

Footprints

on the sands of time...

ISSUE LXXVI SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & LOG HOUSE MUSEUM SUMMER 2010

WESTSIDE'S "MAN OF THE YEAR" FOR 1965 WAS A WOMAN



Helen Sutton receives 1965 award
SWSHS #2008.26.8

Courtesy the West Seattle Herald

In this centennial year of women's suffrage, Footprints has focused on women, including the West Seattle Art Club, and Katherine Smith of the Alki Suffrage Club. This issue focuses on Helen Sutton, who died in 2009 after life-long involvement in the West Seattle community.

Helen Sutton's legacy is strong and deep here in West Seattle. Her tireless work impacted many facets of our community - from education and business to philanthropy. Long respected and admired, she received dozens of awards, plaques, letters and public commendations throughout her lifetime. She even transcended gender boundaries to become West Seattle's "Man of the Year" in 1965.

Appointed to educational panels by Washington State governors three times and invited to the White House to speak on volunteerism, Sutton tirelessly advocated for education within our state.

She was the first female president of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce, owner of the La Grace Fashion Apparel, Chairperson of the Federation Forest committee, West Seattle/Fauntleroy YMCA and past president of the Philanthropic Education Organization promoting educational opportunities for women. She worked to create South Seattle Community College, the SSCC Arboretum and the SSCC Foundation, and also served as its president. Truly, the list of the organizations she contributed to, and lives she impacted are many.

Sutton was born in 1913 to Bill and Sue Cox of South Dakota. The family moved to Idaho and

Helen graduated from Lewiston High School. She earned a BS in Physical Education at age 19 from Washington State University. She met her husband of 53 years, Milton Sutton at her first teaching position after graduating. They were both employed at the Wapato Junior and Senior High School in Wapato, WA just south of Yakima. There she began a lifelong involvement with the General Federated Women's Clubs, becoming a charter member of the Wohele Junior Women's Club. Wohele is short for "work, help and learn" and Sutton took those words to heart.

As club members noted the old growth forests of the Cascades being felled, they recognized the importance of conservation for future generations. Similar to the Schmitz Family of Beach Drive dedicating a portion of their property for preservation to conserve old growth trees in West Seattle, the women's club purchased old growth forest at the foothills of the Cascades. The 600 acre Federation Forest State Park was dedicated in 1949.

Sutton's powerful work and team-building within the community to support education, conservation and philanthropy earned her the title "Man of the Year" in 1965 for her contributions to West Seattle. She joined service clubs that taught their members leadership skills, parliamentary procedures, committee management and elections. Eventually, the clubs grew into professionally managed organizations and committees. Ever determined, Sutton rolled right along with the changes, adapted and continued her passion of volunteerism and spirit of hard work. There is not a corner of our peninsula Helen Sutton did not affect with her determined focus and endless energy.

Andrea Mercado

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Footprints

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

(one block south of Alki Beach)

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Saturday & Sunday

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Judy Bentley, President

Every time I hear the mocking phrase "hysterical society," I cringe. Most historical societies are far from hysterical. More often, they're perceived as old, stodgy and lodged in the past, unable to relate to history in the making.

When the Southwest Seattle Historical Society was founded in 1985, founders undertook the ambitious mission of advocating for the collection, protection and preservation of historic artifacts and sites and sponsoring heritage programs and events. Just a decade later, the society focuses on raising money for the restoration of the Log House Museum and launching a museum staff and program. Since the museum opened in 1997, the society has

proudly operated and maintained this community treasure.

In the modern wired world, however, museums risk becoming archaic. For that reason, we have not been place-bound but have reached into the community with events that are not physically located at the museum, such as school visits, walking tours, and home tours. As a complimentary term, hysterical may describe our passionate advocacy for preserving other historic treasures in southwest Seattle, such as the Alki Homestead, the Seaview building at the Kenney, and a craftsman home. We have an online presence, too, with a website, facebook page, and support to other local history sites such as www.delridgehistory.org.

The society board is currently discussing the relationships among all of these purposes and how we might best use our human resources and channel our energies. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about what makes a museum and an historical society vibrant in 2010.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Are there are ghosts in the walls of the museum? That is what the **Paranormal Investigators of Historic America** (PIHA) hope to discover. Their visit will coincide nicely with the second annual Halloween Gala, where we will share any ghostly discoveries with you!

Besides the possibility of invisible presences at the museum, we have had a wave of new and very present volunteers that have come through the doors. First, a big thank-you to our two local businesses. **Jackson-Dean Construction** came one day to water blast, scrape, clean and hand stain projects around the museum while **Michael Higgins of Bruiser's Tree and Chipping Service** of Burien/White

Center dropped off fine wood chips for the garden. Wonder gardener **Irene Gehring** has been asking for soil amendments and mulch and they certainly delivered on that request.

New volunteers **Alyson Deans, Gaea Singer, Isabela Iovanel**, church archivists **Dayle Banks** and **Sarah Baylinson** have been working as docents with museum visitors and with the museum archives. There is always room for one more volunteer at the museum. Give us a call or stop by and sign-up!

2010 has been a significant year for our local high schools. In addition to the centennial anniversary of the first graduating class of West Seattle High School in 1910, it is also the half-century anniversary of Chief Sealth International High School.

Andrea Mercado

MEET EMMY AWARD WINNING SWSHS BOARD TREASURER, JOAN STOVER

Joan Stover was born and raised in southwest Washington and was trained as an educator. She has had a myriad of exciting educational experiences. In 1971 she worked with a UNESCO team in Amman, Jordan to set up the Master's degree program for chemistry at the newly established University of Jordan. In 1974, Joan accepted a tenured faculty position to develop curriculum, establish science laboratories, and teach chemistry, biology and related courses at the newly formed South Seattle Community College. In 1980 she married **Dick Luther**, a West Seattle stockbroker and they established WGL Asset Management, a financial planning firm, and became Certified Financial Planners and faculty for the Seattle Campus of the College of Financial Planning. They continued working together until his death in 2005.

On July 31st of this year, **Joan Stover**, Ph.D. CFP, who was a national advisor to a team from Coast Learning Systems/Coastline College, received a group Documentary Emmy for Instructional Programming at the Leonard H. Goldenson Theater in North Hollywood. The team had developed and produced "Understanding Chemistry in Our World" an adult educational tool.

SWSHS is pleased to announce that Joan has agreed to accept the Treasurer position for 2011. She says that she joined SWSHS not only for social reasons but because she advocates for the idea that community museums provide people with connections to their communities and help them focus on their lives. The Society is delighted to have such a talented advocate on the executive board.



Joan Stover
Photo Courtesy of Matthew Imaging

"The team had developed and produced "Understanding Chemistry in Our World", an adult educational tool."

Business Members

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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

Gift Shop—Recommended Reads

More Voices, New Stories: King County Washington's First 150 Years, Mary Wright - A collection of essays on the history of Seattle and King County.

- *River Pigs and Cayuses: Oral Histories from the Pacific Northwest*, Ron Strickland - A collection of oral histories from PNW old-timers describing the diversity of life and labor on the Northwest frontier.

- *The Pioneers of Lakeview: A Guide to Seattle's Early Settlers and Their Cemetery*, Robert Ferguson - A guide to Lake View Cemetery, where many of Seattle's first settlers and their secrets are buried.

Thanks you Donors!

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Rally for 'This Place Matters' draws 200 to Alki Homestead

It was as if supporters of the Alki Homestead had assembled at a traditional gathering place to partake in a giant family meal. The plates were piled high with passion, and the cups overflowed with optimism.

This was the sixth-sense feeling on Sunday, July 4, 2010, as more than 200 people of all ages assembled in the middle of 61st Avenue Southwest just a half block from Alki Beach. They proclaimed their hope for the protection, preservation and restoration of the 106-year-old, fire-damaged log structure that once was called Fir Lodge and more recently was the Alki Homestead restaurant.

The cry, repeated in unison by the group as it posed for an iconic photo, was as clear as the golden summer afternoon: "This Place Matters."

The Alki Homestead, a city-designated landmark for 14 years, has special significance to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, one of four organizations hosting the Independence Day rally. More than a century ago, the building that serves as our historical society's Log House Museum was the carriage house for the Alki Homestead, and our historical society spearheaded the successful landmarking of both structures in the mid-1990s.

The other three organizations pulling together the July 4 rally were Historic Seattle, 4Culture and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. The Washington Trust had placed the Homestead on its endangered list in mid-2009 after a fire damaged the building earlier in the year, and that group's parent organization, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, coined the inspiring "This Place Matters" slogan that has taken root in preservation efforts throughout the country.

Speakers from all four groups, plus several local officeholders, including King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Council member Jan Drago and state Sen. Joe McDermott, summoned pride in hometown heritage as each one urged the crowd to cheer: "This Place Matters!"

Perhaps the most inspiring words came from West Seattleite and former Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. "Seattle is a growing city," Nickels said, "and that's great. We certainly welcome people who want to invest in our community. But you can't lose your soul. You have to remember where you came from. You have to remember what's important. You have to keep those memories alive in special places."

The culmination of the rally was the group image captured by Jean Sherrard, the "Now" photographer for Paul Dorpat's venerated weekly "Now and Then" column in the Seattle Times. The photo has been displayed and distributed far and wide on the Internet and will be the basis of a poster to promote the Homestead preservation effort.

To link to an eight-minute video of the rally, visit loghousemuseum.blogspot.com, or log onto YouTube and search for "Homestead" and "This Place Matters."



More than 200 people gathered July 4, 2010,

Historic Seattle, supported by our historical society and other heritage organizations, is working with the Alki Homestead owner on preservation of the building.



for the "This Place Matters" rally in front of the Alki Homestead. (Photo by Jean Sherrard)

Stay tuned for new developments. We are all hoping for an occasion to gather at the Homestead for another meal of celebration!

Story by Clay Eals, former president of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, member of the Advisory Council and emcee of the July 4 event.

Executive Board

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Carol Vincent

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We would like to welcome our new members, **Anne Noonan & Douglas Anderson, David Hansen, Pat Hartle, Elaine Christensen, and Frank & Sharon Zuvela.**

We would also like to thank our existing members who have increased their membership levels. We would like to thank **Margaret Ceis, Dorothy Kalooper, and Beryl Ash** for becoming Pioneer Members. **Harry and Edith Beasley**

increased their membership to the Family level. We would also like to thank **Don Kelstrom** for increasing his membership to the Individual level.

Our thoughts are with the families of **Kenny Wise** and **Joanne Richey**, who passed away this summer.

We would like to thank **Mary Lu and James Angstead** for their donation made in memory of Joanne Richey.

Sara Frederick

TELLING OUR WESTSIDE STORIES PLEDGES

The goal for the Telling Our Westside Stories campaign is to tell the stories of Seattle's southwest side through oral histories and exhibits and to place the Log House Museum on a firm financial base. Over the next three years, we will raise \$150,000. One-third of this amount will go to the Endowment Fund; one-third will go to a savings account; and one-third will go to operating expenses. We are asking for 150 people to pledge

\$1,000 or 300 people to pledge \$500 or 600 people to pledge \$250.

Since the beginning of the campaign in July 2009, we have received pledges. In the first six months of the campaign, in 2009, we received pledges of \$22,500 from the following people. Join this list by sending a pledge or contribution to Telling Our Westside Stories at the Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116.

Judy Bentley

T O W S

D O N O R S

\$2000 Joan Stover

\$1000

Al & Judy Bentley

Peggy Cullor

Tia Hallberg

Sharon Huling

Ruth & Wayne Moore

Alan & Jennifer Peterson

Mary & Richardson

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Lou & Diane Tice

Elaine Townsend

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\$750 Shirley Egan

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John Bennett

Earl & Adah Cruzen

Queen Julia Johnson

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Ron & Sherry Richardson

Bob & Rita Yeasting

\$250

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The Boeing Company

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Marcy Johnsen

Donald Kelstrom

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Candace Lein-Hayes

Andrea Mercado

Joan Bailey Mraz

Oscar Mraz

Judy Pickens

Michael E. Purdy

Jackie Standley Scott

Sue & Jerry Williams

Fred & Patricia Wright

Audrey Zemke



Save this
Date!

Saturday
October 30th

How can you enjoy a Halloween Party and support the Log House Museum at the same time?

By coming to the Halloween Gala 2010!

Come and join the Ghosts of Seattle's past, have some great fun and food, bid in the silent auction and friend the Log House Museum!

Saturday, Oct 30, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Who from the past will appear this year? Come try to guess while you enjoy a ghoulishly savory event at Salty's on Alki!

Come in costume! Who will you be? It is certain to be fun for the entire family! Enjoy a delectable Halloween Brunch, and much, much more.

Reserve your space by calling the Log House Museum, 206-938-5293.

Want to be a table Captain? Bring your friends and family to this lively once-a-year event \$65 adults; kids 13 and under \$25; kids 4 and under free!

All proceeds benefit the Log House Museum - your community resource.
www.loghousemuseum.info SWSHS 501(c) 3.

COLLECTION REPORT

West Seattle resident **Doug Pascoe** recently loaned the museum a film he made in 1952, while he was still in high school. **Doug** and his friends, **Guy Farmer** and **Frank Lemon**, snuck into the closed Alki Natatorium to make this short thriller, called *The Chase*. This film gives viewers a good look at the deterioration and debris inside the natatorium, right before it was torn down. After opening in 1934, it remained in business until 1939, when a lawsuit forced its closure. It was renovated and reopened in 1942, but closed again near the end of the war. The natatorium was finally torn down in 1953.

We have heard many stories of kids sneaking into the closed natatorium for a bit of adventure, despite the many No Trespassing signs. This short video shows broken glass from the ceiling, as well as rotted wood all over the place. It is no surprise parents didn't want their children poking around in there! We will have the film available for viewing through the month of October.

Sarah Frederick



The Chase, a film by Doug Pascoe—

"It is no surprise parents didn't want their children poking around in there!"

FOOTPRINTS

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

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| September 18, 10 a.m. | Walking history tour of Schmitz Park, led by Peder Nelson . |
| October 11, 7 p.m. | SWSHS Board meeting, SSCC, RS 30 |
| October 30, 11:30 a.m. | Halloween Brunch, Salty's on Alki |
| November 13, 10 a.m. | SWSHS annual meeting—Southwest Library -9010 35th Ave. SW |



YOU MADE THIS HAPPEN!

A child filled with the wonder of discovery, a senior delighted at sharing her valued history, a novice gardener finding worth in native plants, a researcher solving a riddle from the past, a teen's look of amazement when learning about life on Seattle's frontier, and a foreign visitor discovering how quickly this city has become a world class leader.

Your generous support of the Log House Museum continues to provide the programs and events that touch people's hearts and minds.

To keep this community educational treasure active and vital the Society needs your help to reach out to people and encourage them to become members and supporters of the Society and the Log House Museum.

Call on your friends, family and neighbors and have them join you in supporting the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and the Log House Museum by becoming a member. And remember, a membership in the Society also makes a wonderful gift for birthdays and holidays!

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
c/o Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. SW Seattle, WA 98116
www.loghousemuseum.info—loghousemuseum@comcast.net—206-938-5293

Yes, I want to support the work of the Society! Enclosed are my membership dues

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15-Senior/Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25-Individual/Non-Profit | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40-Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-Pioneer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150-Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Settler | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Homesteader | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Visionary |

☐ I'm also enclosing my donation of \$ _____

☐ Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

☐ Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. date: _____ or ☐ Cash ☐ Check

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature _____

☐ My employer will match my gift! Company: _____

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. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

8/31/1010

**TURN THE PAGE FOR A
VERY SPECIAL OFFER!**

Images of America

WEST SEATTLE

Here it is! The book we've all been waiting for. Arcadia Publishing will publish this book prepared by Log House Museum volunteers on November 1, 2010.

PLACE YOUR PRE-ORDER TODAY

Society members receive a 10% discount and with this pre-order and will receive an additional 10% off the publishing price of \$21.99. Shipping is \$5.00 extra.

Provide your name and contact information. You will pay for your order on delivery. Call 206-938-5293 or e-mail loghousemuseum@comcast.net to order yours today!

For more information check our website at www.loghousemuseum.info
Birthplace of Seattle, Log House Museum 3003 61st SW Seattle, WA 98116
Open Thursdays through Sundays from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The idea of a big city named New York Alki 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.



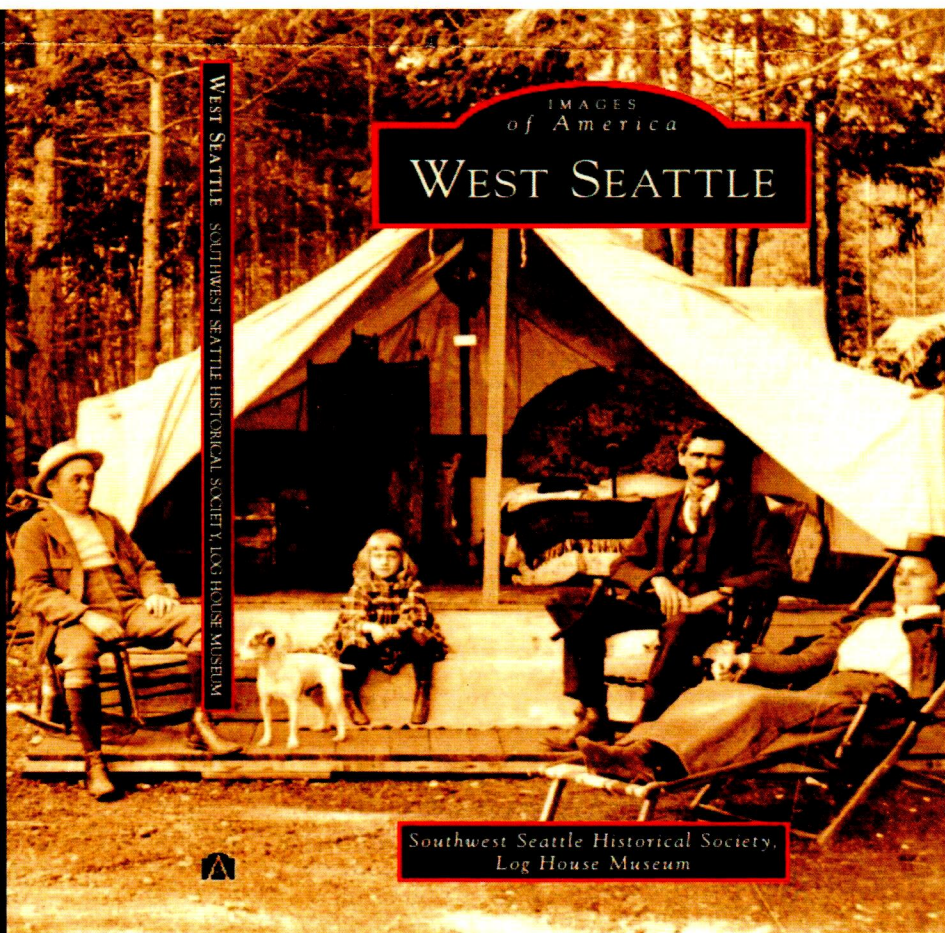
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Southwest Seattle Historical Society,
Log House Museum

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