



Anderson Island Historical Society's

A Little Old, A Little New News

Winter 2015-2016

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Contacts

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Sutton Stephens, Past President

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Lynne Jacobsen
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President's Message

Ed Stephenson

The year is 2016. Although some things stay the same, there are many changes taking place. The current soggy weather is only a reminder that better times are ahead as we look forward to planning for our traditional events. The cold weather has challenged our volunteers in both maintaining and improving the current facilities and also those hardy souls putting a roof on our new archival storage building.

The anticipated completion of the new building will bring new opportunities for the Society to expand its contribution to the island community. Weather permitting, under John Larsen's supervision, the roof will be finished by the end of January so that construction of the interior can begin. Wood for the interior walls has been delivered. Windows and exterior doors are on order as is much of the mechanical equipment for the building. Members of the steering committee are busy selecting colors, fixtures and materials. The Display committee will soon present their plan for rotating displays in the new building. With a little bit of luck, a lot of hard work and a continuing supply of hearty soup for lunch by our "super soupers" organized by Lucy Stephenson, we hope to be open for business by the Salmon Bake in July.

Our AIHS Board and members can be proud of our accomplishments in 2015. Besides the traditional events which went off without a hitch thanks to our excellent organizers for Farm Day, Garden Market, Salmon Bake, multiple Apple Squeezes, Potluck programs and the December Holiday open house, demolition work for the upgrade to the Lois Scholl room kitchen was started with a bang (no pun intended). The upgrade will allow our folks to prepare food for our events in our own kitchen instead of having to rely on commercially prepared food. Our volunteers continue to maintain the farm buildings and grounds to make the Johnson Farm the showcase of the island. And for their efforts, the volunteers get fed well on the second and forth Wednesdays of each month with lunches organized by Marsha Howells.

MUSEUM STORE

Kathy Bailey
Leslie Lamb

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & TASK MANAGERS

Bernice Hundis
Liane Heckman
Carol Shearn
Ray Mohr
Jim Singer
D. Groppenberger
J. Groppenberger
Carol Duncan
Mikey Sleight
Sue Huseby
Marsha Howells
Cathy Thome
Jerry Bausman
Dick Throm



Construction Site 2016
Notice the mud puddles? Our volunteers ignore them! Work continues five days a week.



Knights of Pythias Temple, Tacoma

To prevent further damage to the septic system, volunteers installed a new fence to prevent traffic driving over the drain-field. AIHS participated in the “Festival of Trees” at Christmastime where we showcased our historical people and mission statements. We also hosted the British Invasion band concert, the continuing art classes by Lynne Jacobson and the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Trunk or Treat. The Museum Store, managed by Kathy Bailey, continues to provide unique merchandise for visitors and helps provide the income needed to maintain the farm museum & buildings. Our thanks go to Kathy who has managed the store for the past 10 years. A new book of Anderson Island people and stories published by local authors has been a good seller at the museum store as has the island telephone book, written and published by our own AIHS volunteers.

We received the donation of a golf cart which the maintenance group is making ready as an aid to people who have mobility challenges but want to see the farm buildings up close. Since we will be losing some of the parking spaces taken up by the new building, a new parking area is being built below the barn which will be accessed via a new roadway. This new road will allow the golf cart to transport folks up close to our historic barn. They can also see, up close, the renovated generator shed.

Along the way, we have had to deal with many challenges. An eager “Beaver” insists on damming up our pond to the overflow point requiring almost daily demolition of his damworks. The County closed down all of our farm buildings for a few days while we made them compliant with current fire codes. The barn is still off-limits until it can be strengthened against wind and snow loads. Our resident structural engineer (Sutton Stephens) is preparing a “fix” which we hope to implement soon so we can again have barn tours.

My thanks to all who have contributed to these many activities. Your volunteer efforts continue to make the Historical Society and the Johnson Farm of Anderson Island a very unique adventure for residents and visitors.

Archives and Education Report

January’s potluck was a very interesting and entertaining talk presented by Steve Dunkleburger, the subject was the Knights of Pythias. Steve shared a history of the organization and a peek inside the gorgeous and historic hall in downtown Tacoma.

March 26th will bring Dr. Jean Ross, who will discuss preservation and support of wildlife. Potluck at 6 and presentation at 7pm.

Winner of the Salmon Bake Poster contest, look for posters in the spring



Spirit Salmon by Lynne Jacobsen



Alida Johnson, eldest daughter of the John Oscar and Alma Marie Johnson family. She graduated from Nursing school in 1922

Gift Shop News

The gift shop is will open on April 2, but if you would like to shop before then, the gift shop may be opened by request, just call Kathy Bailey at 884-9930 to make arrangements.

Spring Art Classes and Art Club

Art Club meets every Thursday at 1pm at the Martha Smith room, until the kitchen remodel in the Lois Scholl room, and will move outside usually at the Community Marina during the summer months. All artists or artist wanna-bees are welcome to bring your supplies and project and come to work with other artists on the island.

Art classes begin again in March. This spring's classes will be Thursdays from March 24th through May 12th. Portrait and Figure Drawing is from 1-230 pm, and Oil Painting will be offered from 3-5pm. Both classes will be held in the Lois Scholl room, and the cost is \$15 for members of the historical society, and \$35 for non members. Contact Lynne Jacobsen (253-320-5571 or ljac33@hotmail.com) for details and supply lists.

From the Archives

From the journal of Alida Johnson, eldest child of John Oscar and Alma Marie Johnson, and a nurse in training at Tacoma General Hospital. As you enjoy your summer "out home" (Alida's expression for her Anderson Island home) this year, reflect on these differences 95 years ago!

7/1/21 This is Friday and a lovely day. ... went for a long auto ride almost out to Roy. Came back at eleven. Enjoyed it very much—the longest auto ride I ever had. Felt tired after it though. The fight between Dempsey and Carpentier came off today. Dempsey retained the championship. The fourth of July celebrations started today.

7/4 This is Monday and the glorious fourth. Went down to see the fireworks with Miss Wiley to the stadium. They were very good this year. The crowd sang *America* and *A Long, Long Trail*. About 40,000 there. Some little crowd.

7/14 This is Rudolph's birthday He is 18 years old It does not seem possible.

7/17 Sunday and a nice day. Went to church and then out to

Schedule of upcoming events for 2016:

January 23, Program and Potluck

February 27, Program and Potluck

March 26, Program and Potluck

May 28, Farm Day (Saturday before Memorial Day, which this year is the 30th)

July 2, Annual Salmon Bake

Volunteers are needed for all of these events; please share a few hours of your time. Contact Jeanne McGoldrick at 253-884-4096

WEBSITE UPDATE: Our website is currently being rebuilt, look for it in February.

Carlsons for dinner.

7/21 My grandmother's and cousin's birthdays today. My grandmother is 86 and my cousin is 26.

7/25 Ruth and Aunt Katri are going out home tomorrow night.

7/26 Well, here we are out home. Will not be very much rest, as we will be busy all the time. Rudolph was down to meet us with the horse. We had quite a few things to carry so I was glad he came down.

8/28 Sunday and a day full of surprises Uncle Alfred and Aunt Olga and their whole family came over (to Anderson Island) from Purdy (except Walfred). Rudolph and I went swimming in the lake and Oscar took them over to Longbranch. Came home about nine o'clock

12/21/21 Taking State Board.

Anderson Island Historical Society
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