

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE XXXII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Completing the circle

Landmark Party symbolizes a new beginning, as pioneer descendants, Duwamish Tribe come together at the Alki Homestead

On Oct. 18, the city of Seattle officially approved the nomination of our society's Log House Museum and the Alki Homestead restaurant for landmark status.

To celebrate, society volunteers planned a gala Landmark Party at the Homestead on Monday, Nov. 6.

The guest list for the event read like a veritable roll call of local historians and historical figures, including members of the city's Landmarks Preservation Board, descendants of several pioneer families and representatives of the Duwamish Tribe.

The evening's recurring theme, however, had as much to do with our community's future as it did with history.

Our society's 1995 president, **Merrilee Hagen**, started off on an historical note, recalling that when the boatload of pioneers we know as the Denny Party landed near Alki Point 144 years ago,



Photos by Deborah Mendenhall

**Alki Homestead owner Doris Nelson (center) is joined by (left to right) society board member Mary Parlato Gunderson, Education Committee chair Linda Chase, and Duwamish Tribal Council members James Rasmussen and Cecille Maxwell Hansen. Below: Rasmussen gives the Homestead a traditional Duwamish blessing.**



on Nov. 13, 1851, they were greeted by Chief Seattle and members of the Duwamish tribe. Due in large part to the tribe's help, the pioneers were able to survive the first winter and go on to found the city of Seattle.

"Somehow through the decades that spirit has been forgotten," Hagen continued. "But in our

quest to establish a historic district in West

*(continued on page 6)*

  
**LOG HOUSE**  
*Museum*  
"THE BIRTHPLACE OF SEATTLE"

*Find out what's new at the old Log House (page 3)*

*Education kits will make local history come alive for area 4th-, 8th-graders. (page 2)*

*Campaign aims to double membership by November 1996 (page 10)*

# Kits are real 'treasure chests'

Project designed to give youngsters a hands-on appreciation for our area's heritage

By Patricia Filer

Lucky students from Alki Elementary 4th grade and Madison Middle School 8th grade will be in for a real adventure this spring when the historical education classroom study kits developed by the SWSHS Education Committee are introduced into their curriculum.

These grade levels were selected as pilot classes since American State History is part of the required curriculum during these school years. The kits have been researched, designed, and created to supplement and enhance the current school presentations regarding this region's social and cultural and historical contributions.

The result of a \$9,000 educational grant from King County Cultural Resource Division, the kits consist of three foot-lockers filled with identical historical photographs; reproduction artifacts; books; a reader's theatre script; lesson plans and activities for the use of all the materials; and a bibliography of resources available at the museum.

Under the direction of Pacific Northwest history expert **Kenneth G. Watson**, the committee meets twice a month to discuss and evaluate the progress of the kit project. The committee also discusses new grants which are being pursued to supplement the existing goal of providing the school with a quality "hands on" approach to local history.

In addition to writing the lesson plans, Kenneth has been commissioned to design and carve artifacts which will be included in the kits such as handmade split cedar shingles; small canoe models similar to one a Puget Sound family might travel in; and "Duwamish-style" wooden spoons.

Perhaps one of the most intriguing artifacts he is creating for the collection is a set of beaver teeth dice. The beaver teeth dice game was played mostly by Duwamish adult women and considered to be a prized possession. The dice are created from actual beaver incisors; the surfaces are inscribed with

symbols and highlighted with mineral paint. Kenneth's expertise in Native American history and his craftsmanship have contributed greatly to this project's interest, professionalism and success.

Another education committee member whose craftsmanship and dedication should be acknowledged is **Mary Parlato Gunderson**, who is piecing and quilting three small log cabin quilts to be included in the historical kits. She has also researched and tracked down old material and patterns which she will be using in creating three period dress, apron, and bonnet ensembles. Each of these projects is extremely time-consuming and involves painstaking concentration, so we are extremely grateful for her donation of time, dedication, and creativity. These projects will be treasures of the kits.

Committee chairperson **Linda Chase's** organization and attention to completing goals and meeting deadlines makes it all work. Other committee members have contributed heavily in proposal and project writings and revisions; researching; interviewing prospective donors and information sources; reviewing current museum displays and projects; and combing the countryside for the perfect artists or artifacts to contribute to the kits' quality pieces.

Recently, for example, Mary and committee member **Deborah Mendenhall** met with the Museum of History and Industry's **Lois Bark** in coordination with their research of period costumes and plate patterns. Lois was a fixture at MOHAI for 33 years and is considered an expert in local history. She began as a volunteer docent in 1961 and served as education director for the museum for 18 years. She is currently volunteering again and is frequently called on by the museum to address specific historical questions.

Deborah and Mary were ushered through the museum's back room to a special area where they were allowed to view and examine (with white gloves!) a set of the rare and valuable Sweet Briar Bride china commemorating the marriage of Seattle's "First Bride," Louisa Boren, to David Denny in 1853. Color photographs of the set are being prepared by

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# 'The Log'

## Architect to submit drawings

The Log House is about to move one step closer to its destiny as a museum.

Architect David Leavengood reports that he's now in the process of completing drawings and will be ready to submit them to the city in March. Before renovation of the building can begin, the project must receive a construction permit, as well as a change-of-use permit from the city's Department of Construction and Land Use.

## Vicious cows strictly prohibited

Society members **Barbara Parker, Robert Carney, Maritherese McDermott** and **Lynn Swindlehurst** are discovering that West Seattle was a wild and mysterious place in the early 1900s.

At a series of work parties over the past few weeks, they have volunteered to help create a computer database of West Seattle history. The information that they've been entering comes from research conducted for the "West Side Story" history book in 1987.

Some of the most intriguing material relates to the period between 1902 and 1907, when West Seattle was incorporated as a city with its own mayor and city council. At one meeting, the council passed an ordinance prohibiting the "running at large of habitually vicious dogs," and heard from a Mr. John Bushell "on the subject of vicious cows also being at large." At another meeting, a petition signed by H.F. Ralston and 33 others asked "that some action be taken to suppress and subdue chickens of all varieties."

## Heritage Brick Campaign encourages you to leave your mark on Seattle history

You can help pave the way for the development of the Log House Museum by taking part in the Southwest Seattle Historical Society's Heritage Brick Campaign.

The campaign is similar to the one that helped fund the renovation of the Pike Place Market in 1985. Antique-style bricks, engraved with a one-, two-, or three-line inscription, will be inset into garden areas surrounding the museum.

Engrave the name of an important person,

date, event, and your message will become a permanent record for future generations to read and enjoy.

Bricks make unique and lasting gifts for birthdays, holidays and graduations. If you give the brick as a gift, you'll receive a certificate, bearing the engraving information, to give to the recipient.

Bricks are approximately 4 by 8 inches, and are limited to 20 characters per line, including spaces. The society asks that you donate \$55 for a one-line inscription, \$65 for two lines or \$75 for three. All donations go toward restoration of the historic landmarked Log House Museum. For information on how to order, call the museum at 938-5293.

## A tradition is born: Christmas at the Log House

The first Christmas Open House at the Log House Museum was held Dec. 1, 2 and 3. Pre-sold Christmas trees, Heritage Brick and T-shirt sales, and introduction of the museum's first limited-edition tree ornament were the focal point of our fundraising efforts.

But the real fun began early Friday when our volunteers gathered to decorate the Log House. And what a fabulous job they did. **Melissa Hagen** and **Charlie Vincent** unloaded and set up the fresh-cut trees, courtesy of **George and Trudi Halvorson's** tree farm in Brady, Wash. Landscape designer **Kate Farley** arrived with gobs of greenery that **Gail** and **Gertie Stevens** artfully turned into mantle and door decorations, while Kate concentrated on the front-porch flower boxes.

The Pioneer Kids Club finished up the clay Log House ornaments while **Dorothy Poplawski** and her niece **Nikki Wiggins** put "snow" on each window pane in the house (there are almost 200!).

Dorothy had arranged for live entertainment throughout the weekend (Hiawatha Tap & Hawaiian Dancers, **Mike** and **Dave Vincent** on guitar, **Angie** and **Lui Gue** on violin) and hot cider and cookies for everyone's enjoyment. **Stu Hennessey** and family, of the Alki Bicycle Shop, won the holiday wreath, designed by **Michael Prihoda**, at the grand drawing Sunday afternoon. This event was truly a delight for all who participated and next year can't help but be even bigger and better! There are still a few of the limited-edition ornaments available which you can purchase at the Log House for a \$2 donation.



# Our Circles Keep Growing

*We appreciate everyone who has contributed to help make the Log House Museum a reality.*

## **Chief Seattle Circle \$50,000+**

Metro Mitigation Fund

## **Denny Party Circle \$25,000+**

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Design Grant

## **Landing Party Circle \$10,000+**

King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission  
Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation

## **Princess Angeline Circle \$5,000+**

Erma Erickson

The Seattle Foundation, Fuller Trust

## **Alki Circle \$2,500+**

Archibald Trust

## **Log House Circle \$1,000+**

Carolyn Bowen

Elliott N. Couden

Joan Schmitz Fulton

Jackie Carey and John E. Kelly

Lockett Family in memory of Norman Lockett

The Pacific Institute Incorporated

Bob Pontius Family

Mary Lou Richardson

Diane and Lou Tice

George and Arlene Wade

J. B. Webster

White Center Licensing Agency

Winge Family

## **Pioneer Club \$500+**

W. Cecil Davis in memory of Marie R. Davis, Ronald J. Champoux (Match), Mickey Kraut, Metropolitan Savings/Deanne Sposari, Adah Rhodes, Judy Pigott Swenson, Karl Wahlborg

## **Homesteaders Club**

**\$250+**

Van Peirson, Boyd Swanson, Roberta Weeks

## **Settlers Club \$100+**

John Ashford, Deborah J. Barker, Barbara J. Buck, Chrystal Chamberlain, Peggy Conroy, Ed and Pearl Ebert, Mrs. James Egan (Match), Merrilee Hagen, Huling Bros. Inc., Sharon Huling, Charles and Arline Kaffenberger, Lynn Larson: Larson Anthropological/ Archaeological Services, Mark Lembersky, Monday Lunch Bunch (In memory of E.A. Le Penske), Elemer and Joan Mraz, Andrew Nelson, Michael Prihoda, S & L Realty, Neal and Margaret Saffer, Mostest Skaret, Francis Tamaccio, Dan Van Hook, Carol & Charles Vincent, Tom Weeks

## **Quilters' Bee Circle**

**under \$100**

Air Sea Alaska, Edith T. Bender, Allen R. & Judith Bentley, C.B. Blackinton, Jeanne Ehrlichman Bluechel, Berlina Brock, Linda Chase, Marjorie Christianson, Lynn Cornelius, Lillian Cox, Peggy Cullor, Nicole Devine, Kay M. Dewar, Lisa Di Georgio, Mary Di Leuw, Ann & Marty Dirks, James C. Douglas, Paulette Elster, Barbara Fulton, Diana Garcia, Jack Gifford, Paula Green, R.R. Bob Greive, Ada Hallberg, Ruby Houser, Rodney Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert I. Karr, Ruth Bailey Kidd, Helen A. Koenen, Mary Lee Hu, E.A. Le Penske, Troy Lynn Locati, Steve & Dianne Loeb, Gary P. Long, JoAnne Ludwig, Beth McAdams, Carroll M. Mage, Melba McAdams Mayo, Mary Jane McInchak, Norma Milliman, Roy Morse, Claudia R. Moter, Oscar Mraz, Edie Neeson, Daniel A. Nye, Marietta Pane, Gregory Park, Mike & Catherine Purdy, Mary Lou Richardson, J.D. Rowland, Gertrude Stevens, Elsie Sundberg, Susan Swanson, George Thornton, Mark Vadakin, Paula vanHaagen, Roy Velling, Virginia Vinton, Wilma Waters, Richard Weyte, Kathryn & Glenn Womble, Christina L. Woodward

# We'd like to introduce you to a couple hundred of our closest friends

## Our Log House Museum volunteers

Bobbie Acklin, Admiral Theater, Admiral Congregational Womens Group, Alki Bakery, Alki Beacon, Alki Community Council, Alki Homestead Restaraunt Staff, Alki Lumber, Alki Mail & Dispatch, Alki Recreational Center, Durwood Alkre, Dennis Anderson, John Armstrong, Bill Ayer, Dody Babcom, Meg Bakken, John Bennett, Chet & Shirley Blackinton, Dan Blackinton, Dave Blackinton, Herb Blackinton, Jr., Jeanne Bluechell, Sherry Boswell, Carolyn Bowen, Jerry Brockey, Phil Brown, B J. Bullert, Bob Carney, Roger Cayce, Chrystal Chamberlain, Dan Chase, Linda Chase, Beth Chave, Thelma Childers, Bruce Christofferson, Brad Chrisman, Danny Chrisman, Denise Chrisman, Katy Chrisman, Citizens of Alki for their voter approval, Carla Cole, Dow Constantine, Marjorie Cooper (in memoriam), Elliott and Erma Couden, Cheryl Cronander, Wayne Daubenspeck, Brewster Denny, Honorable Brian Derdowski, Betsy Detroit, Paul Dorpat, Jim Douglas, Dick Drummond, Colleen Dumas, Dr. Jim Dunham, Duwamish Tribal Council, Clay Eals, Ed Ebert, Emerald City Graphics, ERA Bianchi-Zaar Real Estate, Erma Erickson, Kate Farley, Anne Farrell, Nick Filer, Pat Filer, Zach Filer, Vivian Frye, Joan Schmitz Fulton, Dr. Robert Funk, Billee Bernard Pacey Fullick (in memoriam), Elizabeth Furlow, Gina Gable, Tony Gable, Trey Gable, Mike Gain, Reverend Russ Galbraith, Leonard Garfield, Mark Gartin, Christy Anna Gerber, Marlys Gerber, Julianna Giese, Barbara Goldstein, Bob Gruen, Angie Gue, Lui Gue, Christina Gunderson, Mary Parlato Gunderson, Scott Gunderson, Melissa Hagen, Merrilee Hagen, Oscar Hagen, Hiawatha Tap & Hawaiian Dancers, Ada Hallberg, George & Trudi Halvorson, Cecille Maxwell Hansen, Stu Hennessey, Kathy Hinds, Steve Huling, Keith & Peggy Jackson, Jordan Hecker, Ann Holiday, Gail Jensen, Larry Johnson, Fritz Johnston, Sam Jones, Casey & Charlie Jung, Jackie and John Kelly, Jim Kelly, Jim & Karen Kinch, King County Landmarks & Heritage Commission, Jerry & Kathy Kingen, Kiwanis Club, Julie Kohler, Martha Kongsgaard, Warren Lawless, Candace Lein-Hayes, Flo Lentz, David Leavengood, Kathy Lindsey, Lions Club, Neal Lockett, Art Lumley, Mary Marlarky, Glenna Martz, Jenny McCoy, Rachel McCrea, Maritherese McDermott, Deborah Mendenhall, Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan, Louise Miller, Norma Milliman, Carol Munoz, Joan Mraz, Mark Mraz, Edie Neeson, Alan & Joke Nelson, Doris Nelson, Randy Nelson, Honorable Greg Nickels, Scott Noble, Gregory Norman, Gary Ogden, Olsons Wardrobe Cleaners, Tim Otani, Ann Owchar, Pacific Institute, Marietta Pane, Andrew Paraghamian, Chris Paraghamian, Barbara Parker, Marguerite Chase Parlato, Charles Payton, Dave Peterson, Doug Pica, Pioneer Kids Club, Bob Pontius, Dorothy Poplawski, Port of Seattle, Stuart Prestrud, George & May Price, Michael Pihoda, Alexandra Pye, James Rasmussen, George Reed, Honorable Mayor Norm Rice, Mary Lou Richardson, Steven Rock, Gary Ross, Charlie Runke, Allyn Ruth, Jill Ryan, Salty's Restaurant Staff, Peter Scholes, Erma Schwartz, Seattle Christian Church Mens Group, Seattle City Council, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Landmarks Historic Preservation Board, Seattle Public Library Staff, Marilyn Sears, George & Joanna Smith, Martin & Beverly Smith, Renee Smith, Deanne Sposari, Tim St. Clair, Molly Stearns, Gail Stevens, Gertrude Stevens, Bob and Bonnie Sumbardo, Esther Sunde, Boyd Swanson, Jim Sweeney, Lynn Swindlehurst, Eric Taylor, Nicole Taylor, Warren Taylor, John Thompson, Diane and Lou Tice, Jonathon Tsun, Shirley Tupper, Ann Vernon, Arne Vicklund, Carol Vincent, Charlie Vincent, Chris Vincent, Dave Vincent, Mike Vincent, Arlene Wade, Brady Wade, George Wade, Marcia Wagonar, Greg Watson, Bob & Kay Watt, Christi Webster, J.B. Webster, Matte Welling, Wellmart, West Seattle Herald, White Center Chamber of Commerce, Nikki Wiggins, Nikki Williamson, Carl Winge, Jr., Carl & Beverly Winge, Sr., Karen Wissing, Rosemary Wood, Adam Worcester. AND Sabrina the Cat for her affection and unbridled enthusiasm.

*So many people have been involved in helping to bring the Log House Museum project this far, that it's possible we may inadvertently have omitted your name. Please forgive the oversight. The Southwest Seattle Historical Society is grateful to EVERYONE who has invested time and energy in making this happen.*

# LANDMARK PARTY: Reconnecting

(continued from page 1)

Seattle it has come full circle, and now the Duwamish are working with us to remember both cultures and their part in founding this city.”

That new beginning was symbolized a moment later, when Duwamish tribal council members **James Rasmussen** and **Cecille Maxwell Hansen** conducted a ceremonial blessing of the Homestead.

Hansen, the tribe’s council chair, told the audience that she is “amazed but delighted” that the community has begun to rally behind the Duwamish Tribe.

“We have been struggling for many years, if you know about the Duwamish people, because we are the landless, unrecognized people,” she said. “But that’s OK, because for whatever reason, it’s like a circle and I

think that when the circle is completed we will be recognized by the federal government.”

King County Councilman **Greg Nickels**, who has been a consistent ally in our society’s effort to establish the Log House Museum, echoed the circle imagery.

“We have, I think, one mission, one task, and that is to leave our community a little bit better place than when we found it, to leave a legacy with our children and grandchildren and show them that we can respect the past,” he said. “And by doing that we continue the great circle, which I think is very important in this day and age, when things are moving so fast, when our technology and the very basic ways that we talk to one another are changing literally by the day.”

Teaching children about history is no easy task, but the society is working on several



**Martin and Beverly Smith were among the honored guests at the Landmark Party. Martin is a descendant of the Smith family that once owned all of Alki Point and later built the famous Stockade Hotel.**

*Photos by  
Deborah  
Mendenhall*



**Jim and Marcy Walsh, Kay and Robert Watt, Brewster Denny, George Wade, County Councilman Greg Nickels and Barbara Buck enjoy the festivities at the historic Alki Homestead. Marcy, Robert and Brewster are direct descendants of the Denny Party that landed at Alki in 1851.**



**Event chair Arlene Wad Washington state first lady and Jeanne Bluechell.**