Since our founding in 1984, part of the mission of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society has been to advocate the protection and preservation of historic sites. As guardians of architecture that marks significant turning points in history, the Society recognized the value of the 1904 carriage house of Fir Lodge and restored it as the Log House Museum in the 1990s. Fir Lodge became the well known Homestead Restaurant, which was landmarked in 1996.

Recently a fire damaged the Homestead, and yet, the building still stands as a physical reminder of our connection with a past that is more significant than a single person or generation. The Homestead is a local treasure, an irreplaceable landmark that supports our fragile memories and informs us about our past.

My mother, Ada Hallberg, noticed landmarks and worked to preserve them. She took quiet, observant walking tours, mentally and physically connecting with unique markers of her community’s heritage. In the following story from her collection, she visits the site of what is now Weather Watch Park and the former Carroll Street School. Mom tried to preserve the Carroll Street site. She envisioned a pocket park with a historic marker and a bench where people could stop and rest at the small neighborhood park. As it turned out, the Weather Watch Park became a preserved open space of beach front for all of us to enjoy. The Carroll Street corner is now the site of the Shirley Bridge Bungalows, housing for low-income individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.

Tia Hallberg

With my head down I push along the rocky beach near the Alki Lighthouse; the surge of the Southwest wind is invigorating and I press my hands into my pockets as I plunge along. Out in the bay, crisp caps of white froth appear like beaten egg whites. On the brink of the clear waves they foam against the crystal water. This is the beautiful picture I have remembered many times from my childhood; it is set off by the Olympic Mountains and the forest across Puget’s Sound. The whip of the wind challenges me as I round the Point.

Continued on page 2...
Carefully I cross the clay outcrops that fold one upon the other, even more prominent than they were ten years ago. A group of children are gathered around a teacher. “Why is the beach sandy on that side of the lighthouse and here on the south side we are standing on rocks and slipping on clay? What do you think about that?”

“O, yeah, mmhmm, uh huh, yeah, we know,” mumble, mumble from the kids. Not discouraged, the teacher continues. “The crust of the earth is layered, it can fold up; it can buckle: sometimes parts of it underneath actually become exposed. “Ah, ha,” I say out loud, now she has their attention as my own mind wanders backwards and visualizes Dr. Dixie Lee Ray, standing out there on the beach in any kind of weather to lecture her university biology class on these features so clearly visible.

Soon I will be at my destination, Carroll St. and Beach Drive SW, only a mile from the lighthouse. I look forward to meditating a while in the small cove at the foot of Carroll St. It is about 150 feet of waterfront still open to the public, and most of us probably think it always will be. This is a natural beach as I remember Alki Beach in the thirties. Here the dirt from the bank and the grasses growing in it dare to encroach on the salt water and the beach sand. Being here is heart warming to me. There was a pier at Carroll St. in the early 1900’s; it was a regular port of call for the little steamer Eagle, which carried passengers to several ports on the Sound, including this little village of South Alki. Villagers would gather here when the steamer docked to meet the passengers. It was a time that neighbors met to greet each other and to visit with each other whether they expected a passenger or not. It was a gathering place for people whose homes were a considerable distance from each other. Fred Fletcher, a local historian with total recall, talked to me about this once flourishing business community at Carroll St. and Beach Drive. He identified Carroll St as a part of the claim of Charles Carroll Terry, an admired pioneer who joined the Denny party in Oregon and landed with them from the schooner Exact in 1851.

The first school at Alki was located just a half of a block off of Beach Drive, on Carroll St. It was ready for its first class in 1906 and remained the only Alki School until 1911 when the new school opened at 58th Ave SW and SW Stevens. The Alki former students talk about is mostly a memory; it is an inheritance to remember. Children came long distances in 1906 to go to the Carroll St. School, some of them from the Point and others all the way from Bonaire and Luna Point (Duwamish Head). Those who came from the South walked across a rock-free grassy meadow, then on a path that skirted the Sound; some came along a bluff that dropped straight down to the tidelands. A man took some of the kids to school in a horse drawn wagon. One former student told me only children from a certain area had this luxury. Another remembers a song, “Low on the left side, High on the right side…” They would sing this song, calling out the name of the person whose weight was responsible for the low side. When they got stuck in the mud on the side where their hefty schoolmate was sitting, all the boys got out to tug and push or pull; the girls were to remain in the wagon, I was told and I suppose they did. A few years later a neighbor transported children from South Alki to the school on the hill.

Today, within a mile and a half of the Carroll St. location are single family homes, duplexes, triplexes, condominiums, a two – story eighteen unit walk-up apartment and an apartment on the waterside extending on pilings about 200 feet into Puget Sound, a sewage disposal plant…. It’s hard to smell the flowers anymore, and this early Alki is only a memory. There is a joy in holding close to our inheritance, but even a greater pleasure in continuing the feelings of community.

Ada Hallberg, 1990
Museum Director’s Report

The time capsule will soon be buried in the Statue of Liberty Plaza. As we plant those artifacts for a future generation, the museum staff turns to plants and collections (see articles below and page four). With a new interpretive sign on grounds and a colorful plant identification chart showing up this May, it will be that much easier to re-create a native plant section in your own neighborhood.

Museum staff Sarah Frederick and local conservator Dana Senge have been making great strides in processing the organization’s artifacts, archives, and photographs. They are in the process of bringing in additional interns and volunteers to learn conservation methods and collection processing.

As always, please keep in contact. This history is your history, and we are proud to share it.

Andrea Mercado
Museum Director
206-938-5293
amercado@loghousemuseum.org

Native Plant Garden

Like many Seattleites, I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring and the blossoming of all of the beautiful plants that thrive here. Have you ever wondered about the plants growing in the Log House Museum’s garden? This spring, thanks to some generous grants and donations from The Seattle Foundation, 4-Culture and the West Seattle Garden Club, it will be easier to identify what’s been growing in our Native Plant Garden. We will be putting in individual plant identification signs as well as a larger outdoor identification board that will not only tell you what’s what, but what some of the plants’ uses are. For instance did you know that the leaves of Redwood Sorrell can be used to make a delicious salad? Or that the leaves of False Solomon’s Seal can be used to cool sunburn? The needles of the state tree, the Western Hemlock, can be brewed to make tea. We will also be producing a new brochure which compliments the Alki Wildlife Habitat Project brochure. All research materials are being compiled into a Garden Guide that will be available in the museum’s education library. A native plant sale is also being planned for the spring in the Log House Museum’s courtyard.

Sarah Frederick

Photos courtesy of Andrea Mercado

Advisory Council Members

Earl Cruzen
Clay Eals
Joe Follansbee
Merilee Hagen
Jordan Hecker
Sharon Huling
Scott Hunt
Barton Kale
Joe McDermott
Jack Miller
Patricia Mullen
Charles G. Payton
Tom Rasmussen
Greg Theobald
Diane Tice
Jerry Vandenberg
Carol Vincent
Volunteer News

Spotlight on Cory Gooch

Need that job done now? Call Cory. Sure she’s busy with her new business as a free-lance art registrar, with trips planned to New Orleans and Alaska—even to Egypt. But after switching her ballet ticket to another night, she was able to volunteer for our November Gala. Cory was the fetching gal in the period hat at the check-in table who tracked all the auction bids, making sure that each auction item left with its proper owner. Check out another of her stylish hats in front of the pyramids at Giza this January, while providing two days of training to the new registrar’s department of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

Cory moved to Seattle in 2002 to work for Vulcan, Inc. as Senior Registrar. After buying a house in Alki in late 2003, she quickly pitched in as a volunteer—picking up trash on the beach for Parks, joining Alki Community Council in committee work, organizing a block watch, delivering the Alki News Beacon on her block, not to mention several hours a week doing Log House Museum collections in 2005-06 until starting her own registrar business.

Cory has over 20 years of experience working for arts institutions, including 19 years as a registrar for art collections. After growing up in Woodland Hills, a Los Angeles suburb, she obtained a B.A. in studio art at UC-Santa Cruz, where she specialized in printmaking. After graduation she lived for six months in Florence, Italy to further study printmaking and the Italian language. Upon returning to L.A. she worked for four years at the Getty Conservation Institute and then took a job in the registrar’s office of the L.A. County Museum of Art, where she worked for two years as an assistant registrar. She then moved to the J. Paul Getty Museum in 1991, where she worked for 11 years in the registrar’s office handling incoming and outgoing loans and international exhibitions.

by Larry Carpenter
Volunteer Coordinator, 206-938-5293, starving@comcast.net

Elliot Couden Collection

The Log House Museum is the recipient of a grant from 4-Culture for a collections project. We will be using the grant to improve the storage and accessibility of the Elliott Couden Collection as well as improving the storage conditions for some of our photos and archives. The Couden Collection was received in 2001 and contains a wealth of information about West Seattle real estate, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, and the Lions Club, as well as several other West Seattle community organizations. It is also a wonderfully intact personal archive; however, most of it has remained un-accessioned. This grant will allow us to go through and properly catalogue and assess each item for relevance. The museum will be taking on two new interns to help with the project through the early summer.

Sarah Frederick
President’s Report

On January 3, I was delighted to attend the formal opening and ribbon-cutting of the Duwamish Long House and Cultural Center. This was a joyous celebration of years, even decades, of work to restore a longhouse to the site on the Duwamish River where the first people lived for centuries. Archaeological excavations at Herring’s House Park date human residence to 2000 years ago. How wonderful to have ancestors who lived on the Duwamish Peninsula for generations—how wonderful to have such grounding.

The day before, I attended the memorial service for Jacqueline Carey Kelly, a member of our historical society who lived in the same house in West Seattle for 87 years. Jackie was an elementary school teacher remembered fondly by her students. This, too, is a grounding.

Leonard Garfield, curator of the Museum of History and Industry, spoke at our annual gala in November about the entrepreneurial spirit of the Alki pioneers, a spirit that carries into contemporary Seattle—another grounding.

We now have on the Duwamish Peninsula at least three centers of history and heritage—the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center in Delridge, the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center, and the Log House Museum. This is a rich mix, supplemented by citywide organizations such as MOHAI and the Maritime Historical Society.

It has not always been a pretty history. Young Rolland Denny might have starved without clam juice provided by Duwamish women, yet the Duwamish longhouses on the river were burned during a period of land development. The exhibit at YCAC tells of generations of immigrant strivers but also the privations of the Great Depression and the stigma of living in Poverty Gulch. The Cambodian Killing Fields Museum, which has moved to the Wing Luke Museum, documents the murder of millions in the years under the Pol Pot regime, a genocide which sent thousands of refugees to the United States and to White Center.

It is the task of our heritage institutions to tell those stories—proudly much of the time but also honestly with all of our flaws. Our mission is not to romanticize history or to dwell overly in nostalgia but to use the lens of history to understand how societies work, how they suffer and thrive. As the SWSHS launches new program initiatives in the next few years, this will be our focus—telling our stories in all of their complexity and providing a grounding for the present.

In Memorium

Memorial gifts were received for several former members of the SWSHS this winter.

Maryann Julia (Jones) Maginnis, granddaughter of Seattle pioneers, was a life-long resident of Alki. She taught at Madison Junior High, served on the Pike Place Market Historical Commission and on the board of the Women's University Club.

Jacqueline Carey Kelly taught elementary school at Fauntleroy, Arbor Heights, Jefferson, and Roxbury schools. She and her husband John Kelly spent many weeks working on collections at the Log House Museum.

Marguerite Chase Parlato, long-time member, was involved with the Longtimers group. She was a teacher at Alki Elementary School and the mother of former SWSHS board member Mary Parlato Gunderson.

Fay A. Lowthian was a member and the wife of member Kenneth Lowthian. She worked as a secretary at Denny Junior High School.
Southwest Seattle Historical Society & Log House Museum

Business Members

- Ballentene Railing
- Better Business Bookkeeping
- Chelan Café
- Clear Channel Outdoor
- David Kehle, Architect
- Dunville Gallery
- H.E. Beasley Interiors
- David Leavengood, Architect
- Jackson, Morgan, Hunt, PLLC
- Northwest Art and Frame
- The Pacific Institute
- Tom’s Automotive
- Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes
- West Seattle Herald

Donors

*Donations received October 2008 – January, 2009*

**Up to $4,000**
Gregory Smith

**Up to $2,000**
Lou and Diane Tice

**Up to $1,000**
Scott Hunt, Mary Lou Richardson

**Up to $750**
Boeing Company, Marcy Johnsen, Tony Vincent

**Up to $500**
Gayle Anderson, Allen and Judy Bentley, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Donald Kelstrom, John Kelly, Flora Belle Key, Fred Larkins, Julie Miller, Joan Bailey Mraz, Dan Reiner, Carol and Charlie Vincent, Mercedes Yaeger

**Up to $250**

**Up to $100**
Annual Gala—November 2008

The SWSHS annual gala at South Seattle Community College raised a good time for all and more than $15,000 for the Log House Museum. Thank you!

Al Rasmussen addressed the crowd.

Harry and Edith Beasley celebrate

This Log House Museum edible treat, crafted by Ethelyn Abellanos and Paul Facchini, delighted diners.

Somewhere In Time, Unlimited, lent an historical air. (www.SITUSeattle.com)

Audrey Zemke and Sarah Frederick enjoyed the festivities.

Board Member Tia Hallberg chats with speaker Leonard Garfield of the Museum of History and Industry.

Storyteller Mercedes Yaeger of Market Ghost Tours entertains the crowd. (www.seattleghost.com)

Ruth Ward raises a paddle

Photos Courtesy Steve Shay, West Seattle Herald
Mission of the SWSHS & Log House Museum
“... to advocate the collection, protection and preservation of historic artifacts and sites, and to sponsor programs and events which enhance our community’s heritage”

Calendar

March 9  SWSHS Board meeting, SSCC, RS 30
April 13 SWSHS Board meeting, SSCC, RS 30
April 22 Log House Museum native plant sale

May 9  Log House Museum garage sale
June 8  SWSHS Board meeting, SSCC, RS30
June 6  Bike Through History Tour

Annual Community Garage Sale

On Saturday, May 9th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Museum courtyard will once again turn into a treasure trove of bargains galore. Last year’s event raised enough money to pay the museum heating and phone bills for two months. This year we can do even better with your help. If you have items sitting around that need a new home, this is your opportunity to do some downsizing. Also, if you have a few hours to volunteer to help set up or work on the day of the sale we would be pleased to hear from you. If you have items to donate or time to volunteer, leave a message for Carol Vincent at 206-938-5293 or e-mail loghousemuseum@comcast.net, subject: garage sale. The 5th annual West Seattle Community Garage Sale is sponsored by the West Seattle Blog www.westseattleblog.com that provides maps for visitors and incentives for participants. With over 100 participants, this event brings in visitors from throughout the Puget Sound region.

Yes, I want to support the work of the Log House Museum!

☐ $15 Senior/Student  ☐ $25 Individual/Non-Profit
☐ $40 Family  ☐ $100 Pioneer
☐ $150 Business  ☐ $250 Settler

☐ Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

Name: _____________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Phone: __________________ e-mail: ___________________________

☐ Cash_______  ☐ Check_________

☐ Visa/MasterCard # ___________________________ Exp. date: ___

FOOTPRINTS
Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
& "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 4960