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

(Contributions tax deductible to fullest extent of law)

Name: ______________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
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Telephone: _________________________________
Email: ______________________________________

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

Visiting the W.T. Preston Through October

Life aboard a riverboat comes vividly to life aboard the W.T. Preston steam-powered sternwheeler, which is open weekends through October. Everything from the galley and crew bunks to boilers and machinery is still inside the National Historic Landmark, which cleared debris from Puget Sound’s waterways from 1939 to 1981.

Tickets are $1-$3, free for under 8 and foundation members. The stories of the Preston and other historic watercraft are interpreted next door at the Maritime Heritage Center. Admission to the Heritage Center is free.

Anacortes Museum
1305 8th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1915
http://museum.cityofanacortes.org
coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org

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

The Anacortes Museum & 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.

Do you want to get your newsletter via email and help us save paper and postage? Just fill this out when you renew your membership or email elainew@cityofanacortes.org.

Thanks to Noon Kiwanis and Questers For Supporting WCTU Fountain Repairs

Thank you to the Anacortes Noon Kiwanis Club and the Fidalgo Finderskeepers chapter of Questers for enabling us to restore the city’s historic Women’s Christian Temperance Union fountain to working order. The Questers organized the effort and helped secure a grant from Kiwanis that will cover the $480 cost for plumbing repairs.

Pictured above at its original location at Commercial and 5th, the 9-foot-tall, 1,000-lb. fountain was purchased in 1906 in memory of Carrie M. White of Anacortes, a state WCTU president. The fountain’s bowls served humans, horses and dogs. It was moved to Washington Park in 1934. It fell into disrepair, and was moved to the Anacortes Museum in 1972. A major restoration of the fountain completed in 2001 was also accomplished because of Finderskeepers and Noon Kiwanis. We are grateful for their ongoing support!

Above left: Three unidentified children — a clown and two superheroes — are ready to go trick-or-treating in this 1950s photo from the Wallie Funk Collection. These children are among the many unidentified people in the museum’s photo collections. Please contact us if you know who they are! You can search for other photos with unidentified subjects at museum.cityofanacortes.org. Above right, the sculpture on the Women’s Christian Temperance Union fountain has a ghostly quality in this 1978 photo by Steven R. Erholm. The fountain sat west of the Anacortes Museum’s front steps for about 20 years until it was moved to its present location at the building’s northeast corner. The fountain will soon be returned to working order thanks to Finderskeepers Questers and Noon Kiwanis — see the story on the back page of this newsletter.

Moving Memory Lane onto the Information Superhighway

We recently rolled out some great new features at our website, museum.cityofanacortes.org. The most exciting upgrade: Now you can search through more than 10,000 historic Anacortes photos from your own computer or iPhone. Just click on Wallie Funk’s picture.

Check it out! You might find your house, your church, your favorite business or even your family. Search using the keyword “unidentified,” then see if you can identify some of our mystery people. We have about 250 photos with unidentified individuals in the system!

You can browse, share or order photos — and your feedback will help advance our research efforts.

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Anacortes Museum and edited by Elaine Walker.
We are working on a number of exciting new and continuing projects this fall.

The Anacortes Museum Foundation and Parks and Recreation Department are working together to develop a plan to preserve and display the Tommy Thompson Train. Many thanks to the Foundation for purchasing and installing tarps on the locomotive and three cars to protect them and keep them clean. We greatly appreciate the Port of Anacortes allowing us to continue storing the train on Port property.

We will soon begin meeting with the city’s Depot planning committee to discuss the feasibility of a facility to shelter the train and allow public access to it. Could such a facility also provide a place to display other city artifacts, a meeting room or perhaps some badly needed storage space for the Museum? The Foundation has a variety of ideas on the table.

The repainting of the lower port side of the W.T. Preston has just been completed. The work involved pressure washing, scraping, applying three coats of Peel Bond, and finally two coats marine grade top coat. Keeping the National Historic Landmark shipshape is an ongoing effort.

Without starting an advertising or PR campaign, we have already received a few orders for online photo sales and thousands of visits to our online photo collection. We will begin to share details of the service with City Council and service groups this month. We think it will be popular and valuable.

Museum Education Curator Bret Lunsford tackled the job of finishing an update of our core exhibit, which tells the story of the community. We just installed two new panels he designed about the boom and bust of 1890 and the city’s slow economic recovery after the railroad bubble burst.

We have added information on the city’s Civil War veterans to the Washington State Heritage Center’s Isaac Stevens exhibit (see below) and have begun to work with Samish and Swinomish tribes to tell about the initial impacts of Stevens’ treaties on Fidalgo Island’s tribes. We plan to follow this up in depth next year when we host the next traveling exhibit, “We’re Still Here: The Survival of Washington Indians.”

Check Out Historic Museum Images During ‘Show Me Anacortes’

“Show Me Anacortes”… everything you want to know about this exhibit/show is found in the title. The Anacortes Arts Commission is sponsoring this exhibit at the Depot Arts & Community Center at 611 R Ave. It will consist of work from local photographers and painters along with some historical photographs from the Anacortes Museum Collection!

Come one, Come all! Mark your calendar to visit this show – only four chances to see it. Open times are during the first Friday Artwalk 6-9 p.m. Oct. 5 and from 9-2 on Saturdays including Oct. 6, 13 and 20 when the Anacortes Farmers Market is open.

The museum is placing photographs of early Anacortes, some of which some present the dirt or planked surface of P Avenue (now known as Commercial Avenue), “Cannery Row” and “Mill Row”, recreation, businesses and other topics. Do not miss this one … enjoy a part of your town as seen through the lens of a camera or a painter’s eye!

Steve Oakley, Museum Director

Preparing for Fall Field Trips, Future Exhibits and Online Searches

The school year has begun, and so field trip season is upon us at the museum. Hundreds of students will be visiting the museum in October to view our current exhibit “Young Man in a Hurry: The Life of Isaac Stevens and the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War” and our permanent exhibits on the history of Anacortes. The Isaac Stevens exhibit will be followed, in April 2013, with “We’re Still Here: The Survival of Washington Indians,” an exhibit on the tribal cultures of Washington State which follows the four themes of land, identity, fish, and culture.

Both of these exhibits were created by the Washington State Heritage Center and first displayed in Olympia.

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Judy Hakins, Curator of Collections

Online Photographs Update: Now that the Anacortes Museum’s photo collection is available online, more and more people are discovering photographs they haven’t seen before, even family pictures. Most exciting for museum staff is the help the community is giving us with identifying people in the photos. Already we’ve had many names put to what were previously unidentified faces. Like me, you might find a photograph of your mother roller-skating through what is now the Mayor’s office. Don’t wait for it to start raining, go to museum.cityofanacortes.org and start browsing our website.

Bret Lunsford, Education Curator