



# MUSEUM NEWS

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

Fall 1999

## Looking Back on the Century: *Going, Going, Gone*

With millenium hype rapidly approaching its apex, we at the Polson thought it appropriate to jump on the bandwagon and fuel the fire with our own version of Y2K preparedness. Rather than worrying about computer bugs, we're focusing on concerns of the past — bed bugs for example.

Our soon-to-open exhibit, *Going, Going, Gone*, highlights personal artifacts of our century that are seldom, if ever, seen in modern use (a can of "Knock 'Em Dead Bed Bug Killer," for example).



Of things once common from corsetts to garters, from straight razors to sad irons, and from stereopticans to 78s, *Going, Going, Gone* captures them all — material remnants of a century that is rapidly approaching its end.

The exhibit opens at our Christmas Open House December 4th and continues into next year.

*Nels Lindquist (left) and friend making music with accordion and violin in Hoquiam, circa 1920. Nels' accordion is featured in the entertainment section of Going, Going, Gone.*

## Y.M.C.A. Bazaar Saturday, November 6 — We Can Use Your Help

If you'd like to help the Polson in our fundraising efforts, consider baking something for our table at the Y.M.C.A. bazaar this Saturday, November 6. The bazaar begins at 10:00 a.m. so bring any items to the Hoquiam Y Saturday morning.

For those of you who aren't bringing anything, feel free to visit the bazaar and buy something. In addition to baked goods, we'll be featuring a wide selection of items from the Museum Store.

## Christmas Open House, December 4

This December 4th from noon to 4:00 p.m., the Polson hosts its annual Christmas Open House. See the Museum decorated for Christmas and join us for refreshments in front of the living room's open fire.

At 2:00 p.m., join us for "live" entertainment — we'll be pumping tunes out on our vintage Farrand player piano.

Although Museum Members are always admitted free of charge, we are asking you to consider bringing a can of food to the Open House for donation to the local food bank.

**Winter Schedule**  
Saturday - Sunday  
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



# Museum in the Community

## POLSON PARK & MUSEUM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1611 RIVERSIDE AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 432  
HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON 98550

(360) 533-5862

*POLSON MUSEUM NEWS*  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

### Polson Museum Board of Directors

#### *President*

Carl Weber

#### *1st Vice President*

Cecil Herrington / Ilene Klein

#### *2nd Vice President*

Ada Spencer

#### *Secretary*

Alta Reay

#### *Treasurer*

Sally Brennand

#### *Members*

Robert Carrigan

Don Cates

Sherry Drake

Yvonne Jump

Pat Lanning

Mary Alyce Lundberg

Evelyn Murnen

Harold Schmidtke

Doris West

#### *At Large*

Fred Kletka

Gene Woodwick

#### *Museum Director*

John Larson



*Northwestern Lumber Co. at the mouth of the Hoquiam River, 1914. One of the many businesses no longer visible along Hoquiam's waterfront.*

## Historic Hoquiam Waterfront Walking Tour Developed

Museum Director John Larson has recently created a 6-page walking tour of Hoquiam's historic waterfront. The tour is intended for visitors who would like to expand their tour beyond the Museum's walls.

The handout includes text, photographs from our collection, and a map that explains the historic geography beginning at the Polson mansion, across the Riverside Bridge, down Levee Street, over the Simpson Avenue Bridge, and back up the Riverside Dike Walkway.

If you would like a copy of the handout, please stop by the Museum or request that one be sent your way.

## Annual Meeting November 10

Museum Members are invited to attend the Board of Director's Annual Meeting this Wednesday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.

## Pioneer of the Year Nominations Sought

Each February, the Polson Museum honors as "Pioneer of the Year" a long-time Harborite who has contributed in a significant capacity to the shaping of our community. If you have anyone you would like to nominate, please submit names and a brief explanation of their merits in writing to the Museum at P.O. Box 432, Hoquiam, WA 98550 by December 1.

## Slide Show, Book Talk January 13, 2000

South Bend author Doug Allen will be presenting a slide and video presentation on his new book slated for release this December. The book and presentation highlight Finnish-American logging operations in the Pacific County area. We'll keep you posted with an advance notice.

# At the Museum

## Museum Recarpeting Project Now in Design and Selection Phase

The Board of Directors has selected McHugh's Ken Schoenfeld Furniture in Hoquiam to install the new carpeting. They are currently preparing proposals which will give the Board a better selection from which to choose the best match for our historic building.

## Polson Web Site Under Construction

Although not operational yet, the Polson Museum is well on its way to entering the electronic age of the Internet. Our web site will feature a rich mix of text and images that highlight Museum buildings, grounds, collections, exhibits, research opportunities and other services.

We'll keep you posted on our efforts to better preserve and promote Grays Harbor's history through cyberspace.

## Polson Seeking to Expand Volunteer Base

Well before our next summer season begins, the Polson is looking for people interested in manning the Museum. If you think you'd like to spend a few hours a month greeting visitors, we'd love to hear from you.

Additionally, if you or someone you know would be interested in helping catalog our artifact collection on the new computer, please phone Director John Larson at 533-5862.

## The Holiday Season Approaches — Consider Shopping for Gifts at the Museum Store

### Natural History

*Pacific Coast, A Rugged Harmony*

*The Olympic Rainforest* by Ruth Kirk

### Logging

*Railroad Camp* by Adolf Hungry Wolf

*Saginaw Timber Co.* by Finley Hays

*Rigging Shack* by Finley Hays.

*The Cinderella Tree* by Werner Mayr.

*Logger's World: The First Ten Years, 1964-1970*

compiled by Finley Hayes

*My Timber Roots* by Bill Palmroth

*Big Trees & Steam Lokies* by Dave James

*Grisdale, Last of the Logging Camps* by Dave James

*The Final Forest* by William Dietrich

### Rare Out-of-Print Books

*Lady on the Beach* by Norah Berg (signed)

*Shipwrecks of the Pacific Coast* by James Gibbs

*Captain Gray in the Pacific Northwest*

by Francis Cross & Charles Parkin

*Timber* by Ralph Andrews

*Glory Days of Logging* by Ralph Andrews

*Pioneers of the Olympic Peninsula* by LeRoy Smith

### General Local History

*A History of Lake Quinault Lodge* by R.H. Jones.

*Rebels in the Woods* by Robert Tyler

*Cohasset Beach Chronicles: WWII in the Pacific*

*Northwest* by Kathy Hogan

*Frontier Legacy: History of the Olympic National Forest*

by J.R. Rooney

*Who Killed Laura Law?* State Archives publication

*The Viewless Winds* by Murray Morgan

*Guilty by Circumstance* by Ron Fowler

*Bearkiller* by Warner Karshner

### Books by Local Authors

*Serve-Us Stations* by William Jones.

*Land of Trees* by Larry Workman.

*A Whistling Girl and a Crowing Hen* by Leona Auer.

*Pebbles in your Path* by Roni Bisset.

*Common Sense* by Velma Cozutto.

### Fiction

*A Gathering of Finches* by Jane Kirkpatrick.

*The Emerald Cathedral* by R.H. Jones.

### VHS Films

*Rayonier, The Last Steam Logger*

*Farewell to Steam: Northern Pacific*

*Geared Doubleheader: Climax and Heisler Steam Locomotive*

◆ Please call or write for further details and pricing.

◆ Members receive a 10% discount.

◆ We ship books anywhere in the country.

◆ Stop by to see the full selection of merchandise and additional new and vintage books available at the Museum Store.

# Keeping the Past Alive

## Polson Locomotive Still In Regular Service

A piece of Grays Harbor’s logging past is alive and well — in Wisconsin of all places. The Mid-Continent Railway Museum in North Freedom, Wisconsin, operates the former Polson engine #2 on their seven mile branch of the former Chicago & North Western Railroad. The engine was repainted this summer with the Polson name, replacing its old Saginaw Timber Co. lettering. It was originally purchased new in 1912 by Saginaw before being used by Polson and later Rayonier until its retirement in 1962.



*At left, #2 in operation as a Rayonier locomotive in the 1950s.*



*At right, #2 again sporting the Polson Logging Co. name on August 8, 1999*

## Polson Museum Membership — Consider the Benefits

The benefits of a Membership with the Polson are many. Won't you help keep the past alive?

- ◆ Free Admission to the Museum.
- ◆ Quarterly Newsletter — *Polson Museum News*
- ◆ Advance notice and special invitation to programs, events, and exhibits
- ◆ 10% Discount on Museum Store purchases
- ◆ A stake in ensuring the future preservation and presentation of Grays Harbor’s history

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

- New       Membership Renewal       Gift Membership

Already a Member? Dues paid? If so, pass this newsletter along to friends and ask them to join. Annual Membership dues are a crucial component of the Museum’s yearly operating budget. It is the financial support of all who care about Grays Harbor’s history that keeps the Polson Museum active in our community.

Detach and mail with your check to  
Polson Museum, P.O. Box 432, Hoquiam, Washington 98550

# I n the P ark

## Sundial Re-located, Re-furbished, and Re-Dedicated

This September the sundial that was moved to the Burton Ross Memorial Garden was re-dedicated in a small ceremony. Lee Thomasson, both a Son of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Telephone Pioneer, spearheaded the effort to re-located the sundial. He and Sharon Reynvaan, a Daughter of Union Veterans of the Civil War and regent of the Robert Gray Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presided over the ceremony attended by Grays Harbor Geneological Society members.

The monument was originally placed in an unnamed triangle park at "K" and Emerson in 1929 by the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Over the years it had been vandalized and its original sundial stolen. Thanks to work by the Hoquiam Parks, Hoquiam Americorp, the Polson Museum, and the Telephone Pioneers, the monument is now looking better than ever with new paint and replaced sundial.



*Lee Thomasson, John Larson, and Sharon Reynvaan stand next to the newly-dedicated sundial.*

## Hoquiam Parks Department Installs Drain Field

This September, the Hoquiam Parks Department spent two days at the Park installing a new drain field in the lawn between the Burton Ross Garden and the eastern property line.

Using surplus materials from a similar project at Olympic Stadium, Parks workers dug ditches, laid pipe, and backfilled with drain rock in an attempt to alleviate much of the saturation that occurs in that area.

## Civic Garden Club Develops Margaret Wenham Garden

Grays Harbor's Civic Garden Club has recently adopted the small garden directly to the right of the Museum's front door entrance. The previously undeveloped garden space now features a wide variety of perennials that will greatly enhance the Museum's entrance.

As their Civic Development Project, Grays Harbor's local Civic Garden Club has dedicated itself to the initial development and long-term care of this garden.

The garden was dedicated in memory of long-time Museum volunteer and board member Margaret Wenham who passed away in 1997 at age 93. Margaret enjoyed gardening and believed in the benefits of public gardens.

Although winter is approaching rapidly, stop by and see the much improved space.

## From the Past

### Gethel Potts, 1913 - 1999

This past July, longtime Museum supporter Gethel Potts passed away in Portland, Oregon. Although Mrs. Potts had not lived in Grays Harbor since the 1930s, she nevertheless remained an active supporter of the Polson Museum's efforts to preserve Harbor history. Her family recently provided us with a brief sketch of her life in early-day Grays Harbor.

Gethel was born in Hoquiam but moved at age three to Nielton (then known as "The Burn"). There her father established a cedar mill and salvaged cedar from a vast burned area just south of Lake Quinault. At Nielton, the family lived in a primitive shack near the mill site during the summer and fall of 1917. By Christmas of that year, Gethel's father, Bert Fry, had built a house along the road between Hoquiam and Quinault. With her parents and three sisters (affectionately known as the "Fry Girls"), Gethel grew up using kerosene lamps, a wood range, wood heater,

and outhouse, while a galvanized washtub in the kitchen served as a bathtub.

Gethel's schooling from grades 1-4 took place in a one room school house at Lake Quinault (now home to the Forest Service's headquarters).

Once the cedar salvage operations were complete, the family moved back to Hoquiam where Mr. Fry and partners bought a large shingle mill. In Hoquiam Gethel attended Emerson Grade School for two years before entering the new Junior High. Then she attended Hoquiam High School and was active in the Hoquiam Chapter of Rainbow Girls, serving as Grand Chaplain for the State of Washington at the Grand Assembly in 1932. Gethel graduated from Hoquiam in 1932.

The day after graduation, she left for summer school at Pullman. There she met Harold Potts who sat behind her in class. They married Christmas Day, 1933 at Gethel's Hoquiam home.

Beyond her school years in Grays Harbor, Gethel lived most of her life in Portland, Oregon, where she and her husband worked and raised their family.



## MUSEUM NEWS

POLSON PARK & MUSEUM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1611 RIVERSIDE AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 432  
HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON 98550

---

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hoquiam, WA  
Permit No. 182

---

- 
- ◆ *Going, Going, Gone Exhibit*
  - ◆ *Start Thinking About Holiday Gifts*
  - ◆ *Improvements in the Park*
-