Eric Erickson joins Foundation Board

The Anacortes Museum Foundation Board had a surprise changing of the guard Dec. 10 after longtime Vice President Roger Born unexpectedly nominated Eric Erickson for the post during the annual membership meeting and election.

Three veteran officers also were re-elected at the annual meeting: President Tom Thompson, Recording Secretary Barbara Larson and Treasurer Jim Taylor. We are very grateful to all five for their ongoing commitment to the Anacortes Museum.

Eric brings a strong historical background to the post:
- Author of nine logging and sawmill history books, two transportation books and several small history and technical publications
- Life member American Water Works and past historian for the Pacific Northwest Section (States of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho)
- Life member and past president Issaquah Historical Society
- Past Treasurer and Board member of the Association of King County Historical Organizations
- Board member Black Mountain Forestry Center
- Vice President Anacortes Antique Machinery Show
- Member Branch 26 Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association

Historic W.T. Preston reopens in April; BMW Oracle exhibit continues

The sternwheeler W.T. Preston, a National Historic Landmark, and the Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center reopen the first weekend of April for spring hours — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays in the 700 block of R Avenue.

Admission to the Preston is free for Anacortes Museum Foundation members and $1-$3 for non-members. There is no charge to drop in to the Heritage Center to learn about the sternwheeler and local vessels such as the coalfish schooner Wawona and Bijaboji, the dugout canoe Betty Lowman rowed solo to Alaska in the 1930s.

The trimaran USA 17, which won the 33rd America’s Cup, is the focus of the center’s main exhibit, BMW Oracle: Building a World Champion in Anacortes. The exhibit includes a large model of the craft and a rudder, and offers mind-boggling facts — its wing sail is larger than a Boeing jet’s, its waterline footprint is the size of a baseball infield, and more.

To receive your newsletter via email, contact elainew@cityofanacortes.org

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Anacortes Museum and edited by Elaine Walker
Our plans for a productive 2014

The Anacortes Museum has a number of exciting plans, goals and initiatives for 2014.

• We will begin transferring hundreds of hours of oral history recordings from delicate magnetic cassette and reel-to-reel tapes to digital format, with help of a generous $3,000 donation from the Rodeffer family.

These upgrades are a significant move toward safeguarding and making a treasure trove of oral histories more accessible to researchers and the public.

• We will continue to enhance our online offerings. Since launching our online search feature in 2012, we have increased the number of photos available to more than 20,000. People want more, and we aim to please!

• All in the Same Boat: Anacortes in the Great Depression, a new exhibit created by museum staff, is currently in the research and design phase. Anyone who has stories of Anacortes during that time is encouraged to call us at 293-1915 and share them. We also may be interested in borrowing Depression-era artifacts.

Stay tuned: The opening of the exhibit is tentatively scheduled for the end of May.

Steve Oakley, Museum Director

Check out model railroad exhibit

The Anacortes & Fidalgo Model Railroad Club has filled the Anacortes Museum’s Anacortes Presents display case with model railroad track-maintenance equipment, steam and diesel locomotives, logging cars, a tugboat, passenger-type equipment and vehicles, and model railroad structures.

The museum invites local collectors to participate in Anacortes Presents by putting their treasures on display for the whole community to enjoy. Please call us at 293-1915 if you’d like to share yours! Exhibits usually run about three months.

The trains displayed range from O-scale to N-scale. Highlights include scratch-built models of the Anacortes Great Northern Depot, a Mi-Jack container crane, a Great Northern caboose with interior, a drover caboose and turntable, and a 12-by-24-inch diorama depicting an old hay barn and billboard that once stood along Highway 20.

Anacortes history classes at Senior College

Historian and Educator Bret Lunsford will teach a three-session Senior College class on Anacortes history from 3:30-5:30 p.m. April 15, 22, and 29. The cost is $20. Visit http://www.seniorcollege.org or call (360) 503-1255 for details or to register.

“We’re Still Here” closes May 18

Don’t miss “We’re Still Here: The Survival of Washington Indians, the important and thought-provoking exhibit that continues at the Anacortes Museum through May 18.

The main exhibit, created by the Washington State Heritage Center, follows Washington’s original inhabitants through a war over land, a clash over culture and a revival of Native tradition today.

To enhance local context, the museum worked with the Samish and Swinomish Tribes to develop exhibit panels about the first people of Fidalgo and Guemes islands, and to display hats, baskets, weaving, a canoe and other items.

Anacortes Historic Preservation Board seeks new members

The City of Anacortes seeks citizens to serve on the Anacortes Historic Preservation Board. Applicants must reside within city limits and must have a demonstrated interest and competence in historic preservation, impartiality and broad judgment.

Please send a written letter of interest, including a brief review of experience, to Mayor Laurie Gere, P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221.

Identity crisis: Help us solve some photographic mysteries

Above left, unknown women at an unidentified cannery, circa 1940 (WF 1932); above, the minister and members of an Anacortes Lutheran confirmation class of 1938 are pictured at Anacortes Veneer Plant circa 1938, with grocer Paul Luvera at far right (WF 2023).

If you can provide any information about these photos, please email Collections Curator Judy Hakins at hakinsj@cityofanacortes.org or call (360) 293-1915.

Photos are from the Wallie Funk Collection. To see more, visit our website at museum.cityofanacortes.org.