



The Orcas Islander

Newsletter of the Orcas Island Historical Society - Summer 2012

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

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Coming Soon...

History Matinee ~ Trudy Irwin
 Sunday September 16th
 Orcas Senior Center - 3pm
 By donation at the Door

MUSEUM HOURS Summer Season

open Wednesday thru Sunday
 11am to 4pm

OIHM Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 11am to 4pm



A familiar sight along Crow Valley Road just across from the entrance to Coffelt Farm, the rehabilitated apple barn, now owned by William Perry, was originally built by William B. Hambly in 1890, and was one of two identical barns built across the road from each other. This structure will be one of seven barns included on our Historic Barns Tour coming up this fall on Oct. 13th and 14th. This painting, and eleven more barn illustrations rendered by Ray McBride from '84 thru '87, will comprise our 2013 calendar, which can be pre-ordered now by calling the Museum office at 376-4849. See "Historic Barns Tour" on page 3 for more information.

PRESIDENTS CORNER:

This is being written at the close of July, a very busy, successful and eventful month for our museum. As many of you know I am the new Board President, serving out the remainder of **Bill Buchan's** second term. We all owe Bill a huge debt of gratitude for the work he has done for the last two years. He acted as the Museum Director and Board President during his two terms. Today our museum is in great shape: membership is up, and our finances are stable and strong. In recent months Bill led a successful pledge drive that resulted in the hiring of our new Director, **Douglas Brewer**, who will be starting work Monday, August 20th. For those who haven't met him yet, we are planning a "Meet the Director" get together on **Thursday August 30th, from 4 to 6pm** at the museum. It is open to all so please plan on

attending to get to know our new leader. He has some exciting ideas for our museum which he'll be happy to discuss with you in person. We will be reaching out to the community in the months ahead to get *your* ideas so we can lay out goals and plans for an exciting future. ~ For those of you who were involved as helpers with the events of the July 4th week, you know "very busy" is an understatement of the first order. For those who attended the 'Festival of the Fourth' on Wednesday and 'Historical Day' on Saturday, you know "successful" is also an understatement. Please peruse the colored insert in this newsletter to see all the folks we are attempting to thank. They are all our neighbors who are proud of this country, our island home and it's history, and they deserve our genuine thanks for a great effort.

Carl Twentier, Board President



September History Matinee: Trudy Erwin

Come join the discussion for our next in a series called **History Matinee** where an island "old-timer" is invited to tell stories and answer questions about Orcas Island in days gone by. Beloved Orcas potter **Trudy Irwin** is 89 years young and is still throwing pots and playing piano. Her mother, **Julia Crandall**, bought **Orcas Island Pottery** in 1953 which began a 3 generation odyssey that continues to this day in the capable hands of Trudy's daughter **Syd Exton**. Admission is always by donation at the door. Join us: **Orcas Senior Center, from 3 to 5pm, on Sunday Sept. 16th.** Please note: **there will be no History Matinee in August.** ...

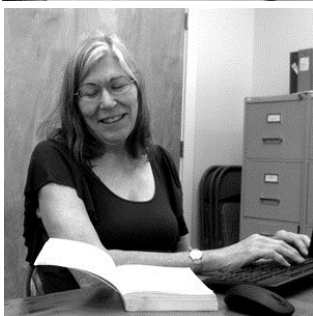
Lorraine McConaghy to speak on WA Territory during Civil War era

As noted above, in lieu of our regularly scheduled History Matinee, in the month of August the Orcas Museum will sponsor public historian **Lorraine McConaghy** to speak on Friday night **August 24th, from 7-9pm**, in the Luncheon Room of the **Orcas Senior Center**. Her chosen topic will be: **Washington Territory during the Antebellum and Civil War Eras**. As the nation commemorated the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, Ms. McConaghy curated an exhibit called **Blue vs. Gray: Civil War in the Pacific Northwest** which revealed the influences of that conflict as a 'war of issues' in which the political leaders and residents of Washington Territory fully participated. As she is a member of the **Humanities Washington** speakers bureau, this lecture is provided free of charge.

Antiques Evaluation Fair ~ postponed to September 30th

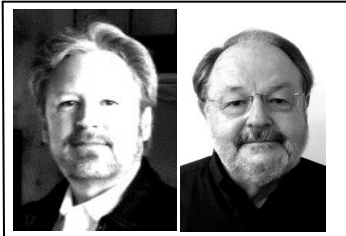
Originally set for Sunday August 5th, our **Antiques Evaluation Fair** has been rescheduled for **Sunday September 30th** to serve more of the local residents in the "slightly off busy" season. Certified Appraiser **Bette Bell** will head up a team of professionals whose affiliations range from **Sotheby's of London** to the **American Quilter's Society**, and she herself specializes in porcelain, glass, silver and textiles. Join us at the **Orcas Grange Hall** at **1pm** to participate in our own version of Antiques Roadshow. Admission: \$10 per item; or \$25 for three items. Please register well ahead of time to give us an estimate as to how many people to expect, and a list of what type of items need to be evaluated. Call the OIHM office at 376-4849.

Volunteers hard at work at OIHM office



We've studied the tutorials for our amazing **Past Perfect museum software** program, and laid the groundwork to invite volunteers to come in and help with our seemingly endless project of digitally indexing our collection. This summer we have been fortunate to have the help of two very capable volunteers for this work: **Terri Vinson** (top left) and **Pegi Groundwater** (bottom left). Terri is the granddaughter of OIHM Archivist **Edrie Vinson** and is studying Cultural History at Evergreen College. Pegi and her husband have retired from careers in corporate law and are in the process of building a home on Orcas Island. As we progress with this project, it will make it increasingly possible for anyone to come in and get an immediate digital readout on any family name or subject related to Orcas history, with information on exactly where to find printed materials, photographs, objects, oral histories, diaries and even videos. Anyone with good typing and computer skills can do this job, and we will always need help in this department. We are also still in need of 'readers' to simply read through some of our non-indexed books on Orcas history and make hand-written notations, so that they can then be digitized by someone else. If you or anyone you know would like to pitch in and give us some of your time for a great cause, please call Edrie at 376-4849 or email her at archivist@orcasmuseum.org.

OIHM Welcomes New Director & New Board President



Douglas Brewer Carl Twentier

It's been a challenging few years not having an actual Director for the Orcas Museum, with our Board President **Bill Buchan** doing many of the tasks that a Director would normally do. Bill is now on a well-deserved and needed vacation, and has accepted the

position of First Vice President on the OIHM Board as our newest Board member **Carl Twentier** takes the lead as President. Carl and his wife Patricia have retired to Orcas after a career in television broadcasting and business. He brings a lively and capable energy to our organization, and in the six months since joining the Board has been largely responsible for the overhaul of our computer system, as well as other managerial structures here at the Museum. Here to finally fill the position of Museum Director is **Douglas Brewer**, moving into his Doe Bay home with his family last month, he brings 18 years experience in museum administration, grant writing, as well as collections and project management. If you haven't met Douglas already, come to our **'Meet Our New Director'** gathering on **Aug. 30th from 4-6pm** here at the museum. We welcome both Douglas and Carl and look forward to an exciting new era for the Orcas Island Historical Museum.

Historic Barns Tour ~ Fall 2012

Mark your calendars now for the weekend of Oct. 13-14th, so you won't miss our Fall fundraiser, the 2012 self-guided Historic Barns Tour. On either or both of these days you'll be able to view seven structures and a special Museum exhibit at your own pace, as well as enjoy demonstrations and activities at each property. Saturday evening will include an old-fashioned Barn Dance with a caller and live music, a silent auction, home-style food, and much more. Watch our website, our Facebook page, Orcas Issues and the Islands Sounder newspaper for more details as the date draws near. See you on the tour!

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

&

A SPECIAL INVITATION

We have so many people to thank for so many things that we decided to print a special insert for this purpose. Please see the gold insert and don't forget to peruse the reverse side for a revised list of volunteer opportunities. **And . . . you're invited Friday evening October 19th** at 4pm to attend our end-of-season **Volunteer Appreciation Party**. All volunteers, members and friends of the Orcas Museum are invited and encouraged to bring friends to view the Museum at no admission charge, and to join in the festivities including live music, finger food and refreshments. Hope to see you there! ~ ~ ~ We are deeply indebted to our former **OIHM Board President Bill Buchan** for countless hours he put in, all on a volunteer basis, wearing two hats as both President and acting Director over the past two-plus years. The Museum is now in the midst of a significant financial recovery compared to a few years ago, thanks to Bill's vigilance and good management, and he has seen us through a number of extremely challenging and rewarding projects. Thank you Bill for your hard work & contributions!

IN MEMORY OF . . .

We very much appreciate all the donations made to OIHM in memory of **Arthur Reddick**. Thank you to: **Marilyn Brandt, Bill & Sharon Hamblin, Marilyn Horn, Robert & Robin Tiehen, Ed McCarroll, Cal McLachlan, Patricia Roberts, and Irene Vandersluys**. And a big thank you to **Sarah Geiser** for her donation to the **Building Our Future Fund** (to help provide for our new Director's salary) in memory of **Ilene Hansen**.

Welcome New Members

- ◆ *Rich & Gloria LaValle*
- ◆ *Abby Ruel*
- ◆ *Bob & Meg Connor*
- ◆ *Jennifer Johnson Fralick*

Orcas Island Historical Society & Museum

P.O. Box 134
181 Northbeach Road
Eastsound, WA 98245

Phone: 360-376-4849
e-mail: orcasmuseum@rockisland.com
website: www.orcasmuseum.org

2012 Board of Directors

Carl Twentier, President
Bill Buchan, First Vice President
Judi Watson, Second Vice President
Maggie Vinson, Treasurer
Denise Wilk, Secretary
Anthony Ayer
Jean Dickerson
James Lobdell
Ron Montgomery
Edrie Vinson
John Willis

Staff

Edrie Vinson ~ Archivist
Eirena Birkenfeld ~ Office Administrator

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The Orcas Museum is now on FACEBOOK Become a fan and stay current with up-to-the-minute news and information!

The museum is a recipient of Hotel/Motel Tax dollars. Many thanks to San Juan County, the Islands Lodging Industry and Lodging guests for their very generous support.

Sign Up Now for Cruise Into History Boat Tour


Tickets go fast for the ever-popular **Cruise Into History Tour**, a four and a half hour narrated tour around Orcas Island, aboard the very comfortable and accommodating **56' Orcas Express**. Lunch and refreshments are provided. All proceeds are given to OIHM by **Orcas Island Eclipse Charters**. Sunday Sept. 9th, from 1- 5:30pm, leaving from Orcas ferry dock and circling Orcas Island. Price:\$99 per person. Call **Denise Wilk** at 376-6566. . .



See You At the Library Fair

Come check out our booth as part of the Library Fair on Saturday August 11th at the Eastsound Village Green to help support the Orcas Museum in any number of ways: you could purchase a book on Orcas history, or buy a few raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt which is now on display at our front desk (and *will be* on display in our booth), or you could purchase an engraved brick to commemorate a business or loved one in our Museum entrance

walkway. If you are not already a member of the Orcas Island Historical Society & Museum, be sure to peruse the various membership levels that are available ranging from an annual payment of \$15 and up. The extremely realistic cast of our 14,000 year old *Bison Antiquus* skull will be on display along with it's very interesting story. All of these things can be seen on our website at orcasmuseum.org, but we'd still love to see and visit with you!



We are GRATEFUL
To ALL of our Valuable
Volunteers & Contributors !!

Orcas Museum & Crow Valley School Greeters

Margot Shaw, Doug Pearson, Mike Douglas, Marta Nielson, Irene O'Neil, Wally Morgan, Carol Kulminski, Susan Fletcher, George Garrels, Joyce Pearson, Dorothy Cwak, Betty Marcum, Dorothy Lundquist, Bruce VanNoy, James Lobdell, Neil & Ann Hawkins, Pegi Groundwater, Michael Moss, Barbara Born, Sandy Huie, Ingrid Karnikis, Ann Waltersdorph, Judy Turksel, Lynn & Glenna Richards, Marj Franke, John Willis, Margaret Alic, Ron Montgomery, Velma Doty, Robyn Lowe, Bill Buchan, Carl Twentier, and Bill Hagen.

Festival of the Fourth

Tom Miuro, Michel Marshall & the Orcas Island Chamber of Commerce, Leslie & Don Seaman, James Lobdell, Neil & Ann Hawkins, Peter Stock, John Fleischer, Bill Buchan, Carl Twentier, Denise & Dan Wilk, Jean Dickerson, John Willis, Edrie Vinson . . . a VERY BIG thank you to the Harvey Family and employees of Harvey Logging LLC, and also all the speakers, singers and vendors who made the day unique.

Historical Day Fair & Parade

again James Lobdell, John Willis, Leslie & Don Seaman, Denise & Dan Wilk, as well as Donna & Quinn Wildman-Gossett, Mark Shantini, Clay, Tina Roye, Terry Lundgren, Ed Cunningham, Nancy Jones, Bobbie Berdan & the Berdan Boys, quilt-makers Betty Marcum & Dorothy Lundquist, Michael Budnick of Northwest Concepts and the Helsell family at Turtlehead Trails.

Orcas Museum Pie Booth at the Historical Day Fair

Dixie Walmsley for expertly co-ordinating this booth, and all the booth helpers: Barbara Jamieson, Terrill Kaplan, Barbara Born, Iris Parker-Pavitt and Iris's friend, June West, Eirena Birkenfeld, Peter Stock, Peg Manning, Ann Waltersdorph, Tina Roye, Carolyn Wayland, David & Geri Turnoy, Kathy Alicea and the 64 talented cooks who contributed wonderful home-made pies & goodies. Also a BIG thank you to Island Market for supplying the vanilla ice cream, and Lopez Island Creamery for donating the luscious Lemon Drop sorbet.

History Readers & Digitization Projects

Gerry Van Gohren, Rebecca Frisino, Linda Tretheway, Irene O'Neil, Betty Jean Densmore, Dorothy Lorda, Terri Vinson, Pegi Groundwater and Joyce Pearson.

Family History Researchers & Consultants

Edrie Vinson, Joanne Johnston, Virginia Jensen & Jane Barfoot-Hodde

Collections Committee & Consultants

Judi Watson (Chair), Debra Madan, Tom Tillman, Bob Kimple, Bill Perry, Irene O'Neil, Tom Welch, Chris Dickerson, John Fleischer, Steve Kastelitz, John Willis, Edrie Vinson, Virginia Jensen, Norm Exton, Leith Templin, Heidi Hudlet.

Historic Barns Tour Committee & Consultants

Margot Shaw (Chair), Denise Wilk, Bill Buchan, Boyd Pratt, Harold Lentzner, Edrie Vinson, Eirena Birkenfeld, Douglas Brewer, Charles Toxey, Carl Twentier, Jeanne Morris.

Buildings & Grounds

James Lobdell, Peter Stock, Jean Dickerson & Jean's phantom midnight gardeners.





Ongoing & Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Front Desk Greeter

Greet visitors to the museum, accept admission fees, process store sales, provide museum and community information. This involves commitments of two and a half hour shifts, either from 11am to 1:30 pm, or from 1:30 to 4pm. During this summer season we have been open only five days a week, due to volunteer shortage. Please help us stay open on our normal season schedule by offering to put in some hours. Training is provided of course!

Events

From our monthly History Matinees to special gatherings, lectures & season parties We always need help setting up and cleaning up afterward, as well as sound or video operation, donations of finger food and beverages or other logistical help such as offering to provide accommodations for a visiting speaker.

Crow Valley School Museum

Be a greeter at our one-room schoolhouse museum! Located near the north trailhead of Turtleback Mountain, this museum is set up to showcase all the first schools in San Juan County. This volunteer position is a unique & fun experience. We also welcome help with maintenance and seasonal cleanup both inside and out.

Indexing & Digitization

Help Orcas Museum enter the information age by typing in data from our old hand-written collection records, so future researchers can find what they need in a snap. Luddites and computer-free volunteers can help us by reading non-indexed books on Orcas history and keep a hand-written tally of who, what, when and where.

Oral History Project

Help us catalog the backlog of oral history recordings that we already have, or choose someone in the community who you'd like to interview. We'll set you up and give you some guidelines.

Administrative Help

Tell us what office skills you have and we'll find a way to have you help with ongoing and special projects.

Building & Grounds

If you're handy with tools and know how stuff works, drop by to take on a small or large project, or change a few lightbulbs, or make our day by fixing something that is broken. If you have green thumbs, you might enjoy contributing to our burgeoning heirloom garden at the front of the museum. In the near future there will be work that needs doing at the rear of the property where a shelter is to be erected to house the antique farm equipment.

Board of Directors

If you are community-minded, have a particular interest in local history, and are able to attend monthly meetings, ask for an application to be on our Board of Directors. Help us steer this organization into the 21st century with wisdom and smarts!

Lifesavers

Pitch in anywhere, any time, for anything! We can put your name on a list of contacts for when the museum needs miscellaneous things done, and you can decide at that point whether you can help with the project we contact you about. Or, just call and ask if there's anything that needs immediate attention. We always appreciate it!

Call or drop by the rear entrance office

Monday through Friday from 11am to 4pm

And let us know how you'd like to help!

