



MUSEUM NEWS

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

Fall 1998

Doll Show at Museum October 10 - 18 — Bring Your Favorites

The Polson hosts a community-wide doll show opening Saturday and Sunday, October 10th and 11th, and continuing the following week, October 14th to 18th, Wednesday to Sunday. The show will be open from noon to four each day.

Local doll collector Betty Bellis, whose dolls will be on display, will present a short talk, Saturday the 10th, highlighting her collecting career. Her presentation begins at 2:00 p.m.

Following Mrs. Bellis' presentation, the Museum hosts an afternoon tea and invites all members and visitors to judge not only her dolls but others on display.

For, in addition to Mrs. Bellis' dolls, the Museum invites you to bring for display your favorite dolls—vintage, ethnic, and handmade ones especially, or those with special personal stories.

We will be accepting dolls for loan from Wednesday to Friday, October 7th, 8th, and 9th. If you are unable to bring your dolls during regular hours, from noon to four, call Director John Larson at 533-5862 to arrange a more convenient time.

Admission to the doll show and tea is free to Museum Members. Regular admission charges (\$2 adults, \$1 students, \$.50 children, \$5 families) apply to non-Members.

Archiving Project Involves Hoquiam High School Students

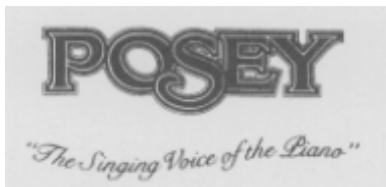
The Polson Museum joins HHS Washington State History students this fall to begin an archiving project to document Grays Harbor's businesses at the turn-of-the-millennium.

HHS students will be collecting from area businesses and organizations printed materials such as advertising brochures, informational pamphlets, business cards, and company letterheads. The students will then file and index the materials, archiving them into the Museum's collection.

In addition to working on this archiving project, HHS students have the option of compiling oral histories of local individuals who have played important roles on Grays Harbor. Whether by interviewing grandparents, parents, or family friends, students will focus on recording people's memories of important persons, places, events, and traditions.

Although these projects serve as part of students' present community-service requirements, they also serve our community long into the future.

Posey Exhibit Continues



The Polson's latest exhibit, *Posey: The Singing Voice of the Piano*, continues through the remainder of 1998 and all of 1999. The exhibit chronicles the history of Grays Harbor's oldest woodworking company with a triple emphasis: on the company's Los Angeles-area beginnings, on its move to Hoquiam in 1909, and on the variety of its quality Sitka Spruce products.

Museum in the Community



Alta Reay waves to the crowd at the Loggers Playday Parade

Museum's Loggers Playday Entry Earns 2nd Place

This year's Parade entry earned the Museum second place honors in the Classic Car division. Driven by Museum volunteers Alta Reay, Katherine Vining, and Hilary Dorsch, Director John Larson's 1963 Oldsmobile Holiday 88 Coupe again took the 2nd place honors.

Thanks For Garage Sale Donations

Thanks go to all members and friends who donated items for the Museum's garage sale June 27. Despite selling many items cheaply—for as little as \$.25 to \$1.00—we did well to make over \$400. Thanks again to all of you who helped.

River-Festival Open House Well Attended

In conjunction with the Hoquiam Park Department's River Festival, the Polson Museum freely opened its doors to the public during the one-day event.

The turnout proved encouraging, with over 100 people attending July 17.

Though more sparsely attended, the evening outdoor movie, *The Golden Twenties*, was likewise successful. We plan similar events next year.

Baked Goods Needed For YMCA Bazaar, November 7

Although November may be a long way off, plan now to bake goodies to benefit the Museum for the YMCA's annual bazaar. If you can contribute, please bring items to the bazaar or call Pat Lanning at 532-9083, or John Larson at 533-5862. We can arrange to pick them up.

G.H. Fair Display A Success

Visitors to this year's Grays Harbor County Fair got a good glimpse of what the Polson has to offer—at least in the way of saws.

This year's theme—"Say You 'Saw' the Polson"—featured, among other saws, a Vaughn dragsaw, a two-man crosscut, and a Titan chainsaw, and photographs of burly, early-day loggers.

Museum Creates Loggers Playday Display at Hoquiam Library

In conjunction with Hoquiam's annual Loggers Playday, the Polson Museum featured a small display at the Hoquiam Library on the event's history.

In addition to a variety of old photographs, programs, and buttons, the display included artifacts from other local festivals as well. Mementos from the Splash festival in Aberdeen and 4th of July contests on the Hoquiam River provided examples of predecessors to today's Loggers Playday.

The display also featured log rolling shoes and trick chair from Diane and Russ Ellison. (Due to size limitations, their log and rolling block stayed at the Museum.)

At the Museum

World War Two Display Planned for Veterans' Day

This November, the Museum will feature a small display honoring Harborites who served our country during World War II. The display will include artifacts from both the Museum's collection as well as from individuals in the community.

CAR SHOW

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Craig & Diane Smith's 1937 Lafayette at the Museum

Polson Web Page Under Construction

The Polson Museum will soon have a home in the cyberworld of the internet. Museum volunteer Chuck Sundberg is constructing a web page that, he claims, will provide potential visitors with essential information about the museum: our mission, collections, location, hours, admission, and current exhibits. We'll fill you in more about locating our address when the page is finished.

Doll Collection Inventoried

Museum volunteer Alta Reay has been busy taking inventory of the Museum's doll collection. Stored in the Children's Room in preparation for the upcoming doll show, the collection, Alta says, has some dandies!

Pioneer of the Year?

Who do you think should be our 1998 Pioneer of the Year? We'd love to receive your suggestions. Call or write soon.

Dolge-Posey Inventory Under Way

With the recent opening of our new Posey exhibit, we've been busy cataloging the numerous artifacts, documents and photographs donated to us from Posey Manufacturing.

Of everything received, the collection of papers from the Dolge-Posey Company in Los Angeles (1902 -1909) has proved the most labor intensive.

Aberdeen High School student Hilary Dorsch has taken the cataloging project on and has now nearly completed preliminary sorting. She will next file all holdings into cabinets and access them into our new computer database.

Historic Photo Reproductions Now Available

Have you ever been to the Museum and really wanted a copy of a photograph that caught your eye?

Thanks to Cecil Herrington who donated a copy stand to the Museum earlier this year, we now have the capability to reproduce and sell high-quality prints.

Please call Director John Larson at 533-5862 for details.

From the Collection:

The Hoquiam River at the 8th Street Bridge, July 4, 1914. Long before Loggers Playday, Hoquiamites congregated along the river to watch logging competitions.



From the Past

Loggers Playday Begun in 1965

Founded in conjunction with Hoquiam's Diamond Jubilee Celebration, Loggers Playday has become a part of our community's shared heritage.

At the first Playday, the lumberjack competition was held at Emerson field. The second annual featured the first Elks-sponsored Parade and Lions-sponsored salmon barbecue—both considered mainstays among today's Playdaygoers.

With attendance numbers well above 3,000 for the evening show in 1966, Playday officials finally moved the competition to its now well-known location at Olympic Stadium for the third annual in 1967.

Although more conventional Playday events such as axe throwing, log chopping, speed climbing, choker setting, tree topping, and double hand bucking have remained standard competition events, others have found their way into the evening show. In the early 1970s, the "Rainier Beer Keg Put Contest" featured big men throwing beer kegs in a glorified shot put contest at distances up to 40 feet. In the past two shows, the "belly flop" contest has proved a favorite among the locals.

Membership

The Museum derives a significant portion of its operating budget from Membership dues. If you have friends who are interested in preserving our local history, please pass this newsletter along and encourage them to join. Thanks to all of you for your continuing support.

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

Loggers Playday Programs Sought

The Museum is missing nearly all of the Loggers Playday programs. Aside from the 1967, 1968, 1974, 1997, and 1998 programs, we have quite a void to fill. Can you help us complete our collection?

Changes on the Board of Directors

With his recent move to Elma, Museum Board Member Dave McDougal has been succeeded by Sherry Drake as Treasurer. We thank Dave for all of his hard work managing the books.

In light of his long-term admission to a rest home, Arne Salonen has been replaced after over ten years on the Board.

We welcome Dave Seymour as our newest Board Member and look forward to working with him in furthering the Museum's mission.



MUSEUM NEWS

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Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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