



# MUSEUM NEWS

1611 Riverside Avenue, Hoquiam, WA 98550 360.533.5862

Spring 2001

1976

Our 25th Year

2001

## Gile Mead to be Honored as Pioneer of the Year



*Gile Mead operating a Lamb SpeedTrak in the early 1930s.*

Gile Mead, a Grays Harbor resident of 83 years, will be honored as the Polson Museum's 2000 Pioneer of the Year at a celebration at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, at the Machine Shop of Lamb Grays Harbor.

Mr. Mead, born December 11, 1905, in South Dakota, moved with his family as an infant to Grass Range, Montana where spent his boyhood years. At age 13, Gile moved with his family to Hoquiam where his father took a job with the Hoquiam Water Company.

In 1928, Gile began a life-long career with Lamb Grays Harbor as an "apprentice boy" in the machine shop. Through the 1930s, Gile worked on the various projects then in production, including the development of the Lamb SpeedTrak log hauling machine. During the Second World War, Gile was in charge of all War production at Lambs supervising an extensive workforce busy producing hand grenade casings, anti-personnel mines, self-arming fuses, and propeller shafts.

Following the war, Gile worked his way up the ranks serving as Vice President in the 1960s before his promotion to President in 1969 — the position he held until retirement in 1976.

Aside from a 47 year career with Lambs, Gile has served 53 years with the Shriners, 54 with the Masons, and held memberships with numerous other community organizations.

All are welcome to join us April 22 in honoring Gile for his years of dedicated service to our local community.

## Dorothea Parker, Longtime Museum Board Member, Volunteer, and Benefactor Dies at 80

Dorothea Parker, a charter member and founding Board Member of the of the Polson Museum died March 13, 2001. She was active with the Museum since its beginning and spent countless hours serving the Polson.

Mrs. Parker was one of the eleven Incorporating Board Members who established the Polson Museum on June 2, 1976. Through the late 1970s and early 1980s, Mrs. Parker worked tirelessly restoring the then decrepit mansion.

Mrs. Parker served on the Board until failing health forced her to step down in 1997. She always believed in the importance of preserving community history and saw the Museum as central to that effort.

She was truly one of the Polson's greatest supporters. Her commitment to the Museum will long be remembered.

Museum  
Schedule thru  
May 31

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

[www.polsonmuseum.org](http://www.polsonmuseum.org)

**POLSON MUSEUM NEWS**  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

### Polson Museum Board of Directors

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Lee Thomasson

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John Ogren

Alta Reay

Harold Schmidtke

Ada Spencer

Carl Weber

#### *At Large*

Gene Woodwick

#### *Museum Director*

John Larson

## 25th Anniversary Polson Lecture Series Continues

- April 28th — “Music Boxes and other Mechanical Music Devices” 4:00 p.m. Presented by **Chuck** and **Loree Pollock** and **Jim** and **Betty Moore**
- May — to be announced.
- June 23rd — “Composers of the 1800s Look Back: How *Suite* It Is” a lecture on musical dances of the 1500s. 4:00 p.m. Presented by **Don Cates**.

### Membership Drive Underway

For those of you with Memberships coming due, keep an eye on your mailbox for renewal information. If you haven't already, consider upgrading your Membership to the Sustaining level — your added tax-deductible gift gives the Polson a better opportunity to preserve local history.

## Visit the Museum Away from the Museum

In an effort to better promote the Polson to larger audiences, Museum staff and volunteers have a host of ongoing and single day displays in place and planned. Check them out when you get the chance.

### *Ongoing*

- Ocean Shores Convention Center — Four case exhibit highlighting the Polson Museum
- Ocean Shores Interpretive Center — Chow Chow Bridge model display
- Lake Quinault History Museum — Pioneer kitchen exhibit and Quinault Indian basketry display

### *Upcoming Events*

Find us exhibiting local history at these community events.

- April 28 — Shorebird Festival, 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m. Hoquiam High School student center
- Month of May — Hoquiam Library — Spruce Girls Display
- June 23 — Pushrods Levee Street Car Show
- July 21 — Hoquiam River Festival — Museum Open House
- August 8th thru 12th — Grays Harbor County Fair, Elma
- September 8 — Loggers Playday Parade

**On the Web — [www.polsonmuseum.org](http://www.polsonmuseum.org)**

Comments, questions, or correspondence? Reach us by e-mail:  
[jbl@polsonmuseum.org](mailto:jbl@polsonmuseum.org)

# A t the Museum

## Computer Network Installation Nearly Complete

Polson volunteer **Scott Lucas** has spearheaded the major undertaking of networking the Museum from top to bottom. From researching the needed components to installing the hardware, Scott has provided a wealth of expertise in creating the Polson's local area network.

The primary need to network the Museum stems from the location of our office space in relation to our attic collections storage area. Through the course of computerizing our collections database, we have found it increasingly necessary to input records with direct access to each artifact.

Looking to the future evolution of the Museum, we've wired data jacks at two attic locations, the office, a room across from the office, the servant's quarters, and will soon install them in the Museum Store and near the front desk. With such wiring in place, we'll have the ability to network our store inventory and add new office space.



*Baseball Season is Upon Us! The Aberdeen Blackcats suited up for action in 1907.*

## Carpeting Project Finished!

After nearly two years of fundraising, design, and installation, the Polson has new carpets throughout the building.

If you haven't yet stopped by to see the beautiful area rugs, we'd encourage you to do so. We continue to receive compliment upon compliment about how the rugs have given new life to the building.

Thanks again to all those generous donors who contributed to our re-carpeting project. We couldn't have done it without your support.

## Polson Benefits from Y.M.C.A. Move

With the recent closing of the Hoquiam branch of the Grays Harbor Y.M.C.A., the Polson received a variety of articles from the old high school facility.

In the artifact department, the Polson accepted six boxes of documents, photographs, and artifacts that pertained to the Hoquiam Y's history.

In the usable goods department, the Polson received a fine slide projector with accessories as well as a working video surveillance system.

An especially big thanks goes to **Bob Pocklington** for coordinating the donations.



*At right: From the Patterson Negative Collection, purchased by Dick Bogar and printed by Cecil Herrington. The Patterson collection of 135 glass plate negatives focuses on life in the Wishkah Valley at the turn of the twentieth century.*



*At left: National Mower used at Hoquiam High School — Donated by Earl Kalles and restored by Dick Bogar and John Larson. We have removed the mower attachments and plan to drive the Wisconsin-powered tractor in future parades.*

## Thanks to Our Supporters

With this issue of the *Polson Museum News*, we're starting a new habit of thanking those people who make the Polson such a vibrant part of our community. While we're not attempting to thank everyone at once, we'd like to highlight from issue to issue a few who make both periodic and ongoing contributions of time, effort, money, and anything else needed to keep the Museum active.

- **Dick Bogar** — Purchase of Patterson Negative Collection.
- **Barbara Bennett, Bridget Willis, Roy Ann Taylor, and Jim and Dinah Sue Wrey** — For making the Elton Bennett Appraisals and Lecture a success.
- **Gene Woodwick** — Efforts to catalog archival and photographic collections.
- **Omar Parker** — Legal advice and other donations.
- **Alex Polson** — Contribution of stock.
- **Hoquiam High School Life Skills Class** — Weekly cleaning of the Museum.

## Polson Museum Wish List

Just a few items the Museum could use around the building and grounds:

**Garden tools:** Shovels, hoes, machetes, rakes, extra wheelbarrow, etc.

**Auto-body paint stripping equipment:** Pressure washer, power disc sander, etc. (for outdoor artifact & lumber carrier restoration).

**Air compressor and air tools:** This one's a long shot but the Museum could use a decent air compressor to accomplish a wide variety of work associated with the restoration of our larger machinery artifacts.



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  - ♦ *Dorothea Parker, Museum Supporter Dies*
  - ♦ *Carpeting Project Completed!*
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