1955 had the first Fair Queen contest, and during the 1948 Fair, islanders received free X-rays!
- In 1941, the local Commercial Club wrote a letter to the Bremerton Navy Yard suggesting the San Juan Islands would be a suitable Dirigible Base.
- 1st person to be injured in San Juan County by an automobile was Wilbur Washburn, who was run over by a Model T. He lived to tell about it!
- On April 22, 1947, CBS National radio aired a program called “Lantern in the Dark” which told the story of Ms. Elsie Scott, an early San Juan County Public Health Nurse.
- In September 1964, the San Juan Motor Company heralded the arrival of Chevrolet’s long, strong line of “workpower” trucks for 1965.
- In 1972, the roof was replaced on the James King Farmhouse, for the total cost of \$600.00. **Editors note: We need a new one!**
- Ferry cost for car and driver in 1988: \$19

### *Buy a brick and pave the way to the MHI*

Pave the way to the completion of the MHI. By purchasing a brick for \$250 you will support the continuing development of the MHI. Do it for yourself, your family or as a memorial to a loved one. Sixteen bricks have been installed and more are on the way and yours could be one of them!

We make it easy for you. Please visit our website, [sjmuseum.org](http://sjmuseum.org) and go to the link where you can personalize and purchase your brick all in one place. You have up to 4 lines with 20 characters per line to craft the message you wish and get us further to the MHI finish line.



**Purchase a Commemorative Brick and help Pave the Way to the MHI**

For a donation of \$250 you can be a sponsor of the San Juan Island Museum of History & Industry (MHI). Your custom engraved 6” x 9” brick paver will be placed outside the entrance area of the MHI.

## ***New and Renewing Members and Donations***

*Since last newsletter publication 6.1.2018  
Many thanks for your support and generosity!*

Thomas & Laura Little  
Stephanie Shippen & Family  
Patrick & Marti Hughes  
Andy Zall  
Nancy Lindenberg  
Sonya Arend Flaherty  
Carole Sue Conran  
Arne & Judy Bentzen

Leonie Griswold  
Robert Guard  
David & Bert Moorhouse  
Peter Dardinelli  
Jeanie Garrett  
Alan & Lynn Weber-Roochvarg  
Diana Mancel & Rich Norris  
Dale Francois

## ***Memorial donations***

**Richard & Veronica Inman**  
Patrick & Marti Hughes

**Lois Hammond Jackson Gallenger**  
Kathleen (Jackson) Pugh

**Etta Egeland, Juanita & Wilfred Rouleau**  
Ed & Barbara Rouleau

**Alton, Zepher & Larry Boyce**  
Caron Boyce—Touliatos

## ***MHI Contributors***

Anonymous

Jim Boyce

James & Linda Bergquist

## ***Current Business Members***

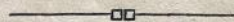
*Kings Market*  
*San Juan Interiors*  
*Islanders Insurance*  
*Friday Harbor Suites*  
*M&W Auto Sales & Rentals*  
*God's Pocket Photography*  
*Barnyard Farm Supply/*  
*Horshu Ranch*  
*Benedict Restoration & Repair*

*Store More Storage*  
*Harbor Lands, LP*  
*R&R Accounting*  
*Ernie's Cafe*  
*Homestead Mobile Home Park*  
*Harbor Rental & Saw Shop*  
*San Juan Pest Control*  
*San Juan Safaris*  
*Animal Inn & Wellness Center*

## ***Wise words from the past...***

### ***"A GOOD NAME***

*Is rather to be desired  
than great riches"*



**The San Juan County Bank**

FRIDAY HARBOR, WASH.

### ***A Dangerous Doctrine***

*"Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we  
may die."*

*This is poor logic, for a full stomach today  
will not satisfy tomorrow's hunger. Practice  
some self-denial for future ease and comfort.*

*Habitual savers can never be poor.*



**The San Juan County Bank**

FRIDAY HARBOR, WASH.

**San Juan Historical Society & Museum**

P. O. Box 441  
323 & 405 Price St.  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
360-378-3949  
sjmuseum.org  
museum\_admin@sjmuseum.org

**Board of Trustees**

Robin Jacobson,  
*President*  
Diana Mancel,  
*Vice President*  
Christine Minney,  
*Treasurer*  
Leslie Baker  
*Recording Secretary*

Mary Jane Anderson  
Mary Jo Bolte  
Romona Jones  
Paula Sundstrom  
Mike Vouri

**Legal Counsel**

Carla J. Higginson

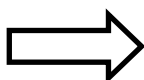
**Staff**

Kevin Loftus,  
Executive Director

Address service requested



Check mailing label for membership renewal date



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Friday Harbor  
WA 98250  
PERMIT NO. 18

*The Museum is a recipient of grant funding from San Juan County lodging tax funds. Proceeds derived from this grant help to defray a portion of operating expenses. 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.*

Please detach this form at dotted line and return with your donation today. Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Yearly membership contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (amount of your choosing)

Additional contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the developing SJI Museum of History and Industry (MHI)

**Please make checks payable to San Juan Historical Society, PO Box 441, Friday Harbor, WA 98250**

**The San Juan Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**