

Footprints

on the sands of time...

ISSUE LXXV SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & LOG HOUSE MUSEUM SPRING 2010

"FEMALE FREAK" CATHERINE SMITH LED ALKI SUFFRAGE CLUB

This year Washington is celebrating statewide the centennial of women's suffrage.

When the women's suffrage campaign kicked into high gear in Washington in 1909, the Alki Suffrage Club, led the charge. **Catherine Smith, aka Mrs. George A. Smith**, was elected president of the new club in May, 1909, a meeting of 30 members. Two weeks later the club had 46 members. **Mrs. Smith**, whose mail address was Stevens and Alki avenues, announced her intention to "organize the whole of Alki Point within the next six months." Meetings were held in homes and at **Alki Church**. When the fall campaign opened, the club vowed to cooperate with West Seattle and Youngstown clubs. A year later the Alki club, also referred to as the **Alki Point Equal Suffrage Club**, had 115 members, including 27 men and a number of daughters.

Mrs. Smith, described in newspapers as charming, spoke, wrote, and gathered signatures with ferocity. When the **Rev. Dr. M.A. Matthews** criticized suffragists as "female freaks," her reply to his criticism was widely circulated. When she took a vacation of several months in Honolulu to recover from an illness, she returned with several thousand signatures on petitions to Congress asking for suffrage for women in Hawaii.

All of the Alki club's efforts were successful when women were granted the right to vote in Washington in November, 1910, after a few decades of false starts.



Suffragists had "won the verdict of victory from our fair-minded, justice-loving men," **Mrs. Smith** wrote. She and **May Arkwright Hutton** were hailed as "conquering heroesses" when they walked into the National Suffrage Convention in California in 1911 and spoke before a crowd of 2500 people celebrating victories in both Washington and California. **Mrs. Smith** wrote the lead article in *The New Citizen*, "The Magazine that Won Equal Suffrage in Washington," recounting the convention and celebrating suffrage victories. She recalled meeting **Susan B. Anthony** at the New Orleans suffrage convention in 1903 and felt her presence at the celebration.

Judith Bentley
News articles on the Alki Suffrage Club are available through the Washington Women's History Consortium and through <http://digitum.washingtonhistory.org/u/?digipubs,1063>; **Smith, Catherine**. "Jubilee Night at National Suffrage Convention," *The New Citizen*: II:18, January 1912

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Annual Independence Day Picnic
Sunday July 4th Noon – 2 p.m.
Log House Museum Courtyard
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Drinks provided

Bring a dish to share

See page 2

"THIS PLACE MATTERS"

For more information



Footprints

is the official
publication of the
Southwest Seattle
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& "Birthplace of Seattle"
Log House Museum
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Alki Beach)

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THIS PLACE MATTERS—JULY 4TH

Part of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society's mission is to preserve and protect historic sites. The landmarked Fir Lodge/ Alki Homestead has sat vacant for nearly 18 months following a fire on the second floor in January 2009. During our Independence Day (July 4) membership picnic, we'll walk over to the sidewalk and street in front of the Homestead to say, "This Place Matters."

This Bernard family estate, of which our Log House Museum was a part, has anchored Alki since 1904. Preserving and restoring the historic log structure goes beyond fried chicken.

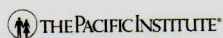
Let's save this landmark. **Paul Dorpat** and **Jean Sherrard** have chronicled the building's history in their "Now and Then" column, to be published Sunday June 27, in the *Seattle Times*, and Jean will photograph our July 4 event. Former Seattle Mayor **Greg Nickels**, King County Executive **Dow Constantine** and Seattle City Council member **Tom Rasmussen** will attend and be among the many dignitaries appearing in the photo.

Please come and be among the hundreds who will make the photo impressive -- and a visible reminder of the significance of this place in Southwest Seattle history.

Clay Eals

The mission of the Southwest Seattle
Historical Society is to advocate the
collection, protection and preservation of
historic artifacts and sites, and to sponsor
programs and events which enhance our
community's heritage

Printing courtesy of



THE LOG HOUSE MUSEUM IS
FUNDED IN PART BY



COLLECTION REPORT

The Log House Museum recently received a collection of photographs from **Robert Bowman** who published an article about the **Hansen/Gundvaldson family** genealogy for the Seattle Genealogical Society in their 2009-2010 Autumn/Winter newsletter. He kindly donated several related photos to the museum, as well as some great photos of Alki in the early 1900's. These photos are especially interesting because they lend visual support to stories we have heard from several different sources. Also thanks to SGS for their donation of the newsletter featuring the article. The Seattle Genealogical Society will be publishing another of **Bowman's** articles in their upcoming newsletter that will detail **Agnes Austin Smith's** genealogy.

Sarah Fredrickson



2010.7.3, c. 1900-1915

Five boys playing on driftwood on Alki Beach, in front of the **Alki Point Natatorium**. **A.A. Smith** built one of the first natatoriums on Alki. The bathhouse came down after a snowstorm in 1916 collapsed the roof. On February 3, 1916, the **Seattle Post-Intelligencer** reported; "The roof went down with a crash that was heard for a mile."

Save the Date

**Who from the past will
appear this year?**

Join the ghosts of Westside's past
for a delectable Halloween Brunch

A ghoulishly savory event!

On Saturday October 30, 2010
11:30am to 2:30pm at Salty's on Alki

Costumes, silent auction and great food

It is certain to be fun
for the entire family!

All proceeds benefit
the Log House Museum
your community resource

WEST SEATTLE LIBRARY CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

In 1908, wealthy philanthropist **Andrew Carnegie** agreed to donate \$35,000 to build a library in West Seattle. That same year, the **Niesz family** and other West Seattle residents donated land for the branch at 42nd Avenue Southwest and SW College Street.

The 9,460-square-foot branch, which was designed by **W. Marbury Somervell** and **Joseph S. Côté**, cost \$38,344.48 and opened July 23, 1910. Two days later it began circulating books and became the first permanent branch building to open in Seattle.

On Saturday, July 24, 2010, from 1-3 p.m. the West Seattle Branch of the Seattle Public Library system, now a national and locally designated land mark, will celebrate its 100th year serving West Seattle residents.

Library system, now a national and locally designated land mark, will celebrate its 100th year serving West Seattle residents.

During the library's 1987 renovation, appliquéd squares of West Seattle historic scenes were created by community quilters, made into a large quilt that hung in the library's NE wall until its' most recent renovatio

That quilt, now a part of SWSHS growing collection of artifacts, will be on display at the Library along with other historically significant items. Vintage 1910 costumes from the Goodwill Museum's antique clothing collection will also be on display.

Come share the memories of a bygone era and help launch the bi-centennial.

Carol Vincent



The historic West Seattle branch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was named a landmark building by the Seattle Landmarks Board.

Photo Courtesy Carol Vincent

Business Members

Aleta Woodworth, CPA
 Alki Bakery
 Alki Community Council
 Ballentene Railing
 Banana Pages
 The Chelan Café
 David Kehle, Architect
 Dunville Gallery
 Graphics Plus, Inc.
 Jack Heavner, CT Engineering
 Hossman Family Foundation
 Jackson & Jackson Contractors
 Jackson, Morgan, Hunt PLLC
 Leavengood Architects
 Merrill Gardens at West Seattle
 Northwest Art and Frame
 The Pacific Institute
 Sposari's Concrete & Materials
 Tom's Automotive
 True Value Hardware
 Tuxedos 'n Tennis Shoes
 Catering
 Villa Heidelberg
 WS Chamber of Commerce
 West Seattle Herald

SWSHS Advisory Council Members

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 Clay Eals
 Joe Follansbee
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 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

IN MEMORIAM

Shirley Blackinton, March 11, 2010. Oral History participant who lent Duwamish berry baskets for museum exhibits.

Virginia Eals: March 27, 2010. Mother of Advisory Council member, Clay Eals. 1941 West Seattle High graduate and long time member of SWSHS.

Ruth Ward: April 26, 2010. Sought support to have her craftsman home landmarked by the city of Seattle Landmarks Board. SWSHS member.

Neal Saffer: May 15, 2010. Oral History participant, barbecue chef for annual membership picnics, owner of Quesnels Restaurant with wife Marge for 25 years.

Judy Bentley
 President

board@loghousemuseum.info

Executive Board

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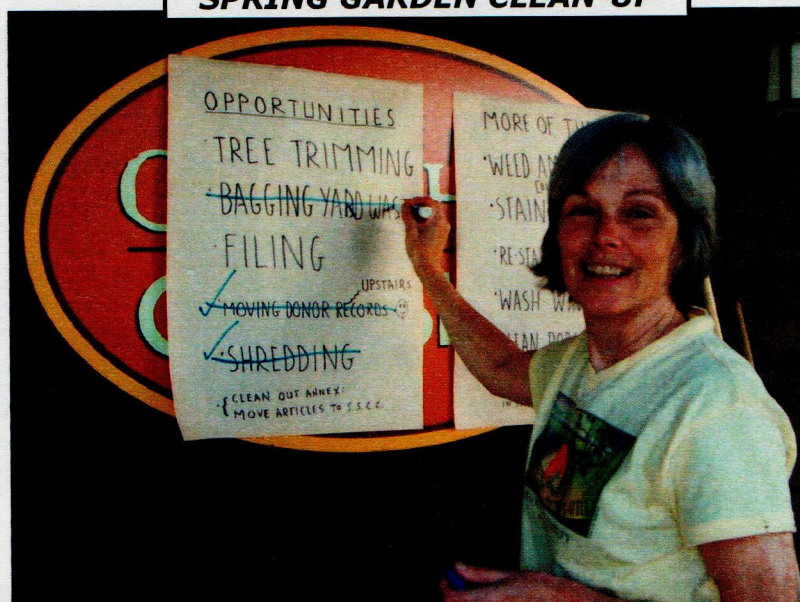
Jim Del Ciello
 Kat Overton
 Alan Peterson
 Ron Richardson

Staff

Andrea Mercado
 Museum Director
 Sarah Frederick
 Membership and
 Collections Manager

Diane Ward
 Bookkeeper

SPRING GARDEN CLEAN-UP



By 1 p.m. on June 5, Spring clean-up time at the museum, Judy Bentley, Society President, had marked off the entire garden clean-up "opportunities" punch list thanks to Larry Carpenter, Don Kelstrom, Andrea Mercado, Alan Peterson, Clara Peterson, Jennifer Peterson, Loren Peterson, Joan Stover, Carol Vincent & Alan & Judy Bentley. Photo Carol Vincent

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Andrea Mercado,
Museum Director

Springtime is always busy at the museum. The northwest native garden begins blooming (come check on the beautiful iris and trillium) and gardener Irene Gehring gets busy. Collection Manager Sarah Frederick just completed a 4Culture funded collection care grant with her volunteers—look for photos on the **West Seattle blog** and in the **West Seattle Herald** spotlighting the collections.

We have begun spring tours. The last to come through were 4th graders from the **Bush School** and **High Point** seniors.

It is perfect time to visit the museum!

Jerry, Tim and Ken Robinson just donated **West Seattle Herald** photographs and research materials to the archives. Created by **Tim St. Clair** and newspaper staff, this gift to the community will illuminate source materials for so much of the history passed to us through the **Herald** over decades. A whole slew of volunteers just completed an **Images of America : West Seattle** photographic history book, look for that in the bookstores by the end of the year.

Andrea Mercado

ORDER THIS BOOK AT THE PICNIC!

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The idea of a big city named New York ~~City~~ began in 1851 with the arrival of the Bell, Low, Denny, Boren, and Terry families on a Puget Sound shore. Since that rough beginning, logging, farming, shipbuilding, fishing, steel manufacturing, trolleys, and bridges have shaped the area's people and built communities. Beaches on Puget Sound and a river leading inside the country have defined the Duwamish Peninsula. In 1907, long having discarded the misfit name New York, the town of West Seattle was annexed into Seattle. Being the largest landmass annexed to Seattle brought advantages while West Seattle's neighborhood distinction and independent spirit remained.

Located in an authentically restored 1904 log building, the "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum is a place to discover and celebrate the history of the Duwamish Peninsula and the birthplace of Seattle. From the Duwamish River on the east, to Puget Sound on the west, from the former site of Luna Park at Duwamish Head on the north, down through White Center, the museum shares the history of a diverse and vibrant community. Originally the carriage house of the Fir Lodge estate, this award-winning public facility and community landmark is a project of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.



www.arcadiapublishing.com

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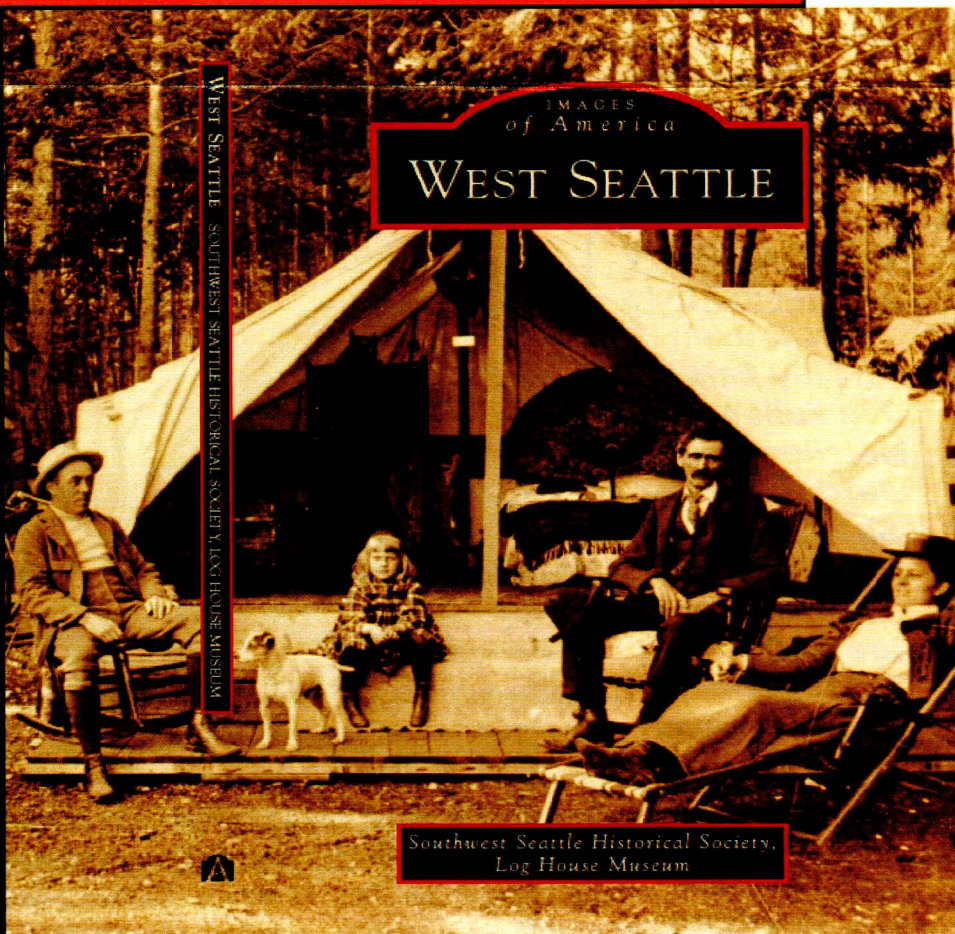


Photo courtesy of Arcadia Publishing

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We would like to welcome new member **Marilyn Peterson Graves**. Thanks to **Richard and Vannetta Warren** and **Jean Manwaring** for becoming Pioneer Members. We would also like to thank **Ross Cavanaugh** for increasing his membership to the Individual level.

Just a reminder that a museum membership makes a great gift! Perfect for Father's Day, a graduation gift or any birthdays! Just \$25 purchases a full year's membership and all of its benefits - a year long subscription to Footprints, a 10% discount in the museum store and being the first to hear about the museum's exciting events!

DONATIONS

Up to \$50

Mile High United Way
Thomas Miller
Tom Rasmussen
Bill and Kathy Schier

\$50-\$150

Barbara Couden-Ochs
Andrea Mercado
Heidi Mercado
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The United Way

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Don Kelstrom
West Seattle Herald

BLOSS HOUSE SEATTLE LANDMARK NOMINATION



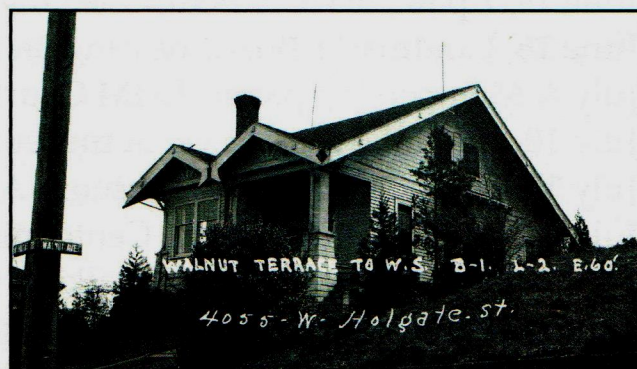
Several years ago, **Ruth Ward** (left) long-time SWSHS member asked for Society help in getting her home designated a city landmark. **Ruth** purchased the property in 1971 and began researching the home's history. She felt very strongly that the house had

a significant history worth saving for future generations. Working with **Andrea Mercado**, Log House Museum Director, and **Eugenia Woo**, of **Historic Seattle**, **Ward** secured nomination of the Bloss House by the **Seattle Landmarks Board** earlier this year. The nomination will be reviewed by the Landmarks Board on Wednesday June 16th.

Sadly, **Ruth** passed away April 26th, and will not be able to speak on behalf of her dream in front of the Landmarks Board. For those who support this designation, testimony supporting this nomination

will be accepted at the Landmarks Board meeting on June 16th or in writing prior to that date. For further information http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/preservation/landmarks_current_nom.htm or **Andrea Meracado**, LHM Director at 206-938-5293 or loghousemuseum@comcast.net subject line "Bloss House".

Carol Vincent



1938 King County Assessor photo for 4055 SW Holgate.
Source: Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Branch.

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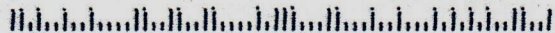
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14, 7 p.m., SWSHS Board meeting, SSCC, RS30
June 16, Landmarks Board hearing on the Bloss house (see page 7 for details)
July 4, Membership picnic, LHM Courtyard noon; 1:30 pm This Place Matters (page 2)
July 10 Alki bike tour (meet at museum at 12:30 pm)
July 17-18, Alki Log House Museum Artfest
July 24, West Seattle Library, Centennial Celebration & Vintage Fashion Show 1-3 pm
August 28, 10 a.m., Riverside walking tour with Judy Bentley & Frank Zuvela
September 18, 10 a.m., Schmitz Park walking tour with Peder Nelson
October 30, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Halloween Brunch/Gala, Salty's