“At Home in Anacortes” exhibit opens to enthusiastic Anacortes crowds

“At Home in Anacortes” opened on Saturday, May 13 at a well attended reception in Carnegie Gallery. “There were too many people to count,” said Museum Director, Steve Oakley. “I was pleased with the enthusiastic comments of people as they viewed the exhibit.”

The centerpiece of the exhibit is the rebuilt front door and columns from the now-demolished house at 819 4th Street. Steve Oakley and Bret Lunsford from the museum salvaged the items just prior to demolition and Steve rebuilt it to act as the welcoming front porch for the architectural exhibit of Anacortes homes.

Many enthusiastic visitors were able to find photos of their home or perhaps one of their neighbors’ on the panels of the exhibit. Elaine Walker, Curator of Collections, created the panels to educate the public about the styles of homes in Anacortes, but was also able to place the style within the context of the history of our town. “I feel bad that we haven’t been able to include more homes,” Elaine said. “Sometimes it was just a matter of not having enough light for a good picture, or that a car was blocking the view.” Even though the number of photos were limited, Steve and Elaine selected over 125 home photos to depict on the panels of the exhibit.

Bret Lunsford, Educator and Maritime Curator, was also pleased with the attendance. “I haven’t been to an Anacortes Museum opening that was so well attended for the whole afternoon. It really showed community engagement. Elaine Walker and Linda Yerby had the idea of sending invites to all of the homeowners featured in the exhibit. Many people signed up for the Historic Preservation Board’s May 23 house history workshop. I think this exhibit will hold sustained interest for the community as these research projects progress.”

Period music greeted attendees as they entered the exhibit. Al Bofenkamp, Wednesday docent, acted as disc jockey as he played 78 rpm records on his 1946 Philco record player. He and his friend, Jeff Weldon, have filled the Anacortes Presents case with radios they have collected and restored over the years. Steve Oakley, loves the way this collection highlights the home technology aspect of the museum’s local architecture exhibit. If you missed the reception, drop by the Anacortes Museum on most Wednesdays during this exhibit and Al will be on hand to tell you about the collection and spin a disc or two.

Mayor Laurie Gere, second from left, enjoys the front porch with museum staff.

Pictured at left are Bret Lunsford, Educator and Maritime Curator; Mayor Gere; Steve Oakley, Museum Director and Elaine Walker, Curator of Collections.

Below, house at 819 4th Street just prior to demolition in April.

Docents Barbara Bear, right, and Al Bofenkamp enjoy the music at the opening.

Jim Taylor and Lewis Jones are caught peeking through the porch door’s mail slot by Bob Yerby, who smiles from behind.
Plaza Dance at The Anacortes Depot (611 R Avenue)
June 3, 2017 from 6-8 p.m.

FREE Community Dance at the Depot Plaza features A’Town Big Band

Come listen and dance to the A’Town Big Band playing swing classics at an outdoor Plaza Dance at the Depot Arts & Community Center during the Waterfront Festival. Join us as we renew the tradition of the fishermen’s “pavement dances” which welcomed the salmon seine fleet and their crews for weekend fun and music after a hard week’s work.

Music will be performed by A’Town Big Band. Founded in January 2013 in Anacortes, A’Town Big Band is Skagit County’s newest big band. Providing energetic melodies and rhythms as versatile as its members, the band plays everything from classic swing hits, to smooth sambas, driving big band rock and controlled balladic dissonances that move the soul. A’Town Big Band performs the music of Stan Kenton, Count Basie, Maynard Ferguson, Bob Curnow, Buddy Rich, and more. The community will pay tribute to our maritime heritage during this year’s Waterfront Festival. The location recalls the Great Depression era dances that entertained both locals and up to 1,000 visiting salmon fishermen. This free event takes place Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 at the Anacortes Depot, 611 R Ave.

Celebrate Your Maritime Heritage

With the fortuitous expansion of its Cap Sante Marina area in early 1930s, Anacortes reaped economic benefits, like the enlargement of its own and visiting fishing fleets. Nearness to the fishing grounds was a chief advantage in the growth of Anacortes’ fishing industry. Anacortes became the salmon-season haven of the fishing fleet due to active recruitment and infrastructure improvements, like the Cap Sante Waterway.

Some local residents may have been unnerved when the weekend population swelled, but most joined the fun of the Fishermen’s Dances, and respected how the fleet contributed to the local economy.

Check the Web for more information:
Anacortes Waterfront Festival
History of Anacortes Fishermen’s Dances
A’Town Big Band

ANACORTES PRESENTS

VINTAGE RADIOS

Two museum volunteers have assembled the best of the classic radios from their collections to fill the “Anacortes Presents” display case as a cool accompaniment to the new architectural exhibit, “At Home in Anacortes.”

Al Bofenkamp has been volunteering as the Wednesday docent at the museum for the past year. He teamed up with his good friend, Jeff Weldon, Vice President of the Anacortes Museum Foundation, to create an exhibit with radios each of them have cleaned up and refurbished.

“As a kid, your grandparents had multi-band radios; that’s when I first noticed old radios,” said Al. He didn’t get interested in restoring until 2010. He’s self-taught, with no electronics background, although he did have help early on from a neighbor who was an electrical engineer. Al likes to find old radios that would end up in the landfill, and give them an extended life.

Al and Jeff lived near each other in California before moving to Anacortes. “We commuted to work together,” Jeff said. He bought a 1929 Grigsby-Grunow radio in 1986, and Al introduced him to a restoration shop. Over time, Jeff learned how to test and replace parts himself.

Anacortes Museum Director Steve Oakley loves the way these collections highlight the home technology aspect of the local architecture exhibit. He asked Al to deejay with old 78 RPM records on his 1946 Philco Radio/Phono Model 46-1203 during the “At Home in Anacortes” opening on May 13.

Thanks to Al and Jeff for sharing this fun and interesting exhibit.
Can you help us complete our collection?

We need your help in completing our collection of Anacortes High School annuals, city directories and city phone books. These books are highly sought after by researchers and others reliving past memories.

Two copies of each annual are preserved in the archives; extra annuals are used in the research room and browsed by visitors in the gallery and at the Maritime Heritage Center.

We are missing the following high school annuals: 1911-1914, 1916, 1918, 1919, 1987, 1996 and 1999. We do not need any additional annuals from 1928, 1929 or 1932, but for the remaining years, we could use more copies.


Please check your bookcases or attics and give us a call if you’re willing to donate any annuals, directories or phone books. Your donations will be appreciated!
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 and 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

Senior (65+)/Student ................................ $20
Individual ............................................. $25
Family .................................................. $40
Business/Organization ............................. $75
Sponsor ................................................. $100
Life ...................................................... $250
Donation ............................................... $___

☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal

(Contributions tax deductible to fullest extent of law)

Name:________________________________________
Address:______________________________________
City/State/Zip:________________________________
Telephone:____________________________________
Email:_____________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Anacortes Museum Foundation.
Send to: 1305 8th St, Anacortes, WA 98221. Thank you!

Museum marketing plan implemented

Anacortes Museum staff are at work implementing a marketing plan for the W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center. This work is funded, in part, by a tourism promotion grant awarded last year.

A new “rack card,” focused on tours of our National Historic Landmark vessel, has been designed, printed, and is now being distributed on the San Juan Island ferries and at tourist sites throughout Northwest Washington.

Meanwhile, staff are busy with promotion at home, giving presentations to the Anacortes Yacht Club, Fidalgo Yacht Club and volunteers from the Visitors Information Center. The biggest promotional event this spring was in partnership with the Dr. Samuel Gordon Brooks Guild. The W.T. Preston was featured in this year’s Anacortes Home & Boat Tour, with hundreds of visitors expected on board.

We look forward to increased word of mouth and visitation as a result of all of these efforts.

W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center
Open June 1 for summer season

The Maritime Heritage Center and W.T. Preston begin summer hours on Thursday, June 1. There is no charge to drop in to the Heritage Center to learn about the sternwheeler, local vessels such as the codfish schooner Wawona and Bijaboji, the dugout canoe Betty Lowman rowed solo to Alaska in 1937.

In June, July and August, the W.T. Preston and Heritage Center are open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays. Admission to the W.T. Preston is free for Anacortes Museum Foundation members and $3-5 for non-members.

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Anacortes Museum and edited by Linda Yerby.