

Issaquah Historical Society

PAST TIMES

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Winter 1999

IMPORTANT!

Next Membership Meeting: December 14, 7 PM, at the Depot (details on page 4)

If you are currently a member of the Issaquah Historical Society, be sure to read about the new membership benefits on page 2. You can also find out when your membership expires by checking the renewal date on this newsletter. Early renewals save us time and postage costs. Have questions? Call us at 425/392-3500.

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The Issaquah Ferry Lives On

The ferry *Issaquah* has gone through a long life's journey since its maiden journey on Lake Washington on May 2, 1914. Most of the ferry is gone, but the two pilot houses are preserved and on display in the Galilee Harbor parking lot in Sausalito, California. The Harbor is currently slated to undergo a \$1.7 M renovation. The Harbor Association is currently looking for ways to incorporate the pilot houses and possibly the ferry walls into the design plans for an expanded marina, to be used as museum space.

The *Issaquah*, a 114 foot two decker steam ferry boat, was revolutionary when it was launched by the Anderson Steamboat Co. in 1914. It served as a private ferry and tour boat on Lake Washington until 1918, when public ferry competition made its continued operation here unprofitable. At that time, it was sold to the newly formed Rodeo/Vallejo line in California and brought down the coast to the San Francisco Bay. It served on various runs until it

was retired in 1948.

In the 1950's, the ferry was moved to Sausalito and divided up into individually rented units. The tenants tended to be artists and were described at the time as "beatniks." Though the boat was superficially maintained, all the time it was sinking deeper into the mudflats and suffering rot from the bottom up. In 1970, Issaquah area historian Harriet Fish visited the boat and wrote a series of articles for *The Issaquah Press* on the ferry's history and predicament. Later, the wheelhouses and walls of the ferry were saved when the mudflats on which the ferry rested were developed into a houseboat community. Today, one houseboat dock is named the Issaquah Dock.

You can read more about the *Issaquah Ferry* online at www.IssaquahHistory.org; look under "Historic Sites Buildings and Sites."



Maiden Voyage, May 2, 1914. Photo from the collections of both Joe D. Williamson and Capt. Bob Matson. Reproduced in **This Was Issaquah**, page 18.

Letter to the Membership

Dear Members,
I'm pleased to be taking over the role of Membership Chair from Faye Green, who managed membership for the past 6 years. I look forward to getting to know those of you who are already members. Those of you who are not yet members of the Issaquah Historical Society — there's no better time to join than now!

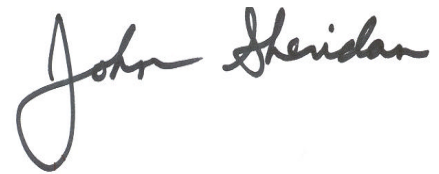
Looking back on 1999, the Issaquah Historical Society has had many successes. In the past year, membership in the Issaquah Historical Society has grown to more than 200 people. With your support we have been able to present

a monthly lecture series in partnership with the Issaquah Press newspaper, organize another successful Pioneer Reunion, and re-open the Town Hall museum. We have other plans for the coming year — new exhibits, a promotional brochure, expansion of our gift shops — but these projects will rely on the support of members like you.

As you may remember from the last issue of *Past Times*, we are now offering a number of membership benefits. We wanted to offer our members a token of appreciation for their support. Benefits available at each membership level are explained below.

I hope that you'll renew your membership with us in the coming year so that you can take advantage of these membership benefits in the future — and so that you can continue to play a vital role in the preservation of Issaquah's history and heritage.

Thanks,



John Sheridan
Membership Chair

New Membership Levels and Benefits

Basic Membership in the IHS includes the following benefits:

- Membership card
- Set of postcards/greeting cards
- 10% discount at the gift shop (10% engraved brick discount for Corporate members)
- Invitation to member events

Individual (\$20)
Senior/Student (\$10)
Family (\$25)
Senior Family (\$15)
Corporate Member (\$50)

Contributor (\$50)

- Basic benefits plus:
- Squak Valley, or another similar publication
 - 10% photo reproduction discount

Supporter (\$100)

- Basic benefits plus:
- The Past at Present, or similar publication
 - 10% photo reproduction discount
 - 10% discount on engraved brick

Benefactor (\$500)

- Basic benefits plus:
- *Evening at the Depot* print, by Craig Thorpe, or similar print
 - 10% photo reproduction discount
 - 10% discount on engraved brick
 - 10% discount on facility rental

Corporate Contributor (\$75)

- Basic benefits plus:
- Squak Valley, or another similar publication
 - 10% photo reproduction discount

Corporate Supporter (\$150)

- Basic benefits plus:
- The Past at Present, or a similar publication
 - 20% discount on engraved brick
 - 10% photo reproduction discount

Corporate Benefactor (\$750)

- Basic benefits plus:
- Corporate benefits plus:
 - *Evening at the Depot* print by Craig Thorpe, or similar print
 - 20% discount on engraved brick
 - 10% photo reproduction discount
 - 10% discount on facilities rental

Life Members will receive all Basic Benefits. Many premiums subject to availability; substitutes determined by IHS staff. Membership card required for gift shop discounts. Call us (425/392-3500) with questions.

Docents Are Key to Museum Success

The word docent comes from the Latin verb *docere*, to teach, and docents have long played an important teaching role in museums worldwide. Docents serve the museum by providing information, answering questions, and engaging visitors; they also provide a human face for the museum experience.

The Issaquah History Museums are fortunate to have more than 30 dedicated volunteer docents who work at the Depot Museum, the Town Hall Museum, and in the gift shop. This fall we held three training sessions for new docents, and

printed our first docent handbook in an effort to provide volunteers with more information and advice.

Regardless of their specific interest — railroad history, antiques, or a simple desire to work with the public — docents find their experience to be rewarding. Many volunteer because they enjoy meeting people. One docent says she volunteers because, "It's satisfying to contribute in some way to the life of our community." Docents also volunteer because they want to share their knowledge of Issaquah's history; another docent enjoys "helping bring Issaquah's past to life" and "seeing

people light up with surprise and wonder." Docenting can also be a great opportunity to learn more about Issaquah, both from visitors and from other docents.

We still need volunteer docents. Are *you* willing to spend four hours every other month talking to community members about history, and helping us to fulfill the mission of our museums? If so, all you need to do is attend a brief training, where you will receive a docent handbook, meet other volunteers and museum staff, and receive an orientation on both museums. If you would like to docent, please call our office at 425/392-3500.



Membership Renewal & Application Form

Yes, I want to support the work of the Issaquah Historical Society!

- Individual (\$20) Senior/Student (\$10) Family (\$25) Senior Family (\$15) Corporate (\$50)

Other Membership levels:

- Contributing Member (\$50) Supporting Member (\$100) Benefactor (\$500)
 Contributing Corporate (\$75) Supporting Corporate (\$150) Corporate Benefactor (\$750)
 I am donating \$_____ in support of your work.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

- My employer will match my gift! Company: _____

(Please attach matching gift form or provide contact name and phone number for the matching gift officer at your company).

- Please charge my membership fee to my Visa/MasterCard.

Visa/MasterCard #: _____ Exp.: _____

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Please make checks payable to the Issaquah Historical Society (IHS). The Issaquah Historical Society is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization, tax ID #23-7425589. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

P.O. Box 695 · Issaquah, WA 98027 · 425/392-3500 · info@issaquahhistory.org · http://issaquahhistory.org

Historical Society Elects New Board

At the October membership meeting, members of the Issaquah Historical Society elected members to serve on the Board of Directors. The IHS 2000 Board Members are:

David Bangs, President

Faye Green

Bruce Helbert

Fran Hoganson, Secretary

Nancy Horrocks

Barbara Justice, Vice President

JoAnne Matsumura, Treasurer

Don McWhirter

Todd Sargeant

Olga Seil

Ken & Maxine Schmelzer

John Sheridan

Non-board members may serve on Board committees. Committees include Facilities, Programs, Pioneer Reunion, Communications, Finance, Membership, and Education. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact Board President David Bangs via e-mail (bangs@southcove.net), or leave a message at 425/392-3500.

News Notes

The **DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 1999. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, followed by a 7:30 presentation on the restoration of the Historic Railroad Depot. We will show a short video on the restoration, and then individuals involved with the project will share stories and anecdotes, and answer questions.

We regret to inform you of the passing of three Issaquah Historical Society members: **DAVID HORROCKS**, **PAUL SPRANGER**, and **AUSTIN WIGGINS**. They will be missed in the community, and in this organization.

The Issaquah Historical Society is grateful to **FRANK REMINGTON**, a telegrapher and collector. Remington recently donated a number of artifacts to the Society, including telegraph equipment and a candlestick phone. The artifacts currently reside in the station agent's office. We hope to develop a more detailed telegraph exhibit over time.

Volunteer Mary McWhirter has been assisting Museum Director Erica Maniez with the process of cataloging our diverse collections. Mary's explorations in the storage area have brought a number of **INTERESTING ARTIFACTS** back into the light. Some of these include old hops tickets from the Wold Farm, WWII ration books, an old stationmaster's logbook, and other treasures. We hope to use some of these items in upcoming exhibits.

ATTENTION DOCENTS: Denny Croston will be giving a tour of the Historic Railroad Depot to all docents on Saturday, December 18. Meet at the Depot at 10 AM; the tour will last approximately one hour.

In need of a few old **RAILROAD TIES** to line your flowerbed? You can pick some up at the Historic Railroad Depot any Saturday between 11 and 3, for a donation of \$1 to \$5 (depending on the condition of the tie). We will load.

If you've been by the Depot recently, you may have noticed the smell of fresh cedar. Look up! The Depot has a new cedar shake **ROOF**, courtesy of the City of Issaquah.

The Issaquah Historical Society is working to obtain a circa 1908 **MINER'S WASH-HOUSE** from the Somsak Family; theirs is one of few remaining wash-houses in the Issaquah area. Wash-houses provided miners with a place to remove the fine coal dust that covered their clothes and bodies before they entered their regular homes. Once restored and in place, the wash-house will play an important role in commemorating Issaquah's coal mining history.

Do you have something newsworthy that you would like included in the next issues of Past Times? Call our office at 425/392-3500, or send us e-mail at info@issaquahhistory.org.

Salmon Days Success

The Historic Railroad Depot was at the center of the action this year during Salmon Days. In addition to serving as the Salmon Days Tech Team headquarters, the Depot was open to the visiting public as well. Visitors watched transportation artist J. Craig Thorpe painting a depiction of the planned Millennium Trolley and perused the Depot's museum exhibits. More than 1,200 people rode the Society's historic, volunteer-powered pump car. The Gilman Town Hall Museum was also open during Salmon Days, and gift shops at both facilities did a brisk business. The Issaquah Historical Society raised more than \$1,800 through gift shop sales, popcorn sales, pump car rides, and general donations.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made Salmon Days a success:

- Denny Croston
- Penny Downey
- Eric Erickson
- Marla Erickson
- Ion Freeman
- Faye Green
- Elmer Green
- Marisa Honig
- Nancy Horrocks
- Jeannie Horrocks
- Barbara Justice
- Leon Maniez
- Eric Martin
- Dale Martin
- Tom Mechler
- Caroline Quick
- Todd Sargeant
- Olga Seil
- John Sheridan
- Lorraine Thomas
- Muriel Waldo

J. Craig Thorpe works in his Depot studio during the 1999 Salmon Days celebration.



Tom Mechler, Depot Docent Coordinator, at his post.



Penny Downey and Denny Croston man the popcorn and soda stand.



Muriel Waldo, docent, answers questions at the Depot.



Faye Green serves up another bag of hot buttered popcorn.

Dave Horrocks' Legacy

As many of you know, long-time Issaquah Historical Society member Dave Horrocks passed away on October 27. During his life, Dave contributed greatly to the society by collecting and organizing a large portion of its archives and photo collections. He was also involved in the annual Pioneer Reunion, and was instrumental in the production of several educational videos. Dave's presence in the community, and his involvement in the Historical Society, will be deeply missed.

Family requested that donations be made to the Historical Society. We are pleased to report that we have received more than \$1,400. Donations will be used for improvements to the research area at Gilman Town Hall. The area will be named the David J. Horrocks Historical Research Center, and will provide a place for residents to research their community, and learn more about their heritage. Next year's Pioneer Reunion will also be dedicated to Dave's memory.

Past Times is a production of the Issaquah Historical Society. More than 200 members strong, the Issaquah Historical Society works to preserve and interpret the history of Issaquah and the surrounding area. Two hallmarks of the Society are the Historic Train Depot and the Gilman Town Hall Museum.

Historic Train Depot: 50 Rainier Blvd. N
Open Saturdays, 11-3

Gilman Town Hall: 165 SE Andrews Street
Open Thursdays & Saturdays, 11-3
and by appointment.

Holiday Museum Closures: both museums will be closed from December 19 until January 3. Normal office and museum hours will resume after January 3.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.ISSAQUAHHISTORY.ORG

Issaquah Historical Society

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NEXT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
DECEMBER 14