



The Orcas Islander

Newsletter of the Orcas Island Historical Society - Fall 2010

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

Saturday October 9th was the day we officially dedicated the gift of the heron sculpture "Tribute" to the Museum. The day was blustery enough to make the beak decoration revolve, and the rain came mainly just after the dedication. About 60 attended, and enjoyed snacks and fresh-pressed cider. Afterward, artist Todd Spalti spoke on how he managed to get the huge cedar log from southwest Washington to Orcas, and the process of carving it into the beautiful sculpture now enjoyed by many. He also invited local artists to submit their own ideas for the removable beak decoration, which is now occupied by a piece made by Todd. Board President Bill Buchan thanked the many volunteers who helped with the foundation and landscaping, especially local businesses Sea Island Sand & Gravel for donated concrete, Dave Hall's boomtruck for hauling and placement, and Michael Budnick of Northwest Concepts for cutting the brickwork to make an attractive border for the sculpture base. Above all, our thanks to the anonymous project sponsor who funded Todd's work to make this magnificent addition to the Museum possible.



Sculptor Todd Spalti standing next to the rear carving of his creation "Tribute" during the dedication.

From the President...

First I must start with the unhappy news that our Treasurer, Lois Cornell, has had to resign from the Board for a time due to health reasons. She has done a fantastic job keeping our finances on track, and got next year's Budget prepared and approved by the Board before starting her medical treatment. We wish her a recovery as speedy and complete as possible, and look forward to her rejoining the Board as soon as she is able.

I am pleased to report the addition of George Garrels to our Board. George has been active with the Library, Orcas Center, Camp Orkila and Kiwanis, and you may know of him for the beautiful children's toys he makes. Welcome, George!

A few more words on the 2011 Operations Budget, which does not consider funds solicited and dedicated to specific projects, such as cabin restoration, the Bison project and, this past year, Journey Stories. We anticipate spending (budgeted for) over \$89k in 2011, very close to the same as will end up being spent in 2010. Major Operations expenses are salaries for Irene and Kay, utilities, insurance, supplies (including exhibits), building maintenance, newsletters, information technology, loan repay-

ment, and bookkeeping. In 2010, we raised just over \$90k, but \$18k of this came from two timely but one-time cash bequests. For 2011, we are budgeting income of over \$76k, for a shortfall of \$13k. We do anticipate receiving at least \$80k from pending building sales as the remainder of the aforementioned bequests, so we are not in financial trouble. But we want to be able to apply as much of that as possible to paying down the final \$98k of our capital improvement loan. Bottom line: We need to be as successful as possible in fund-raising, both through Museum-sponsored fundraising events, and also through donations from the community and members. If we are successful, we can anticipate the day when the Museum is debt-free, and can move on to other longer-term goals such as hiring a director and/or curator.

I will close by once again thanking our wonderful group of volunteers who are the face of the Museum to visitors. This past summer's Journey Stories exhibit, to which so many of you contributed time as docents and in other ways, really elevated the Museum in the eyes of the community. Thank you all.

Bill Buchan

2010 Annual Meeting & Dinner

The Museum's Annual Meeting & Dinner will be Monday night December 6th, once again at Camp Orkila. We did check to see if we could find a place more centrally located, but restaurants were too small and hiring a hall would up the cost considerably. Camp Orkila has agreed to provide bus service from and to the parking lot, and Orcas Senior Services will be providing handicapped-accessible transportation from Eastsound. We will work hard to make sure everyone who wants to come will be able to please call Irene at the office if you need arrangements. The menu includes a choice of prime rib or salmon, rice, roasted veggies, salad bar, dessert, and the Museum will provide sparkling cider ... all for the price of \$26 per plate. The winner of the beautiful 2010 Journey Stories Historic Boats quilt raffle will be drawn after dinner (see right panel). Camp Orkila has asked us to turn in our RSVP reservations by November 19th, so please let us know soon if you will be able to attend!

CALL THE MUSEUM OFFICE M-F FROM 11 TO 4PM
OR EMAIL US AT ORCASMUSEUM@ROCKISLAND.COM
OR GO TO:
WWW.ORCASMUSEUM.ORG



The 2010 Journey Stories Historic Boats Quilt



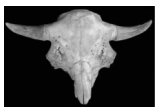
Many visitors to the Museum who have seen this quilt have commented that it should be included in the Museum's archives! Hand-embroidered by island craftswomen in commemoration of this year's Journey Stories exhibit, it features twelve panels of boats that have been significant to the history of Orcas Island. At the Annual Dinner one lucky winner will take home this beautiful piece of work which is already considered an heirloom. The quilt may be viewed on the OIHM website (look for the Quilt Raffle link on the left side of the home page) with a thirteen page slide show of the panels. For your convenience, raffle tickets may be purchased online using PayPal, or you could catch Denise Wilk or another volunteer selling tickets at Island Market on Saturdays during the month of November. Tickets are also available at the Eclipse Store (nextdoor to The Nest in Eastsound) open Wed thru Sun from 11 to 5pm.



Ticket Prices
One ticket \$2.00
Three for \$5.00



Bison Antiquus may come out of hiding in 2011



There is movement afoot to get our Bison Antiquus skull (now carbon dated to approximately 13,600 years old) reproduced and on display. After one disappointment with an expert who agreed to make a casting, who then had to withdraw his offer, we are making arrangements with a well-reviewed company in California to have a casting made. This will allow the Museum the choice of displaying the original and using the casting for educational purposes, or to just display the casting. We are currently looking into the possibility of creat-

ing a suitable display environment for the original bones. We will likely have some of the other bones cast also, those which some paleontologists say show evidence that our bison was slaughtered by humans. This is the point which has caused such a stir in the scientific world because it calls into question the current theories on when humans inhabited this area. After visiting the Burke Museum earlier this year, we can attest to the fact that our bison skull is an excellent intact specimen and is, in our opinion at least, better than any the Burke possesses.



The History Corner joins the information age with a new blog

Remember the interesting articles on local history written by Tom Welch that appeared in the Islands Weekly Newspaper years ago? Well, the reprints are now becoming available on a weekly basis through our website. Just go to the home page (www.orcasmuseum.org) and look for the History Corner icon on the left-hand column. You can have a new article sent you to you each week with a free email subscription or arrange for an RSS feed to your home page.

Did You Know . . . ?

The year 2011 will be the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Orcas Island Historical Society which was conceived of in 1951. The Museum itself was founded five years later in 1956, when Miles Bobst made the largest single gift offer up to that point: a complete pioneer cabin, the original home of the John Boede family which had been built in 1885. In years to come five more historic cabins would be dismantled and reassembled at the Museum's location in Eastsound, with all the work done by volunteers. But 1951 was when the ball started rolling.

Ways You Can Help

- ◆ Sell tickets for our Historic Boats Quilt raffle; contact Denise Wilk at 376-6566.
- ◆ Volunteer at our table for the Senior Center Holiday Festival of the Arts on November 27th.
- ◆ Offer your skills this winter to help us repair & repaint the Crow Valley School sign.
- ◆ Help with car-pooling to Camp Orkila for the Annual Dinner on December 6th.
- ◆ Miscellaneous projects at the Museum.

CALL THE MUSEUM OFFICE M-F FROM 11-4PM AT 376-4849

We Have a New Membership System . . .

We have started using the capability of our new Past Perfect museum software program to track membership renewal dates and generate renewal notices. This means that memberships can be initiated in any month and will run for the full 12 months, at which time a renewal will be sent. Most of our current members' renewals due now coincide with the calendar year, so . . . below we are including this handy-dandy membership form for your convenience. Please don't forget to renew; membership dues are a significant portion of our budget income. And it continues your association with this interesting and worthwhile endeavor.

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS PLEASE GO ONLINE TO: WWW.ORCASMUSEUM.ORG OR CALL THE OFFICE M-F 11AM TO 4PM AT 360-376-4849

ORCAS ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM ~ Membership Form

THE O.I.H.M. IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FORMED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, AND IS RECOGNIZED BY THE IRS AS HAVING 501(c)(3) STATUS. YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENT.

Membership benefits include:

- ◆ Information-filled newsletter and access to specialized museum training.
- ◆ Free Museum & Crow Valley School admission and research access.
- ◆ Free reciprocal admission to the Lopez and San Juan Historical Museums
- ◆ Mailed announcements of all OIHM-sponsored events and special openings.
- ◆ Ten percent discount in the Museum store.
- ◆ Invitation to attend monthly Board meetings.
- ◆ Invitation to the Annual Meeting & Dinner in December.

PLEASE MARK THE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL OF YOUR CHOICE: PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE OR GO ONLINE FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Benefactor:	\$500.00	
Business Sponsor:	\$250.00	
Sponsor:	\$100.00	
Supporter:	\$50.00	



Family:	\$25.00	
Individual:	\$25.00	
Senior:	\$15.00	
Student:	\$15.00	

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ NEWSLETTER SENT VIA EMAIL? *Yes No*

IN ADDITION, I ALSO WANT TO CONTRIBUTE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION OF: \$1000 / \$500 / \$250 / \$100 / \$50 / \$25 / OTHER: _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM & CHECK TO: OIHM, PO Box 134, EASTSOUND, WA 98245 *Thank You!*

Orcas Island Historical Society & Museum

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Eastsound, WA 98245

Phone: 360-376-4849

e-mail: orcasmuseum@rockisland.com
website: www.orcasmuseum.org

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Buchan, President
Ron Montgomery, First Vice President
Judi Watson, Second Vice President
Lois Cornell, Treasurer
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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.

Off-Season Museum Hours:
SATURDAYS ONLY FROM 10AM
TO 3PM. GROUPS BY APPOINTMENT.
OPEN SUNDAYS ON HOLIDAY WEEKENDS

Museum Office Hours:
MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS
11AM TO 4PM **376-4849**

Welcome!

... to George Garrels ...
our newest Board member

Congratulations!

Clarence & Elizabeth Wise, dual citizens of Bremerton and Waldron Islands, were the lucky winners of the Journey Stories raffle drawing held on Aug 30th. They won two round-trip tickets on Kenmore Air between Eastsound and Boeing Field.

**YOUR LOVED ONE'S
NAME HERE**

For a lasting Holiday gift, consider immortalizing your loved one's name on a custom-engraved brick to be installed on our new walkway ... plenty of spaces available. Call or go online to place your order!

ONLINE RESOURCES

- ◆ **Memberships**
- ◆ **Historic Boats Quilt slide show and ticket sales**
- ◆ **New Bricks page**
- ◆ **History Corner stories**

www.orcasmuseum.org

Important Dates

- Nov 19: RSVP** deadline for our Annual Meeting & Dinner at Camp Orkila.
- Nov 27: Holiday Festival of the Arts** at Orcas Senior Center 10am-4pm
- Dec 6: OIHM Annual Meeting & Dinner** Social Hour: 5:30pm ~ Dinner: 6:30pm at Camp Orkila.
- Dec 8: Jane Barfoot-Hodde Day** It will be her 97th birthday!
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Deadline** for Christmas Brick orders
- Dec 31: Deadline** for all 2011 Brick Orders! (installation in early Spring)