Join museum’s celebration of 50th & 60th anniversaries on August 30th

The Anacortes Museum is celebrating two big anniversaries in August: It is 50 years since the museum opened in the Carnegie Library building, and 60 years since the Anacortes Museum of History Board was established. Mayor Anthony Mustacich appointed the first Anacortes Museum of History Board on July 23, 1958. Ten years later, the museum got a physical location in the Carnegie Library building, which has been home to the Anacortes Museum ever since.

In recognition of these milestones, we have spiffed up the outside courtyard area to make it inviting for folks who want to enjoy the garden and historic WCTU fountain. We have a new flagpole (funded by Anacortes Noon Kiwanis and the Anacortes Museum Foundation’s membership) and an interpretive panel to share the history of the Carnegie Library and the Anacortes Museum. Thanks are due to the Parks crew and Facilities staff for their essential work on this project.

Please join us for a celebration and unveiling of these new additions at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 30, at the museum, 1305 8th Street. Mayor Gere will participate in the event, which will also feature a visit from Amos Bowman’s great, great niece, ukulele tunes and snacks. We will bury a time capsule created by students, and imagine the role of the Anacortes Museum in the community when they unearth it in 2068.

Upcoming all-ages time capsule workshops

To mark our 50th anniversary, we’re making a time capsule and we want YOU to contribute to it. The museum will be holding two All-ages Time Capsule-Making Workshops from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on August 23 and August 24. Workshops are FREE.

Families, seniors, teens and kids are all welcome at either of these workshops. Please RSVP to: coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org and let us know which workshop works better for you.

Bring a favorite object, video or audio recording to share that tells an important story about your life in Anacortes or in the United States in 2018. You’ll keep the materials; we will document and include them in a box that will be buried and reopened in 50 years. At the workshops, we’ll also write messages to Anacortesans of 2068.

The time capsule will be buried at our August 30th celebration event under the renovated courtyard of the Anacortes Museum.

museum.cityofanacortes.org
Anacortes Museum at the Arts Festival

After the recent Arts Festival, many refrigerators throughout Anacortes and Washington are now the presentation sites for artworks featuring photos from the Anacortes Museum collection.

On Saturday August 5th and Sunday August 6th, Kate Clark, Museum Education and Media Curator, hosted a booth in the festival's Youth Art Activity Area. Kids, teens and even adults perused copies of photos from the collection, and incorporated images of the people, fauna, homesteads and industries of Fidalgo Island in refrigerator magnet collages.

Many people were excited to have the opportunity to dig through images of Anacortes yesteryear, and we had many repeat customers; some came back for the photo collection; others came back for the glitter stickers.

Our thanks to volunteers John Harrison, Sallie Hughes, Corin Noronha, Suzette Richards, Ella Villines, Per Kefgen, and Ginger and Carrie Thomas for helping Kate during these busy days at the Arts Festival.

September 19 presentation on Mary Roberts Rinehart at Library

The Anacortes Library lecture series continues at 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 19, with a presentation about early Skagit County pioneer woman Mary Roberts Rinehart.

Former North Cascades National Park cultural resource management employee Jesse G. Kennedy III, Ph.D. will present a program that focuses on the crossing of Cascade Pass, but will also provide additional dimension to the writer and person through discussion of her life and achievements.

(left) 1914 photo of Mary Roberts Reinhart, courtesy of Wikipedia.
Old Fidalgo School reunion great success

The Old Fidalgo School reunion was held on July 28 at the new Fidalgo School on Gibraltar Road in Anacortes. Approximately 100 people attended the reunion and enjoyed fun conversation, good food and a display of early photos of the school.

Attendees were encouraged to write new information on the back of the photos to share with the museum and help to complete the stories about the photos in the museum’s online database.

Bret Lunsford, Anacortes Museum Director, and Elaine Walker, Curator of Collections, attended the event. Elaine scanned photos brought to the event by attendees. Over twenty previously unseen photos were scanned and donated to the collection.

Carl Howard organized and facilitated the event. The museum is grateful to him and the alumni of the Old Fidalgo School for their ongoing support.

Anacortes Museum intern and volunteer producing two videos

As a newly graduated Anacortes High School student, many people my age take on mundane summer jobs to help pay their way through college. However, I was presented with a much different opportunity. The Anacortes Museum was gracious enough to offer me an internship doing the very thing that I am the most passionate about--filmmaking. Having the ability to pick up a camera and shoot, all while being paid to do so, has long been a dream of mine.

Along with my time here, I have also garnered a newfound appreciation for the work that is being done here day in and day out. Walking downstairs in the Carnegie Building you will be presented with a group of diligent people working tirelessly to preserve and document Anacortes history, and I’m honored to be a part of that. Currently, volunteer John Harrison and I are finishing a tour guide video and a full-length documentary on the Scott Paper Pulp Mill that soon will be posted to YouTube. My hope with these films is that people of all ages will be more excited to understand Anacortes history and its relevance today.

Submitted by Corin Noronha, Anacortes Museum Intern

Time Travel Sound Session with vintage radios and phonographs

From 7 to 8:30 p.m. on October 11, the museum will be hosting a listening event featuring vintage radios and phonographs currently on exhibit in the Anacortes Museum’s Carnegie Gallery, located at 1305 8th Street.

Staged as a live DJ’d group listening event, our ears will time travel to the 30s and 40s and encounter the popular music, news programs, and radio shows that Anacortesans once listened to.

Please join volunteer docent Al Bofenkamp and his friend Jeff Weldon, President of the Anacortes Museum Foundation, as they relate their shared passion for history and music and play programs and music on radios and phonographs they have restored. The event is free.

Please RSVP to coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org.

Social Media kickoff

The Anacortes Museum is digging into the world of social media. We’re posting information about upcoming events, artifacts in our collections, photos in our archives, and museum staff, board member and volunteer activities. Please follow us on Instagram at: @anacortesmuseum and like our Facebook page: @AnacortesMuseum
Marinakos clock donated to museum by family descendants

The Carnegie Gallery received a special gift in June from the family of George and Della Martin Marinakos, owners of the Maryland Café between 1922 and c.1941. The Maryland Café was located at 314 Commercial. George, Della and their four daughters, Athena, Christina, Marjorie and Ann, all worked in the restaurant.

The clock was donated by John Coffey, the son of youngest Marinakos daughter, Ann. Family stories say the clock may have been built in the 1920s or 1930s in a woodshop class at the Anacortes High School. The clock originally resided in the home of George and Della Marinakos at 1119 5th Street.

A Bill Mitchell mural of George Marinakos is installed on the exterior of 312 Commercial.

Elaine Walker, Museum Curator of Collections, and Kate Clark, Education and Media Curator, are shown with Per Kefgen in front of the Anacortes Junk Company structure. Staff and the Historic Preservation Board surveyed the historic livery stable on June 20.

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!

Pulp Mill Exhibit at Maritime Heritage Center

Visit the Maritime Heritage Center and see the new items donated by former pulp mill workers and their families for the new Puget Pulp Pioneers exhibit.

The W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center are open summer hours through August: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Monday.

Fall hours begin September 1, with weekends only through October. The Maritime Heritage Center and W.T. Preston are closed November through March.

Anacortes Museum
1305 8th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1915

The Carnegie Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The Museum Office is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

The Anacortes Museum and Maritime Heritage Center exist to preserve and interpret the history of Fidalgo and Guemes islands and to nurture in the community an awareness and appreciation of its heritage.

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

From the City’s earliest days, Anacortesians have prioritized the preservation of their own history and the promotion of civic literacy. In 1890, a year before the city incorporated, newspapers were publishing reminiscences and recollections of the community’s earliest days, and the Women’s Christian Temperance Union opened a public reading room. The Anacortes American noted approvingly: “In a new town like ours, unless a young man goes to the reading room to pass away his spare time, he is almost necessitated to go to a bar room for want of acquaintanceship.”

Also in 1891, a first Skagit County Pioneer Association was founded — its successor, with the same name, has hosted annual picnics since 1904.

In 1898, another wave of interest in history struck the city, leading to the founding of the short-lived Anacortes History Club, and local history articles continued to be popular.

A drive to establish a public library culminated on Christmas Day 1910 with the opening of the Carnegie Library (first as a reading room, three months later as a full-service library). The Carnegie building housed the library until 1967, and became home of the Anacortes Museum in 1968.

The movement that led to the establishment of the Anacortes Museum began in 1949. That year Elizabeth Dwelley of Anacortes served as secretary of the Skagit County Pioneer Association (Floyd Lunsford performed at the picnic). Mrs. Dwelley, with the sponsorship of the Anacortes Business and Professional Women’s Club, organized an Anacortes Pioneer Dinner for early settlers of Fidalgo and Guemes islands. Folks put on old-time clothes for the event and began to talk about how to display artifacts.

On June 22, 1950 Anacortes American co-publisher Wallie Funk issued a front-page plea to the community to preserve local history. (On the same front page: an invitation to the second annual Pioneer Dinner).

People brought scores of historic photos to the newspaper to be copied — a project that became Funk’s lifelong mission. He began taking out personal loans to have historic photos copied and to have 125 of the best enlarged by local photographer Glenn Davis. He was later repaid by a Rotary Club grant of $1,250 and many private donations.

The first Anacortes Museum of History Board was established by Mayor Tony Mustacich on July 23, 1958: Wallie Funk (chairman), Madge D. Stafford (secretary), Ann S. Bessner, Martin B. Miller and Lloyd M. Foster. The first meeting was Aug. 5, 1958. The first order of business was to organize an exhibit of the “Pioneer Photos” — a bit of a challenge for a museum with no physical location. Permission to use City Hall was obtained and was a sensation in January 1959.

Ten years later, the museum got a physical location when the Anacortes Public Library moved into the old hospital. Opening events were Aug. 1, 3 and 4, 1968. The Carnegie Library building has been home to the Anacortes Museum ever since.
The Anacortes Museum across the years

1910  Library opens on Christmas Day as reading room only
1911  Opening and dedication of Anacortes Carnegie Library
1958  Anacortes Museum of History Board established; Rotary grants $1,250 to for collection of historic photos
1959  *Pioneer Pictures* display debuts in City Hall – Anacortes Museum’s first exhibit and first collection
1960-  *Pioneer Pictures* exhibit opens to the public several times at City Hall for special events. Board members work to identify people and subjects.
1966  City plans to move library to old hospital site. History Board secretary William Gallagher writes to City recommending the Carnegie Library building for a museum.
1968  History board and Arts and Crafts Festival Board agree to share Carnegie Building on a trial basis; Anacortes Museum of History and Art opens to the public with a Heritage Show, open weekend hours; Advisory board created to advise, assist and raise funds
1970  Carnegie Library rededicated as museum
1972  W.C.T.U. Fountain moved to museum grounds
1977  Anacortes Carnegie Library added to National Register of Historic Places

1978  *Balkan Textiles* exhibit
1979  Centennial of Anacortes’ founding; Cannery Office exhibit installed; Four exhibits presented: Winslow Homer; Darius Kinsey; Model Railroads; and Maritime Steam on the Northern Puget Sound
1980  *Natural History* exhibit
1983  W.T. Preston comes to Anacortes and is placed on display under stewardship of Anacortes Museum
1989  W.T. Preston receives National Historic Landmark status
1994  *Island Voices* oral history exhibit
1995  Exhibits on Guemes Island Quilts, the Asian Pacific American Experience, Canneries of Fidalgo Island and Model boats
1996  Exhibits: Logs to Lumber and Famous Fires of Fidalgo and Guemes Island; Anacortes Antique Machinery Show debuts
1997  Three exhibits: Oh No! It’s In the Attic!; Saving the Lines: the Historic American Engineering Record; and Indian Artists of the Pacific Northwest: Beadwork and Basketry from the Museum’s Collection

Above, members of the history board with the painting “Anacortes, 1891,” given to the city by LeRoy Moyer in 1960. Below, Marie Hapeman with a doctor’s office exhibit, November 1968.

Above left, Steam & Gas Engine Day, 1996. Above right, the W.C.T.U. fountain was moved to the museum in 1972.

Left, the Anacortes Museum sponsored a Roaring ’20s Day annually from 1995 to 1999.
Across the years

1998  Ferd Brady exhibit; Publication of “The Exploration of Whidbey, Fidalgo and Guemes Islands” by Terry Slotemaker
1999  From Stem to Stern: The History of Boat Building On Fidalgo and Guemes Islands exhibit
2000  Pirate Days event Exhibit: Dirt, Planks, and Pavement: The Evolution of Commercial Avenue
2001  Wallie Funk donates his photo collection; Museum restroom renovation
2002  Rural Neighborhoods of Fidalgo and Guemes Islands exhibit
2004  Roots & Pathways: Our Celebration of Island Culture exhibit; Museum launches Winter Talks presentations
2005  Publication of “Fidalgo Fishing” by Terry Slotemaker; Melting Pot multicultural fair; Maritime (Snagboat) Heritage Center built
2006  Focus on the Community: Wallie Funk Collection Exhibit “A Perfect Port” DVD released
2007  Publication of “The Geology of Fidalgo Island” and “From Logs to Lumber” by Terry Slotemaker; Safecracker fails to open Mayor Hogan’s safe
2008  Colorful Characters and Local Lore exhibit; East Carnegie Gallery renovated; Handicapped lift installed
2009  Two exhibits: Native American Art: the Joe Fedderson Collection and Murals Unmasked; West Carnegie Gallery renovated

At right, Questers Finderskeepers members install the first exhibit in the Anacortes Presents series.

Above, “Pictures of the Past” is the museum’s most recent publication. At right, Mayor Laurie Gere and Museum Director Bret Lunsford stand in the shadow of the Abominable Snowman — one of our Burl Ives Christmas cutouts.

2010  1910 — Celebrating 100 Years exhibit; Wawona and the End of the Age of Sail exhibit; Anacortes Presents opens with Finders Keepers Questers’ 1950s Christmas display
2011  Island Plants and People: A Twisted Path exhibit; Cruisin’ the Washington State Fossil Freeway exhibit
2012  Three exhibits: Smart Phone and Communication Technology History; Isaac Stevens; and Washington’s First Women in Government; Administrative Assistant office renovated
2013  We’re Still Here: The Survival of the Washington Indians exhibit; Research Library renovated
2014  All in the Same Boat: Anacortes and the Great Depression exhibit; Publication of Lance Burdon: A Photographic Journey
2015  Wallie Funk’s Fishing Photos exhibit; Plaza Dance at Depot Plaza; Publication of Pictures of the Past: Celebrating 125 Years of Anacortes History by Wallie Funk
2016  Exhibits: Anacortes at 125; Antique Quilts; 1889: Blazes, Rails and the Year of Washington Statehood; and Anacortes Waterfront
2017  At Home in Anacortes exhibit on residential architecture; Burl Ives’ Rudolph Christmas Cutouts exhibit; Public area renovation completed
2018  Puget Pulp Pioneers exhibit; Museum courtyard redesigned; new flagpole installed

Above left, “The Exploration of Whidbey, Fidalgo and Guemes Islands” was the museum’s first publication.
Above right, two Melting Pot Cultural Fairs took place in conjunction with the 2004 exhibit Roots and Pathways: Our Celebration of Island Culture.

Left, mural artist and historian Bill Mitchell was featured in museum exhibits in 2008 and 2009. Several of his murals are permanently displayed at the museum.
The W.T. Preston, the last sternwheeler to work in Puget Sound, was entrusted to the Anacortes Museum’s care in 1983. One of only two snagboats remaining in the continental U.S., she became a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

An Army Corps of Engineers vessel, the Preston removed navigational hazards — snags — from Puget Sound and its tributaries.

In 1999 the Preston was raised and put on steel beams and pilings. Diligent maritime curators, staff and volunteers have restored her and keep her shipshape.

Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center

Originally called the W.T. Preston Snagboat Heritage Center, the Maritime Heritage Center (above left) was built with a federal transportation grant. It opened to the public in 2005. Adjacent to the Preston, its mission was to interpret the history of the snagboat — which it still does.

In 2009 the center’s mission was expanded to encompass all aspects of the community’s rich maritime heritage — including water-dependent industries such as fishing, canning, wood processing and boat building. Exhibits on these topics have been well-received, including the current exhibit, Pulp Mill Pioneers, which opened with a reception in 2018 (pictured above right).