



The Orcas Islander

Newsletter of the Orcas Island Historical Society - Fall 2009

"We educate, inspire, connect and involve our community and visitors as stewards of island history."

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER

Make sure to mark your calendars for our annual Membership Dinner and Holiday Party. The event will be held on Monday, December 7th in the Camp Orkila Lodge. Invitations will be sent out with complete information. There is limited space so please let us know if you are interested. We hope to see you there!

NATIVE AMERICAN COLLECTION

The Museum's Native American collection is undergoing professional study this fall. Stephanie Jolivet, a PhD Candidate at the University of Washington, and part-time employee of the Burke Museum, is majoring in the Archaeology of the San Juans. Coming to Orcas to help organize the collection falls well within the interests of the Burke, Jolivet, and the Museum. Teamed up with Edrie Vinson, then Vice President, Kay Clark and Heather Wallace, the entire collection has been inventoried and photographed, and Society donation records have been matched up with the items. The bulk of this work was on the Tracy Bang Collection, and the Ethan Allen Collection, as well as a number of other donors. The team began work on this collection to fulfill a legal requirement to inventory and post notice of any items that would fall under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Museums that have received federal funds are required to do the inventory and report the results. The Save America's Treasures Grant the museum received to build the new collections storage area made this work necessary, and is also paying for Jolivet's work. "It is a win-win situation for us", Vinson said, "and for the tribes as well." Jolivet's connection with the Burke Museum allows her to seek expertise in many sub-fields of artifacts, including baskets, pottery, stone tools, and lithics. "Having Stephanie is like having a whole staff come help us," says Kay Clark, who has found great pleasure in working with this team. Also volunteering expertise in this endeavor is Norn Exton, fueling his life long passion and interest in Native American lifeways. Thanks to all who have

helped pull this project together. A final report is due next spring, and all the information will be ready to enter into the new PastPerfect software program.



University of Washington PhD Candidate, Stephanie Jolivet at the Artifacts ID Day.



This beautiful hand-crafted bench was donated to the museum in honor of Helen McGuigan, a long-time OIHM supporter. The bench was made by Sam Parish.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Volunteers make the world go around....at least so far as our museum is concerned! We've had another very successful exhibit season, thanks to the volunteers who planted and groomed our grounds, built our wonderful split-rail cedar fence, manned the desk all the days we were open, and worked on our exhibits and collection archives. Despite the budget challenges that forced us to work without professional staff, our admissions numbers compete very favorably with previous years, and our exhibits have attracted a lot of interest in the community. So much so, in fact, that this year the Board

of Directors has decided that the Museum should remain open all year. Entertaining tourists and visitors to our island paradise is an enjoyable part of the museum mission, but our true allegiance is to our island community. The best way for us to connect with our community is for us to remain open and accessible for our students, our seniors, and the rest of us who are interested in and fascinated by Orcas Island history, so the board decided we should break with tradition and remain open. This will give us a great opportunity to explore our archives, research family and friends, work on school

projects and otherwise enjoy the wonderful resource history has given us in our absolutely unique Orcas Island Historical Museum. Come join us, enjoy our heated new administration building, and discover why our history is such an interesting and entrancing story....and you're a part of it! Become a museum volunteer, and make our world go around!

Tom Welch

President

MEET OUR NEW INTERN

-IRIS PARKER PAVITT-



Iris Parker Pavitt working on the Oral History Project.

The museum is happy to introduce our newest intern, Iris Parker Pavitt. Iris is currently a Junior in High School and comes to the museum with outstanding recommendations from community members and teachers alike. She is involved in theater, the Key Club, Farm-to-cafeteria meals, the Environmental Club, the European History Travel Club, and many more community activities. Iris will be assisting with exhibits, office work and many more areas of the museum and we are especially excited for her to help restart the Oral History Project.

CALLING ALL LONG-TIME ISLANDERS

We need your help identifying people in photos! If you are interested in assisting our staff with photo identification please contact us by phone or email. Thanks!

WISH LIST

Donor funds for a 3-year lease for one Savin black/white and color printer, copier and scanner with a direct email function. **\$235.85/month or \$8,490.60 for the entire 3-year lease.**

The History of the ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

"In the '50's a University of Washington Professor, Henry A. Persons, supervised an oral history project involving a student who collected reminiscences from Orcas old-timers.

In the late '70's, Tim Ransom and Marcia Spees interviewed and photographed some Orcas elders and mounted a small exhibit which furthered interest and paved the way for Terri Gudgell Mason's work as project manager during the 1980's. Over the years other individuals, including Margaret Philbrick, Ann Roberts Lister and Debra Madan, added to the archive of recorded interviews. Several Orcas teachers, such as Terry Hopkins and Tish Knapp, assigned students to interview their elders. In 1997 Didier Gincig picked up the torch. His vision included a program that would involve high school students as interviewers and photographers, leading to an eventual exhibit. With the assistance of Tim White, Didier obtained a grant from the Washington Commission for the Humanities to help fund a small exhibit and a series of related public events involving the community in a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural significance of our island community life.

[In] March 1998, Antoinette Botsford [began as] Project Director. She and Jen Vollmer, [one of our previous Curators], developed excerpts from the transcripts of previously recorded oral histories, prepared notebooks for representative families (including photographs and memorabilia), and [oversaw] the ongoing program of interviewing and photographing Orcas elders."

-Excerpt from our Oral History Project Manual.

How you can help with the Oral History Project

- Help interview people
- Nominate someone to be interviewed
- Provide financial assistance
- Transcribe recorded interviews

FARE THEE WELL



Jan Zehner

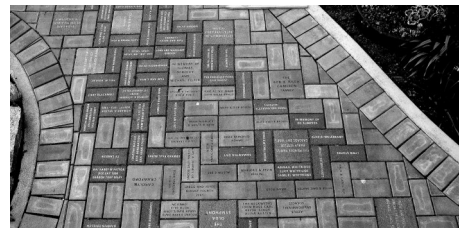


Edrie Vinson

It is with great sadness that the Orcas Island Historical Society says goodbye to former Treasurer, Jan Zehner. An avid skier, Jan is headed for the slopes in Utah where he will make his new home. Jan will be missed around the museum as well as around the community, always volunteering in one capacity or another by helping out at events, acting as docent, or assisting with exhibits. Jan has been a great supporter of the board members, and his care and advice will definitely be missed. We are thankful for all the years of service, and wish him well in his new adventure. We also say goodbye to Edrie Vinson, former Vice-President, who has given up on retirement in this economic climate and is taking a job with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation, where she will return to her field of Environmental Project Manager. She is keeping her ties with the island, and hopes to return in a few years, and again serve as volunteer at the museum, working especially in the collections. The departure of Board of Trustees means there are important seats to fill to keep the Museum under good direction. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please notify Heather Wallace. We need strong leaders to keep the museum going! Join us!

Purchase a Commemorative Brick!

Your personalized brick will be installed in our walkway entrance in front of the museum. Get your name, your dog's name, your favorite quote or memorial message out there today! Please mail your payment and this form back to the museum at: P.O. Box 134, Eastsound, WA 98245. MC and VISA accepted. A great Holiday gift idea!



Name of Person Placing Order: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

MC or VISA #: _____ Exp: _____ 3-digit code: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ **Check #:** _____ **Make checks payable to:** *Orcas Island Historical Museum*

Is this a gift? Please provide us with the recipient's name and mailing address for notification:

Recipient's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

4 x 8 Brick: Up to 4 lines - \$50.00 donation

8 x 8 Brick: Up to 4 lines- \$100.00 donation

5 or 6 lines - \$125.00 donation

15 characters per line maximum. Spaces between words and punctuation need to be included in the 15-character count. Words will be centered and in upper case letters on the actual brick.

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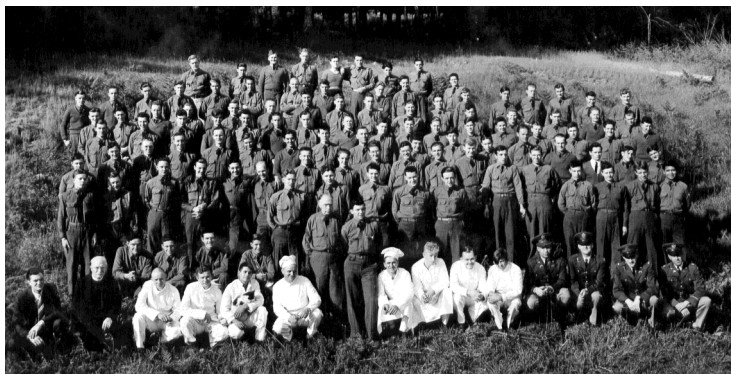
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orcasmuseum@rockisland.com*

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS COLLECTION

Elizabeth Green, writer and publisher of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) history, recently visited the museum and was amazed to find our extensive CCC collection. Green, visiting from Bayfield, CO, is writing about the CCC Camp in Durango. This year, she informed us, a national convention of researchers and writers of CCC history will be gathering in Denver for their annual meeting. According to her, the economy has boosted interest in CCC research, and many people are getting involved in it. She encouraged us to find someone to write and publish the information in our collection, and promised to tell the conference attendees about the depth of our holdings. This subject matter is of local relevance, as well as national interest. If you have a love for island history and a talent for writing please contact the museum to talk about this opportunity.



1937 Civilian Conservation Corps group photo

Annual
Membership Dinner
Monday, December 7th

Become a Fan of the
Museum today! Get
updates and events
sent directly to your
Facebook account.

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