



Anacortes Museum News

Summer 2016

CELEBRATING ANACORTES' 125TH BIRTHDAY

- ◆ "Anacortes at 125" exhibit opens at Carnegie Gallery Thursday, May 19, at 7 p.m.
- ◆ AND Bill Mitchell mural unveiling at City Hall Monday, May 23, at 5 p.m.



Portrait of engineer Steven D. Temple and surveyors in Anacortes at the foot of O Avenue as they begin the work 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."

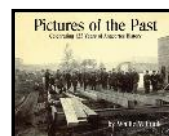
Ever heard of a *quasiquicentennial*? Well, Anacortes is having one on May 19, when the city celebrates the 125th anniversary of its incorporation.

As part of the festivities, please join us for a reception marking the opening of our original new exhibit, "**Anacortes at 125,**" at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 Eighth Street.

The anniversary celebration continues at **5 p.m. Monday, May 23**, in front of City Hall, where a new Bill Mitchell mural of former Mayor Dean Maxwell and a newly restored mural of Anacortes' first mayor, Capt. Frank V. Hogan, will be unveiled. Maxwell was the longest serving mayor in the city's history, and Hogan was the first mayor. A reception will follow. Anacortes' Town Crier Richard Riddell plans to "cry" at both events.

The exhibit, which opens on the official 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 (think water, streets, police and fire suppression) and enhancements to their quality of life (such as a library, museum, and parks and recreation).

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



EXPLORE ANACORTES WATERFRONT HISTORY

at the Maritime Heritage Center, 703 R Avenue, June 4, at 6 p.m.
followed by Plaza Dance at 7 p.m.

Join us at the Maritime Heritage Center on **Saturday, June 4, at 6 p.m.** for a casual opening reception of the **Explore Anacortes Waterfront History** exhibit, followed at **7 p.m. by the third annual Plaza Dance**, located next door on the Depot's brick plaza.

New artifacts and vintage movies from along the waterfront have been added to the Maritime Heritage Center exhibit, including mural-size photographs of cannery row and mill row views from 100 years ago plus the six-foot wooden wheel and telegraph of the ferry *Vashon*. The exhibit provides an overview of shoreline activities, including boat building, mills and canneries, commercial and recreational boating, and shipping and transportation over the seas. Admission to this exhibit is free, while guided tours of the *W.T. Preston* require a ticket ranging from \$3 to \$5.

The Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center and *W.T. Preston*, our National Historic Landmark steamboat, are located on the Anacortes waterfront at 703 R Avenue. The six-days-a-week schedule at the maritime center and Preston runs in June, July and August, Tuesdays through Sundays (closed Mondays).



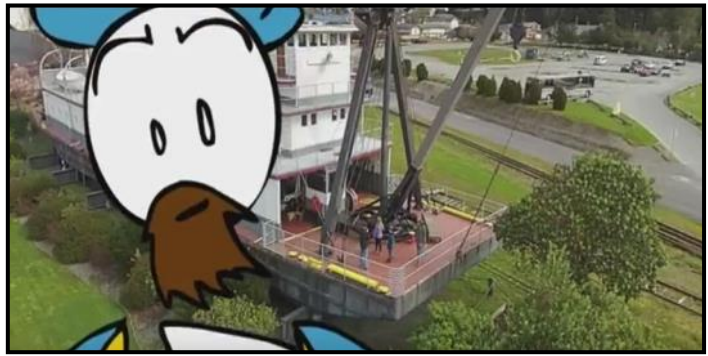
Information on plaza dance history is available on the museum's website:
http://www.cityofanacortes.org/Plaza_Dance_History_Annual.pdf

“Ghost Stories” filmed on the *W.T. Preston*

Henry Holtgeerts and his team of Anacortes High School student filmmakers recently took over the *W.T. Preston* as a movie location for a short film, “Ghost Stories,” as part of the 48 Hour Film-Off sponsored by the National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY).

It is a great three-minute movie with flashbacks to historical characters and animation. It even utilizes a drone camera for aerial videography.

“I was really impressed with the technical skill and creative flair these students brought to the project,” said Bret Lunsford, Maritime Curator, “and they gave me a speaking role, so now I’m a movie star.”



According to Anacortes High School instructor, Jim Thompson, the Anacortes film did not place at the NFFTY Festival but “it was received very well.”

The film was produced by five students in 48 hours. The link on YouTube is now public:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaUoD2Wj9Q0>

Don't miss the "Anacortes at 125" exhibit opening May 19

Did you know...

- That citizens once legally heaved their trash off a bluff into Guemes Channel, at a site that is now a new Guemes Trail access? The site was chosen because residents were sick of rats and foul smells from the older dump at Commercial and 13th.
- Or that Capt. Frank V. Hogan, was not the first man who was elected to serve as Mayor of Anacortes? The first man elected was George F. Kyle, who never served.

Learn about these fun facts and more, and about the many ways city government has made life better for its citizens for 125 years.

**ANACORTES AT 125 exhibit
opens May 19 at 7 p.m.
Carnegie Gallery**



Washington Paving Co. crew paving Commercial Avenue for the first time in 1914. Photo is taken at 26th Street looking west.

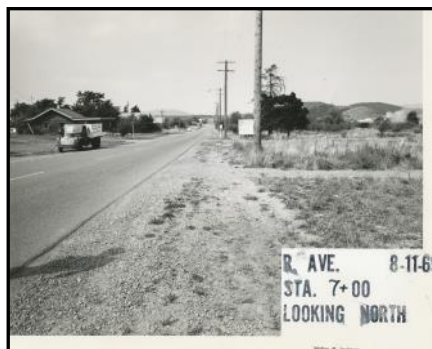


Photo of R Avenue in 1969 taken as part of urban renewal project by Walter R. Jackson.



Steve Lange, Public Works, with Mayor Laurie Gere during the A Avenue paving project in 2015.



Anacortes Museum wins Skagit Community Foundation grant



First Row: AMF Board members Tom Thompson, Jim Taylor, Barbara Larson and Jeff Weldon. Second Row: Anacortes Museum Director, Steve Oakley and Skagit Community Foundation Board Members Nancy Loftis and Nancy Williams.

The Anacortes Museum Foundation was pleased to welcome Skagit Community Foundation Board Members Nancy Williams and Nancy Loftis to its April 11 meeting. The Skagit Community Foundation has awarded a grant to the Anacortes Museum Foundation in the amount of \$3,500 to digitize and make searchable the Anacortes American newspapers from 1890 to 1922 in partnership with the museum.

The Washington State Library (WSL), a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, will work with the Anacortes Museum to preserve and provide free public access to culturally historic newspapers of Washington State for nonprofit educational purposes via the internet or successive technologies.

Funding for this project will come from two sources: WSL will provide up to a \$5,000 supplement from the Liberty and Services Technology Act, and the Skagit Community Foundation will provide \$3,500 required to match the Washington State Library.

Previously, the museum received a site visit from the Skagit Community Foundation director and one of their board members. They strongly encouraged us to reapply next year because their donor is very interested in seeing as much digitization of the Anacortes American as possible. We are working with Skagit Publishing, the current copyright owners, to obtain their permission to digitize at least the years from 1923 to 1964/5, the era in which Wallie Funk co-owned the paper.

Volunteer Clara Hill prepared the successful application to the Community Foundation seeking the necessary matching funds. Lea DeVere, Museum Aide, worked diligently for several months to initiate and shepherd this wonderful project along. We thank them both.



Clara Hill, volunteer, prepared the successful grant application.



Lea DeVere, Museum Aide, initiated and guided the project's process.

Carnegie Gallery a part of 2016 Quilt Walk



The Fidalgo Island Quilters were happy to display a quilt at the museum in April and included us on their official 2016 Quilt Walk map.

The 1930s era tulip themed vintage quilt was hand-appliqued and

machine quilted. We thank Ann Bodle-Nash who loaned the quilt for our display.

The museum's Textile Collection contains several quilts and many other textiles. We are looking forward to volunteer events this fall with the Fidalgo Island Quilters who will help us to photograph and catalog our quilts in the hopes we can have our own quilts displayed at the museum in the coming years.



Volunteers

We are sorry to share news of the passing of Naomi Hollister, mother of our own Pam Bagnall. For years, Naomi has been our faithful newsletter envelope stamper, labeler and stuffer. We're grateful that she was willing to help us in so many ways and we'll miss her. We send our sympathies to Pam and her family.



Naomi Hollister



Lori Otness

Welcome to our new volunteer, Lori Otness, who has joined us on Thursdays. Lori has a certificate in museum studies from U.W. and has volunteered at MOHAI and the Nordic Heritage Museum. We look forward to using her skills in many areas.

Did you see the front-page of the Anacortes American with a photo of our hard-working "negative" volunteers? They arrive faithfully every Tuesday and Friday to place negatives in protective archival sleeves. They're making a huge dent in this big project, all the while bringing laughter and life to our offices.

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



John Tursi, Eunice Darvill and Steve Oakley next to a museum display of John and Doris Tursi's Valentines (February 11, 2011).

Anacortes loses community volunteer and philanthropist, John Tursi

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of John Tursi on April 8. John was an extraordinary member of the community and gave generously of his time

and treasure to many different organizations during his 80+ years in Anacortes.

At the museum, John donated many books and artifacts, and used his construction skills to build display cases, repair walls and ceilings, and rebuild a leaded glass window in the Carnegie Building. His passing is a great loss to Anacortes and his life a reminder of the large impact that one person can have on a community.

Diesel tank removed from W.T. Preston



The empty diesel tank was removed from the aft end of the cabin deck of the W.T. Preston on March 17, 2016. The tank had been added in 1967 to fuel a pair of diesel generators that replaced the original steam-powered electrical generator, which is still onboard.

We are pleased that removal of the tank has brought the Preston back closer to its original condition. In the photo above, Brad Breckenridge from Dakota Creek Industries operates the crane that performed the lift.

2014/2015 Biennial Report issued

If you would like a copy, give Linda Yerby a call at 360-293-1915. Or view the report on our website:

<http://www.cityofanacortes.org/2014-15%20Biennial%20Report.pdf>

**This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Anacortes Museum.
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 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.