

Footprints

on the sands of time...

LX

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2006

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Museum Assistant

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VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TEA - AN INSTANT TRADITION!



On December 10, 2005 the Historical Society's inaugural Victorian Holiday Tea at the Alki Homestead became an instantaneous success. While being treated to traditional tea delicacies; dainty sandwiches, scones, quiches, tea bread, assorted sweets and chocolate truffles and a variety of teas, guests renewed friendships and delighted in the enchanting harp music of **Heather Carmen**.

Dorothy Kaloper, seated at left, across from her granddaughter, **Ashley Montgomery**, chat with **Ada Hallberg**.

Guests and staff alike savored the charismatic setting of the 100 year old Homestead, beautifully decorated for the upcoming holiday season. With this unique backdrop how could this not become the Society's annual premiere holiday event!

MUSEUM HOURS TO INCREASE IN MARCH

Starting March 2, 2006. Museum open hours will be

12-4 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays

We will continue to schedule off-hour tours to accommodate school groups, clubs and organizations

The SWSHS Board is pleased to announce an increase and change of hours at the Log House Museum in response to public demand. The Museum will be open on Thursdays 12-4 (currently closing 2 hours earlier) and we will open on Fridays 12-4. On Saturdays and Sundays we will be open one hour longer from 12- 4 p.m.

TRIVIA NIGHT MARCH 1ST AT ROCKSPORT

Join us for this exciting event at the Rocksport Bar & Grill on Wednesday, March 1st. SWSHS is sponsoring Trivia night emceed by Declan Owens. Fee is \$3.00 per player. Questions on Westside history will challenge the most knowledgeable. Rocksport is at 4219 SW Alaska St. See you at 6 p.m.

What West Seattle Park is named after an editor of the West Seattle Herald?
(answer on back page)

The Log House Museum
is funded in part by

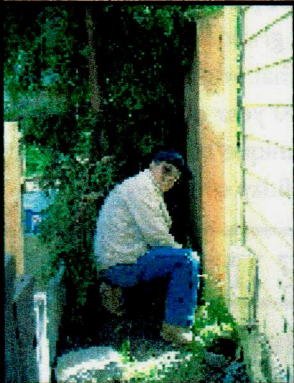


CULTURE

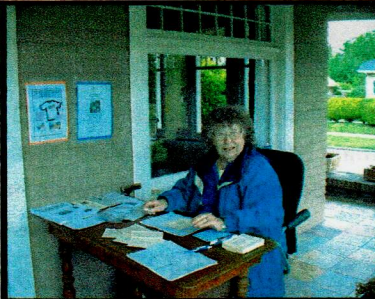
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

VOLUNTEERS ARE REAL LIFESAVERS!

Historical society volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Operating the museum takes many dedicated volunteers and our **thanks** to all of you who are already committed to helping. Without you the museum couldn't exist. But there continues to be a need for more volunteers. This is where **YOU** come in. We've got a lot going on and potential to do even more. But in order to move forward, we need to reinvigorate our ranks of volunteers! We really need your help on the society's committees. The Fundraising committee has many sub groups that work on events like the home tour, auction and the popular afternoon teas. So think about how you can help. Give us a call and come on in to your Log House Museum! Together, we can build a stronger historical society! 206-938-2853.



Charles Vincent, volunteer handyman repairs fence



2005 home tour volunteer, Dorothy Poplawski

One hand alone does not clap—Arab proverb

Homes With History Tour Saturday, May 20th SAVE THE DATE!

Don't miss this years "Homes With History Tour" on Saturday, May 20, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 4 pm. The opening ceremony will be held at Kenyon Hall, 7904 35th Avenue SW beginning at 9 a.m. Coffee and rolls will be available. Tickets are \$20 person. Check out www.loghousemuseum.org for current updates or call 206-938-5293

PASSIONATE GARDENER SPIFFS UP MUSEUM GROUNDS

Have you been to the Log House Museum recently and seen the native plant gardens all spruced up? The **Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood** is blooming as if winter had hung its head in shame and given way to a glorious springtime! The calendar and weatherman say no but obviously with devoted gardener **Irene Gehring's** magic touch the museum's gardens have come to life early this year. You can often find her among the plants trimming and weeding, heedless of winter's downpour! **Irene** retired from Hope Lutheran School as a pre-school through 8th grade teacher in 2001. Since then she has taken on many garden challenges including the museum's. **Irene** hopes a generous society member will consider donating yard waste paper bags to make her clean up job easier. If you'd like to donate bags please call 206.938.5293.



Irene Gehring

In Memoriam

WILLIAM "BILL" RANSDALL

William "Bill" Ransdell, 80, passed away November 22, 2005. A lifetime West Seattleite, Bill shared his memories with the museum's Longtimer's group and fundraising skills with Board and staff. He will be remembered by all for his many contributions to the museum's development.

GEORGE E. MANWARING

George Manwaring, 84, passed away November 24, 2005. He and his wife Jean have been supporters of the society and museum since 2003.

HERB SMITH

Herb Smith, a volunteer researcher in 1986-87 for the "West Side Story" history book who taught mathematics at WS High School & Madison Junior High School for 31 years, died Nov. 27 at age 84. He founded WS Boy Scout troop 282.

OTTO LANG

Longtime West Seattleite, ski film producer and pioneer NW ski instructor since 1936, Otto Lang passed away January 30, 2006 at the age of 98. He often visited the Log House Museum to share with staff his current photography projects.

THANK YOU 2005 DONORS!

\$10,000 and under

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The Girls at Ilusions

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Seattle"

Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116,
one block south of the
Statue of Liberty on
Alki Beach.

Editor, Carol Vincent

Museum hours

Thursdays:

Noon to 6 p.m.

Weekends:

Noon to 3 p.m.

Beginning March 2
12-4 p.m. Thurs-Sun.

How to reach us

By Phone:

206-938-5293

By FAX:

206-937-4475

By Mail:

3003 61st Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116

By e-mail:

loghousemuseum
@comcast.net

Web site: www.

loghousemuseum.org

NOT A MEMBER? TAKE TIME TO FILL IN THIS FORM AND MAIL IT TODAY!

☐ **Yes! I want to support the work of the SWSHS & Log House Museum**

☐ \$15 Senior/Student

☐ \$20 Individual/Non-Profit

☐ \$500 Homesteader

☐ \$35 Dual/Family

☐ \$100 Pioneer

☐ \$1000 Visionary

☐ \$150 Business

☐ \$250 Settler

☐ Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

Additional tax-deductible donation is also enclosed to support the LHM _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

☐ Cash _____ ☐ Check _____

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Name as it appears on card: _____

Please make checks payable to the **Southwest Seattle Historical Society (SWSHS)**. The Log House Museum is a project of the SWSHS, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Tax ID #91-1297010.

2006 CALENDAR

Spring Tea: date not set

Home Tour — Saturday, May 20th

Membership Picnic — July 4th

Garden Tea — August - Villa Heidelberg

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, November 11

FOUNDERS DAY - Monday, November 13

HOLIDAY TEA — December 3

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dan & Eleanor Laxdall

Steve & Jan Burkholder

Ken & Fay Lowthian

Alki Community Council

John Cavin & Kathy Kelleher

Answer to trivia question on page 1
Hamilton Viewpoint, named for editor &
publisher Rupert Hamilton (1923-1939)

FOOTPRINTS

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

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Presidents Report — Midwinter 2006

As many of you know I have been involved with the Southwest Seattle Historical Society since 1989 and have served in many capacities. This year I take on the role of president. I'm looking forward to a year of energy and excitement with new board members **Tami Denton**, **Cassandra Tate** and **Scott Wilbur**. We'll miss seeing retiring members **Clay Eals** and **Dick Sherman** at board meetings but they promise to be around to help out when and where most needed. **Audrey Zemke** is no longer a board member but will remain active as fundraising chair. Audrey is a student in the University of Washington's Certificate Program in Fundraising Management.



Carol Vincent
President, 2006

Joan Mraz has served as president for the past five years. Her guidance through those years has been exemplary and we could not have asked for a more judicious leader. Fortunately for the society, **Joan** will remain with the board as Membership Secretary so her wisdom and insight will continue to be available to us! Thank you **Joan** for all that you have done to make the SWSHS and Log House Museum so very special. We could not have done it without you.

Also, a thank you is in order for **Tom Monahan** for carrying out the challenging job as the Museum Director in 2005. Tom's reliability and conscientiousness were cherished assets to the board and staff. We will miss him very much and wish him well.



Marianne Maksirisombat
Museum Assistant

I'm delighted to introduce the new Log House Museum assistant. **Marianne Maksirisombat** has taken on the demands of managing the office, performing essential museum duties and serving as docent and the society and museum's communications hub. **Marianne** brings strong organizational and people skills to this new position. Her computer and artistic talents add to the remarkable combination of proficiencies that make **Marianne** an ideal fit for society and museum needs. When you call the museum with a question Marianne will be glad to help you with your needs or refer you to the right person.

Please join the SWSHS executive board in welcoming **Marianne** to the Log House Museum staff.

2006 will be a pivotal year for the society as the board continues to evaluate and redefine objectives for the Log House Museum. Already, plans are in the works for expanding education and oral history programs. Outreach will become a major focus. Speakers will be available to address community organizations and show slides about the history of the Westside, the renovation of the museum and society programs. If you know of any group that needs a guest speaker please have them call 206.938.5293 for more information.

Your involvement right now could not be more crucial to the success of the museums future. Whether you volunteer as a docent, as a member on the fundraising, home tour, tea or auction committees, work with the collections crew, or help with upcoming education and oral history programs, you WILL make a difference!

YOUNGSTOWN CULTURAL ARTS CENTER TO OPEN



"Historic Cooper School defines and creates a sense of place in Delridge and will become a central point for art, celebrations, civic engagement and learning." - Ricardo Frazer, Seattle Arts Commission

For 15 years the massive brick Cooper School sat vacant and neglected on Delridge Way. Graffiti marred its walls; blackberry vines stretched onto the playfield; plywood blocked its tall windows. Once a crossroads for the Delridge community, the school had been closed in 1989 by the Seattle School District and used as a storage area. During the neighborhood planning process of the 1990's, residents put revitalization of Cooper at the top of the list. The Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association bought the building from the School District and the fun began.

Now the globe lights are back on, the bricks have been tuck pointed, the trim repainted and classrooms turned into studios. This February Cooper will reopen as the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, harkening back to the older name of the school and neighborhood. It will be home to 36 resident artists and community arts and culture groups such as twelfth Night Productions, Theatre Puget Sound, Pacific Northwest Ballet's Discover Dance program, Phffft! Dance Theatre, Arts Corps, Jack Straw Productions, The Power of Hope, Seattle Symphony's ACCESS Project, The Southwest Interagency Academy and the Nature Conservancy. Panels in the Hallways on the main floor will recount the rich history of the school and community. The history is based on interviews with more than 30 alumni who attended Youngstown/Cooper from 1917 to 1989.

Youngstown School began shortly after the steel mill arrived on the Duwamish Peninsula. For 70 years the school anchored this working class neighborhood. After World War II the Seattle School District hired its first two African-American teachers. Thelma Fisher Dewitty came to Cooper School in 1947 teaching second grad. "The reception so far as I could see was cordial," Dewitty said in a 1976 interview. (The school name had been changed in 1939 to honor Seattle's progressive school superintendent) The theatre in the cultural center will be named after her. Alumni remember the school fondly as a place where diverse children were schooled not just in reading, writing and math but also in physical education, art, music, holidays and practical arts such as sewing, canning and woodworking. Now the school awaits new sounds of artists and musicians. *Judy Bentley, Excerpts from Youngstown/Cooper School Oral History Project, Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association*

The community is invited to a re-opening celebration of the new Youngstown a 6 p.m. Friday, February 24th. Youngstown Cultural Arts Center is located at 4408 Delridge Way SW



Thelma F. Dewitty