



# The Orcas Islander

Newsletter of the Orcas Island Historical Society - Summer 2009

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

## Journey Stories Coming to Orcas Island in 2010

OIHM successfully competed to receive the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit entitled "Journey Stories" for display next summer. The exhibit examines the intersection between transportation and American society. Journey Stories will use engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical role travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society. Our own stories will be added to the collection. "This is very exciting, and quite an honor," says Edrie Vinson, Vice President and Grant Writer. "It is a huge undertaking that will require lots of volunteer help and donated dollars, but it will do our community PROUD! Please step up to the opportunity and help us out!"



Smithsonian



FEDERATION OF  
STATE HUMANITIES  
COUNCILS

## UPCOMING EVENTS



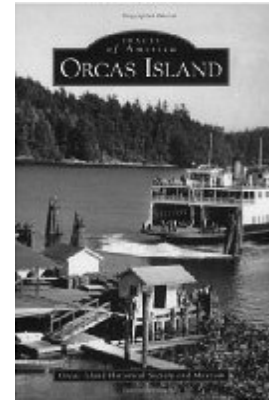
David Maloney and  
Ginny Reilly of  
"Reilly and Maloney".

A reunited **Ginny Reilly & David Maloney** will be on Orcas for a special, one-night concert at the Orcas Grange on **Saturday, August 8, 2009**. The concert will begin at **7:00pm**. For advance tickets call Tom or Jenny Welch at 360-376-2036 or [tomwelch@rockisland.com](mailto:tomwelch@rockisland.com) / [jenwelch@rockisland.com](mailto:jenwelch@rockisland.com). 100% of the ticket sales will go to the Orcas Island Historical Museum with a donor matching gift.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**Our annual **"Cruise into History"** will be happening on **Sunday, September 13th**. Come join us for some history, food and lots of fun while we cruise around Orcas! If you would like details emailed to you please send us your email address with "Cruise into History" as the subject.



Rosie Cayou James singing a song of her people and praying for hope and peace at the 59th Annual Historical Day Fair. Photo by Margot Shaw.



Written by our current Board President, Tom Welch, and available for purchase in our bookstore or by calling or emailing the museum office.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Meet our new Board Members
- Special Limited-Time Offer on Memberships
- OIHM Receives Winterization Grant

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When the economy turns and times get tough, it is amazing how instructive history can be for a community, and what history can tell us about a community. The history of Orcas Island contains many examples of boom and bust, of economic downturns and outright disasters, but it doesn't contain any examples of a defeated community. Rather, the history of our beautifully forested island is one of neighbors cooperating with each other to overcome difficult times, of meeting hard challenges with creative solutions, and of finding a way to succeed. That, in a nutshell, is what

we've been doing at the Historical Museum.

Faced with the loss of our professional staff to budget cuts, the board and volunteers worked together to create an interesting, exciting, and informative exhibit for our summer season. The totem pole, lovingly restored by Walter Henderson, returned to the museum to the applause and excitement of our Elementary school classes. Historical Days was a resounding success, capped by the First Place prize won by the museum float. Our docents shepherd visitors through the museum daily, and

many come to research family and island history in our archives.

The Ayer Bison, our famous local Bison Antiquus discovery, has been scientifically dated to 13,500 years before the present era, and the presence of human marks on the bones is creating a significant stir in anthropological circles. Studies on the bones will continue for many years, but the information they offer has focused worldwide attention on this incredible find. In the January, 2009, edition of 'Discovery' magazine, the Orcas Island bison discovery

was ranked #10 of the top 100 science stories for the previous year!

I am continually impressed by our volunteers, both those on the board and those helping in other areas, and hope all those interested in becoming docents or serving on the museum board will contact us. We'd love to have you join us, and can promise you an entertaining and exciting time at the museum!

*-Tom Welch*

## OUR STAFF

### Kay Clark, Office Assistant

Kay began as an elementary school educator teaching in Illinois, Wisconsin and West Virginia before moving to Orcas in 2007 to be closer to her daughter, Sarah, and grandson, Isaac. Other experience includes working as a disability service provider, academic advisor, career planning instructor, and TESOL instructor at Clinton Community College in Clinton, Iowa for twenty-two years. At the Orcas Island Historical Museum Kay oversees memberships, donations, and also works in the archives taking inventory, cataloging, and accessioning artifacts. In her spare time she enjoys reading, computer work, teaching Sunday school at The Orcas Island Community Church with her husband, Jim, singing in the choir, and is also involved in women's ministries.



Office Assistant, Kay Clark, accessioning artifacts. Photo by Margot Shaw.

### Heather Wallace,

*Administrative Assistant*

Heather was raised on Orcas Island and attended Orcas schools K-12. She is a graduate of the University of Washington (B.A. - Communications) and loves travel, photography and other fine arts, and is an active member of Light-house Christian Center. She has worked with various companies as both an Executive Assistant and an Administrative Assistant and enjoys the challenge of helping businesses to run more efficiently. At the Orcas Island Historical Museum Heather assists with a variety of office duties as well as assisting with event planning.



Heather Wallace

If you would like to become a "fan" of the Orcas Island Historical Museum simply search for us on facebook.com. News, events and other museum updates for both the Historical Museum and the Crow Valley School will be posted on our site with an update sent directly to your Facebook account.



## Spotlight On Our New Board Members

### RON MONTGOMERY

As part of the third generation of Montgomery's on Orcas since 1918 Ron has memories of many of the early families on the island. Ron is a graduate of Orcas High School and left the Gem of the San Juans to complete college and received his Bachelor of Education degree with a major in physics from Seattle Pacific University.

After teaching physics for 13 years in the Renton School District and at Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu he went into school

administration. He served as a high school principal in several communities in Washington. After early retirement from the state he immediately began a seven year project as the head of Shanghai American School in China in 1992. Ron and his wife, Vicki, began construction of their retirement home on Orcas in 2001. During this time Ron took a position as Project Executive and Interim Headmaster of Songdo International School in Incheon Korea and was able to work half time each in Korea and on Orcas.

Currently, Ron and his wife are thoroughly enjoying Orcas Island

including most of the changes that have taken place in the past 50 years. They spend their time keeping up with two daughters, son-in-laws and three grandchildren. They also enjoy their associations with the Orcas Island Yacht Club, Orcas Island Community Church and the Orcas Choral Society due to the many wonderful people in those organizations.

Ron is very interested in the on-going contribution the Orcas Island Historical Museum has made to island life and is looking forward to serving this organization in the future.

### ANDREA COHEN

Andrea settled on Orcas three years ago, after a ten-year Foreign Service stint that posted her family in such exotic locales as Yemen, Cote d'Ivoire and South Africa. Born and raised in New York City, Andrea finds Orcas the perfect home in which to nurture lifelong passions for art, nature and work with children.

Andrea earned a BFA in Fine

Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and worked for many years as a graphic designer. Her work as art director of the Baltimore Office of Promotion and Tourism has put her in good stead to assist the Museum with exhibits, publications, promotion and event planning. Andrea went on to earn an MA in Art Therapy from Vermont College, and established an Art Therapy program at a Baltimore public school for emotionally disturbed children. She worked as an art teacher and art therapist while overseas, and has been an artist-in-residence in the Orcas Open Arts Program.



## WE WANT YOU!

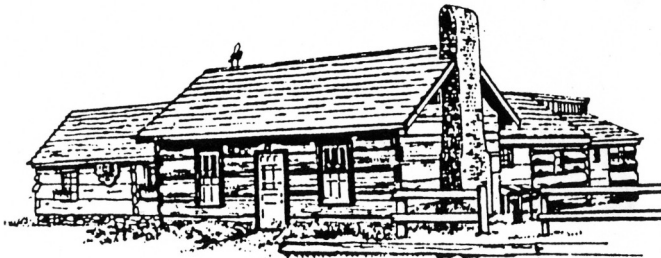
**Q:** What do a retired USAF Officer, a farmer, a dance instructor, business owners, a retired teacher, plant lovers, a retired principal, a writer, a Limited Practice Officer, a Foreign Service Officer, realtors, a bookkeeper/accountant, an activist, graphic artists, mothers, fathers, husbands and wives all have in common?

**A:** They all volunteer at the Orcas Island Historical Society! If you have some extra time are looking for somewhere to use your talents please contact us! We value our volunteers and would love to meet you and get you plugged-in!

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERSHIPS

For a limited time only the Orcas Island Historical Society is offering a special on **MEMBERSHIPS!** Join between July 15 and November 30 and you will receive the rest of 2009 and **ALL OF 2010** at the current rates. Simply fill out the enclosed **MEMBERSHIP FORM** (or print it directly from our website at [www.orcasmuseum.org](http://www.orcasmuseum.org)) and mail it back to us with your payment. Membership benefits include:

- Free admission to the Historical Museum & the Crow Valley School
- Free reciprocal admission to the Lopez & San Juan Island Historical Museums.
- Mailed/mailed announcements of all OIHM-sponsored events
- Invitation to the annual holiday party
- 10% discount at our museum store
- Invitation to attend monthly board meetings



## Museum Receives Winterization Grant

OIHM received \$1,000 from the Valerie Sivinski Preserve Fund from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. The Fund, in honor of a former president and board member who was killed working on a preservation project in 2000, has been awarded to install framed plate window glass with UV protection on the inside of the cabin windows, replace one door, and add insulation. The winterization project requires \$1,000 in matching funds to purchase supplies. Your help with donations is greatly appreciated. The installation work will be done by volunteers. Thank you, **VOLUNTEERS!**

## ROSARIO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION and HISTORICAL DAY FAIR A SUCCESS!

The Historical Society is grateful to have had the chance to partner with Rosario Resort for the **Rosario Centennial Celebration!** Well over 100 people enjoyed Father's Day by touring four homes that Robert Moran built for his family and workers. The Centennial Celebration that followed, held in the Rosario mansion's Fireplace Room, honored Moran's move into the mansion on June 21, 1909. Christopher Peacock and Becky Burns, Moran's great-granddaughter, read comments from the first entries in the 1909 guest registry. A lively auction followed which brought \$1600 to the museum for a Jennifer Lake print of the Rosario area. An exhibit of Moran State Park drawings, done by Orcas Elementary School students, was also on display at the Historical Museum with help from our own Andrea Cohen. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event so memorable!

Orcas Islanders stepped up to the plate once again, as you do year after year, to help the Museum with the **Historical Day Fair**. And the plate...was full of pie! Thanks to all the volunteers who baked, bought, and ate the pies, and to Island Market for donating the ice cream to go on top, as well as the ice to keep it frozen. Thanks to all the volunteers who manned the booths, cooked and sold the hot dogs and drinks, and all of you who bought and ate them. Thanks to all of you who donated items to auction, and who bid and bought them. And thanks to all of you who supported the fair with your booths, presentations, and great music. It was a busy, beautiful day for us, we raised about \$5,000 to help keep our wonderful museum running, and we couldn't have done it without you!

## NEW WAY OF LOCATING YOUR BRICK

If you purchased a brick for our walkway between the mid-1990's and Fall of 2008 we have a new and easy way to help you locate your brick. One of our brilliant volunteers, Bruce Hubbard, along with some help from Margot Shaw and John Willis, has designed a mapping system for our walkway where currently over 660 bricks are installed. If you would like help finding your brick please stop by during our museum hours, call us, or send us an email at [orcasmuseum@rockisland.com](mailto:orcasmuseum@rockisland.com).

## CALLING ALL LONG-TIME ISLANDERS

We need your help identifying people in photos! If you would be interested in assisting our staff with photo identification please call or email the museum. 360-376-4849 or [orcasmuseum@rockisland.com](mailto:orcasmuseum@rockisland.com).



This year our float, "Crow Valley School," took first place in the annual 4th of July Parade in Eastsound. The float was designed by Andrea Cohen and Glenna Richards painted the school. Thank you to all who helped put this float together. Photo by Margot Shaw.

## Orcas Island Historical Society & Museum

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### 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tom Welch, President**  
**Edrie Vinson, Vice President**  
**Bill Buchan, Secretary**  
**Lois Cornell, Treasurer**  
**Anthony Ayer**  
**Andrea Cohen**  
**James Lobdell**  
**Ron Montgomery**  
**Leslie Seaman**  
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[orcasmuseum@rockisland.com](mailto:orcasmuseum@rockisland.com)*

## THANK YOU TO OUR DOCENT VOLUNTEERS! WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Jim & Kay Clark  
Libby Cook  
Lois Cornell  
Dorothy Cwak  
Velma Doty  
Mike Douglas  
Susan Fletcher  
Ted Grossman  
Betty Hall  
Madeline Haffey  
Bill Hagen  
Ann Hawkins  
Neil Hawkins  
Jane Barfoot-Hodde  
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Bart Pontecorvo

Barbara Jamieson  
Katie Jensen  
Carol Kulminski  
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Lynn Richards  
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May Shiozawa  
Susie Ward

Michele Wiley  
John Willis  
Sue Wood  
Jean Dickerson  
...and many  
more!



Volunteer Don  
Seaman and Board  
Members John  
Willis and Leslie  
Seaman.