



MUSEUM NEWS

1611 Riverside Avenue, Hoquiam, WA 98550 (360) 533-5862

Fall 1997

Museum Grieves the Loss of Two of its Greatest Supporters, Margaret Wenham & Robert A. Polson

Margaret Wenham

Longtime Museum Board Member and volunteer Margaret Wenham passed away June 30, 1997. Since the Museum formed in 1976, Margaret was continuously involved in both the long-term and day-to-day operations of the institution.

Perhaps her greatest contributions were in establishing, organizing, and maintaining the Museum's collection. Every Wednesday of the year, year in and year out, Margaret worked in our attic collection storage area cataloging the thousands of objects that have been donated over time.

Margaret also maintained strong ties to the Robert Gray Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and served as the one in charge of maintaining the Museum's DAR room. Just this past winter, Margaret created a research library in that space by overseeing the purchase of book shelves, track lighting, and the organization of books and decorations.

Right up to the time of her death, Margaret was volunteering as actively as ever. Members will be especially interested to see in the guest bedroom the small display of purses, fans, and hat pins she completed the very week before she died.

Robert A. Polson

The Museum's greatest benefactor in recent years, Professor Robert A. Polson, of Ithaca, New York, died this last summer on July 4th. Members will recall that last December he and his wife Ruth created for the Museum an endowment fund in Professor Polson's name.

Although Polson never visited the Museum, he still took a strong interest in our cause because of its ties to his family.

Professor Polson was born in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1905 and moved at a young age to Montesano where he grew up on his father William's farm. (William was a brother of Alex and Robert who operated the Hoquiam logging company.)

After attending school and receiving his Ph.D., Polson was hired in 1931 at Cornell University, where he variously served as an extension agent, teacher, researcher, and administrator in the Rural Sociology Department until his retirement in 1971.

Beyond his extensive work at Cornell in New York, Polson completed a variety of foreign assignments in the Philippines, North Africa, and Asia. He also published a book, *Rural People's Response to Change*, following his retirement.

Museum to Host Wartime Aviation Art Exhibition for Veterans' Day

Between November 8-11, the Museum will feature a wartime art exhibit from the collection of local collector H. F. Vanairsdale. Mark your calendars now to see a wonderful variety of art covering WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Displayed throughout the Museum's downstairs rooms, the exhibit will run from Saturday the 8th through Tuesday the 11th, with hours from eleven to four.

Bennett Show at Museum December 13, 14

Mark your calendars now for Barbara and Evelyn Bennett's display of their late father Elton's work. The Bennetts will have a wide assortment of their father's work for sale during the weekend show. If you're a longtime collector of Bennett's work— or someone just looking for some fine artwork for your home— you won't want to miss this show.

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sat., 13th

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun., 14th

Museum in the Community

Polson Museum Director Attends Washington Museum Association Conference

Museum Director John Larson represented the Museum at the Washington Museum Association's annual conference, held June 13-15, at the Yakima Valley Museum.

The three-day event brought together museum officials from across the state to discuss and share ideas concerning a wide variety of museum-related issues. The conference proved particularly helpful, with workshops on collections care, educational programs, exhibit making, and computer applications.

Who Do You Think Should be This Year's Pioneer of the Year?

It's that time of year when we start thinking about who should become next year's Pioneer of the Year. Each year the Polson selects for this honor a long-time Harborite who has contributed in a significant capacity to the shaping of our community. If you have anyone you'd like to nominate, please submit names in writing to the Museum at P.O. Box 432, Hoquiam, WA 98550 by November 7.

Polson Museum Represented at Grays Harbor County Fair and Loggers Playday

This year's County Fair and Loggers Playday once again proved exciting for Harborites from across the county. Once again, the Polson Museum was represented at the yearly events with new displays and entries.

At the Fair, we featured a one-man, turn-of-the-century duck hunting skiff, silent movie projector, and logging scenes to introduce potential visitors to the variety of historical artifacts displayed here at the Museum.

For the Playday Parade, Director John Larson drove his freshly painted 1963 Oldsmobile, a Dynamic 88 Holiday Coupe sporting the Polson Museum's new logo. Happily, our entry earned 2nd place honors in the Classic Car judging.

Help the Museum at the Y. M.C.A. Bazaar, November 8

Once again the Museum will set up shop at the annual Hoquiam Y.M.C.A. Bazaar. We can use all the help we can get—especially in donated baked goods, crafts, or any other items that may sell well. Bring your goods directly to the bazaar if you can. If you can't, please contact the Museum at 533-5862 to make other arrangements.

Museum to Be Re-Shingled

Thanks in part to a \$43,000 grant through the Washington State Historical Society, the City of Hoquiam will begin work this fall with the re-siding phase of refurbishing the mansion. Keep your eyes peeled for this upcoming work.

Polson Museum Members will be interested to see the Smithsonian exhibit, *Produce for Victory*, now on display at the Westport Maritime Museum. Also be sure to check out the museum's benefit concert, "Thanks for the Memories," Oct. 31 at the Bishop Center.



MUSEUM

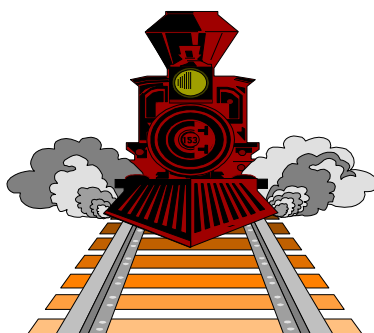
A t the Museum

The Age of Steam

Exhibit Continues through March 15, 1998

On July 4, The Polson Museum opened its latest temporary exhibit, *The Age of Steam*. For those who have yet to see it, the exhibit will run through March 15, 1998.

Occupying the Museum's living room, *The Age of Steam* features nearly 40 models of various steam powered machinery. From tractors to trains, boats to donkeys, the exhibit examines a full range of steam-powered applications.



Christmas Open House Planned, December 6

Mark your calendars now to attend the Museum's annual Christmas Open House this December 6. See all your favorite exhibits plus the Museum decorated for the holiday season. A musical performance is planned and admission for the day is an item for the food bank. Come to see the Museum, visit with friends, and celebrate our past.

New Exhibits Planned — Light Fixtures Needed

Within the upcoming year, Director John Larson has planned to begin work on updating the exhibits throughout the Museum's upstairs rooms. While the basic logging, lumbering, sports, fashion, and children's themes will remain the same, a more historically informative narrative will better inform visitors of our area's rich past.

To complete our exhibit plans, we are most in need of used light fixtures — especially florescent ones. If you have any you'd like to part with, please contact the Museum at 533-5862.

Museum Receives New File Cabinets - Photo Conservation Project Planned

Although we are still in the initial stages of dealing with the much-needed conservation of our photo collection, the Museum recently received a donation of two surplus file cabinets to house its prints. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming plans.

New Titles and Merchandise Featured at Museum Store

In addition to carrying the new *History of Lake Quinault Lodge* by R. H. Jones, the Museum Store now stocks Ron Fowler's latest *Guilty by Circumstance: The Troubled Life of Northwest Outlaw John Torrow*.

Looking for a great gift for the upcoming holidays? Consider our wide selection of Elton Bennett prints and card sets. The Store also carries Walton Butts prints, a wide variety of books on local and regional contemporary and historical subjects, as well as the ever-popular history of Polson's *Railroad Camp*.

From the Past

Olympic Stadium Opened, Thanksgiving Day 1938

With the close of a successful season for the Grays Harbor Gulls—and with newly formed plans to restore their playfield—it is fitting to shed a bit of light on the history of our prized Olympic Stadium.

The stadium dates back to December of 1929, when the City of Hoquiam purchased a 350 by 700 foot long stretch of land from the Electric land company. By 1932 and with the help of a CWA grant, the city had cleared and filled half of the purchased land.

Five years later, the Hoquiam park board met to discuss possible further improvements to the land.

With a grant through the Works Progress Administration, the City proceeded to construct the massive stadium, pouring the concrete foundation in July of 1938.

The structure, which was built with lumber from the Polson Lumber & Shingle Mills, was completed just in time for the annual Thanksgiving Day Hoquiam - Aberdeen Football Classic. True to schedule, fans sat in the newly-opened stadium and cheered Hoquiam to a 12-0 victory.

While the stadium opened to the public for that Thanksgiving Day game, it didn't publicly get its name until half-time. During the previous week, parks department officials contemplated possible name submissions from a community-wide contest. The 10 finalists were as follows: Timber Bowl, Harbor Stadium, Roosevelt Field, Lovgren Field, Hoquiam Civic Playfield, Hoquiam Olympic Stadium, Hoquiam Athletic Park, Grays Harbor Stadium, Evergreen Stadium, and The Hoquiam Stadium. As for the name, the rest is history. From nearly 800 entries, Stanley Erickson's won for him a three-year pass to all stadium events.

Winter Hours

12:00 - 4:00 Saturday & Sunday

Appointments for visiting, research, or group tours are encouraged any time. Just because we are "closed" on weekdays doesn't mean you can't visit then! Give Director John Larson a call to set up a time when you or your family and friends can stop by. (360) 533-5862

Encourage a Friend to Join as a Member Today!

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



MUSEUM NEWS

ARNOLD POLSON PARK & MUSEUM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1611 RIVERSIDE AVENUE
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Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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