



The Orcas Islander

Newsletter of the Orcas Island Historical Society - Winter 2009

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Meet our new Board Member
- ◆ Annual Membership Dinner & Holiday Party Info & Reservation Form
- ◆ Membership Renewal Form



Kay Clark accessioning items using our new PastPerfect software and computer.

The Smithsonian's "Journey Stories" coming to Orcas

We are proud to make a pre-press announcement to our members that the Museum has been selected as one of only six locations in Washington to host *Journey Stories*, the Smithsonian Institution's newest traveling exhibition. The exhibit will be at the Museum from July 17 through August 29, 2010. *Journey Stories* is part of the Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The exhibit has been made possible at the Orcas Island Historical Museum by Humanities Washington.

Journey stories – tales of how we and our ancestors came to America – are a central element of our personal heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens, everyone has a story to tell. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything to reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or even across an ocean. Many chose to move, searching for something better in a new place. Others had no choice, like enslaved Africans captured and relocated to a strange land, or like Native Americans already here, who were often pushed aside by newcomers.

Our transportation history is more than trains, boats, buses, cars, wagons, and trucks. The development of transportation technology was largely inspired by the human drive for freedom. *Journey Stories* will examine the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move. The story is diverse and focused on immigration, migration, innovation, and freedom. It is accounts of immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journeys of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and, of course, fun and frolic on the open road.

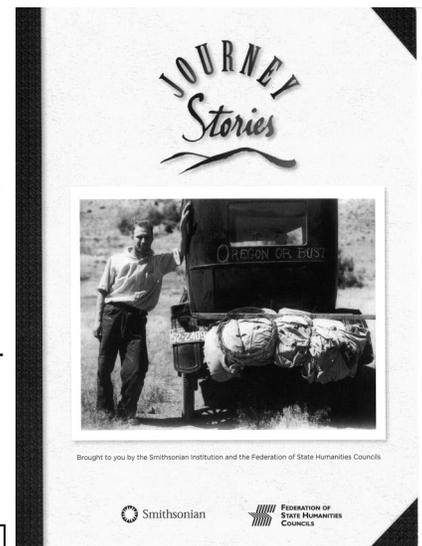
In addition to the Smithsonian exhibit which will arrive in 20 crates ready for assembly, we will be creating accompanying exhibits which will focus on some of our own Orcas Island Journey Stories, both past and present. We will also be staging special events while the exhibit is at the Museum, and we will keep you informed as our plans develop.

It is our great hope that you as members will be as excited as we are about *Journey Stories* coming to the Museum. Your support will be invaluable to us as we take on the new challenge of bringing a major Smithsonian exhibit to Orcas Island. We will need to raise funds to cover the costs of local exhibits and special events...please consider a sponsorship at one of the levels below. In addition, we will need to expand our roster of volunteer docents to help visitors interpret the exhibit. We also know that among you, there are wonderful Journey Stories about how and why you or your family first made the journey to Orcas Island. Please share them with us! These pieces of oral history will form the core of our local exhibit. If you are interested in being a part of *Journey Stories* on Orcas in any of the ways mentioned above, please call Heather at the Museum at 360-376-4849.

Journey Stories Sponsorship Opportunities

If you are interested in sponsoring the Journey Stories exhibit we have many sponsorship levels available. Simply fill out the name/address, payment type and donation amount on the bottom of the Membership Form (inside) and mail back to us. Your name will appear on a donor recognition list near the exhibit.

\$25 Ground-Breakers	\$50 Builders	\$100 Settlers
\$250 Founders	\$500 Pioneers	\$1000 Homesteaders
Amounts above \$1000 Crusader	Amounts under \$25 Explorers	



From the President...

At the museum we spend most of our time 'looking backwards', naturally, at our fascinating Orcas Island history...but right now we're absolutely entranced by our future. In July, 2010, for the first time ever, the Orcas Island Historical Museum will host a Smithsonian Institution Exhibit! Added to the continuously fascinating story of our Bison discovery and the important ramifications those bones may hold for human migration theories, the arrival of the Smithsonian 'Journeys' Exhibit will make 2010 a banner year for your museum!

Since the Orcas Island Historical Society & Museum was founded by islanders interested in preserving our local history, volunteers have been the 'glue' that holds us together. All our board members are volunteers, as are our Docents and Greeters at the front desk, the folks who plant and groom our building and grounds...we're all volunteers preserving our shared Orcas Island history. Whether you or your family has been here for one hundred years or one year, you, too, are a part of our island history.

The Museum has gone through a challenging year, losing our professional staff to budget cuts, but our volunteers and board have worked hard to make this season successful, and we have. Our admissions have increased, we've acted on our decision to remain open all year, we're hard at work on inventorying and archiving our collection (thanks to a San Juan County grant), and we're making plans for the arrival of the Smithsonian Exhibit in July, 2010. The only thing we lack is you, and your support-come join us at the museum, and have a great time preserving our wonderful Orcas Island history for the generations to come.

Tom Welch, President

Spotlight On Our New Board Member

Gwyneth first discovered Orcas Island the Christmas season of 1986, having arrived to participate in a week-long retreat at Camp Orkila. Although she saw very little of the island, she was completely smitten with its beauty, tranquility, and sense of community. Soon after, she became a "part-time islander" which included month-long stays, usually in May and September, and in 1990 settled in for a year-long sabbatical to learn and enjoy island life and meet new friends. It was during this time that she became convinced that the "island lifestyle" was what she yearned for. By 1998 she be-

came a "full-time islander" and began working at Coldwell Banker Orcas Island where she became a licensed realtor. Over a decade later, Gwyneth is now a trained and certified Feng Shui Consultant and enjoys using that philosophy in her real estate practice. She is also an active participant in the Orcas Actors Theatre group, both backstage and presenting *Mystery Dinner Theatre* evenings at various venues on the island. Gwyneth also enjoys hiking our many scenic trails, spending time with seniors, and "daytripping" to various locations around Washington.

*Gwyneth Burrill*

Become a fan of the Orcas Island Historical Museum on FACEBOOK. Updates & special events are sent directly to your Facebook account.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Washington State Board on Geographic Names has joined with the British Columbia Geographical Names Office in officially designating the collective body of water that includes Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Georgia Strait as the Salish Sea...


Annual Membership Dinner & Holiday Party

Please join us on Monday, December 7th

At 5:30 pm for our

Annual Membership Dinner & Holiday Party

Camp Orkila Lodge, Eastsound, Washington

-Your reservation must be in NO LATER THAN November 27th, 2009-
The Reservation Form is located on the other side of the newsletter.

\$ 25.00 per Member

*(Includes a multi-course buffet, dessert
and a quilt raffle ticket)*

******YOU MUST BE A PAID CURRENT MEMBER TO ATTEND THIS EVENT******

**Orcas Island Historical
Society & Museum**

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2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*If you would like to receive your newsletter via email in PDF format please email the museum with your name and current email address
orcasmuseum@rockisland.com*



*Annual Membership Dinner & Holiday Party
Reservation Form*

(Additional details for the event can be found inside the newsletter)

Member(s) Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Dinner Reservation(s): _____ places at \$25.00 each for multiple-course buffet Check #: _____ or

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____ 3-digit code on back _____

Authorized signature _____ Date: _____

Mail completed form to: OIHM, PO Box 134, Eastsound, WA 98245

Reminder

You must be a paid current member to attend the Annual Membership Dinner and Holiday Party. Renew or become a new member by filling out & returning the Membership Form (other side). Reservations must be in by November 27th!!