

The History Corner

Orcas Island Historical Museum in
Eastsound, Washington

Olga Resident Remembers Famous 19th Century Showman

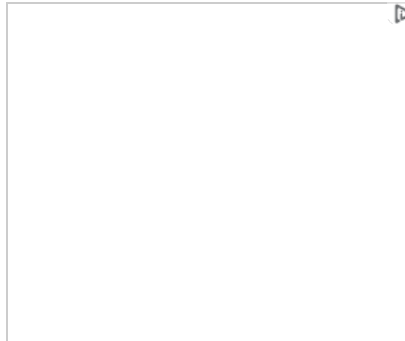
Posted on [April 27, 2011](#)

Doris Boyer lived in the same house in Olga, on Orcas Island, since 1938 until she needed to move to the mainland in her later years. In October of 2003 she was interviewed for our Oral History project. Among the many interesting tales of her early life, she recounted the following story of a train ride taken when she was a young girl of 5 or 6...

“My sister, Lucille (Willis), and I were riding in a Pullman car with our Mother when I became interested in the gentleman seated behind me. As you may know, Pullman car seating was back-to-back; the person seated behind you faced the other way. This gentleman had beautiful white hair, and at the back of his head the hair was gathered up with bobbie pins. I thought this was very unusual, and resolved to remove the bobbie pins, which I proceeded to do to the utter mortification of my Mother.

As Mother began apologizing profusely to the elderly gentleman, who by now had turned to see just who was removing the bobbie pins from his hair, he smiled at me and told her he didn't mind. He had a wonderful smile, and was very friendly to us as he introduced himself and his sister. Later, she took my sister and I to the baggage car, where we examined some of the interesting things they had with them. They made the trip very pleasant for us. I don't recall her name, but the gentleman whose bobbie pins I removed was Mr. William F. Cody, who is still better known as Buffalo Bill.”

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