



May 2015
Volume 1, Issue 1

The Island Historian

The Orcas Island Historical Society Newsletter

FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR'S DESK

CLARK MCABEE

First off I want to thank all our volunteers, our passionate board, our Office Administrator Maggie Vinson, our Volunteer Archivist Edrie Vinson, our past and current high school interns Eric Eagan, Braeden Smith, Lesley Ferrell and university intern Iris Parker-Pavitt for all their dedicated work over the past year. In addition to putting together several exciting exhibits on Orcas Island history, including a permanent James T. Geoghegan exhibit, research, library reorganization, finding aids and collection management they've been jolly good co-workers and inspirations.

Our volunteer greeters at the Pioneer Museum and Crow Valley School helped to increase our annual visitors by 25% over previous years. Our valued volunteer historians who have helped aggregately with hundreds of hours of research over the past year include Virginia Jensen, John Fleischer, Joanne Johnston, Harold Lentzner, Debra Madan, Tom Welch, Margot Shaw and Edrie Vinson. We especially want to thank all our society members and donors whose efforts are instrumental in sustaining our stewardship of Orcas Island's special heritage.

We have been successful with several grants and are currently working on several more to help with improvements for visitor comfort and collection care. We have submitted a National Science Foundation grant in partnership with our Research Associate, well respected paleontologist and Orcas Islander Gerald Grellet-Tinner, PhD. and will submit another one in the next 60 days.

The Smugglers' Blues exhibit subtitled *The Illegal, Immoral & Illicit* on the Salish Sea opens with a gala on Saturday, May 23rd. Since rum running in our region was so rampant during Prohibition this gala will be a Roaring 20's themed costume event. We'll have games of chance, adult beverages, live music and thematic food as well. Imagine for one night the museum transformed into a speakeasy. Indulge your inner flapper, copper or gangster for an evening of fun.

The exhibit itself, will cover the history of smuggling on Orcas and the surrounding area seriously including the sinister human trafficking involving Chinese and opium. Guest curator Iris Parker-Pavitt and I have been researching the exhibit since the fall. Starting in May each of our History Matinees features a speaker or panel on smuggling, human trafficking and bootlegging.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Biddick, President
Michele Wiley, Vice President
Jamie Cier, Treasurer
Bill Buchan, Secretary
Tony Ayer
Bruce Culver
Jean Dickerson
Susan Fletcher
Harold Lentzner
Jerry Smith

STAFF

Clark McAbee
Acting Director/Curator
Maggie Vinson
Museum Administrator/
Volunteer Coordinator

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Smugglers' Blues...	2
Opening Gala	2
President's Letter ..	3
Calendar of Events	4
Crow Valley	6
Volunteer.....	6
Appraisal Fair	7



SEASON OPENING GALA

Calling all guys and dolls, gangsters and molls, dappers and dames! You do not want to miss out on the museums opening season gala, celebrating our newest exhibit THE SMUGGLERS' BLUES- The Illegal, Immoral and Illicit on the Salish Sea. Join us in our museum turned swanky speakeasy for some swell live music, dancing, and themed ritzy cocktails, beer, wine and nifty finger foods.

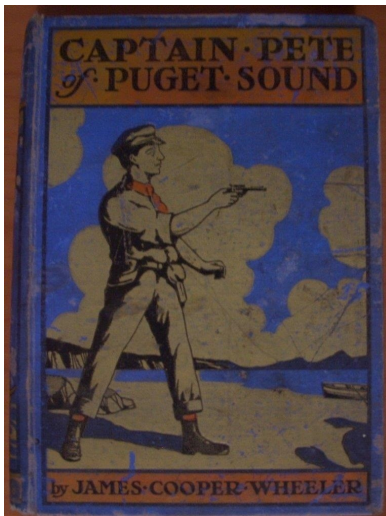
Spend the evening dancing and laughing with us on Saturday, May 23rd from 5:00-10:00pm.

Come in costume or come as you are! Tickets for the event are \$35 for an individual or \$60 for a couple.

Tickets include entry, food, and one signature drink ticket. Tickets can be purchased from the museum offices. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, call Maggie at 360-376-4849

Trust us, you do not want to miss this event. It's going to undoubtedly be the bee's knees!

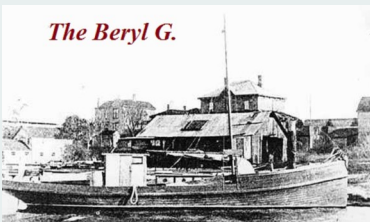
"There are lots of shady character and lots of dirty deals"...



Above: A book acquired by Clark McAbee for the Exhibit.

Below: A photo of the Beryl G. A boat with shrouded in a local smuggling mystery dating back to the turn of the century.

The Beryl G.



SMUGGLERS' BLUES EXHIBIT

This years exhibit THE SMUGGLERS' BLUES-The Illegal, Immoral and Illicit on the Salish Sea, will be open throughout the entire season beginning on the 23rd of May and closing in September when the season ends. Trust us, it is a must see! It will chronicle 150 years of smuggling, law-breaking and law enforcement in the waters surrounding the San Juan Islands.

You will hear stories and see items pertaining to everything from opium smuggling to human trafficking. Stories of log pirates and their confrontations with Puget Sound Log Control. You will learn about local moonshining, U.S. Customs revenue cutters, cigarette smuggling, the efforts of the Coast Guard and local law enforcement, and so much more. The exhibit will feature professional research, graphics, and several unique artifacts on loan from other museums and private parties. Our Curator and Acting Director Clark McAbee will be assisting Orcas Islander and soon to be graduate from Mount Holyoke College, Iris Parker-Pavitt, in curating this exhibit. Thank you, Iris, for your efforts on not only this exhibit but all of the other projects you have generously given your time to. We are so lucky to have you as part of the Orcas Island Historical Society family!

If you have any stories or items that pertain to the exhibit we would love to have you share them with us. Send Clark an email at curator@orcasmuseum.org, or stop by the museum to see him. He is always eager to hear stories about the island and its rich history.

FROM THE PRESIDENT ... JIM BIDDICK

Spring has arrived and with it whole new series of adventures. The Pioneer Museum is abuzz with activities, and Crow Valley School will be getting a face lift. From April 22 till May 16 the museum is going to the birds. In conjunction with this year's Bird Festival we will be hosting an artwork exhibit and invite you to stop by to see the show and maybe purchase a picture.

As we start the 2015 season I want to thank the many volunteers that have given endless hours of service as docents, researchers and those who helped with museum cleanups. Thanks to all of our sponsors for your continued support of the society and for "Keeping Orcas History Alive." A special thanks to the Crow Valley School crew, for their support in putting a new look on Crow Valley School. As you can tell, without the support of volunteers, contributions from our members and donations from our business community, we would not be able to preserve the history of our wonderful island.

If you have never been through the Pioneer Museum or Crow Valley School, this would be the year to do it. The three island museums have started an island passport program. The passport will not only be a keepsake of your visit for the family, but once all three islands have been visited your name will be placed in a drawing for a weekend adventure on the island where you deposit your entry. What's more, every member of the family that gets a passport is eligible to enter the drawing. Visit our website for details and to see the other activities we have planned for the year: orcasmuseums.org.

Always in fundraising mode, I want to tell you about some of the opportunities available to you if you would like to help. Besides direct donations, membership and endowments, we have our yearly activities that help to keep the doors open. On May 23, the staff has put together a gala event entitled "Smugglers' Blues." The event is a kickoff to our summer exhibit and will feature music, finger foods and libations all with a Roaring Twenties theme.

In July we will once again participate in Historical Days. On July 3, the Society will host an "*Antiques Roadshow*" event where we will have professional appraisers to value any of your valuable antiques. We will also be hosting the Harvey Logging Show and, of course, Bill Buchan's famous hot dog stand as well as a beer garden featuring our local Island Hoppin' brewery products. There will also be an opportunity to consign items to our July 4 auction. Also, while you are doing your spring cleaning we are seeking donations for the auction. Call us at 376-4849 for donation information. We will be hosting our annual pie sale on July 4, along with a live and silent auction.

In the fall watch for our Heritage Harvest Feast. Last year's event was held at Red Rabbit Farm and featured members of the local Northwest Tribes. A big thank you to Christina and Bruce Orchid for their support of this event, and please visit Christina at the Saturday Farmers Market to purchase her produce and homemade goods.

My last plea is to ask you to volunteer to help us. Become a docent at either the Pioneer Museum or Crow Valley School. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn about the history of your island. We are always looking for help with research, general office help and ongoing activities. To find out about the opportunities to get involved please contact Maggie Vinson at 376-4849. And, like a kid in college – mom, please send money to help keep the doors open!!!!



2014 Pen Pal Exchange
Participants

2015 Calendar of Events for the

3rd Sunday of every month:

Excluding July

Monthly History Matinees

See full calendar for details



May 29

Smugglers
In

**3rd Wednesday of every
month:**

OIHM Book Club Meetings.

Everyone welcome. For more information
please contact Maggie.

July 3rd 11:00am-3:00pm:

Historical Days & Antique
Appraisal Fair

Plus the Harvey Logging Show



Fall Event (Date TBD):

Heritage Harvest Feast

Hosted by Red Rabbit Farm

Orcas Island Historical Society

3rd-September 31st:

Smugglers' Blues-The Illegal,
Immoral & Illicit on
the Salish Sea

May 23rd 5:00-10:00pm:

Smugglers' Blues: Season
Opening Gala



July 4th 10:00am-3:00pm

Annual Pie Booth
&
Live & Silent Auction

December 14:

Annual Meeting
& Potluck

Time & Location : TBD



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

MAGGIE VINSON

Our volunteers are the fuel that keeps our society running. Whether you volunteer at the front desk and greet visitors, work in our gardens, assist with research or exhibits, or help with events, you are an integral and precious part of our team.

The Board of Directors and staff join me in thanking you for all of your amazing and generous contributions. Your time and talents are irreplaceable, and we hope that you enjoy your time here with us as much as we enjoy having you.

If you are looking for a new volunteer opportunity, please consider volunteering for the Orcas Island Historical Society. We are always looking for volunteers, and there are so many opportunities available to those that are interested.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Docents for both the Pioneer Museum & Crow Valley School
- Collections Committee
- Exhibit Setup
- Gardening
- Office Help/Data Entry
- Researchers
- Event help

If you are interested in volunteering in any way please do not hesitate to contact me:

by phone: 360-376-4849

or through email at

info@orcasmuseums.org.

CROW VALLEY SCHOOL

We are looking forward to another successful season at Crow Valley School. This year's cleanup will be May 16th from 10am to noon. Bring a rake and clippers if you have them as well as work gloves. Please note our operating days this year are Friday and Saturday. This year we have plans to do some minor repairs to the exterior, a light pressure washing then applying a new coat of paint, to put the school well on her way to staying open for another 127 years! We are also looking forward to our "School Daze" event that will be held at the school hosted, by Rebecca Johnson and her team of knowledgeable docents. The event will feature period costumes, vintage teaching techniques and lots of fun activities, including "Butter Me Up!" in which each

student will learn how to make butter on site the old fashioned way. For news, the volunteer calendar and other updates see our orcasmuseums.org website.

If you are planning on attending our cleanup please let us know. You can call us at the museum or email Clark at curator@orcasmuseum.org. Thanks!



CALL FOR AUCTION ITEMS

This years live and silent auctions will be held on the 4th of July on the Eastsound Village green after the annual 4th of July parade.



If you have any items you would like to donated to the museum to be auctioned off we would love to have them.

Bring your antiques into the Appraisal Fair the day before. If you get them appraised and would like to sell them we will auction them off for you for a commission. For information call Maggie the in museum office.

JULY 4TH PIE BOOTH

That's right ladies and gentleman-it is that time of year again. We are definitely gearing up for the Fourth of July festivities, and we are sending out a call to all of the pie bakers we know out there. This year's booth will include a variety of fruit and berry pies. If you are willing to donate a pie to our cause please give Maggie a call at 360-376-4849 to be added to the list of pie bakers.

Our annual pie booth will be open throughout the farmers' market on July 4th. If you aren't a baker but enjoy pie, please stop by the booth and purchase a piece to support the society!



ANNUAL HISTORICAL DAYS & APPRAISAL FAIR

Join us this year for our annual Historical Days Fair, with a twist. This year will feature not only our annual festivities including the always fun Harvey Family Logging Show, our delicious hot dog stand and games for all ages, but also the addition of “Antiques Roads Show” inspired appraisal fair.

So gather your collectibles, jewelry, glass, porcelain, silver, works of art, furniture, vintage clothing, tools, toys or equipment, and make an appointment to bring in your family treasures or attic finds, to be appraised by one of four certified appraiser from Guildmark Appraisal & Estate Sales Services, LLC in Seattle.

For more information about appointments or related fees please call Maggie in the Museum office or email your inquiries to info@orcasmuseums.org.

We are in need of a number of volunteers on the day. Sign up to volunteer for the day and get a discount on your appraisals.



“Think about how a nostalgic a school bench replica can be. One can sit at a desk and drift back to the days of ‘Readin’, writin’, and ‘Rithmetic...”

CURATORS CORNER BY CLARK MCABEE

There are many rules and conventions concerning collection care, which is the process of registering, cataloging, archiving, preserving, and restoring the objects or the artifacts that make up the collection of a museum. Objects can be made up of many different materials, or combinations of materials, that often require very different conservation and preservation techniques.

Our Orcas Island Historical Museums (Pioneer Museum in Eastsound and the Crow Valley School) are filled with objects from our collection. Crow Valley School features a dozen oil lamp reflectors, only one of which is original to the building; the remaining reflectors are recreations in mirrored glass. A replica can be made of modern materials like our resin bison antiquus skull or the aforementioned glass lamp reflectors. The use of replicas allows the public access to the object, and sometimes even the function of an object, but protects the original from damage.

Think about how nostalgic a school bench replica can be. One can sit at a desk and drift back to the days of “Readin’, Writin’, and ‘Rithmetic” just like it was at the turn of the century. How much more evocative is it, however, if a child can sit at the original desk that her great-grandmother sat at 100 years ago? The downside of immediate access to original objects or artifacts is wear, tear and possible breakage. Replica resin bones can be touched. Original bones should not be! Originals are unique and have inestimable intrinsic value for many reasons, not the least of which is simply surviving the ravages of time.

Large items often have all the same collection care responsibilities of smaller items but can be astounding in their size. For instance Crow Valley School and the cabins that makes up the

Eastsound Pioneer Museum. Large objects, such as Crow Valley School are exposed to the elements all the time. Saving large objects presents both big challenges and opportunities. They are physical representations of materials, construction techniques and the craftsmanship of a specific point in time.

One such object is our South Orcas Skiff. Approaching its centennial in a decade or so, it is a handcrafted, all wood, 14-foot fishing skiff that was built here on Orcas, and was just recently donated to the museum. We hope that we can save this utilitarian but unique large artifact. Why should we save it? What is the story of the skiff? Where will we put it? Does it float? Who will restore it and where will we display it? These are logical and necessary questions a board, staff and even volunteers might ask when considering taking on such a large object as a project. Is the story of the skiff a compelling story or is it simply an example of a by-gone era when what was needed on Orcas was built on Orcas. We will soon find out! To be continued...



Transporting the skiff.

From left to right: Bill Buchan, John Willis, and Bruce Culver

ORCAS ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“It is our mission
to educate, inspire,
connect and
involve our
community and
visitors in the
stewardship of our
unique island
history.”



Orcas Island Historical Society
181 North Beach Road
PO Box 134
Eastsound, WA 98245

Phone: 360-376-4849
E-mail: info@orcasmuseums.org
Website: www.orcasmuseums.org

Pioneer Museum Summer Hours
Wed-Sat 11:00am-4:00pm
Sundays 12:00-3:00pm

Crow Valley School Hours
Memorial Day-Labor Day
Fridays & Saturdays 12:00-3:00pm

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

