



MUSEUM NEWS

1611 Riverside Avenue, Hoquiam, WA 98550 (360) 533-5862 Winter into Spring 2000

Mary Goodin to be Honored as Pioneer of the Year



Mary on her wedding day, 1923

1999 Pioneer of the Year

Mary Scofield Goodin, a Hoquiam resident since 1923, will be honored as the Polson Museum's 1999 Pioneer of the Year at a celebration at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 16, 2000, at the Hoquiam Library's Meeting Room. All are invited to attend.

Mrs. Goodin was born January 24, 1904 in Opp, Alabama and lived there until her graduation from Opp High School in 1922. She moved to Hoquiam from Alabama in 1923 and married George Goodin on October 23 of that year. They made their first home at Humptulips and she soon went to work for the Polson Logging Company as a "flunky" at Camp 7. She and her husband, who also worked for Polson, later made their home at Polson's Railroad Camp.

The Goodins continued to work for Polson until 1937, when they decided to open a "mom and pop" grocery store in the 500 block of Simpson Avenue in Hoquiam. "Goodins" store became a neighborhood icon and remained their livelihood until 1953 when they sold the store and retired.

Mrs. Goodin has been active in numerous organizations through the years, most notably the American Legion Auxiliary, where she served as the 10th District President. She continues to be active with the Eastern Star, VFW, American Red Cross, Hoquiam Presbyterian Church, and her informal Monday bridge club.

Museum Loses Two of its Greatest Supporters: Doris West — Ruth Polson

Doris West

Doris West, a charter member of the Polson Museum, Board member since 1978, and Pioneer of the Year for 1997, died February 21, 2000 at her home in Hoquiam. She was active with the Museum and numerous community affairs until her death at age 84.

Mrs. West was born May 16, 1915 at the family home on Pacific Avenue in Hoquiam. She worked for the *Washingtonian* newspaper in the 1930s and 1940s, and the YMCA from the 1950s until retirement in 1977. Her involvement as a leader and volunteer in local organization was, to say the least, extensive.

Her presence at the Polson will sorely be missed.

Ruth Polson

Ruth Polson, one of the Polson Museum's greatest benefactors in recent years, died July 6, 1999 at her home in Ithaca, New York. She was 92.

Mrs. Polson and her husband Robert started the Robert Polson Endowment for the Polson Museum in 1997. Since their initial gift the Endowment has grown considerably. Subsequent donations from the Polsons and others, and most recently, Mrs. Polson, through her will have helped insure the Museum's presence as a perserver of Grays Harbor history.

Mrs. Polson was born in Lawrence, Kansas in 1907, grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, attained her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her distinguished career in community service included roles as a secondary school teacher, musician, and church and library trustee.

Her commitment to the Museum will long be remembered.

Winter - Spring
Schedule

Saturday - Sunday
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment - Wed. to Fri.



Museum in the Community

POLSON PARK & MUSEUM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**1611 RIVERSIDE AVENUE
P.O. BOX 432
HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON 98550**

(360) 533-5862

**POLSON MUSEUM NEWS
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY**

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Film Now Available: Spenser Bruning's *Tides of Change*

Museum Members and other interested folks are invited to get their own copy of the film by Spenser Bruning. As you may recall, Spenser created *Tides of Change* as his eighth grade graduation project last year. The outstanding 45 minute film covers Grays Harbor's history through 1930 and is available on VHS at the Museum for a \$25 donation.

Historic Homes of Washington Slide Show a Great Success

James Kemp-Slaughter's lecture and slide presentation on Historic Homes of Washington proved especially successful this past February. A capacity crowd enjoyed Mr. Kemp-Slaughter's informative and entertaining presentation on an array of Washington's most impressive homes.

"Antiques Road Show" in the Works

The Museum is currently discussing the possibility of hosting an August "Antiques Road Show" style appraisal program with James Kemp-Slaughter.

Mr. Kemp-Slaughter has professionally served as an antiques and fine art appraiser since 1977. He has studied at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Sothebys, Scotland's Furniture History Society, and London's National Gallery.

We'll keep you posted as we iron out the details of this program. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Director John Larson at 533-5862.

Hoquiam's Castle

Then



&



Now

Check out further Castle details on page 6

Comments, questions, or correspondence? Reach us by e-mail:
polsonmuseum@seanet.com

A t the Museum

New Carpeting Ordered

You've been reading about the progress on our re-carpeting project for nearly a year and a half now and we can finally report that the carpet selection committee has made their decision. We await the first shipment of carpets for four of the downstairs rooms, expected by late April. Carpeting for the stairways, halls, and upstairs rooms will follow shortly.

First Floor Carpeting Gone

This April 1 we removed all the downstairs carpeting. Special thanks to Bob and Sally Brennand who volunteered.

We were pleased to find that the flooring is in excellent condition overall. We were also intrigued to discover that both dining rooms have floor-mounted call buttons that originally rang the servants' quarters.

Polson Still Seeking to Expand Volunteer Base

Well before our next summer season begins, the Polson is looking for people interested in manning the Museum. If you'd like to spend a few hours a month greeting visitors, we'd love to hear from you.

Additionally, if you or someone you know would be interested in helping catalog our artifact collection on the new computer, please phone Director John Larson.

Polson Mansion Sunroom, January, 1941. While we can't match the original carpeting, we're attempting to create a more authentic period look for the Museum — one that will prove attractive and durable, but will leave more of the building's beautiful hemlock floors exposed for visitors' enjoyment.



New Museum Board Members Sought

If you are currently a Member of the Museum and have an interest in becoming more involved with the Museum, please consider joining our Board of Directors.

The Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.

If you have an interest and would like to learn more about a Board position, please contact John Larson.

New Shelving for Collections Storage

As many of you are already aware, the Aberdeen Public Library is currently undergoing a major renovation. Included in their project is the installation of all new shelving for their book holdings.

This fall the Polson is set to receive a fair amount of the library's old shelving once it is no longer needed at their temporary Linnenkohl's building location. The bulk of this shelving will occupy two rows down the middle of the Museum attic. The steel shelves are in excellent condition, stand nearly seven feet tall and are fully adjustable.

The addition of this shelving will dramatically improve our ability to store and preserve our artifact collection. It will also allow us to better link our new computer collections database with a physical location for each artifact.

Keeping the Past Alive

Ross Lumber Carrier to Become Polson's New Parade Entry



Ross Lumber Carrier before being moved from Elma to Hoquiam.

Assuming we get it running, watch for the Ross in this year's Loggers Playday Parade, September 9.

It's rare when you can spot a lumber carrier in operation at a lumber mill these days, let alone in someone's scrap heap. The Polson Museum has acquired one through the generous donation of Elma resident Roger Landberg. While not currently the prettiest machine, our Ross is slated to receive new paint and some much needed repairs with the goal of making it operational.

Special thanks go to Arie Callaghan and Mason Timber Co. for moving the machine to Hoquiam via lowboy. Additional thanks to Norm Callaghan Jr. who is temporarily storing the carrier at his Gordon's Service garage and offering his mechanical expertise.



Willamette Lumber Carrier in operation at Posey Manufacturing Co.

Polson Museum Membership — Consider the Benefits

The benefits of a Membership with the Polson are many. Won't you help keep the past alive?

- ♦ Free Admission to the Museum.
- ♦ Quarterly Newsletter — *Polson Museum News*
- ♦ Advance notice and special invitation to programs, events, and exhibits
- ♦ 10% Discount on Museum Store purchases
- ♦ A stake in ensuring the future preservation and presentation of Grays Harbor's history

- ☐ Corporate.....\$200
- ☐ Sustaining.....\$30+
- ☐ Family.....\$20
- ☐ Couple.....\$15
- ☐ Individual.....\$10
- ☐ Student/Senior.....\$8

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

☐ New ☐ Membership Renewal ☐ Gift Membership

Already a Member? Dues paid? If so, pass this newsletter along to friends and ask them to join. Annual Membership dues are a crucial component of the Museum's yearly operating budget. It is the financial support of all who care about Grays Harbor's history that keeps the Polson Museum active in our community.

Detach and mail with your check to
Polson Museum, P.O. Box 432, Hoquiam, Washington 98550

I n the P ark

Hoquiam Americorps Busy Again at Museum



This February, the Hoquiam Americorp Team began working again at the Museum. They began by building new pressure-treated skirting around the entire building and re-building the two rear staircases. In the process of completing these jobs, they built a new flower garden space where the front of the Museum faces Riverside Avenue.

Team members have also finished securing downspouts to all the Museum's gutters. As the weather improves, the group will fix several areas of rot in the eaves and re-paint the trim.

Grays Harbor Rose Society Completes Pruning Project

The Grays Harbor Rose Society has again been busy at work in the Ross Memorial Rose Garden. They have completed their March pruning project and are looking forward to another great crop of roses.

The Rose Society is also exploring the possibility of expanding the garden to include a perimeter walkway and new fence.

Drainfield Working Great

The drainfield installed by Hoquiam Parks crews last summer in the front lawn has worked perfectly. With the new pipe in place, the winter rains failed to turn the ground into the swamp it has usually been.

Terraced Wall — Brick Walkway Uncovered Behind Museum

Each day of work for the Americorps has been a new day of discovery here in the Park. The team first uncovered an extensive terraced wall (built by Arnold Polson in the late 1940s or early 1950s) that has been hidden by thick ivy for years. They then turned their attention to the area behind the Blacksmith Shop and fountain and discovered a lengthy brick walkway, stairways, and an elaborate sprinkler system.

Stop by and check out the complete transformation of this area of the park. Our thanks goes out to Americorp for their hard work.



From the Past

Hoquiam's Castle

Local residents have likely heard that Hoquiam's Castle is again open for tours. The former mansion of timber baron Robert Lytle has opened in recent weeks as a bed and breakfast. The building's new owners, David and Linda Carpenter have done a fine job restoring and renovating the 20 room home.

We're spotlighting the Castle in this quarter's newsletter to shed a few facts on the history of this beloved building. Thanks to the diligent work of local historian Cecil Herrington, we now have solid proof that the building was built in 1901 — not 1897 as has been claimed for years.

Announcement of the home's construction was given in the March 21, 1901 edition of the *Washingtonian*:

Most Handsome on the Harbor

Work began today on what will be the most handsome residence and costly residence in Chehalis County. This is being built for Robert Lytle on a sitely part of Karr's Hill addition, and will cost, it is said, when completed, fully \$10,000.

This beautiful building will be remarkable for its commodious rooms, cheerful fireplaces, a beautiful observation tower and a handsome billiard room. One feature which is especially pleasing to Washington people, is the fact that our beautiful native

hemlock, is to be used for finishing the second and third stories. The first story will be finished in hard maple and quarter sawed oak trimmings. The building will have a frontage of 65 feet and a width of 45 feet, and will be two and a half stories high, with a tower 12 feet in diameter, built from the ground up. It will contain thirteen living rooms, two bath rooms, a billiard room, library and an observation room besides lavatories and closets. The basement will have a height of 8 feet, first story 10 feet, second story 9 1/4 feet, third story 8 1/4 feet.

The front of the house will be made massive by a large cut storm porch, put up in the manner known as rock face ashler, with fine arches approached by stone steps. The windows of the first and second stories will be cut plate glass. The stairs go up between the dining room and kitchen with a landing 6 x 8 feet, lighted with an art colored glass the full size of the landing. The building will be heated throughout by hot water.

This fine residence will stand near the handsome home of Joseph Lytle [Lytle House — built July, 1900] and will be finished this year. Mourant & Watson, contractors, will do the work.

If you haven't been to Hoquiam's Castle lately, you're due for a visit to see all the improvements. We at the Polson are pleased to welcome the Carpenters to town and look forward to working with them in our efforts to present the Harbor's rich history to both the local and traveling public.



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- ◆ *Doris West, Ruth Polson Remembered*
 - ◆ *Mary Goodin Selected Pioneer of the Year*
 - ◆ *New Film Now Available*
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