



STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY MUSEUM



February, 2024



Linda Anderson, Newsletter Editor

Hours of operation: Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
For Pioneer Hall Rental, call Caretakers Austin & Shannon Myrick at (360) 435-7289

We have received word that Shirley Prouty has passed away. Funeral arrangements are pending. RIP Shirley ♥

*Yes indeed...
we are back in business.*



While the Museum has been closed to the public this past couple of months, the volunteers have been extraordinarily busy. Many of these dedicated people have clocked many more hours than just the Monday work days. There are very few things that have not received some TLC. If I forgot anything, my apologies, and please let me know. I'll be glad to 'toot your horn'; my contact information is below. *More information about the projects noted below is found throughout the newsletter.*

- Displays are being cleaned and updated and, in some cases, moved to another area.
- Cleaning, frame repairs and re-hanging of pictures that have been digitized.
- Black frames on the two large metal 'flip-frame' stands in the Library are being painted.
- Work continues on the cataloging of our artifacts in the Past Perfect program.
- The three 2023 grants have been completed and reimbursed.
- Guns have been cleaned and prepared for display.
- In the technology area – all of the computer hard-drives have been backed up.
- The new elevated train display 'over' the logging area in the basement is nearing completion.

During our cold snap a few weeks ago, the entire heating system in Pioneer Hall crashed. It has been a challenge for our caretakers, Austin and Shannon, and President Roy, to keep enough heat in the Hall so that are renters can be somewhat comfortable. Many space heaters to the rescue!! A new heating system has been installed.

*Throughout the newsletter, you will see some fun pictures from our 2023 Christmas Party.
Thank you to Lynn Waggoner for the wonderful pictures!
Look for the Christmas Trees.*



*If you know of a project or have an idea for something that you would like highlighted in the newsletter, please let me know. You can e-mail me directly at LDA2049@gmail.com or call me at 360/820-2049.
Linda Anderson, Newsletter Editor.*

Annual Dues \$20.00; Lifetime Membership \$200.00

MILITARY PHOTOS NEEDED!

By Sue Walde

Our collection of military photos is sadly lacking! We have ZERO pictures after World War II.

Please share your photos and stories of military veterans with ties to Snohomish County, especially in the greater Arlington vicinity. If you prefer to keep your photos, we will happily scan them and return the originals to you.

Let's honor our veterans as they deserve by preserving their photos and stories. To schedule an appointment to scan your military images, please call the museum at 360-435-7289 with your contact information or email stillypioneers@frontier.com.



Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Arlington, VC-87, on Jan. 14, 1944. Harry Yost is fourth from the left. He helped construct the museum and was past president of our organization from 1982-1990. ID# 1999.079.11



Christmas Party 2023

Dan & Lindsay (Harris) Minton, Roy Harris and
Tim & Rachelle Gray



Ralph & Sharron Knutson

Linda Anderson & Joann Gray



Loren Kraetz & Sharron Nelson



UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT ROY HARRIS

Hi Everyone!

I hope all is well with you and your families. Even though the museum was closed to the public, winter has been a busy time at the museum. Volunteers have finished wrapping up the three grants from 2023. Pioneer Day last year was a huge success! 1) The grant report and reimbursement for our expenses for Pioneer Day were completed and funded in part by the City of Arlington Lodging Tax Tourism Grant. 2) The grant report and reimbursement for our expenses were also completed for the Pioneer Hall 100-year Celebration and funded in part by the City of Arlington Lodging Tax Tourism Grant. 3) The grant report and reimbursement for expenses were completed for the Digitizing Photos project funded in part by Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission.

The 2024 grant from the City of Arlington for the production and implementation of Pioneer Day, to be held July 20, 2024 has been awarded to the museum. Volunteers will be starting the planning process for Pioneer Day at our regular Monday morning meetings. We meet in the museum from 9:00 AM to 12:00 AM to manage routine maintenance of displays and carry out the administration issues for the museum. On February 19th & 26th at 11:00 we will have Pioneer Day committee meetings to begin the planning for the 2024 Pioneer Day and what it will look like. We encourage input and participation from all members and are open to any and all suggestions of how to make it a success.

Pioneer Hall is rented out as a gathering place for the community. During the extreme cold, the gas furnace in Pioneer Hall failed a few hours before one of our rentals. Furnace maintenance people tried to repair it and also evaluated the issues. It was determined that the combustion chamber had deteriorated to the point that it would not function. We were able to get estimates for the board to approve the purchase of a new gas furnace which was installed within a two-week time frame. In that two-week time frame we notified renters of the malfunction of the gas furnace; explained that we would be installing eight electric heaters to try to heat the room as best we could. Several renters persevered through the chilly conditions and some chose to cancel their events. Overall, we were able to evaluate the situation, manage the electric heaters, order and install the new gas heater in a timely manner.

Monday volunteers are working on cleaning, re-arranging, and enlarging several of our display areas. One

area is on the main floor where the doctor's office, dentist office, beauty salon and barber shop are being cleaned, consolidated and expanded to form individual compartmental displays for each area.



This includes updating and/or adding sign wordage for displays, pictures and artifacts to coincide with each of these display areas. (Led by Terry Legare & Karen Dale)

The second area is in the basement in the logging equipment display. Trainmaster Andy Korthius and Marty (Jr) Rausch have been working on the project to add an elevated railway track above the current logging display to include a vintage train pulling a load of logs. Once the

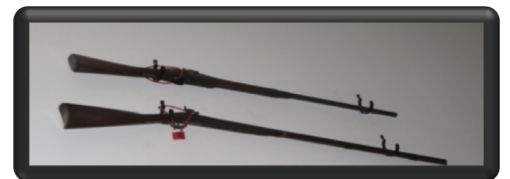
railroad system is completed and functional, the volunteers will rearrange and clean the logging display including chainsaws, hand tools and photos.



Andy Korthius making adjustments to train display

Work is being done to improve one of our air systems as part of our maintenance projects and we will be repairing some sheetrock along with some painting in Pioneer Hall and the women's restroom. There is always yard work - winter winds, snow, and ice have brought down several large limbs and some trees will be needing attention. Things are starting to bud so pruning and cleaning for clearance over sidewalks and around the buildings are needed soon. Grab your gloves and come help!

Volunteers are cleaning, researching, repositioning, and hanging



the museum's antique rifles. Once the research on each rifle is complete, information sheets will be available to visitors as they visit the display. (You may note something red just under the trigger – those are safety locks that were donated to the Museum). (Led by Rex Martin). ...continued to page 4

President Roy continued...

Our cataloging program, PastPerfect, is constantly being attended to for tracking our artifacts, adding new items, catching up on any backlogs. The program not only includes items like furniture, household goods and other physical items, it tracks the paper, picture, paintings, maps, and other history from families' members and citizens that add to our library to improve our ability to share with the public the personal side of the history of our area. (Led by Linda Anderson)

This requires many hours of sorting, researching, scanning, trying to tie all the research to the photos into documents that are usable, searchable, and accurate for future generations to have access to their histories. (Led by Sue Walde and Michele Heiderer)

If you believe you might be interested in assisting in any of these types of projects, now or in the future, we encourage you to become involved in the activities of the museum. If you have friends or family who may be retiring and are looking for something constructive to do, invite them to come check out the museum. Come on a Monday morning and share ideas and talents with those volunteers that are here on Mondays.



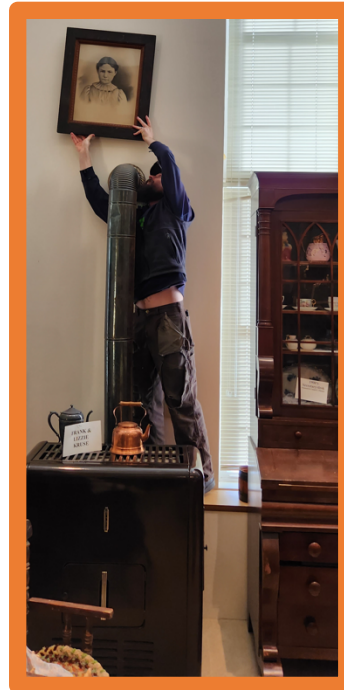
SAVING HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...one photo at a time

by Sue Walde

Thanks to a 2023 grant from the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission, we hired a professional in Arlington to digitize over 367 high-quality images of photos, pictures and certificates, plus 169 images from glass negatives taken by John E Asplund (1864-1915). The grant also allowed us to purchase a high-quality CZUR scanner that scans oversized pictures up to 14x18 inches and quickly scans pages in books.

Special thanks to our hardworking volunteers who disassembled hundreds of framed pictures: Roy Harris, Michele Heiderer, Rex Martin, Ralph Knutson and Denny Somerville, and who later put them back together. Rex also built and fixed frames. Thanks also to Austin Myrick - the only person willing to climb high on a ladder. Also, appreciation to Linda Anderson, Karen Dale, Steve Heiderer, Terry Legare, Austin Myrick, Cheryl Lovgreen, Sharron Nelson, Myrtle Rausch (for doing extra bookkeeping), and Sue Walde (project manager) for mastering seemingly endless tasks. Our dedicated volunteers worked 527 hours on the project or an impressive \$16,758.60 of in-kind labor!

Now for the amazing news! Our volunteers have done an outstanding job and I'm thrilled to share that the Museum's total contribution for the \$4,890 grant was a whopping \$21,844.91 in volunteer hours! A big round of applause to all the hardworking volunteers who made this possible! ***And now...***having completed the grant, we are cataloging the images and descriptions into PastPerfect, our cataloging database. This process is expected to take a year or more. We welcome anyone who has experience with Excel and a passion for historic photos to volunteer and be a part of this fascinating project. ***Exciting!***



This is what happens when you're above-average height... You get put to work hanging pictures! (The rest of us have to use a ladder). Thanks, 'Stretch' aka Austin!



The clarity of the photos that have been digitized from the glass slides is outstanding! ID# PEO.606.GRO

MEMORIALS

In memory of:
Bob Shinstrom

Given by:
Myrtle Rausch
Karen Dale
Joann Gray
Loren & Pat Kraetz
Dale & Carol Duskin
Terry Legare
Michele Heiderer
Sue Walde

In memory of:
Marietta Roth

Given by:
Loren & Pat Kraetz

In memory of:
Connie Harris

Given by:
Loren & Pat Kraetz
The Mike Turner Foundation
Michele Heiderer
Sue Walde

In memory of:
**Harley & Della Aldridge and
Ann Mosbrucker**

Given by:
Larry & Linda Eliason

In memory of:
Marilyn Spoerhase

Given by:
Michele Heiderer

DONATIONS

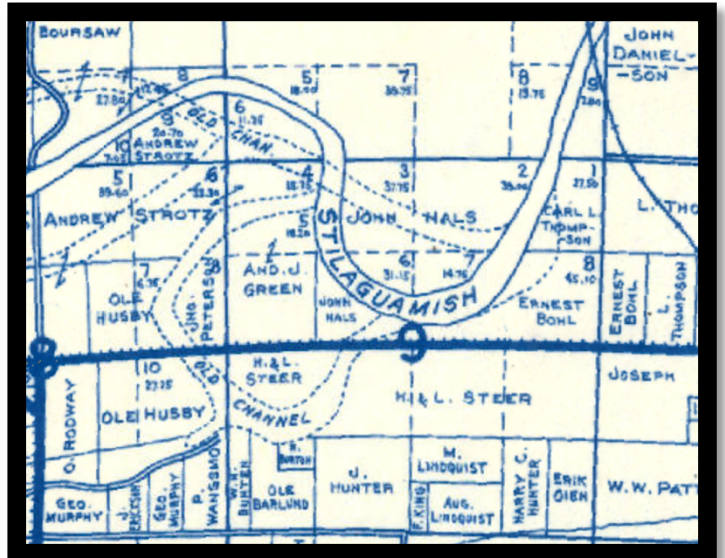
Two School Groups
Private and Visitor Donations

Passage
In memory of
Bette Van Ausdal

We often get requests* about how
Island Crossing got its name.

How did Island Crossing Get Its Name?

The Stilly River surrounded land creating an island. A. J. Green and others owned farmed land on the island and people who wanted to get from Arlington to Silvana, or vice versa, had to canoe around or cross the island; and we had a name! It wasn't until about 1900 that a wagon road was established. Current location is approximately where Highway 530 and Interstate 5 intersect.



*We'll be doing a series of "How "?" Got Its Name". If you would like to know how something in the Stilly Valley got its name, let us know; we'll find out and publish the information in the newsletter.



A mystery is afoot... we recently had an inquiry from a young man about an SD-10 siren, (a civil defense or air raid siren). The City of Arlington directed him to the museum saying they had donated it to the museum. This young man, named Nathan, has restored a similar vintage civil defense siren in Seattle. The siren is likely WWII era and may look something like what is shown in the photo below. We have looked throughout all of the museum buildings and checked paperwork and found that it was not donated to the Museum.

*Do you know
anything about
this?*

*If so, please let
us know!*



Help Preserve History at Smokey Point

by Michele Heiderer



Rex's Café and Shell Gas Station operated between 1934 – 1946 at the northeast corner of today's Smokey Point Boulevard and 172nd Street NE

The City of Arlington's Parks Department contacted the museum asking for historical information and photos about Smokey Point to aid in their design of artwork that will be placed within the new park. The park, located on the lot just north of Smokey Point Community Church is in the early stages of construction.

I am seeking photos and stories about Smokey Point, especially photos of businesses in that area in the 1940's and 50's including 'chick' and turkey farms and the fruit stand that once stood on the southwest corner of today's Smokey Point Boulevard and 172nd.

Please check you old family photos for any showing business like Rex's Café which would eventually become a barbecue site called Smoky Point Café (later on the 'e' was added to Smokey). Photos of kids playing ball at Smokey Point's baseball field or Van's Tavern, or any other businesses that come to mid would be helpful. If you want the photos returned, they will be scanned at the museum and returned to you.



Howard & Diane (Gray) Hanson

'Flip-Frame' Picture Stands in Library

by Michele Heiderer

Roy, Shannon and I are repainting the two large metal photo frames. Roy first sanded and neutralized the rust on the edges of the frames then the three of us began painting the frames that hold copies of photos from the museum's collection. Eventually the photos will be re-arranged in order by topic (people, places, athletics, businesses, etc.). Interested in helping sort through these copies?

Just call the museum at 360-435-7289
and leave a message!

The large set of map drawers (located in the business office) now contain material pertaining specifically to the Stillaguamish Valley. Items include dozens of oversized, unframed photos, documents and certificates (marriage, graduation, etc.), vintage maps and posters, and many larger items that do not fit on a standard bookcase shelf. One interesting collection is the 'Eagle Newsletter' that Arlington High School students published many years ago.

Items removed from these drawers and stored downstairs in map drawers include a large collection of vintage sheet music, music books, vintage magazines and material pertaining to World Wars I and II, the Cold War era, and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. These items will eventually be cataloged to make it easy to find them but were removed from the research library because they do not pertain specifically to the Stilly Valley or the pioneers who settled this area.



It may be hard to see in this picture but the frames on the left have been painted and those on the right have not. Looking closely, you can see quite a difference!

RESEARCH LIBRARY

by Michele Heiderer

The museum continues to receive requests for information. The Firnstahl family, who owns more than 300 acres on Mattson Road, requested information on the previous owners of their land. Working with plat maps at the museum and the state archives, I was able to find the names of previous owners, including the first land grants given in the 1880s. Continuing my research online and in the research library, I provided photos of some of the early owners and information on their lives. The Firnstahl's goal is to write up a history of their acreage and eventually bring in the Stillaguamish Tribe for additional historical information.

A house, once located where La Hacienda's parking lot now sits, was moved in the late 1970's to McElroy Road. The current owners contacted the museum seeking information on the history of the house. The house was built around 1906 and was then moved to McElroy Road in the late 1970's. Turns out that it was built by Fred and Edna Verd and was their home for many decades. Fred Verd passed away in the home in 1942; Edna resided in the home until her death at the Arlington Hospital in 1961. Their three sons inherited the house and sold it the following year. The house changed hands several times until it was moved to McElroy Road and bought by the current owners.

A member of the museum owns an historic home built in the early 1900's. Luckily the homeowners had the names of many of the previous homeowners through the years. I was able to find their histories by using the Arlington Times, our pioneer family files in the museum, and several online sources. From information given to the owners by a neighbor, I was able to identify the builder of the home who, it turns out, was the great grandfather of the neighbor!

And, finally, I will be providing information to the City Parks Department about the history of Smokey Point as they develop a new park on the large lot just north of Smokey Point Community Church. Artwork that will eventually be placed throughout the park will reflect the area's unique history. The area became the home of many 'chick' and turkey farms after World War II and the U.S. Department of Agriculture was instrumental in working with the farm owners to help develop methods to raise bigger and healthier chicks and turkeys... methods and practices that the poultry industry uses today!



Karen Dale, Linda Anderson, Gwen Sullivan



Dead-eye Joann

Terry Legare &
Austin Myrick



Sally Shinstrom,
Jilene & Andy Korthius,
Greg & Beth Husted



Sue Walde &
Sharron Nelson



2023 – 2024 OFFICERS

President: Roy Harris
Vice President: Greg Husted
Secretary: Sally Shinstrom
Pioneer Treasurer: Sharron Knutson
Museum Treasurer: Myrtle Rausch
Past President: Sue Walde

BOARD MEMBERS:

- 1: Loren Kraetz 2025
- 2: Linda Anderson 2025
- 3: Rex Martin 2025
- 4: Michele Heiderer 2024
- 5: Terry Legare 2024
- 6: Ralph Knutson 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Spring Potluck:
Sunday, April 14, 2024

Pioneer Day
July 20, 2024

**Pioneer Picnic &
Annual Meeting**
August 18, 2024

**MONTHLY BOARD
MEETINGS**
2nd Monday of each month
1:30 p.m.

**What are your goals
for the Museum?**

Members,

President Roy has asked if you have any goals for 2024 that you would like to see accomplished?

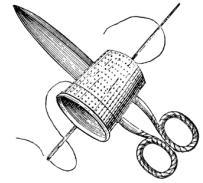
If so, please send your thoughts to President Roy at info@stillymuseum.org

COMMITTEES:

Advisory Program Committee
Advisory Governance Committee
Advisory Acquisition Committee
Advisory Financial Committee

Stilly Stitchers

2nd & 4th Tuesday ~10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Pioneer Hall ~ Coffee & Tea provided
Bring your project, your lunch and invite a friend.



Stillaguamish Valley Museum
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Arlington, WA 98223-4214
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