



# Anacortes Museum News

Spring 2017

## **'At Home in Anacortes' opens Saturday, May 13 Opening Reception, 1-4 p.m. Carnegie Gallery**



*House at 1120 Eighth Street, Anacortes, depicting the Front Gable form of the American Craftsman style.*

Queen Anne homes of the boom, elegant Craftsman homes of the 1920s, the middle class ranch homes of the 1950s, and the contemporary view homes of the 1960s – and today.

“At Home in Anacortes” tells the story of residential architecture as it has evolved in the city, starting with the first boom. The exhibit stops with the story of Skyline, because, in preservation circles, homes do not become “historic” until they are 50 years old.

The first known architect in Anacortes was J.C. Jepson. An architectural engineer, he had built several structures in Minneapolis and specialized in fireproof buildings. Jepson’s office was in the 1890 Goodwin-Benedict-Havekost Building (today home to Café Adrift), a building he designed.

Hogan’s house at 1613 7<sup>th</sup> St. is an exquisite example of the American Queen Anne style. With its turret, steep gables, complicated roof, stained glass, intricately patterned shingles, wrap-around porch and elaborately carved “gingerbread,” it epitomizes the flamboyance of the Anacortes boom.

Anacortes, like the rest of the country, turned to simpler American Foursquare and Craftsman style homes when the depression ended in the late 1890s. As prosperity returned, many small bungalows and cottages also were built for mill and cannery workers. The Workingman’s Foursquare, a simple square home with a hipped or pyramid-shaped roof, is especially common.

Many small homes were built during the Great Depression in a style that evolved from the little Foursquares. These Roosevelt Cottages and Depression Era Cottages evolved into the World War II era cottages needed to house Whidbey Navy families. A variation of the style, Minimal Traditional, later served new post-war families. When Baby Boomers outgrew these starter homes, their parents (many of them refinery families) moved them into Ranch Style homes of the 1950s and 1960s.

New stories are still being revealed as museum staff finishes researching and designing “At Home in Anacortes.” Be sure to check out the exhibit when it opens on May 13.

Before 1890, residents of Fidalgo and Guemes islands were too busy eking out a living to fret about adding architectural embellishments to their homes.

But architecture suddenly and exuberantly arrived in Anacortes with the railroad boom. City promoters and speculators, who were eager to impress investors, feverishly erected fabulous homes and buildings for a brief, heady time – stalling only when the railroad decided not to make Anacortes its terminus in 1891. Combined with a national depression that hit in 1893, the city’s first housing bubble popped.

Over the past 127 years, Anacortes has gone through several cycles of economic highs and lows. Each has left us with its own legacy of historic homes – the grand

## City Hall vault ‘treasures’ come to Anacortes Museum

In late December, Elaine Walker and Bret Lunsford were notified of a large quantity of old City of Anacortes records that had been stored in the City Hall vault, located in the Parks & Recreation Department offices.

The vault is a vestige from the days when the Benevolent & Protective Order of the Elks owned the building. Documents found in the vault included dockets of the Police Judge and Civil and Criminal Justices and ordinance clippings from as early as 1906.

Thanks to the Parks & Recreation Department for taking such good care of these valuable and interesting historic records.



Elaine Walker, Anacortes Museum Curator of Collections, examines some of the City Hall vault records.



Museum brochures and W.T. Preston rack card in ferry's brochures rack.

## Museum awarded Tourism Promotion Grant

The Anacortes Museum was awarded a tourism promotion grant from the City of Anacortes for 2017 marketing and advertising.

As part of the expenditure of this grant, the museum staff developed a rack card for the *W.T. Preston* and contracted with Certified Folder to distribute the card on the ferries between April and October 2017.

## Causland Park photo used in Chamber of Commerce gift cards



Circa 1921 photo of Causland Memorial Park taken from N Avenue looking west. Westminster Presbyterian Church and Carnegie Library (now Anacortes Museum) can be seen upper left.

This Causland Memorial Park photo from the museum collection was included in the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce merchants' gift card program. As a promotion, local merchants encouraged customers to select one of four different cards as a memory of their visit to Anacortes. We are pleased that the Chamber included a photo from Anacortes Museum collection in their promotion.

## At Home in Anacortes Opening Reception Saturday, May 13, 1-4 p.m.

Explore the history of residential architecture in Anacortes in the new Carnegie Gallery exhibit that opens Saturday, May 13.

Anacortes Museum,  
1305 8th St., Anacortes  
360-293-1915

Mark  
your  
calendars!

## Callahan's "Fishing" interpretive sign on display at Anacortes Post Office



The Kenneth Callahan "Fishing" mural interpretive sign is now on display at the Anacortes Post Office. The panel is based on research completed by the museum for the "All in the Same Boat" exhibit, focusing on Anacortes during the Great Depression. It was designed specifically for a glass case near the mural location at the Anacortes Post Office. The exhibit sign looks like it has been there all along, providing a high impact/low cost education project that extends Anacortes Museum interpretation into the community.

After years of navigating the post office's display process, we succeeded with the help of Postmaster Joseph Norris, who put extra effort into getting this approved. "I did get approval from HQ in Washington D.C. so I put it up ASAP," Mr. Norris said. "It adds to the building!"

# What's new on R Avenue?



## **W.T. Preston on Home and Boat Tour, May 20**

The *W.T. Preston* has been included as one of the boats on the 2017 Home and Boat Tour in Anacortes. This tour is the main fundraising activity for the Samuel G. Brooks Guild that helps to provide funds for uncompensated care for children in need at Seattle Children's Hospital. The tour will be held on Saturday, May 20, and is expected to draw between 150-200 people to the site.

## **Maritime Heritage Center now *WIRED!***

The Maritime Heritage Center was recently connected to the city's internet system using a wireless bridge that was installed on the roof of City Hall and aimed at the Maritime Heritage Center. The computer at the Maritime Heritage Center can now access museum files and the internet through the city's new ShoreTel VOIP system.

## **W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center now open for the spring season**

The *W.T. Preston* and Maritime Heritage Center are now open to the public for the spring season. The *Preston* and the Heritage Center are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays in April and May (as well as September and October). The schedule expands in June, July and August to include weekday hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Admission is free to the *W.T. Preston* for Anacortes Museum Foundation members and \$3-5 for non-members.

## **Volunteers**

### **Working for our museum**

Our faithful volunteers continue to show up to do a variety of tasks in support of our museum. Please help us to thank them for their efforts.

- Terry Slotemaker updates and maintains our research files and the file index.
- Lynn Keating is recording oral histories.
- Al Bofenkamp is our Wednesday docent in the Carnegie Gallery.
- Karen Thomson enters accessions lists and prepares photos for the work of our "Negative Ladies."
- Dani Usman, Ginger Thomas, Nancy Low, Suzette Richards and Sallie Hughes are preserving our photo negatives in archival sleeves.
- Tamara Willis is transferring searchable Anacortes American CDs into the museum's computer files.
- FIQ members Chris Criswell, Melody Kue and Kim Kellems, and Wearable Art Divas Becky Bean, Jerlyn Caba, Cynthia Heft, Helen Montgomery, Gloria Shelton, Shannon Woodall, Nancy Drake, Lyn Swiatkowski and Berthiel Evens are inventorying items from our Textiles Collection.

**Thank you!**

## **Madrona Grove Exhibition sculpture at Maritime Heritage Center**

The Maritime Heritage Center is a part of the first annual Madrona Grove Sculpture Exhibition sponsored by Windermere. *Birdwatchers* by Polly Purvis, Seattle, Washington, has been installed on a pedestal in front of the Maritime Heritage Center. It is one of twelve sculptures selected through an open juried completion. The exhibition is administered by the City of Anacortes Arts Commission and will run through December 31, 2017.

The Anacortes Arts Commission is planning an opening reception to be held in conjunction with the Anacortes Arts Festival "Spring Fest" on Saturday, April 22 from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. The reception will include a brief opening ceremony and a chance to meet many of the artists and discuss their artistic vision and creative process.

*Birdwatchers* artist, Polly Purvis,  
shown with her sculpture adjacent  
to the Maritime Heritage Center.



**It's not too late to pay your dues.  
Thank you for your support!**

**See 'Antique Quilts' at the  
Anacortes Museum through April**



*Museum staff members Linda Yerby and Elaine Walker display "Antique Quilts" exhibit items.*

Antique textile artwork is on display at "Antique Quilts," a special exhibit that will continue through the month of April.

Co-sponsored by the Fidalgo Island Quilters guild, the exhibit features treasures from FIQ members' private collections and from the Anacortes Museum's textiles collection. The event is part of the FIQ's annual Quilt Walk, which is an official Skagit Tulip Festival event.

The Fidalgo Island Quilters have adopted the museum's

textiles collection as a community service project, and 13 members have been working to help evaluate, photograph and better store a backlog of hundreds of items. Exhibiting some of these rarely seen items seemed like a natural extension of this productive and deeply satisfying collaboration. The exhibit runs through April 30.

**Uncover the history of your own home at  
Historic Preservation Board event May 23**

Do you ever wonder who built the old Fidalgo or Guemes Island home you live in, and when? May is Historic Preservation Month, and with a new exhibit opening on historic architecture in Anacortes, it's a perfect time to research your historic home.

To help get you started, the Anacortes Historic Preservation Board will present a Home History Research and Documentation workshop at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 23, at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 8<sup>th</sup> St. No registration (and no fee) is required, but if you contact the Anacortes Museum in advance, staff will try to have a few materials on hand relevant to your home. When a Home History is completed, the owner can receive an AHPB historic home plaque to display on the building. All information you uncover helps to document Anacortes' heritage.

And your home may be more "historic" than you think: homes formally qualify as historic when they are 50 years old (that's 1967 or earlier).

For more information, or to let us know the address of the house you will research at the workshop, please call the Anacortes Museum at 293-1915 or email [coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org](mailto:coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org).

**Anacortes Museum Foundation**

*Through memberships, the Anacortes Museum Foundation supports and assists the educational and preservation goals of the Anacortes Museum.*

**Become a Member – Support Local History!**

*Benefits of Annual Membership  
and Annual Membership Categories*

- ◆ FREE admission to the W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center
- ◆ 10% discount at the Museum store
- ◆ Invitation to exhibit openings and special events
- ◆ Quarterly Museum newsletter

Senior (65+)/Student .....	\$20
Individual .....	\$25
Family.....	\$40
Business/Organization.....	\$75
Sponsor .....	\$100
Life.....	\$250
Donation .....	\$___

New Member       Renewal

*(Contributions tax deductible to fullest extent of law)*

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to: Anacortes Museum Foundation.  
Send to: 1305 8th St, Anacortes, WA 98221. Thank you!*



**Anacortes Museum  
1305 8th Street  
Anacortes, WA 98221  
360-293-1915**

*The Carnegie Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The Museum Office is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.*

*The Anacortes Museum and Maritime Heritage Center exist to preserve and interpret the history of Fidalgo and Guemes islands and to nurture in the community an awareness and appreciation of its heritage.*