



Anacortes Museum News

Winter 2016-2017



Above, an interior photo of the Piggly Wiggly grocery store at 704 Commercial, Anacortes, decorated for the holiday season. The store opened in 1927 but was gone by 1934.

Museum Holiday Gathering and Annual Meeting

Please join us for light refreshments, music and good cheer at our annual holiday reception, hosted by the Anacortes Museum Foundation, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 Eighth Street.

The celebration is preceded by the Anacortes Museum Foundation's annual meeting and election at 6:00 p.m. downstairs. At the meeting, members will be asked to approve the following revision (underlined) to the Foundation Bylaws:

"The officers, the Member at Large and the Museum Director shall constitute the executive Board."

Members also will vote on Foundation Board officers, with nominations accepted from the floor. The following have agreed to stand for election: Tom Thompson, President; Jeff Weldon, Vice-President; Barbara Larson, Recording Secretary; Cecilia Weldon, Treasurer; and Jim Taylor, Member at Large. The Board would like to thank outgoing Treasurer Jim Taylor for his time of service in that role and will honor him as 2016 Foundation Volunteer of the Year at the reception following the meeting.

Remember, Foundation membership renewals are due each January. Those who would like to join or whose memberships have lapsed can simply join or renew at the gathering. Memberships support museum efforts to preserve, interpret and share the history of Fidalgo and Guemes islands. Benefits of membership include discounts at our museum stores and on photograph purchases, a newsletter subscription and free admission to the *W. T. Preston* stern-wheel steamboat.

Hull Lotta Painting on the *W.T. Preston*

The *W.T. Preston* and Maritime Heritage Center are closed for the winter months, during which time maintenance and exhibit projects will commence. The warm days of autumn were seized by Dave Margeson to paint the hull of the *W.T. Preston*. He and Maritime Curator, Bret Lunsford also worked to patch the deck and otherwise winterize.

As it happened, the Seattle Times chose the first weekend of our winter closure to publish a glowing review of our facilities:

“FEW OTHER historical artifacts, however, evoke the dramatic, plunge-into-yesterday feel of one of the region’s lesser-known, but most-impressive relics, the snagboat *W.T. Preston*, which sits rather obscurely, high, dry and ground, in Anacortes, near Cap Sante Marina.

The “obscure” in that description comes only from its resting Place — two blocks off the main path for car commuters bound for the Anacortes ferry terminal. If the Preston sat along that Commercial Street route, it’d be a major tourist attraction.

The fact that it isn’t is a boon to visitors, who often can get a personal tour of the old, completely intact stern-wheeler by one of the volunteers at the small-but-fascinating Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center.”

— Ron Judd, Seattle Times



Dave Margeson, museum docent, painting the hull of the W.T. Preston.

Research library revamp

Anacortes Museum Aide Lea DeVere and Collections Curator Elaine Walker are working to update and reorganize the museum’s Research Library to make it more accessible for researchers.

“We are reorganizing and working to make information about our books more easily available to those using our online database,” Walker said.

Part of the library will be organized using the Dewey Decimal System, but local subjects will be grouped by geographical area. Once the library reorganization is complete, photos of the cover and identifying information such as the table of contents will be attached to each

individual record in the database to allow researchers to better see what information is available.

The Reference Library is non-circulating, so researchers will have to view the books at the Anacortes Museum.



Lea DeVere, museum aide, labels books in the Research Library.

Carnegie Building restored to 1910 glory



October 2016 photo of the grand Carnegie Library building with its beautiful new colors. Shepherded by Steve Oakley, Museum Director, the completion of the exterior painting and window repairs brings the nearly decade-long renovation project to a close.

The city’s grand Carnegie Library building, home of the Anacortes Museum, looks better than it has in decades following the completion of an interior renovation program and the application of fresh paint outside.

Restoring the building’s original elegance has been a top priority for Steve Oakley since he became Museum Director almost a decade ago. Since then the gallery has been restored and hardwood floors revealed, boarded-up windows were reopened and ugly modernizations were undone in all the public areas. The renovation of the stairwell and lower hallway, the last area, was completed this fall.

The work was made possible by donations from Phyllis Rodeffer and the Rodeffer Trust (Research Library), Anacortes Noon Kiwanis (UV filtering acrylic window panels and leaded glass entry panel restoration), Anacortes Museum Foundation (floor refinishing, hallway/stairwell and gallery window blinds) and Finders Keepers Chapter of Questers International (stairwell light).

The \$30,000 exterior project (funded by the City) was expedited because of the need to repair failing windows. The Anacortes Parks Department removed paint from second floor windows, and painter/contractor H.S. Wold, who recently painted City Hall, did the painting and repairs.

The new colors were selected from a palette of colors used in 1910, the year the building was completed. Oakley chose buff for the body of the building, reminiscent of the unpainted buff-colored bricks patrons would have seen until the building was first painted (in a cream color) in the 1960s. A later color scheme, possibly inspired by the Bicentennial, included dark blue grays and red trim. Splashes of red are included in the new color scheme, while windowsills, pillars and trim are a dark gray-green.

The building’s revitalization will be celebrated as part of the Anacortes Museum Foundation’s annual Holiday Reception on December 8.

New museum volunteers tackle textiles and negatives

Fidalgo Island Quilters and Wearable Art Divas participated in two volunteer work days Oct. 13 and 19 at the Anacortes Museum. Participants assisted in inventorying, photographing and measuring items in the museum's textiles collection. This events were part of a new museum outreach effort in which volunteers were invited to work on targeted projects.

FIQ has a long-standing commitment to service to the community with its Community Quilts, Quilts of Valor and youth education programs. This fall the quilters officially added the museum textiles collection to its list of service projects.

"We are delighted that the Quilters and Divas chose our textiles as a service project. They will save us many, many of hours of staff time," said Elaine Walker, Anacortes Museum's curator of collections. "We are also excited to enhance our connections with our community."

Eight women from the Divas group assessed several boxes of textiles – gowns, hats, flags, knickers, linens, baby clothes and more – at their Oct. 19 event.



FIQ Wearable Art Divas work to assess textiles during an October work day at the Anacortes Museum. In front, from left, are Gloria Shelton, Jerlyn Caba, Lynn Swiatkowski, Helen Montgomery, Nancy Drake and Berthiel Evens; at back table are Linda Yerby, Shannon Woodall and Becky Bean.



Fidalgo Island Quilters Melody Kue (left) and Chris Criswell (right) with Linda Yerby, Anacortes Museum Administrative Assistant.

Two Quilters at the October 13 event, Chris Criswell and Melody Kue, inventoried three quilts and several other items. Chris and Melody had a surprise when they realized they had been Oak Harbor High School classmates in the 1960s.

"Quilts have always had a way of bringing women together," said Linda Yerby, Anacortes Museum Administrative Assistant. Yerby, a Wearable Art Diva, came up with the idea of the working with the quilters groups and organized the details of the events.

More textile work days are planned for the coming year at the museum.

Meanwhile, another 2016 community outreach effort has been wildly successful – the Museum's positively wonderful "Negative Ladies." A core group of six, plus several others who come when they can, remove negatives from acidic envelopes and place them in archival sleeves. Working on a vast collection of negatives donated by the Anacortes American, they have already protected thousands of news negatives from the 1980s and 1990s – about a

third of the vast collection. For their diligent and dedicated efforts, the "Negative Ladies" will be recognized at the museum's annual holiday reception as the Anacortes Museum's 2016 Volunteers of the Year.

Positively wonderful "negative ladies" named Museum's Volunteers of the Year



Dani Usman and Ginger Thomas, Tuesday volunteers, place newspaper negatives into protective archival sleeves (not pictured, Nancy Low and Tamara Willis).



Sallie Hughes and Suzette Richards spend most Fridays working on the negatives project.



Karen Thomson takes the first step to bring order to the boxes of archived photographs. Her work is often like a puzzle to determine dates and sort the negatives prior to storage in archival sleeves.

Annual dues are due in January.
Thank you for your support!



**Thank you to the
Anacortes Museum Foundation**

Every year at this time we pause to reflect on the many contributions the Anacortes Museum Foundation has made to the museum during the year. This year's highlights include:

- Providing the registration fee for a museum staff member to attend the WA Museum Association annual meeting in Tacoma; purchasing the 2012 through 2016 issues of the Anacortes High School yearbook for the Museum collection; purchasing additional archival materials to supply the work of our many wonderful collections volunteers; expending \$2,500 dollars to help complete the interior renovation of the Carnegie Building; and hosting various museum events through the year.
- Foundation-sponsored grants received: \$3,500 from the Skagit Community Foundation to support the digitization of Anacortes American newspapers from 1890 – 1922; Anacortes Tourism Fund grant to redesign and reprint two museum brochures; \$1,000 Allstate grant for archival supplies; and \$750 Noon Kiwanis grant for the annual hosting fee for the museum's large online photo database.
- And last but not least, President Tom Thompson designed a beautiful Membership Card for AMF members and the outdoor exhibit sign for "Anacortes at 125."

Carnegie exhibit celebrates City's 125th anniversary

"Anacortes at 125," an exhibit celebrating the 125th anniversary of the City of Anacortes continues through May in the Anacortes Museum's Carnegie Gallery, 8th Street and M Avenue. The exhibit details the city's history from its boom days to today, with an emphasis on the city departments that have provided citizens with essential services like water, streets, police and fire suppression, as well as enhancements to their quality of life such as a library, museum, and parks and recreation.

In May (which is National Preservation Month), an exhibit celebrating the residential architecture of Anacortes will debut in the Carnegie Gallery.

W.T. Preston closed until April

The Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center and *W.T. Preston*, our National Historic Landmark steamboat, are now closed through the winter. However, you can still stop by and read interpretive panels about the sternwheeler and its history outside the center at 703 R Ave. The sternwheeler and center will reopen for weekend hours in April. Contact the Anacortes Museum at 293-1915 if you need to arrange a special educational tour for your group.

**To receive your newsletter via email,
contact yerbyl@cityofanacortes.org**

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Anacortes Museum

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, 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.