



MUSEUM

NEWS

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Summer 1997

## The Polson Celebrates International Museum Day—New Indian Exhibit

On Sunday, May 18, The Polson Museum opens its new permanent exhibit, *Common Lands, Uncommon Cultures*. It explores Native American culture and early white settlement on Grays Harbor. All Museum members are especially invited to come and see the new exhibit, celebrating International Museum Day.

As the first in a newly-planned series of permanent exhibits, *Common Lands, Uncommon Cultures* provides a glimpse of new design techniques planned for the Polson.

The exhibit was coordinated

dent Gene Woodwick. Working through the college's New Chance program, Gene has done a tremendous job not only with the exhibit's written content and physical appearance but with recataloging, conserving, and identifying artifacts in The Polson's valuable collections of Indian basketry.

Comprised of the Aiken and Emerson Collections especially, the museum's artifacts are now effectively organized and secured through Gene's hard work. We can now all enjoy their special beauty and historic significance.

Don't miss International Museum Day!

## Summer Tourist Season Almost Here—Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Volunteering at the Polson is a great way to spend some of your spare time this summer. With the arrival of the summer tourist season, you can be of special help here at the Polson. Beginning in June we will go to a Wednesday through Sunday schedule—11 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you can fit it in your schedule, volunteering at the Museum is truly a rewarding experience and a great way to meet a variety of interesting people. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact John Larson at 533-5862.

## Membership Drive Under Way—We Need Your Help

To develop its current plans for a wide variety of new exhibits and programs, the Museum is eager to expand its membership base throughout Grays Harbor. Ideally, we would like to double present membership from approximately 300 to 600. 50% of members come from Aberdeen, 40% from Hoquiam, and 10% from other communities. We urge you to tell your friends about the Polson, inviting them to visit. International Museum Day offers you a chance; admission is free Sunday the 18th. Your friends will see not only a fine new exhibit, but the exhibits that have long distinguished the Museum, making it one of Grays Harbor's finest local institutions. So help us out. Spread the word—at work, in school, in the neighborhood. You can make a difference!

## Museum in the Community

### Polson Museum Establishes Exhibit Partnership with Ocean Shores Convention Center

Since April, the Ocean Shores Convention Center has generously allowed the Polson Museum use of its exhibit cases on a continuing basis. This partnership began when Director John Larson was asked to lecture on local history at a statewide Visitor Information Centers' Convention April 24. The partnership has now matured into an effort by two organizations better to present local history to ever larger tourist audiences.

The Museum currently has an assortment of artifacts, photographs, and documents on display in three of the Convention Center's cases. Displayed objects will change periodically throughout the year to reflect larger changes at the Polson.

If you haven't visited the newly remodeled Convention Center, be sure to stop by soon for a visit.

### New Entrance Sign

If you haven't driven past the Museum lately, you'll be interested to see our new entrance sign:



**MUSEUM**

In an effort better to promote our Museum to both visitors and locals alike, Director John Larson has constructed and painted a sign meant to introduce the Museum to the motoring public.

Its design utilizes the Polson's new logo which is based on the Polson Logging Company's original letterhead.

Check it out!

### Museum to Get Relocated Sundial

Thanks to the Telephone Pioneers and the Hoquiam Parks Department, the Museum will soon be getting the concrete sundial stand currently in the triangle park between 2nd and K Streets. The Parks Department will relocate it to the rose garden, while the Telephone Pioneers will restore it and then install the new sundial.

### Land Slide on Museum Property

While the Mansion weathered this Winter's storms without incident, our hillside property unfortunately sustained slide damage. To complete the necessary stabilization, the Museum has applied for FEMA funding.

# A t the Museum

## Students and Others Busy with Museum Collections Projects

Gene Woodwork and Brian Pentilla, both students at Grays Harbor College, are busy with collections-related projects at the Museum.

Although Gene has been particularly busy with her work on the Indian exhibit, she has also been busy reorganizing the Museum's extensive document, manuscript, and newspaper clipping file on local history.

Alternatively, Brian has been busy with conservation work on the Museum's gasoline-powered dragsaw.

Our thanks to both, as well as to our faithful, longtime Wednesday afternoon volunteers, Alta Reay, Carol Stubb, and Margaret Wenham. Everyone's work has been invaluable.

## Collection Now Better Organized

Since the Americorp installed new storage shelving throughout the attic, we have been busy organizing the Museum's entire artifact collection. We now have everything neatly stored by category on our shelves. Tools, kitchenware, clothing, toys, business machines—you name it and we have it in its appropriate place. If anyone is interested in working on a variety of collections-related volunteer jobs, we'd be happy to hear from you. Call John Larson at 533-5862. He'd be happy to make your acquaintance and, of course, put you to work.



## Research Library Receives New Track Lighting

Our newly created Research Library will soon be equipped with new track lighting. Thanks to the Robert Gray Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Library now has both new shelving and new lighting. If you haven't been by the Museum recently, you'll be especially pleased to see all the improvements in the DAR room.

## Museum Store Sale! New Focus on Museum Store Inventory

In an effort to focus more on selling merchandise related to our local history and culture, the Museum Store is featuring a liquidation sale on a variety of items. Stop by and check out our great prices on all carved coal and ash figures. While we are not having a sale on our book inventory, we have recently stocked some new titles. Readers will especially want to check out our newest title, *A History of Lake Quinault*, by R. H. Jones.

## Museum Establishes New Darkroom

Thanks to Loren Bezzo, the Museum now has a small but functional darkroom for black-and-white photography. We have set up Mr. Bezzo's equipment in the closet adjacent to the laundry outside the kitchen.

If anyone has an interest in using the darkroom, you are more than welcome to do so. Please contact John Larson at 533-5862 if you have any questions.

## Still Missing *Hesperians*

Thanks to Pete Hegg's efforts, we're closer to having a complete collection. But we're still missing a few *Hesperians*. Again, we are looking to complete our collection. If you or someone you know is able to donate any of the following issues, let us know.

- ◆1934, 1936
- ◆1944
- ◆1962, 1965, 1969
- ◆1975 thru 1996

## From the Past

### Hoquiam Train Depot Was the Talk of the Town in 1914

With the recently announced plans to turn Hoquiam's train depot into a civic center, citizens have become increasingly aware of the building's physical presence in the community. Its historical presence, however, has been subject to some unfortunate confusion. At the request of the architects hired to design the renovation project, Director John Larson recently researched the *Washingtonian* to find out exactly when the station was built.

Plans for the new depot began in early August 1911 but construction had to remain on hold until a bridge connecting the O.W.R.&N. and Milwaukee railroads with the Northern Pacific was constructed over the Chehalis. Finally, on August 15, 1913, initial construction bids were submitted. Although optimistic planners expected to have the building completed by December 1, actual progress on the building—as is often true with construction projects—took longer than expected.

By December 21 the *Washingtonian* reported that construction was "progressing rapidly," noting completion of the tile roof and interior lathing. Although planners hoped in January to have the building open by February 15, 1914 (in time for the annual Southwest Washington Development Association's Conference in Hoquiam), they once again postponed the opening date until early March. As it turned out, they completed the project on March 20

but didn't schedule the official opening ceremony until April 15, 1914. The ceremony, organized by the Grays Harbor Commercial Club, attracted 600 people at a standing-room-only affair presided over by none other than Senator Alex Polson! Hoquiamites agreed that despite some delays, the opening of the new \$40,000 depot was "a decided success in every way."

### Another Reminder to Renew Your Membership

Don't forget to renew your Polson Museum Membership. Your support is needed to keep the Museum active within the community. If you haven't done so already, you can renew at any of the following levels.

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



## MUSEUM NEWS

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Bulk Rate  
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