



Doris West Selected Our 18th Pioneer of the Year

1997 Pioneer of the Year

Doris West, a Hoquiam native of 82 years, will be honored as the Polson Museum's 1997 Pioneer of the Year at a celebration at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 22, at the Hoquiam Y.M.C.A. Mrs. West, born May 16, 1915, at the old Hoquiam Hospital is the daughter of Richard and Eugenie Large.

Doris attended Hoquiam High School and graduated in 1932. Following graduation, she married Robert West in 1937 and went to work as the society editor for the *Grays Harbor Washingtonian*, a position she held for 12 years.

After a brief year and a half spent working as a news reporter for the *Renton Chronicle* in the 1950s, Doris moved back to Hoquiam, where she has lived ever since.

After raising her two children Garnet and Steve, Doris went to work at the Hoquiam Y.M.C.A., serving variously for 17 years as office manager, bookkeeper, and program assistant. After making an indelible mark upon the minds of countless people who came to know her through the Y. M.C.A., Doris retired in 1977.

Doris's long-term devotion to her church congregation is especially impressive. As the 2nd longest member of the First Presbyterian Church, Doris has served as the office secretary, treasurer, and has been a member of the choir for over 60 years.

Doris's countless and selfless contributions to her community are almost too numerous to list. Whether serving in the Grizzly Alumni Association, Hoquiam Woman's Club, P.E.O. Sisterhood, Cub Scouts, The Polson Museum, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Y.M.C.A. Ladies Auxiliary, Board of Directors, or Youth and Government, Doris continues to make her enduring mark in our community. She is one of its ideal citizens.

Robert Polson Endowment Growing: \$20,000 Again Donated by Polsons

In December, the Museum once again received a gift of \$20,000 from Mrs. Ruth Polson of Ithaca, New York. The wife of Robert Polson, who died this past July, Mrs. Polson generously donated \$5,000 to help with Museum operating costs and \$15,000 to add to the endowment that she and her husband created last year.

Museum Members and others in the community are invited to contribute to our endowment in any number of capacities. For more information on making a gift, please phone 533-5862.

Siding Project Begins

If you've noticed some added activity while driving past the Museum, you've likely seen Hoquiam's Americorps workers preparing to put new siding on the Museum.

Throughout January, crews were busy hand staining both sides of all the shingles slated to be placed on the Museum.

City officials are also planning

to insulate all exterior walls and to add storm windows to those that currently have none.

Needless to say, such work will not only lower our heating expenses (which run upwards of \$230 a month in the winter), but will enhance the long-term stability and beauty of our historic building.

Museum in the Community

Museum's Ocean Shores Exhibit Continues

The Museum's exhibit at the Ocean Shores Convention Center is still on display and has recently seen some changes. We've added an assortment of vintage 1890s women's clothing to compliment the master dressing-room display at the Museum.

For the Christmas season, we exhibited a series of original Elton Bennett Christmas cards. Bennett produced many of the cards for local families and businesses between the 1950s and 1970s.

Trade Show a Success

Our booth at the Chamber of Commerce's Trade Show on February 7 was a success again this year. In addition to displaying some early Polson Logging camp photos, we dispensed our new brochure and held a drawing for a free membership. Congratulations to Paul Taylor of Hoquiam who won our drawing.



Bennett Show a Great Success

The Elton Bennett art show and sale held at the Polson this past December proved particularly successful for the Museum. Evelyn and Barbara Bennett's showing of their late father's work drew a good crowd for the event.

The Bennett sisters donated a framed print of Chenois Creek to the Museum for its raffle. In only a week of selling tickets, we made \$840. We all thank the Bennetts for their help and congratulate Norma Vander Linden who won the silkscreen print.



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Historical Slide Presentation Created

Director John Larson has developed a short slide show on the lumbering history of Grays Harbor. Using images from the Museum's photograph archives, the collection of pictures focuses on Polson operations but covers a variety of images relating to the Harbor's historical geography.

New Brochure Produced

Keep your eyes peeled for the Museum's new promotional brochure. Featuring a combination of images and text, the brochure captures the essential charms of our Museum. Check it out for yourself and pass a copy along to a friend.

Don't Miss Ada McCleary Portrayal, February 17 at Montesano Library

Museum members will want to see Jean Willis of the McCleary Historical Society portray Mrs. Henry McCleary in 1918. The presentation begins at noon at the W.H. Abel Memorial Library.

At the Museum

Last Month to See *The Age of Steam*

The Polson's current temporary exhibit, *The Age of Steam* continues through March 15. If you have yet to see this exhibit, you'll not want to miss viewing our display of numerous models, pictures, paintings, and other steam-related artifacts.

Attendance Doubled in 1997

In 1997, we served a total of 2,810 visitors. That's more than double the figure of 1,307 for 1996.

Weyerhaeuser Donates Computer, Establishes Collections Database

Perhaps the single most revolutionary change to the Museum of late is the acquisition of a "new" 486 computer. Acquired through the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation's Making Waves Foundation, the computer will allow us better to organize our artifact and membership records on a database program.

Using Microsoft Access, Tom Laufmann custom-designed the database programs to fit the needs of our Museum.

The accession database replaces the triple-indexed card

system the Museum has used since artifacts were first accepted in 1977. With the new computer system, more detailed information is instantly accessible with the capacity to search a wider variety of topics and subtopics.

To support the needs of the new computer, the Museum purchased a new Hewlett Packard Laser Jet 4000 printer which, as you can see in perusing this newsletter, does some fine work.

Let Director John Larson know if you'd like to help with the ongoing data-inputting project.

Help the Rose Society and Our Rose Garden, March 6

On March 6 at 10:00 a.m., the Grays Harbor Rose Society will meet at the Museum to conduct a rose pruning demonstration. Consulting Rosarian Helen Peters and other Rose Society members will lead the work party and answer any of your questions. All community and Museum members are welcome and encouraged to help. Bring your gloves and pruning shears and give our rose garden some much needed care. We look forward to seeing you there.

Summer Tour Guides

It's never too early to start thinking about summer so keep in mind that we can always use extra help with tours at the Museum.

Garage Sale Planned

The Museum is planning a summer garage sale fundraiser. Think about donating those items that Spring cleaning always turns up that you don't know what to

do with. Please call John Larson at 533-5862 to submit your saleable articles.



From the Collection:

This early road scene is from the cover of the 1912 promotional pamphlet, Grays Harbor Country Washington.

From the Past

Posey Mfg. Co. Moved to Hoquiam in 1909

Within the past months, the Polson has received a variety of interesting documents, photographs, and artifacts from Posey's early history on the Harbor and at their prior Los Angeles location.

In 1903, V.G. Posey and Alfred Dolge formed the Dolge-Posey Company where they specialized in producing "sun-dried" soundboards at their Los Angeles factory. They acquired their spruce stock from Grays Harbor and other Pacific Northwest mills and in turn supplied over 160 American piano manufacturers with soundboards.

In 1909, Posey bought out Dolge's share of the business and headed to Hoquiam to build a new factory. In a letter to his customers, Posey noted that "[t]he ideal location, in the midst of the finest sound board spruce in the world, coupled with ample capital, will enable us to guarantee deliveries as promised." That "ideal location," of course was the Ontario Street site where the factory still stands today.

Since the Posey Company's beginnings, spruce piano sound boards have been their primary product. At various times throughout the century, however, employees produced other spruce products, including organ reed boards, key bottoms, rib stock, ironing boards, dinner-ware sets, and high-quality airplane spars.

Renew Your Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership with the Polson. With our new computer, we are now in the process of improving the ways in which we notify members of their status. While we work to computerize our membership list, please take the time to renew if you know you're past due. Thank you.

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



MUSEUM NEWS

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