New exhibit explores evolution of our waterfront

When the sternwheeler W.T. Preston and the Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center reopen the first weekend of April, the center will feature a new exhibit exploring the maritime community’s rich traditions and how our waterfront has evolved, through good times and bad, into what it is today.

Be sure to come and take a look!
The Preston, a National Historic Landmark, and the Maritime Heritage Center are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays in April, May, September and October; plus weekdays hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays in June, July and August.

They are located 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 old fish schooner Wawona and Bijaboji, the dug-out canoe Betty Lowman rowed solo to Alaska in the 1930s.

Anacortes Museum Foundation

Through memberships, the Anacortes Museum Foundation supports and assists the educational and preservation goals of the Anacortes Museum.

Become a Member—Support Local History!

Benefits of Annual Membership & Annual Membership Categories

- FREE admission to the W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center
- 10% discount at the Museum store
- Invitation to exhibit openings and special events
- Quarterly Museum newsletter
- Discount on select special events

Student & Senior (65+) ........................................... $10
Individual ......................................................... $20
Family ............................................................... $35
Business/Organization ......................................... $50
Sponsor ............................................................. $100
Life ................................................................. $250
Donation ............................................................ $%

[ ] New Member [ ] Renewal

[Contribution tax deductible to fullest extent of law]

Name:________________________________________
Address:______________________________________
City/State/Zip:_________________________________
Telephone:____________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Anacortes Museum Foundation.
Send to: 2305 8th, Anacortes, WA 98221. Thank you!

Museum loan, W.T. Preston tours foster partnership with Marine Tech Center

As an outreach effort, the museum has loaned its sculpture “DOGzilla” to the Marine Technology Center in Anacortes.

The sculpture, a Western Red Cedar carving by chainsaw artist Nyal Thomas, was commissioned by Janicki Industries, which provided high-tech tooling for construction of thetrimaran USA 17, winner of the 2010 America’s Cup yacht race. “DOGzilla” is the nickname of the trimaran, which was constructed by Core Builders in Anacortes.

Museum staff also will continue the tradition of hosting Marine Technology Center tours of the W.T. Preston — and see this and future loans as a way to introduce our rich maritime history to the students learning modern techniques.

Come celebrate the American’s birthday — and the release of Wallie Funk’s “Pictures of the Past: Celebrating 125 Years of Anacortes History”

“Pictures of the Past: Celebrating 125 Years of Anacortes History”

By Wallie Funk

Hardcover, 192 pages, with more than 180 historic photographs

Cost: $25

Available May 9

This May is historically significant in Anacortes: The Anacortes American was founded on May 15, 1890 and the City was incorporated May 19, 1891. So, this year the newspaper completes its 125th year just four days before the city begins its 125th year. In addition, the Funk family just celebrated the 125th anniversary of Valentine and Barbara Funk’s arrival here.

The Anacortes Museum tips a hat to these auspicious anniversaries with the release of our new book “Pictures of the Past: Celebrating 125 Years of Anacortes History,” a compilation of the best Anacortes history stories written by retired American editor and co-publisher Wallie Funk in 1994-2001.

Like the original stories, the book is lavishly illustrated with exquisite photos from the Anacortes Museum’s Wallie Funk Collection — the magnificent photo collection that played a key role in the establishment of the museum.

The American and the Anacortes Museum Foundation will co-host an anniversary celebration May 9, which doubles as our book release party. Please join us for what is sure to be one of the liveliest events of the year.

A short program by American Publisher Jack Darnton will be followed by the book celebration at noon. Wallie plans to be there, so don’t miss it!

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
Thank you (once again!) to the Rodeffer Trust

Museum benefactor Phyllis Rodeffer (through the Rodeffer Trust) has come full circle with her most recent generous gift to the Anacortes Museum Foundation — $5,000 for the purchase of five Bill Mitchell murals. The murals have been on display for several years at the museum, but were still the property of the artist. They depict ‘Bubble’ Finley, Betty Lowman Carey and Bill Lowman (on the museum sign at 8th and M), and Bill Bessner and a family member on the cannery office exhibit in the Carnegie Gallery. Mrs. Rodeffer’s generosity to the museum began several years ago with a $5,000 gift to commission five of Bill’s murals — Andrew Carnegie, Louella Howard and T.H. Havekost, which are outside the museum, and Jake Lee of the Wawona and “Cannery Kate,” which are on the front of the Maritime Heritage Center.

The next project to benefit from the Rodeffer Trust was our ground-floor renovation two years ago — first a front office makeover, followed by a renovation of the Collections area. The work, which restored the area to the graceful proportions envisioned by architects in 1909, was made possible by a donation of $6,000 in memory of Orrie Rodeffer.

The trust also granted the museum $1,500 to create two Washington Park interpretive panels focused on T.H. Havekost (who was a relative of the Rodeffers). The museum is collaborating with the Anacortes Parks Department on that project.

And last year we were able to begin transferring hundreds of hours of oral history recordings from delicate magnetic cassette and reel-to-reel tapes to digital format, because of a $3,000 donation from the Rodeffer family. These upgrades are a significant move toward safeguarding a treasure trove of oral histories and making them more accessible to researchers and the public.

Thank you very much to Phyllis Rodeffer and her family for their ongoing support of the museum.

Say it isn’t so ... Volunteer Emilie Owens retires

We were dismayed to learn of Emilie Owens’ recent decision to hang up her white gloves after about 15 years of service as an Anacortes Museum volunteer.

Emilie’s contributions to the museum are vast. She has transcribed oral histories and done research for many museum books, projects and exhibits. In recent years, her focus has been on identifying and photographing historically significant articles in Anacortes newspapers — a backbreaking task.

But appreciated just as much as her contributions to historical research has been her cheerful presence. Staff members have always looked forward to Fridays — Emilie’s regular day at the museum — and her gentle, upbeat presence. We will miss her deeply, and still hope that she might, perhaps, change her mind.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to Emilie for her many years as a valued volunteer and team member at the Anacortes Museum.

Upcoming Presentations

Lance Burdon: A Photographic Journey
2 p.m. Sunday, March 8
Skagit County Historical Museum
501 S. Fourth St, La Conner

Please join Anacortes Museum Educator Bret Lunsford for a slide show and presentation celebrating the photographs and career of pioneer photographer Lance Burdon, who is the subject of a beautiful book recently published by the Anacortes Museum Foundation.

At the dawn of the 20th century, Burdon launched a career in photography, embarking on a photographic journey that provides an inside look at pioneer life on Fidalgo Island during early eras of hop and dairy farming, boomtown schemes, steamboat travel, salmon fishing and the beginnings of industrialization.

Mystery photos — can you help?

Over 1,200 photographs currently in our database at the museum have one thing in common, which, according to www.dictionary.com, is that they are “not within the range of one’s knowledge, experience, or understanding; unfamiliar; not discovered, explored, identified, or ascertained.” Still trying to figure this out? So are we! It just means these photos have something or someone in them that are unidentified. So, here are a pair perhaps you can help us to identify:

1. Taken by Ferd Brady at the Children’s Parade of the Mariners’ Pageant in 1948 are three beautiful little “Southern Belles.” Can you recognize them? This photograph can be found in Wallie Funk’s upcoming book, “Pictures of the Past,” coming out in May.

2. This unknown man’s cap reads, “U.S. Post Office, Anacortes, Wash.” with the number “4” in the center of the cap badge.

If you have any information on these, or other photographs in the collection, please call the museum at (360) 293-1915 email hakinsj@cityofanacortes.com. To browse through our collection online, search for “Anacortes Museum” and then click on the search button.

Judy Hakins, Collections Curator