

THE ISLAND HISTORIAN NEWS



The Orcas Island Historical Society Newsletter

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Your Historical Society and Orcas Island Historical Museums celebrated the Pioneer Museum's 60th Birthday in a grand way on May 14. Dozens were on hand for cake and ice cream, root beer floats (all courtesy of Island Market), tug o' war, egg runs, and the gunny sack races.



There were plenty of laughs and smiles all around while more than 100 people signed our time line noting when they or their ancestors moved to Orcas to live. Brittney Maruska, our new administrative assistant, did an excellent job on the graphic design. If you haven't seen and signed the time line yet, come into the Pioneer Museum during open hours and sign your name while you visit this year's feature exhibit: WINGS OVER ORCAS ISLAND - An Aviation History.

All our Board members, many Society members, our volunteers and community members sang Happy Birthday to the Museum and Society. The day's festivities culminated in the burning of the mortgage by former Society president Bill Buchan. This is a major accomplishment for a small Museum such as ours. When I came aboard more than three years ago the Society owed over \$40,000 on a mortgage loan for the new addition. Everyone on the Board and folks in the community have worked hard to retire this debt and it demonstrates the strength of unity, a shared vision and teamwork. When you consider the price of everything such as utilities,



phone, internet, grounds-keeping, exhibit materials, office supplies, etc. has increased since 2008 when the debt was incurred this is a noteworthy achievement. 60 years is quite a milestone and here's to another 60!

Clark McAbee

Summer Hours

Pioneer Museum

Wed—Sat.

11am – 4pm

Sun. 12-3 pm

Crow Valley School Museum

Fridays & Saturdays

12-4

Office Hours

Tues—Sat.

10:30-4:30

Board of Trustees

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Have you heard about Hatchet Annie and the Boo Hag of Four Winds? Or what about the Handless Smuggler of the Outlook Inn? No? Well then, maybe you've been chased by the Flying Head!

These and many other stories of Orcas ghosts and gremlins will be told this summer at the Pioneer Museum and the Crow Valley School Museum by Master Storyteller, Antoinette Botsford. She'll also tell of local ghosts and sprinkle in a few asides of her own encounters with supernatural visitors. Be careful not to slip on the ectoplasmic overflow! Kid- and parent-appropriate, her stories will give you chills and thrills, but entertain most of all.

Performances will be about 60 eerie minutes long and each evening will be a little different. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$25 for a family up to 4 and may be purchased at either Museum or at the performance.

Pioneer Museum
All performances at 8 p.m.:
 July 6, 13, 20, 27
 August 3, 10, 17, 24

Crow Valley School Museum
All Performances at 5 p.m.
 July 8, 15, 22, 29
 August 5, 12, 22, 26

Crow Valley School Is Open



With clean windows and swept floors, the Crow Valley School Museum volunteers opened the doors on May 27th. The Museum, located at 1668 Crow Valley Road, is open noon to 4 pm every Friday and Saturday until Labor Day.

The Museum's historical pictures and documents will bring you back to a time when students walked to school and brothers and sisters sat side by side in grades 1 through 8. Docents provide a fascinating narrated tour.

Wings Over Orcas Island Opens to Great Reviews

Former Naval Aviators, general aviation pilots and the public toured the Pioneer Museum's newest exhibit and gave it strong reviews: "excellent", "very well done", "we very much enjoyed."

The Museum's 2016 featured exhibit covers some of the earliest flights over and to the island. The exhibit traces the history of San Juan Airlines, founded as Orcas Island Air Service by Bob Schoen; one of the first scheduled air taxi commuter airlines on the West Coast.



The exhibit also includes information on a number of women pilots who flew and continue to fly on the island as well as our own Mercy Pilots of Orcas who provide wonderful service to islanders needing medical treatment off island.

Orcas has been home to many pilots with extraordinary flying experiences who have contributed to the exhibit. These include Bob and Harry Patton, Bob Foulk, Bob Waunch and others.

CALLING ALL

BAKERS

It is time to start thinking about baking pies for the Historical Society to sell at our July 2nd Historical Days celebration.



Remember that the health codes do not permit us to sell

pies that contain dairy or eggs. This means no custard pies, no cream pies and no meringue.

The Pie Sale is one of our most popular fundraisers, so we need lots of pies. If you can bake a pie, let us know. You can call the office at 376-4849 or email us at info@orcasmuseum.org.



HISTORICAL DAYS

Summer is coming and along with it the annual Eastsound Historical Days celebration on Saturday, July 2nd. The Society has joined forces with Chamber of Commerce and Farmers Market to expand the event and offer more exciting options for all to enjoy.

The day's events kickoff at 10:00 am, when the Farmers' Market opens. Besides the usual market vendors, the Historical Society will have an OIHS information booth, the beloved pie sales booth, hot dog sales and the beer garden. The market will shut down at 4:00 pm.



The traditional Historical Days Parade will begin at noon in downtown Eastsound. Between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm the Harvey Family Logging Show, which is always a favorite part of the weekend, will showcase the skills needed to become a successful logger and give audience members a chance to participate in skill events.



On this special day the Pioneer Museum is open with free admission for everyone to enjoy. This includes the chance to see the prime exhibit put together by our Director, Clark McAbee, "Wings over Orcas Island" which chronicles the history of flying on Orcas. Other events taking place on the 2nd are the annual Orcas Island Fire Department breakfast starting at 7:30 am at the Eastsound Fire Station and the Lions Club Salmon BBQ at the Fire Station starting at 12:30 pm. We hope you can all join us to help celebrate the rich history on Orcas Island.

The Society would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions to the events: Orcas Island Kiwanis Club, Orcas Island Lions Club and Island Hoppin Brewery for the Beer Garden proceeds, Island Market for their generous support of the Pie Booth, and Harvey Logging LLC for their continued support of the event.

2016 Raffle Quilt on Display at Pioneer Museum

The ladies have done it again! Our 2016 Quilt to be raffled at this year's Annual Meeting is on display in the Pioneer Museum's lobby and it is a beauty! This year's quilter is Gail Mikuchonis, Betty Willis Marcum's daughter. Gail quilts and teaches crafts in Puyallup.

Tickets to win this stunning picture quilt are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and are for sale at the Pioneer Museum in downtown Eastsound.



Call for Auction Donations

It is time to open the windows, get out your dusters and shoo out the cat. September 3rd brings the Historical Society's summer season to an end with our annual live and silent auction. If you come across any items you don't know what to do with, consider donating them to the Society for the auction.

We are particularly interested in donations of antiques that you might want to pass on to a new home; however, donations do not need to be limited to physical items, so bring on a dinner party, an off season vacation rental weekend, a boat trip or what have you. All donations help us raise money to preserve the island's history at the Pioneer Museum and Crow Valley School Museum and are tax deductible. Give us a call at 376-4849 or send us an email at info@orcasmuseum.org.



Even if you don't have anything to donate you can still join us on September 3rd to bid on antiques, gravel for your driveway, winter firewood, and many other treasures. Or you can browse the silent auction tables for things you don't want to miss out on such as fine wines, services such as window cleaning and gardening or a variety of dining experiences.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE MUSEUM STORE LATELY?

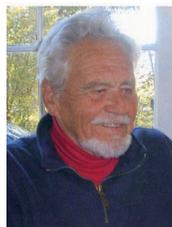
The Store has had a makeover and is brimming with new merchandise. There is a new section filled with toys and stuffed animals for kids.



We have added long and short-sleeved t-shirts with the Wings Over Orcas Island logo. There is also a new selection of ball caps as well as new books and many other items. Come in and take a look!

"Hearing Orcas Voices"

It's official! There will be a Listening Station set up in the Oral History Room of the Pioneer Museum this summer. Thanks to contributions from the community for this project, Hearing Orcas Voices received a \$3,680 grant through the Orcas Island Community Foundation. We received donations from nearly 50 different sources! We appreciate that show of encouragement in this project.



While less than the total funds needed for the project, the money raised will allow us to purchase the equipment and software needed for the touch screen Listeners Station. All of the voices in our collection and the related photographs have been digitized, so we can program the computer to make them accessible to visitors very quickly.

Orcas Voices is an ongoing project, so if you have historic photographs we could copy, or old cassette tapes of your family in your storage, bring them in and let us see if they are suitable for use in our new listening station.

We are still looking for volunteers to transcribe interviews, as well as volunteers to conduct new interviews. Call us at 376-4849 or send us an email at info@orcasmuseum.org to volunteer!

A New Face in the Office



Brittney Maruska is the new administrative assistant to our Director.

She can be found in the office Wed through Sat from 10:45 to 3:45.

Brittney graduated from University of Oregon in 2013 with a degree in Arts Administration with a Museum Studies concentration and has a Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Management.

Save The Dates

June 12th Historical Matinee with Rod Magner and Eric Gourley

July 2nd Historical Days

July 6th Spooky Tales Begin

August 21st Historical Matinee

September 3rd Annual Auction

September 18th Final 2016 Historical Matinee

October 1st Heritage Harvest Feast

October 31st Spooky Halloween

November 25th Fall Eastsound Artwalk

December 1st to January 1st Rosario Giving Tree

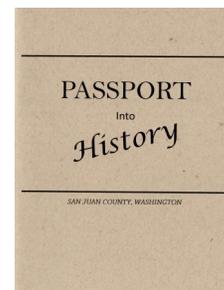
Do You Know What This Is?



The answer can be found on our website. Click [here](#) to learn what it is.

Passport Into History

Have you stood in the old jail on San Juan Island whose inhabitants included the murderer, Leon Straub, the only person to be hanged in San Juan County? Have you viewed the restored gillnetter, the *Sally J*, on Lopez Island? Make 2016 the year you visit all of the historical museums in the San Juan Islands. Not only will you have fun and learn more about our history, but you can also qualify for a chance to win one of three island getaway packages.



The Orcas Island Historical Museums have joined with the historical museums on Lopez and San Juan Islands and the San Juan Visitors Bureau to create the *Passport into History* program. The Passport offers visitors and residents an opportunity to learn more about each island's unique history. Passports are available at any of the four participating museums:



Crow Valley School Museum (Orcas Island)

Lopez Island Historical Museum

Orcas Island Pioneer Museum

San Juan Historical Museum

Passport holders will have their Passport stamped when they visit a participating museum. Once Passport holders have visited museums on all three islands during 2016, they are eligible to be entered into a drawing for a getaway for two, which includes two nights' lodging at a local inn, hotel or bed and breakfast, dinner at a local restaurant and fun local extras, like whale watching or kayaking. The museums on each island are putting together their own package so you could enter to win the San Juan package, the Orcas package or the Lopez package. The details of each island's package are available at that island's museums.



How does it work? Its as easy as one, two, three.

1. Pick up your Passport at the Pioneer Museum or the Crow Valley School Museum and have it stamped.
2. Visit the museums on the other two Islands before the end of 2016 and have your Passport validated at each one.
3. After you are finished, complete the raffle ticket in the back of the Passport book and return it to the museum whose getaway package you would like to win.

The drawing will be held at the end of the year and winners will be able to claim their prize in 2017. Blackout dates may apply.

WA Rural Heritage Project

Have you seen our fabulous collection of J.T. Geoghegan photographs? No? Go to [Washington Rural Heritage](#). Open the Browser of Collections and Click on Orcas Island Heritage. There you'll see over 3,000 photographs Jim Geoghegan took of Orcas between 1914 and 1941.



And, the latest addition to this collection is an album of photos that Jim took in Alaska during the Gold Rush. These date from 1909 to 1913. He built a Road House for stage coach passengers to stay overnight, planted a garden and preserved food to feed them, and hunted to supply all their

meat. You'll see all that and more!

Enjoy the photos!

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Orcas History Lives Here!

JUNE HISTORY MATINEE



Our **June 12 History Matinee** at the Eastsound Fire Hall at 3PM will feature Magicair Tour's Rod Wagner. Rod is an artist. His chosen medium is pretty unique. He uses wind, clouds, the San Juan islands, and his plane, a rare 1929 Curtiss-Wright Travelair bi-plane, to make magic.

The many happy customers who have flown with Rod since he bought his plane in 1991 will attest that he is an artist and the trips are magical. These awe inspiring flights have been the backdrop for at least 15 marriage proposals (not by Rod!). If you have never flown with Rod, you can taste the magic with this [YouTube video](#).

This presentation is part of the Historical Society's ongoing Historical Matinees linked to our featured exhibit, *Wings Over Orcas Island - An Aviation Experience*, at the Pioneer Museum. Rod will share some of the magic and tell us what it is like to fly a bi-plane over the San Juan this Sunday, June 12th, at 3 p.m. at the Eastsound Fire Hall.

