



San Juan Historical Society & Museum

Fall 2013

San Juan Historical Society & Museum

PO Box 441
 323 & 405 Price Street
 Friday Harbor, WA 98250
 360-378-3949
 www.sjmuseum.org
 www.historicsanjuans.org
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Administrative Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday
 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Museum Tours

October*
 Sat. 1 pm—4pm

November—March
 By appointment

*or by appointment
 Please call 378 - 3949



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The San Juan Island Museum of History and Industry

Work has begun on building our dream! The recent history of this project has been described in newsletters for some time. Now the vision is taking shape. Walls are going up, materials are being sourced and we are raising dust!

The last newsletter described the plans for creating a proper museum in our barn. It introduced the concept that San Juan Island developed through industrious work in the areas of **fishing, farming, logging and lime.**

If you have seen our displays at the Pig War Picnic and the County Fair, you know that we have followed up on that description. We have rolled out our image of the Museum of

History and Industry and have also initiated the fund-raising program that will be needed to achieve it.

The barn needs to be modified with the addition of some interior walls to define the various display spaces and construction of these has begun.

Our first emphasis will be on the entry atrium that will welcome visitors to all the exhibits. If you were to look at it today, you would see an open space behind the framing that will hold the glass wall that will appear when the front barn doors are opened. The next step is to complete the framing and drywall in this area.

We plan to have a three dimensional

Please see MHI on next page

MHI, continued

Artist rendering of 3-D topographical map which will be located in the entrance atrium. Courtesy Peter Chan.

map of the island as the centerpiece of the atrium. The side panels will provide the overall orientation for all the exhibits and provide reference points for visitors to take with them as they tour the island.

As our fundraising develops, we will provide aspects of the museum (such as this) as opportunities for donors to put their name on pieces of the presentation. This map may appeal to a real estate company or the real estate community in general. We think that visitors such as the bicycle tourism companies may find this a good introduction to the island and that flyers would enjoy it as a definition of their view from the sky. We hope that it will be a draw for a great variety of people to come to the museum. Our next step is to carry this momentum into the construction of the first exhibit space, dedicated to the fishing industry.

The work that has been done so far has given us a good foundation from which to proceed. We started this process with some general concepts of how the exhibits might look provided by detailed drawings of the fishing wing from Peter Chan. The committee is now establishing exactly what visitors will see in this space. Committee members have been visiting other museums to get ideas of what works and what doesn't. We have had good input from the visitors who saw our exhibit at the Fair. Some of our local fishermen have given us very specific ideas of what should be included there.

**Partial funding of the barn expansion project was made possible by grants from the Heritage Capital Project Fund administered by the Washington State Historical Society.*



Our information booth at the County Fair outlines the project. The booth is now in the entrance atrium.

Now is the time for all society members who have artifacts, memories, and concepts of the fishing industry that they feel should appear in this museum to come forward and talk to the exhibit committee. We also welcome you to join the committee to create the story of fishing in the waters around San Juan Island.

In future newsletters, we will describe how these contributions are shaping our museum and expect to have new things to see by the end of the year. Contributions of artifacts, money, memories and just good enthusiasm are welcome anytime and will be needed as we complete this dream over the next several years. For more information, please contact director, Kevin Loftus, at 360-378-3949 or at museum_admin@sjmuseum.org.

Thanks to Trustee & MHI Committee Member Don Nixon for contributing to this article.



Upcoming events

Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m. at the San Juan Island Library

Are There Ghosts Among Us?

Did something ghostly happen in the Friday Harbor Labs dining hall? Why was a certain house called the “Cry Baby House?” Is there a ghost dog in the former Bay View Hotel (now Windermere Realty)? Who was that vanishing lady at the Presbyterian Manse (known now as Serendipity Bookstore)? Does the ghost of Richard Straub haunt the Odd Fellows Hall (currently the Whale Museum) all these years? The audience is encouraged to share their own stories and legends. Join us for an informative, fun and certainly lively evening.

Thursday, December 5, 5:00—8:00 p.m.

Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration.

It is that time of the year again to ring in the season with your friends neighbors and island visitors. Santa will be stopping by this year to add to the festivities and we will be serving up hearty chili, Ivar’s Famous Clam Chowder, hot apple cider, delectable goodies and plenty of holiday cheer. Please join us for a time honored island celebration.

Current projects

New fencing.

The white picket fence that fronts the grounds on Price Street will be replaced this fall with new picket fencing. The current fencing was originally installed in the early 2000’s and we have had to replace numerous sections in the past few years, due to decay. We will be upgrading the construction of the fence so it will last longer and continue to enhance the curb appeal of the museum.

Redesigned website.

Even though history is our business we must keep up with current technologies in this digital age. Our current website was launched in early 2009 and has become dated in many ways. Look for a much more informative and interactive site coming soon.

New picnic tables.

Our picnic tables get a lot of use and have slowly deteriorated giving away unwanted slivers freely. Friday Harbor Grange #225 has stepped in and offered to help in replacing our picnic tables. We are using a new type of table which is lighter and easier to get in and out of. Thus far tables have been donated by Friday Harbor Grange #225, Stillpoint School and the American Legion Auxiliary. We have more tables to replace and you have an opportunity to help. For only \$300, a table will be assembled, with an engraved plaque and a waterproof seal applied to the wood. These are very sturdy tables and will last for many years. Also, all of the materials come from local sources, Ace Hardware (table base) Browne’s Home Center (wood) and (plaques) from San Juan Trophy. If you would like to help us in this effort, please contact us at 378-3949 or museum_admin@sjmuseum.org.



Mysteries solved?

Thank you to all who submitted answers in identifying the two mystery items featured in the last newsletter. The answers most provided were a barrel tap at left, and a nut cracker at right.



What is it?

We had such fun the last time, so let's try this again! We need your help in identifying this object, what was it used for, etc. Here are some hints: The Domestic centrifugal wringer. Patented 1920, manufactured by the H.E. Williamson Co., San Francisco. The inside is similar to a clothes washer. Know the answer? Please email museum_admin@sjmuseum.org or call 378-3949.



From the archive collection



This image shows renowned resident Dr. Victor Capron's innovative idea of powering an x-ray machine with a pulley attached to the rear wheel of his automobile. This offered the ability to assess the extent of injuries at the scene of medical incidents. This was most helpful when making house calls in the early 1900's.

Dr. Capron was noted for many things including: being the company doctor for Roche Harbor, delivering over 500 babies without incident, installing the first telephone system on San Juan Island, serving two terms each as mayor of Friday Harbor and in the Washington State Legislature.

As a state representative he wrote legislation establishing the Capron Fund which enables ferry-dependent communities, to receive revenue for roads from gasoline taxes. Since there are not state roads in the islands, funding continues to this day for road maintenance and improvements.

The first "state" road built with these funds is today know as Warbass Way/ Turn Point Rd. on San Juan Island.

Grant Awards:

San Juan County Lodging Tax Grant. The San Juan County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) recommended and the San Juan County Council approved, \$22,675 in funding for the museum for 2014. The amount is an increase of \$875 over this year. For the past three years we have partnered with our colleagues at the Orcas & Lopez Historical Museums in submitting a joint grant application. In turn, each museum receives the same amount. This grant award is our largest single source of funding. We thank the County Council, the LTAC, the islands lodging owners and their guests for their continued funding of our museum operations.

San Juan County Historic Preservation Grant. The San Juan County Council has awarded \$1,430 to use towards updating 14 interpretive signs at the museum. The signage will greatly enhance the grounds by updating information on our heritage structures and outdoor displays. Look for the new signs by next summer.

Memorial donations

Dodie Gann
Leonie Griswold
Dave & Bert Moorhouse

Herbert Hammond
Eunice Normet

Kip Roberts
Don & Jonna Dixon Sundleaf
Ruthie Ramirez
Sharon Sandwith

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Kitty Roberts

Bill Nichols
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New & Renewing Members & Barn Exhibit Project Donations *(since last newsletter publication)***Business Members**

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King's Market
San Juan Interiors
VanderYacht Propane
Harbor Rental & Saw Shop
Browne's Home Center
Friday Harbor Electric
Islanders Bank
Coldwell Banker
Homestead Mobile Home Park
Friday Harbor Suites,
Best Western

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Thank you for your support!

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Return service requested

The museum is a recipient of 2013 –2014 grant funding from San Juan County lodging tax funds. We thank the San Juan County Council and their lodging tax advisory committee for this grant award. We thank the islands lodging owners and their guests for their continued financial support of the museum. Proceeds derived from this grant help to defray operating expenses.

Please detach this form at dotted line and return with your donation

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

This is a (check one) Renewing Membership New Membership

Annual membership contribution: \$ _____ (amount of your choosing)

I wish to donate \$ _____ to the Barn Exhibit Project, Museum of Industries

Please make payable to San Juan Historical Museum, PO Box 441, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

The San Juan Historical Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax i.d.# 23-7022221.