

Footprints

on the sands of time...

ISSUE LXIV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LATE FALL 2006

The Belvedere Viewpoint Park Totem Has a New Home 24 foot Icon Moved to the Log House Museum



Seattle Parks and Recreation department delivering the totem pole.

Photo by Andrea Mercado.

In the Log House Museum courtyard rests a 40 year old totem pole. Slightly faded, ravaged by insects and our moist climate, the Seattle Parks and Recreation department delivered it by boom truck one bright morning. It did not arrive straightaway after removal, but was brought to the museum after the resident carpenter ants were expelled within a specially designed, and very long, fumigation chamber. The totem pole is the second in a line of three that have stood sentinel next to one of the most photographed viewpoints in Seattle, the Belvedere Viewpoint Park. This is the tale of that totem, which stood

there since 1966 and which was moved to the Log House Museum this summer, and of the families that carved it.

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*Postcard of the
Morgan/Fleischman
totem pole, 1966*



*(SWSHS Accession
2006.29)*

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In what year was
the Town of West
Seattle annexed
into the city of
Seattle?

Answer on back page

Footprints

is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society which operates the

"Birthplace of Seattle"
Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116

(one block south of Alki Beach)

Editor, Steven Mraz

Museum hours

12–4 p.m.
Thursday, Friday
Saturday & Sunday

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loghousemuseum.org

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The Pacific Institute

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Carriage House Gift Shop

Seattle's Maritime History

- *Maritime Seattle* Painted by a traveling artist, now available framed or unframed. **\$35.00**
- *Lighthouses of Washington* by Ray Jones/Bruce Roberts
A guide to over 20 lighthouses on the Washington coast. **\$9.95**
- *Ferries of Puget Sound* by Stephen J. Pickens
Images and history from the Mosquito Fleet to the Kalakala. **\$19.99**

10% discount with membership card!

Great Holiday Gifts!

- *Dungeness Crabs and Blackberry Cobbler: The Northwest Heritage Cookbook* by Janie Hibler
Wonderful collection of recipes and reminisces that is a perfect gift for anyone interested in history and Pacific Northwest cooking.
- *Stocking Stuffers for Kids*
Wooden toys, pioneer sticker books, and other items for an old-fashioned holiday.
- *Classic Houses of Seattle* by Carolyn Swope
300 photographs and illustrations, both historic and contemporary provide a comprehensive overview of the city's major residential architectural styles. **\$39.95**

Join us for the second annual
Holiday Afternoon Tea
To benefit the Log House Museum
with Heather Carmen, Harpist
at the
Alki Homestead Restaurant
Saturday, December 2nd
1:00–3:00 p.m.
Tickets \$30.00 per person
Call 206-938-5293 for tickets or information

President's Report



by Carol Vincent
President

A new era in leadership at the Log House Museum is about to begin. The board is pleased to announce that **Andrea Mercado**, collections manager at the museum since 2002, will move into the museum director position on November 24th. Andrea earned a BA in 1992 from the University of Washington and completed the Museum Studies Certificate Program in 2001. She has done volunteer work at MOHAI and worked for the Issaquah Historical Society. The board unanimously agreed that Andrea's vision for the museum and the society's long-term goals are in agreement. We are looking forward to a long

and rewarding affiliation.




Andrea Mercado
Museum Director


Volunteer News

Larry Carpenter will be stepping down as board secretary but stepping up as volunteer coordinator. Larry will be responsible for seeking and training volunteers as docents and tour guides for the museum as well as volunteers for the society's many events throughout the year. Volunteers are at the heart of

A sad note is the loss of **Marianne Maksirisombat**, museum manager as she leaves for a full time position. Marianne has been indispensable this year and her youthful exuberance will be missed. We wish her well as she pursues her goal to acquire a masters and doctorate in international relations and applies that to promoting global health issues. Marianne will continue to be a volunteer at the museum.

The society is sincerely grateful for **Seattle Foundation's** generous grant of \$5,000 toward museum operations for 2007. Support such as this is critical to the lifeblood of museum services and augments the private donations from our loyal and dedicated membership.

Be sure and attend the annual meeting to say goodbye and thank you to retiring board members **Aleta Woodworth**, Treasurer, and **Patricia Kloster**, Trustee. We will welcome new trustees and officers beginning at 9:30 on November 18th at the Log House Museum. See you then. 

the society and are invaluable in supporting the museum and society. If you can donate at least 2 hours of volunteer time a month please call Larry at 206-938-5293 

Research has shown that people who volunteer often live longer!

2006 Executive Board

Carol Vincent
President

Jane Conrad
Vice-President

Aleta Woodworth
Treasurer

Larry Carpenter
Board Secretary

Joan Mraz
Membership Secretary

Trustees

Judith Bentley

Susan Christ

Marcy Johnsen

Patricia Kloster

Joey Richesson

Cassandra Tate

Diane Tice

Staff

Andrea Mercado
Museum Director

David Keith
Bookkeeper

Erin Alexander
Gift Shop Supervisor

Joyce Anderson
Gift Shop Clerk

Welcome New Members

Linda Blackinton

Shannon Felix

Leif & Nancy Johnson

... Continued from page 1



Bob Fleischman, upper left and Mike Morgan carve the pole at home.

(Image courtesy Diane Morgan, credited to the Seattle Times)

While reading the Seattle paper one morning in 1965, Boeing engineer Mike Morgan noticed a call for bids. The City of Seattle was looking for someone to carve a new totem pole. The Belvedere Viewpoint's original totem, carved in 1901, had dry rot and was in poor condition. He called up his friend and co-worker, Bob Fleischman, and the two agreed to put in a bid for the job, thinking it would be a great project. The carvers were awarded the commission because their bid came in as the lowest – free! A cedar tree from Schmitz Park was delivered to Bob and Shirlee Fleischman's home as well as the original totem pole to use as a guide. Mr. Morgan's then-wife, Diane, took rubbings and measurements of the original totem pole, and transferred it to the new pole. With families near, who shared cooking and childcare, the two men began hand-carving the cedar with the same four figures as the original pole; a beaver, frog, whale and bear. Constant depth measurements were done to ensure an accurate copy. "The new tree was wider than the original totem, so adjustments had to be made to the figures accordingly," Diane Morgan pointed out. After carving was completed, the totem pole was delivered to the Woodland Park Zoo commissary where it would be painted. The commissary had a large enough area to lay the new totem down and a full volunteer crew of neighbors, family and kids set to painting.

Painting of the totem pole at Woodland Park Zoo. Daughter Sally (Morgan) Streeter is lower left.

SWSHS Accession 2006.29



The totem pole has always been a symbol, a striking and heavily photographed welcome to the north end of West Seattle. The original totem at the site was carved by Native Americans from Canada, and was a pole created for sale to the tourist trade. Morgan and Fleischman's pole was a copy of this first pole, to capture the importance of place, of continuity, within the carved

lines of a totem pole. It could be argued that Morgan and Fleischman continued a very important tradition – one of family, and of community, which has always been a unifying force in West Seattle.

Carving this totem sparked an interest in Mr. Morgan that continued to other projects. Numerous Morgan totem poles are in the gardens of family and friends, and include one located at the Edgemont Community Park in Pierce County.

The totem pole is still a work in progress for the Log House Museum. Funds will need to be raised to put it in a new location. Since it was originally replaced due to poor condition, it cannot stand upright. The totem pole will be laid horizontal above the ground to slow wood deterioration and deter insects. It will continue to tell the life of a totem pole in the Northwest. Totems poles, when they fall or are replaced due to poor condition, are then laid down on their sides as a new totem is raised. This totem pole is a link in the continued story of the Belvedere Viewpoint, and community of West Seattle.



By Andrea Mercado

The 1966 Morgan/Fleischman totem pole is secured for transport, as the new story pole stands behind. 2006.



(Photo by Andrea Mercado, SWSHS Collection)



(Composite photograph courtesy of Clay Eals).

Composite photograph of proposed permanent location at the Log House Museum. The totem pole currently resides in the courtyard.


New Duwamish Story Pole at Belvedere Park

A member of the Duwamish Tribe and descendent of Chief Seattle has begun a new tradition. Michael Halady, the carver of the 2006 Belvedere Viewpoint story pole has created a pole unlike any other in Seattle. The newly placed totem at the park is no longer a totem pole, but called a story pole. It is the first in the city to tell the vertical story of Seattle, from the First Peoples of the Duwamish Peninsula, through the arrival of the Denny Party, to Chief Seattle. This story pole replaces the totem pole that now rests at the Log House Museum.

Historically, totem poles were carved by the tribes of northern British Columbia and Alaska. The original totem pole at this site was carved in 1901, for the tourist trade and donated by J.E. "Daddy" Standley to the City of Seattle for placement at the park, which at the time was a neglected slip of land. Standley is more familiar as the owner of Ye Olde Curiosity Shop, and that first totem was carved by either the Haida or

Bella Coola tribes of British Columbia, Canada. Traditionally, the indigenous Coast Salish tribes of this area of Puget Sound created single figure totems, either used as house support posts or freestanding, as welcome figures.

Michael Halady's design was chosen by Department of Parks and Recreation committee comprised of community members, artists, and Parks Department staff. The pole honors the Duwamish Tribe, the First People of Seattle, and acknowledges the friendship and assistance they offered to the pioneer families upon arrival by schooner. Unity, healing, truth and reconciliation between all local governments and tribes were considered vital roles in the design of the story pole.

From base to sky-high Thunderbird, the story pole weaves a visual tale of Seattle, and continues a pole tradition for the Belvedere Park that began 67 years ago, but this time with a new story to tell. 

By Andrea Mercado



Michael Halady, artist of the Duwamish Story Pole 2006

(Photo by Andrea Mercado, SWSHS Collection)

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Admiralty House
Antiques
Banana Pages
Better Business
Bookkeeping
Clear Channel
Outdoor
David Kehle
Architect
The Good Book
Graphics Plus
Jackson & Morgan
PLLC
NW Art & Frame
The Pacific Institute
Sposari's Concrete
& Materials
Tom's Automotive
Villa Heidelberg
West Seattle Herald

Looking over items at the recent auction to benefit the Log House Museum are **Dave Gardner** on the left, **Nick Johnson** background, **Debbie Gardner** far right, **Claudia Moter** right foreground

Photo by *Cheri Johnson*

Donors

Thank you for supporting the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.
Donations received September 12 through October 27, 2006

Up to \$5000

The Seattle Foundation

Up to \$100

Fran Cook, Joyce Entus, Verda Hansberry, Thomas Miller, William Raleigh
Cassandra Tate, Ruth Ward, Dorothy Wicklund

Thank You Seattle Foundation!



The Seattle Foundation recently awarded the Southwest Seattle Historical Society a grant for \$5,000 under their Community Grantmaking Program. We are pleased that our mission, to preserve the community's heritage and provide programs that educate, fits into their goal of providing for healthy and vital communities. This grant provides much needed operating funds. We thank The Seattle Foundation for making a difference in the heritage preservation of Southwest Seattle.

Audrey Zemke
Fundraising Chair

Fundraising Auction a Success



*Thank You To These Individuals and Companies
For Donating to the 2006 Auction*

Admiral Safeway • Admiralty House Antiques • Alki Kayak Tours
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 Cassandra Tate • The Good Book • The Pacific Institute • Stacy Thurston
 Lou & Diane Tice • Tillicum Village • Tom’s Automotive • Carol Vincent
 Wash Dog • Dorothy Wicklund • Aleta Woodworth
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Thank You Auction Volunteers

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 Carol Vincent • Charlie Vincent • Stephanie Vincent • Chloe Watson
 Peter Wolf • Aleta Woodworth • Audrey Zemke

Bainbridge Island
Historical Museum
History Lecture
Series Presents

*Puget Sound
Underwater
Archaeology*

Presenters

David Grant
 US Army Corps of
 Engineers
 Archaeologist
 John Kelly
 SW Seattle Historical
 Society

Sunday
November 19, 2006

4:00 pm

Island Center Hall

Free to
 Bainbridge Island
 Historical Society
 members
 \$5 general public


For information
 Call the Museum at
 206-842-2773

or
 info@
 bainbridgehistory.org

Southwest Seattle Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting November 18



The Annual Membership meeting and election of new board of trustee members will take place Saturday, November 18 at 9:30 at the Log House Museum. There will be refreshments and a preview of the new maritime exhibit, *West by Water: a Maritime History of West Seattle*, with commentary by Andrea Mercado.

After the meeting those that are going on the *Dix Commemoration Cruise* will carpool to Pier 55 to board the Argosy Cruise ship. The ship will depart at 11:30 and lay a wreath at the site of the tragic sinking of the *Dix* off Alki Point one hundred years ago. The site will be marked by the Sea Scout's *Yankee Clipper* sailing ship. Tickets are \$10 in advance. Call the Museum at 938-5293 for information. 

"Everything is so different and cool from the stuff we have today."

– Kelsey Dill
(6 years old)
museum visitor

Calendar

Saturday November 18

*Annual Membership Meeting
Private Exhibit Preview*

Log House Museum 9:30 am

Saturday November 18

Dix Commemoration Cruise

carpool from museum 10:30

board Cruise Pier 55 11:00

Argosy Cruise departs 11:30

returns 12:30

Sunday November 19

New Maritime Exhibit Opens at

Log House Museum

West by Water: a Maritime

History of West Seattle noon

Sunday November 19

Bainbridge Island Historical
Museum History Lecture

Puget Sound

Underwater Archaeology

4:00pm

Island Center Hall

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, December 2

Holiday Afternoon Tea

1 to 3 p.m.

Alki Homestead Restaurant

Closed Christmas Eve

Answer

1907

The same year
that Luna Park
opened

FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
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3003 61st Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116

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