

ISSAQUAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAST TIMES

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NOW ON EXHIBIT



The Peltola Sleight, built circa 1910, is the centerpiece of the Wintertime in Issaquah Exhibit, currently on display at the Gilman Town Hall.

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Holiday Memories of Issaquah

By Don Anderson

Don Anderson, who currently resides in Wheeling, Illinois, kindly submitted these memories. Some of his text has been edited to fit the space.

In March 1931, my parents, younger sister and I were making our way across the northern states from southwestern Minnesota to Washington State in a Model-A Ford, towing a small four-wheeled trailer Dad had put together, loaded with a small supply of household goods. I was age three years and three months; my sister Betty Jane (BeeJay) was eighteen months younger. We were moving to Issaquah, a small town ten miles east of Seattle, where Dad was to take the pastorate of Community Church.

In the small parsonage next to the church in Issaquah, our first Christmas tree, placed near the front window in the living room, was illuminated by candles. For a special Christmas service, Dad had invited Dr. Jepson, a popular lay preacher in Seattle, to speak. Before the service, Dr. Jepson was our dinner guest and Mom, planning to seat me next to this large man, warned me, "If you spill on his suit, he'll have a fit." Apparently Mom's waffles (her inexpensive dinner specialty), my table manners, and the honorarium (if there was one) pleased the guest just fine. A week or two later

we received in the mail from him our first string of Christmas lights. BeeJay remembers him holding her in his lap and giving her a chocolate bar.

It was probably the next Christmas that my parents gave me the wherewithal to splurge on a gift for the family. On my own, having just turned five, I marched downtown to the five-and-dime store, put one thin dime on the counter and walked out with a small red bulb in a brown paper bag. I managed to drop it on the sidewalk on the way home. Turning over red shards to my parents was a disappointment to us all, but Mom and Dad were probably relieved that they did not have to explain to me that there was no practical way to use that odd-sized bulb in the house.

One Christmas, for the children's Christmas program in church, it was BeeJay's turn to walk to the center of the platform and recite a short poem for the entire congregation. Standing alone, and doing something she had never done before, she started well, but was seized with a panic-attack midway through her lines. She ran off the platform bawling like I had never heard before. Fortunately, she recovered her composure and developed skills to speak many, many times during 50 years as a pastor's wife.



Betty Jane and Don Anderson in May 1931, shortly after their arrival in Issaquah. (IHS 2004.22.1)

The Morgan Family of Issaquah

By Diane Dambacher and Erica Maniez

Members of the Morgan Family were well known to residents of early Issaquah. Dave Morgan built, owned and operated the Triple X restaurant, a popular local hangout. Dave's wife Anna Pedro Morgan was one of the town's two telephone operators for 23 years, connecting calls for everyone in town. Their son Ivor recently shared his memories, stories and family photographs with us.

Ivor's father Dave Morgan worked in both of Issaquah's key industries, logging and mining, just as his father had before him. Morgan was born in Wales to Joseph and Esther Morgan and immigrated to the United States in 1907.

Ivor's mother, Anna Pedro, was born in Issaquah to two immigrants. Her father George came to the United States from Slovakia. Along the way, he received a last name fabricated by the immigration officers at Ellis Island. Pedro found work at the Issaquah mines. Among his duties was caring for the mules that worked there.

After some time, Pedro decided that he needed a wife and wrote a letter of inquiry to a Catholic priest in Slovakia. He asked the priest to choose for him three potential candidates for matrimony, and to see if any of his choices would be willing to come to the United States to marry him, sight unseen. One young woman, named Anna Marjavie, "took the bait," as Ivor Morgan



George and Anna Marjavie Pedro, parents of Anna Pedro Morgan. (HIS 2004.43.2)

puts it. She came to this country with \$10.15, and no English language skills. While at Ellis Island, some other women conned her out of \$10. She spent the remaining fifteen cents on peanut brittle, which she ate during her rail



Joseph and Esther Morgan, Dave Morgan's parents, at their home in Issaquah, circa the 1930s. (HIS 2004.43.1)

trip across the country. When she reached Seattle, she was penniless, but somehow managed to convey to the station agent in Seattle that she wished to go to Issaquah. The station agent arranged a ride by horse and buggy, and so Anna traveled to Issaquah by way of Renton. George Pedro must have met with her satisfaction, because the couple was married shortly after her arrival in Issaquah. Anna Pedro was the eldest of their four children.

Dave Morgan married Anna Pedro in 1913. Their son Ivor was born on July 29, 1914 – the first day of World War I. At the time of Ivor's birth, his parents lived in Pacific Coast Coal Company housing, below the coalbunkers on Mine Hill. Later his father worked in Monohon at the lumber mill, and Ivor remembers walking to Monohon to meet his father as he walked home from work. Ivor describes his father as a hard worker and a patriot who loved the American flag.

Anna Pedro Morgan began working for the telephone company after her sister, Suzie Pedro Krall, left the post and asked Anna to take over for her. For the next 23 years, Anna worked as the town's telephone operator. In addition to connecting calls, Anna was responsible for controlling the fire siren and for placing grocery orders for the Issaquah stores. Ivor acted as a messenger for those residents who did not have a

(continued on page 6)

What's Happening at the IHS Shop?

By Chuck Cerar

The IHS Restoration and Maintenance Shop (informally known as "The Shop") is the site of many of the organization's hands-on projects. Almost any Saturday during the year, you can come by the Shop (the former Auto Freight Building on First Avenue and Bush Street, next to the Issaquah Food Bank) and find a group of dedicated volunteers constructing something, maintaining machinery, repairing the facilities, restoring an artifact for display – or sitting around the potbellied stove enjoying a visit. These volunteers have completed quite a few projects in the past year and have laid plans for a few more in 2005. If you happen by the Shop and peak inside, this is a sample of what you might find happening on any given weekend:

Right now, Eric Martin is partially restoring a one-horse Stump Puller donated by Nancy Horrocks. Stump pullers were used to clear early day fields of stumps so that a greater area could be used for planting. The device used "one horse" to rotate a large spool of cable connected to a tree stump. When completed, Eric will also construct an exhibit for this artifact.

Eric and Dale Martin, with some assistance from Chuck Cerar, are trying to resurrect a logging drag saw. If it can be brought back to operating condition, we will demonstrate the saw at our next Heritage Day event.

The shop is also in possession of a railway Speeder car. The Speeder is powered with a small, noisy gas engine that moved the car at a rapid clip. Several shop volunteers are looking for ways to power the Speeder for more controllable, slower and much quieter operation.

Currently in storage at the shop is a 40 gallon wheeled chemical hose cart used by Issaquah's volunteer fire department. We believe that the cart was the first piece of equipment purchased by the IVFD, circa 1915. The unit is in excellent shape and only needs some very minor cosmetic restoration. The IHS staff and shop crew are trying to determine where best to display this newly acquired artifact.

In 2004, the IHS acquired several machine tools from the Ed Campbell estate. Shop volunteers are busy organizing the many accessories that came with the machines. One item, a band saw, is currently under com-

plete restoration by Lou Davey and Chuck Cerar and will be a handy tool for various projects.

The shop crew is also in a constant state of cleaning and organizing the shop building, which contains a wide range of artifacts, spare parts, and surplus items. Items that are not related to the history of Issaquah in some way, or which are widely duplicated, are often donated to other museums or nonprofit organizations. Two examples are a large steam engine from a Ballard saw mill and a melodeon (a small piano) with historic ties to Mercer Island. Shop volunteers and IHS staff are working with several potential recipients to remove these and other items from the shop. Removing these items helps create more space for restoration and repair work. It also creates space to accommodate large artifacts that do relate to Issaquah's history, such as the Peltola sleigh (currently on display at the Gilman Town Hall) and the previously mentioned chemical hose cart.

We invite you to stop by the shop to see some of these projects for yourself, and to meet the volunteers who do so much work. And if you find yourself interested in joining this band of handy folks, contact Volunteer Coordinator Karen Klein (425/392-3500 or volunteer@issaquahhistory.org) for more information and a behind-the-scenes tour.



From left to right are Eric Erickson, Chuck Cerar, Dale Martin and Jim Loring, four of the historical society's intrepid shop volunteers. Missing from the photo are longtime volunteers Lou Davey and Eric Martin, and new shop volunteer Stan Simmons.

News Notes & Upcoming Events

On Saturday February 5, 11 AM at the Issaquah Depot, author and IHS member **KIM PEARSON** will join us to share some of the ideas outlined in her recently published book, *Making History: How to Remember, Record, Interpret and Share the Events of Your Life*. Pearson's book is designed to help the reader record memories of their experiences. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the presentation. This even is free of charge. We hope you will attend and be inspired to record your memories!

The Issaquah Historical Society is the recipient of a **\$6,100 GRANT FROM 4CULTURE**. The grant will be used to purchase new, custom-built exhibit cases for the Gilman Town Hall exhibit area.

The **CITY OF ISSAQUAH** has generously increased the historical society's annual funding for 2005. This increase will enable us to turn our temporary collections manager position into a permanent one.

Board elections for the 2004-05 term were held on October 14. **BOB ITTES** was elected to join the IHS board and current members **JEAN CERAR** and **GREG SPRANGER** were re-elected. **SKIP ROWLEY** also joined the board as one of two mayoral appointees. All will serve three-year terms.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are held the second Thursday of every month, at 7 PM, at the Depot. Meetings are open to the public, although participation is limited to board members and those who have been placed on the agenda. Contact the IHS office at 425/392-3500 for more information. Meeting dates for 2005 are:

January 13	July 14
February 10	August 18
March 10	September 8
April 14	October 13
May 12	November 10
June 9	December 8

2005 History Program Schedule

You may notice a change in our history program schedule for 2005. We are experimenting with program dates to see if a new day and time might allow more people to attend. History programs have been moved from Tuesday nights to Saturday mornings. Please let us know what you think of this change! All programs are held in the Depot Freight room, and are free of charge. Refreshments are provided. The following programs have been scheduled for the coming year:

Saturday, January 15, 11 AM

Doug Simpson, author of the newest Issaquah Alps Trails Club publication, *Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky*, will join us to share information about the history of Squak Mountain and its hiking trails.

Saturday, April 16, 11 AM

Eric Erickson, author of *From Canoes to SUVs: The Transportation History of Issaquah*, will share information and images from this recent publication. Eric is also the author of the *King County Lumber Index* and the *Issaquah Lumber History* and a long-time member and volunteer of the Issaquah Historical Society.

Saturday, July 16, 11 AM

Greg Spranger will give a presentation on restoration and historic preservation in downtown Issaquah. The director of the Downtown Issaquah Association will share updated information about restoration efforts at the Hailstone Feed Store, Northern Pacific water tower, and the Grand Central Hotel.

Saturday, October 15, 11 AM

Tom Mechler will share information on the history of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Tom is a founding member of the club, as well as a member and long-time docent for the IHS. (The October meeting is also when board elections are held.)

Are you interested in planning or hosting history programs? Let us know! Contact Karen Klein at 425/392-3500 or volunteer@issaquahhistory.org.

Endowment Update

This past year has been a banner year for endowment fundraising. During 2004, we raised nearly \$20,000 for the IHS endowment fund. After three years of fundraising, the fund now totals nearly \$40,000—an amazing accomplishment! These gifts include memorial donations and other commemorative gifts, as well as general endowment donations.

We are still a long way from our goal of \$3 million. When the endowment reaches this amount, we will be able to generate enough annual interest to cover most of our basic operating expenses, thus ensuring the organization's future in perpetuity.

If you haven't made a donation to the Issaquah Historical Society's endowment fund yet, why not make a resolution to contribute in celebration of the new year? Endowment donations are tax-deductible. Currently, gifts to the endowment are being matched by an anonymous donor. That means that your gift will be worth twice as much! Use the form below if you would like to contribute to this source of sustained support for our historic preservation and public education work.

Our thanks go to these recent endowment donors:

**DAVID AND LEIGH BANGS
FISCHER MEATS
FLINTOFT'S FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY
BETTY KILLORAN**

The following people made donations in memory of beloved friends or family members:

ED & CLAIRE LORANGER
(in memory of Jim & Marilyn Foley, Bob & Lois Caterall, Bethel Clark, Charles Kinnune, and Ted Ek)

KEN & NANCY MAYNARD
(in memory of Fred Frohs)

GORDON AND HELEN SMART
(in memory of Nellimae Smart Nolet)

ROGER GIESECKE & MARY PIGOTT
(in honor of Jean M. Cerar)

CHARLIE AND JEAN CERAR
(in celebration of the birth of Dylan Miner)

Membership Application, Renewal & Donation Form

I would like to donate \$_____ to the IHS Endowment fund.

My gift is in commemoration of or in memory of _____.

I would like to donate \$_____ to the IHS Operating Fund.

I am enclosing my membership dues of \$_____.

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

I would like to volunteer! Please contact me with more information about volunteer opportunities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ / _____ Work Phone: _____ / _____

E-mail: _____

Mail donations to: IHS, P.O. Box 695, Issaquah, WA 98027. Call 425/392-3500 with questions.

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.

Morgan Family *(continued from page 2)*

telephone. He made ten or fifteen cents per message.

From very early on, Ivor invested a lot of energy into his education. During his 13 years of schooling in Issaquah, he was never absent from school, nor was he tardy. In fact, he can still remember the names of all of his Issaquah schoolteachers. Besides attending to his studies, Ivor also played basketball, baseball, and ran track. After he graduated from Issaquah High School in 1933, his father sent him to the University of Washington. He went on to earn a medical degree from George Washington University and complete an internship at Harborview. During his career, he practiced medicine at a private practice in North Seattle, at an Arab-American oil company in Saudi Arabia, and at a blood bank and kidney center. He also worked as the staff doctor at a fire department and a police department.

A resident of Mercer Island for many years, Ivor Morgan currently lives at Hearthside of Issaquah with his wife Betty.

Past Times is a publication of the Issaquah Historical Society, written by Museum Director Erica S. Maniez. Now in its 33rd year, the IHS works to discover, preserve and share the history of Issaquah and the surrounding area.

425/392-3500

info@issaquahhistory.org

www.issaquahhistory.org

Issaquah Depot	Gilman Town Hall
50 Rainier Blvd. N	165 SE Andrews St.
Open Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Open Thurs., Fri., & Sat.
11-3	11-3

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**WINTER HISTORY PROGRAM:
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(more info, page 4)