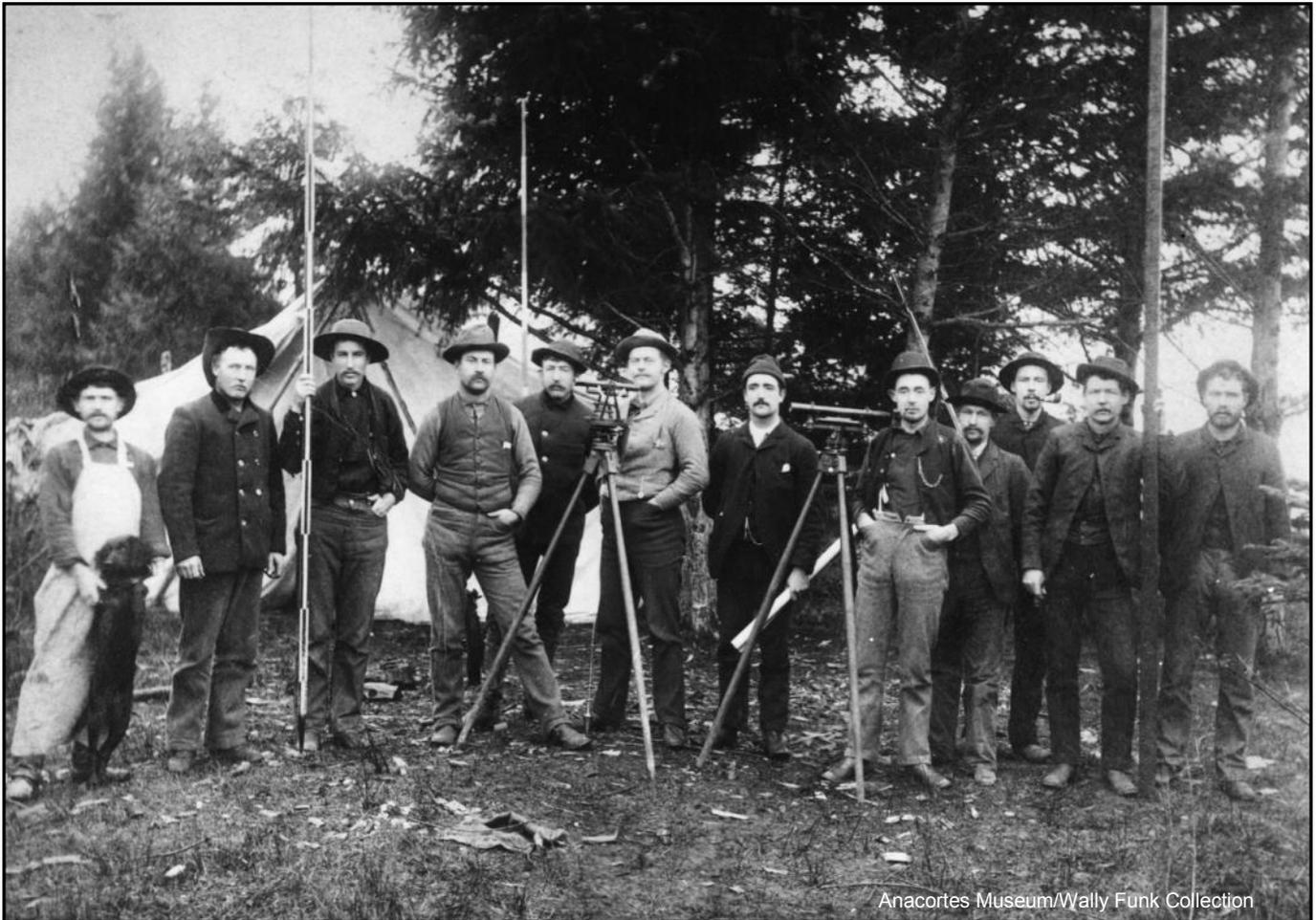




Anacortes Museum News

Spring 2016



Anacortes Museum/Wally Funk Collection

Portrait of engineer Steven D. Temple and surveyors in Anacortes at the foot of O Avenue as they begin the work began to lay out a new city in 1890. Plans for the city called for wide streets befitting the dreams that Anacortes was to become the "New York of the West."

New exhibit celebrates Anacortes' 125th birthday

Ever heard of a *sesquicentennial*? Well, Anacortes is having one on May 19, when the city celebrates the 125th anniversary of its incorporation. As part of the festivities, please join us at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19 for the opening of our original new exhibit, "Anacortes at 125," at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 Eighth St.

The exhibit, which opens on the anniversary day, details the city's history from its boom days to today, as viewed through the lens of the city departments that have provided its citizens with both essential services like water, streets, police and fire suppression and enhancements to their quality of life such as a library, museum, and parks and recreation.

The exhibit also complements the recent publication by the Anacortes Museum of Wallie Funk's "Pictures of the Past: Celebrating 125 Years of Anacortes History."

Other events planned for May 19 include the installation of a restored Bill Mitchell mural of Anacortes' first mayor, Capt. Frank V. Hogan at City Hall. The day will also feature the unveiling of special new mural of a very long serving former mayor. Come by to see who it is. Time to be announced.

*Join us at the opening
of the exhibit*

Anacortes at 125

*7 p.m. May 19
Anacortes Museum
1305 8th Street
360-293-1915*

Poetry in Anacortes History Wednesday, March 23, 2016 7 p.m.—Anacortes Public Library

Local poets, historians and students are collaborating on a poetry reading and history event at the Anacortes Public Library on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

The event will alternate between readings of historical Anacortes poems and a slideshow illustrating the historical context. There will be poet biographies from Guemes beachcomber Charlie Gant to “Ish River” explorer Robert Sund, with many other stops along the way. Student poem reciters also will be encouraged to write their own Anacortes poem in the style of or inspired by the poetry they have studied.

The project began with research on an Anacortes Poetry Timeline and a collection of historical poems that will be read at the event. Many early 20th Century poems fit into a “booster” genre of loving tribute to the beauty and personality of Anacortes. Other poems invoke a localized humor, displaying a playful sense of community.

Bret Lunsford, Anacortes Museum Educator, was inspired to begin this study by the Anacortes Music Channel, and its interpretation of local music history. “Karl Blau made the connection between songs and poems, and I realized we’d better get to work on this project,” Lunsford stated.

The success is already apparent in how the past is connecting to the present. Forty years later at our new library, original materials from the Anacortes Co-op Press are resurfacing. Bob Rose and Peter Heffelfinger -- who operated an antique printing press in the basement of the old library during the late 1970s and organized the Skagit Voices poetry series -- will discuss the process and display some of the broadsides.

And the story continues. This same vintage Chandler & Price letterpress, used by do-it-yourself printer poets way back when, is still in use by DIY musicians churning out custom record sleeves, show posters and other cultural ephemera. What the heck!

Poetry in Anacortes History
Wed., Mar. 23, 7pm
Anacortes Public Library

There are many ways to interpret local history & culture. Poetry is a form that stretches back to Anacortes' early days & forward to the present.

Local historian Bret Lunsford traces a timeline of Anacortes history through poetry written by local poets or about our community. This includes students reading & reciting historic Anacortes poems of their choosing along with their own poems inspired by the historic.

Free & all welcome.

Questions? 360-293-1910 x21 or library.cityofanacortes.org

Anacortes Public Library
City of Anacortes Department of Cultural & Community Development

Police Chief examines old police records



Katie Ingram, Police Department Records Service Manager, Police Chief Bonnie Bowers and Elaine Walker, Curator of Collections.

During a recent meeting of the City's Records Retention Committee, the Anacortes Police Department's Records Services Manager Katie Ingram was concerned to learn that the Anacortes Museum held about 100 years of police records in its archives. The collection had been labeled as restricted from public release for 90 years from the latest date in each set of records.

Officer Ingram and Chief Bonnie Bowers particularly wanted to ensure that the records did not include private information, so they came in to review the contents of a dozen boxes of material. Except for one box of case reports and a set of graphic photos (which they took back to the Police Station to evaluate more closely or destroy), Chief Bowers and Officer Ingram deemed that the remaining boxes contained blotter lists and other information that was all public record.

Chief Bowers also agreed to sign a Deed of Gift for the collection, as no record of its entry was found at the museum. During the evaluation we found such nuggets as the first page of arrests in Anacortes from 1891 and a bullet recovered from the Citizens Bank robbery in 1924. We thank Chief Bowers and Officer Ingram for working with us to clarify ownership and access to this invaluable historic collection.

Historic Preservation Board plans events May 3 at Museum

Owners who recently completed house histories of their homes will be presented with their official Anacortes House History Plaques during a special event at 7 p.m. May 3 at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 8th St. The event is part of the Anacortes Historic Preservation Board's celebration of the City's 125th anniversary and coincides with National Historic Preservation Month.

Join the Celebration

House History Plaque Presentations and Workshop

7 p.m. May 3
Anacortes Museum
1305 8th Street

Immediately following the plaque presentation, the board will offer a free workshop on the Anacortes House History and Plaque Program to help other property owners learn about the program and how to get started researching their own historic buildings.

The houses to be recognized are former Apex Fish Cannery Office, 1605 6th St.; Morris Belle Curtis House, 404 2nd St.; Abe and Pearl Simmonds House, 1809 8th St.; and the William and Beatrice Lowman House, 701 K Ave. These homes join a dozen others that are already documented through the House History and Plaque Program. Objectives of the program include enriching the understanding of Anacortes history and identifying houses of historic interest. This program is an adjunct to and is not intended to replace the Anacortes Local Register.

More information is available by calling the museum at 293-1915 or visiting www.cityofanacortes.org/Museum/House_History_Program_2014.pdf

In the Carnegie Gallery

"1889; Blazes, Rails and the Year of Washington Statehood," opened in February. This Legacy Washington exhibit, an educational program within the Office of Secretary of State, celebrates the biggest stories of Washington's year of statehood. Panels cover such topics as the fires of 1889, railroads and the race to win the state capital. An original 42-star flag is a highlight of this exhibit which will run until the end of April, when the Carnegie Gallery's new exhibit will open celebrating 125 years of Anacortes' incorporation (see page 1).

Through mid-April, "Anacortes Presents" is showing an exhibit of toy and miniature sewing machines collected and shared by Jan Sabin, Mr. Sew-Dandy. Quilters and other stitchers will enjoy seeing tiny Pfaff, Bernina and Singer machines, plus other less known brands like Daito Denko, Romance and Rose Marie.



Volunteers in white gloves swarm Carnegie Library



(Clockwise from left): Heidi Saastam, Suzette Richards, Barbara Smart, Curator Elaine Walker, Dani Usman, April Poore, and Ginger Thomas.

Thanks to the efforts of our own museum Aide, Lea De Vere, we have eight new volunteers from the Senior Center who have donned white gloves and undertaken the enormous job of putting the Anacortes American photo negatives into archival plastic sleeves for protection. These diligent ladies (never to be called "negative volunteers") cheerfully arrive each Tuesday and Friday to take another step toward finishing this elephantine task.

We can't do without our Volunteers



Karen Thomson
2015 Volunteer of the Year

Karen Thomson was named 2015 Volunteer of the Year at the Anacortes Museum Foundation's Holiday gathering and Annual Meeting on December 10.

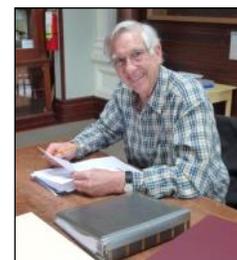
Karen has been a faithful volunteer since March 2014 and last year donated almost 200 hours.

Thank you, Karen for your loyal support of our work.



Sierra Scamfer

Thank You!



Terry Slotemaker



Kaitlynn Boone

It's not too late to renew.
Thank you for your support!

Meet Barbara Bear



Welcome to Barbara Bear, Carnegie Gallery's new weekend Docent, shown here with one of the Gallery's mural residents, Bill Bessner.

Barbara brings her welcoming smile and cheerful disposition to work and is happy to share her deep knowledge of Anacortes. Stop in and say hello!

Maritime Heritage Center and W.T. Preston readying for spring opening

Saturday, April 2 will find the Maritime Heritage Center and W.T. Preston open to the public for the season. There is no charge to drop in to the Heritage Center to learn about the sternwheeler and local vessels such as the codfish schooner Wawona and Bijaboji, the dugout canoe Betty Lowman rowed solo to Alaska in the 1930s.

The Preston and the 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 weekday hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays in June, July and August.

Admission to the W.T. Preston is free for Anacortes Museum Foundation members and \$3-5 for non-members.

Middle School students tour Washington statehood exhibit



Thirty Anacortes Middle School students from Anne Chase Stapleton's bloc class, along with Anne and three adult volunteers, toured the Anacortes Museum on February 25. As part of their lesson, they used the workbook provided for the 1889 Washington statehood exhibit.

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

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, Anacortes, WA 98221. Thank you!



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 1-4 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.