



MUSEUM MESSENGER

Volume 13 / Number 3 • Winter/Spring 2003

LEGAL ADVICE FOR THE CYBER AGE



LAW NOTES

by **Robert Gruhn,**
Attorney at Law

Web Sites—Some Legal Considerations (The first of a series)

Museums of all kinds are finding the internet an effective and economical way of getting information about the museum, its activities, programs, location, hours of operation, and special programs out to its members, donors, volunteers, and the general public. Web pages range from a simple statement of mission, location, and hours of operation to the elaborate site of the Smithsonian Institution (www.si.edu), which is almost a virtual tour of its various museums, including information on everything from aardvarks to zithers. The WMA has a lot of interesting information on its web site, www.washingtonmuseums.org, with some interesting links, including the British Museum, the Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Seattle Art Museum. The Museum of History and Industry web site (www.mohai.com) includes access to 1.5 million historic photographs. While not a museum, <http://www.historylink.org> is the best single source for information on the history of the Puget Sound area. Historylink is now in the process of going statewide.

The first thing needed in creating a web site is securing a domain name. There are a number of services available that will do this for a very modest fee. (Shop around.) Domain names may have a number of extensions (suffixes); “.com” is used for commercial organizations and “.org” for nonprofit organizations. This distinction, however, is not always followed, but the registering agency is making efforts to have the distinction observed. Their success remains to be seen. Other suffixes in use include “.net,” “.us,” “.biz,” “.cc,” “.info,” “.tv,” “.cc,” “.ws” (web site), and “.name.” “.gov” is reserved for government web sites and “.edu” is reserved for educational web sites. There are also country-specific extensions.

The site recommended to me for registration of domain names is “networksolutions.com.” This site has a lot of other information on how to set up your web site.

(continued on page 4)

INSIDE

South Sound Heritage Association	3	Changes to WMA Awards & Scholarship Program	6
WMA Annual Conference	5	Process Benchmarking	7
Washington Territorial Census Project Update	5	Regional News	8-11

Editor's Note:

The **WMA Museum Messenger** is published quarterly by the Washington Museum Association, a 501(c)(3) federally recognized non-profit organization consisting of institutions, businesses, and individuals whose mission it is to promote increased professionalism in and communication amongst all museums within Washington State. All articles within this issue may be reproduced and circulated to staff with appropriate credit given to the Washington Museum Association and the contributing author.

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President's Message

Karen Marshall
Director, Skagit County Historical Museum

Nearing the end of my term serving as your WMA president, I am in a four-month wrap-up mode. My list of things I wish for the WMA to accomplish is still very lengthy; luckily I have great support and help from your WMA board and dedicated volunteers. Here's a recap of our current projects:

2003 Conference and Annual Meeting – June 18-20 in Spokane

Led by Board Member Marsha Rooney, the 2003 Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee is doing a fantastic job of putting together a program of memorable events—read more in this issue! Our call for proposals was extremely successful, and Board Member Barbara Moe and her Program Committee had a very difficult time choosing sessions—you'll be hearing more details about the conference program in the upcoming months. I personally want to thank all of you who submitted ideas for

sessions. We strive to make each WMA conference reflective of all the wonderful ideas and programs going on around the state.

WMA Directory

By June, all WMA members in good standing hopefully will have received their copy of the new 2003-2004 directory—final touches are being made by Membership Coordinator Amy Geise, with help from Steve Crowell, several proofreaders, and the many folks who have contributed to making all of the changes. Barring any computer problems, we hope to wrap up this overdue project.

WMA Museum Map Brochure

The reprinting of our brochure is awaiting the completion of the corrected directory. Expect more on this in the next issue.

(continued on next page)

Museum Messenger NEWSLETTER AD RATES:

Half Page (4 1/2" x 7 1/2") \$250

One-Sixth Page (2 1/4" x 4 1/2") \$80

Classifieds: Members: 10¢/word
Non-members: 25¢/word

One-Third Page (4 3/4" x 4 1/2")
OR (2 1/4" x 9 1/4") \$125

One-Twelfth Page (2 1/4" x 2 1/2") \$55

Multiple Insertion Discounts:
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Ad Preparation: please call Andy Granitto at (509) 248-0747 for production requirements before sending your materials.

Opinions expressed in the articles within this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the WMA. Unsolicited articles, photographs, and graphics are always welcome. WMA reserves the right to edit material submitted.

South Sound Heritage Association Caps a Successful Year with a Family Heritage Festival

By Drew Crooks, Director, Lacey Museum

The year 2002 was a productive one for the South Sound Heritage Association (SSHA), a consortium of historical museums in Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties. This group actively works to promote its member organizations and their programs of heritage preservation and interpretation. Furthermore, SSHA provides a friendly forum for discussion of issues affecting local museums. Already a Washington nonprofit group, SSHA will soon receive federal nonprofit status.

SSHA carried out many activities during 2002. At the annual membership meeting in January, the association did an organizational review and revised its strategic plan. Later SSHA produced group publicity materials, displayed an exhibit at regional events, hosted guest speakers, organized field trips, and co-sponsored a Family Heritage Festival in Olympia.

Representatives of SSHA in 2002 spoke about the consortium to the Pierce

County League of Museums and the Yelm Prairie Historical Society. SSHA officials also gave presentations at the American Association of State and Local History 2002 Annual Meeting and the 2002 Governor's Conference on North Dakota History in Bismarck, North Dakota. Finally, SSHA members enjoyed a summer picnic at Borst Park in Centralia, and a winter holiday gathering at the Washington State Capital Museum in Olympia.

SSHA operations are characterized by a cooperative sharing of ideas. Currently there are fourteen members in the association. They are: **Borst Home Mu-**



South Sound Heritage Association field trip to Lackamas School near Yelm, Washington, October 2002.

seum—One-Room Schoolhouse and Veterans Memorial Museum in Centralia; **Lewis County Historical Museum** in Chehalis; **Lacey Museum** in Lacey; **Cowlitz River Historical Society & Old Settlers Museum** in Morton; **Bigelow House Museum, Olympia Historical Society**, and the **Washington State Capital Museum** in Olympia; **Mason County Historical Museum** in Shelton; **Tenino Depot Museum** in Tenino; and **Henderson House Museum, Historic Crosby House, Olympia Flight Museum**, and **Tumwater Historical Association** in Tumwater.

The South Sound Heritage Association meets monthly at the member museums. Field trips and workshops are scheduled for 2003. Other planned activities include producing a new brochure and tabletop display, developing a web site, and publishing a newsletter. For more information on SSHA and its operations, contact any of the above museums, or e-mail attractions@olywa.net, or call Susan Rohrer (Washington State Capital Museum education curator and current SSHA president) at 360/753-2580.

(*President's Message*, continued)

WMA Web Site

If you have not visited our WMA web site, www.washingtonmuseums.org, make sure you take a look every so often. With the volunteer help of David Lynx at the Yakima Valley Museum, we are working on improvements to make the web site more informational for you. Thank you David!

WMA Scholarships and Awards

As I indicated in my column in the fall/winter issue, we have made changes to the program that we think will be more beneficial to all. Committee Chair Lisa Hill-Festa gives you all the details in this issue. Thank you Lisa and committee members for your work throughout the year!

2004 Conference

We are currently looking for a location (preferably on the west side) for next year's conference. If your museum or a group of museums would like to host the 2004 conference, please let me know. If

you are new to the WMA and curious about past conference locations, check out our web site.

WMA and the State Legislature

As I have mentioned in previous columns, one of our goals is to be more proactive and develop a stronger presence at the state level. Vice President Chris Erlich has tackled this project with tremendous enthusiasm and will be working at keeping us all informed on how we as individuals, museums, and a statewide community can work together to inform our legislators of our impact and our needs. Items that need your attention will be sent out on our E-Messenger, so if you are not receiving our e-mail "newsletter" send your e-mail address to moderator@washingtonstatemuseums.org.

Thanks to all of you who support the Washington Museum Association and participate in making it a fantastic organization. If you have questions or comments about the WMA, please contact me!

(Web Sites, continued from Front Page)

One of the sites (register.com) that also registers domain names offers this "hot tip": "You don't have to settle for your second choice if you're having trouble finding an available name. Try searching for a version with another extension." This flexibility is not, however, an unmixed blessing. Some less-than-scrupulous entrepreneurs will pick up the name of a popular web site and adopt the name using a different suffix to get people into their site by mistake. For example, "whitehouse.gov," "whitehouse.edu," and "whitehouse.org" will get into the web site for the White House. However, "whitehouse.com" will get you into a directory for pornographic sites.

What steps can be taken to protect your site from opportunistic exploitation by cyber bandits? First realize that this cyber world is a frontier which attracts all kinds of bandits and opportunists and there are not a lot of legal protections available. I would recommend that a museum register its domain name as both ".org" and ".com" to make it more difficult for others to use confusingly similar names to attract your visitors to their site. If you are ".gov" or ".edu" you should consider also registering your name as ".org" and ".com". See the White House example above.

Some organizations also register their name as a U. S. trademark in international category 041 "educational and entertainment services," which would include providing seminars, classes, conferences, workshops, speakers, historical reenactments, displays, and exhibits. This will give the holder of the trademark a way of preventing another from using the same or a confusingly similar name to provide the same services. This is, however, a fairly expensive and a very time consuming process. The filing fees alone are about \$600 and the assistance of an attorney will cost at least \$900, assuming there are no problems along the way. In most situations, I would not recommend securing a trademark on your name, unless it is something catchy that others might wish to exploit, e.g., "historylink." Even if you do not have a trademark on the name, you can usually, through legal process, prevent others from using the same or a confusingly similar

name to provide the same goods or services. However, to collect damages you would have to prove intent.

Copyright is not available to protect a domain name since you cannot get a copyright on a word or combination of words.

At a time when most people were not knowledgeable about the opportunities offered by the world wide web, some entrepreneurial bandits registered the names of well-known companies as domain names with the intention of selling the names back to those companies. Panasonic, Fry's Electronics, Hertz, and Avon were victims of what has become known as "cybersquatting." In 1999, Congress passed into law the "Anti-Cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act," which defines cybersquatting as the registering of, trafficking in, or using of a domain name with the bad faith intention to profit from the goodwill of a mark belonging to someone else. The victims of cybersquatting could sue and get their domain name back and, possibly, money damages and attorney's fees. The difficulty with the law is that to recover damages you must prove bad faith, which may be difficult to do. You must also prove that your mark was distinctive at the time the domain name was first registered, that the domain name is the same or confusingly similar to your mark, and that your mark qualifies for protection under federal trademark laws—that is, you were the first to use the mark in commerce. Litigation in federal court can be very expensive. It may indeed be more economical to settle with the cybersquatter. In a trial you may be able to recover your costs, but this is up to the court.

A similar practice goes on today. There are entrepreneurial pirates who anticipate upcoming celebrations or events and secure domain names using the name of the event, names of historic persons connected with the event, and any catchy phrases or slogans that might be used in the event. The commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, which started this year, provides a good example. There is one entrepreneur who purchased over a hundred domain names, using names or phrases that would be associated with

the commemoration of the event, and offered them for sale. On learning of planned promotional campaigns, he would use phrases that were being considered as part of a public relations campaign and buy domain names using those phrases. None of this activity is illegal. There are two lessons here. One is register your possible domain names early (you can always abandon some later), and two is do not leak any information about your public relations plans.

Tax Considerations

With all the web activity going on you can be certain that this has attracted the attention of the Internal Revenue Service. I have been told, by a reliable source, that the IRS employees are surfing the net looking for indications of unrelated business activity on the part of tax exempt organizations. An organization otherwise exempt from federal income tax is subject to tax on its unrelated business taxable income. (Internal Revenue Code, § 511). The IRS has indicated that the use by exempt organizations of the internet to accomplish some of its objectives does not alter the way the tax laws are applied. However, the options and interactions made possible by the internet do not always fit into existing regulatory categories.¹

On October 16, 2002, the IRS gave notice that it is "considering the necessity of issuing guidance that would clarify the application of the Internal Revenue Code to use of the internet by tax exempt organizations." The IRS received 4000 to 5000 comments in response to its request. The matter is still under evaluation. The only guidance so far received is, first, that the exempt organization may use electronic mail to satisfy the requirement that written acknowledgment be provided to the donor for all gifts over \$250 (IRS Code § 170(f)(8) and § 6115),² and, second, that an exempt organization's providing a sponsor's web site address in the form of a hyperlink will not constitute a "substantial return benefit." (Treas. Reg. § 1.513-4(f), Example 1) If a sponsor does receive a "substantial return benefit" for its sponsorship donation, such donation would

(continued on next page)

WMA Annual Conference, June 18-20, 2003, **“RISKY BUSINESS—Adventuring Outside the Box”** Planning Includes Education, Problem Solving, and Fun!

Staff at the MAC (Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture) is actively planning your visit to Spokane for the 2003 WMA conference, June 18-20, titled “RISKY BUSINESS—Adventuring Outside the Box.” Here are a few highlights:

On Wednesday, June 18, the MAC is negotiating a pre-conference workshop: “From Buttonhooks to Nintendo: Adventures in Collecting and Preserving the Past and Recent Past.”

The conference opens on Wednes-

day evening with a downtown Spokane “immersion” event, coordinated around the MAC’s Art @ Work gallery and Riverfront Park’s carousel. The event offers informal opportunities to mingle with friends and staff of several Spokane museums; to meet “Lewis & Clark” at the IMAX; to enjoy ice cream sundaes and rides on the restored Nat Park carousel; and, if your stamina allows, to spend the late evening on a “pub crawl.”

Conference sessions start Thursday morning, June 19, in the Early Bird Room of the freshly restored 1914 Davenport Hotel. A special inspirational speaker at lunch is guaranteed to lift your spirits to the ceiling. Don’t miss the breakout sessions, lunch, and tours that provide more glimpses of this grand hotel. (There are also special incentives for WMA members who book early at the Davenport Hotel’s reduced WMA rate!)

On Thursday evening, the WMA takes over the MAC! Enjoy regional foods and drinks within the warm glass-and-

wood atmosphere of the new Museum, desserts in the restored 1898 Campbell House, entertainment, behind-the-scenes tours, and leisurely time for visiting and wandering the park-like setting of the Museum and Campbell House.

The conference concludes at the MAC on Friday, June 20, with a variety of inspiring sessions presented by museums, tribes, artists, historians, and community members. The conference “box” theme appears once again at the WMA auction and lunch.

Special WMA rates are available at the historic Davenport Hotel, designed by architect Kirtland Cutter. This is a special opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of one of the nation’s most elegant and meticulously restored hotels which in the past hosted Presidents, celebrities, and just “plain folks.” PLEASE PLAN TO BOOK EARLY ...there are several other conferences occurring in Spokane at the same time.

(...donations, continued from page 4)

be taxable to the exempt organization as unrelated business income.

Verification of Eligible Recipients:

It is now easier for prospective donors to find out if their donation to a particular recipient is deductible from their (the donors’) income tax as a charitable contribution under § 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Publication 78, “Cumulative List of Organizations Described in Section 170© of the Code,” is now available online at: www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/businfor/eo/search.htm. Substantial information about prospective donees can be found at sites such as www.guidestar.org/

I have, regrettably, run out my allotted space. Next time I will discuss the unrelated business income tax in relation to the internet.

¹ For example, Charles P. Barrett, IRS Tax, IRS Tax-exempt/Government Entities Division said in Washington, D.C. on April 24, 2002, at Georgetown University Law Center’s annual program, Representing and Managing Tax Exempt Organizations, “Saying we are going to apply the same rules and making it happen are two different things.”

² A detailed discussion of this topic and model acknowledgments can be found in the Museum Messenger for Winter 1995, Volume 6, Number 4, “Exceeding the Value.”

Update on Washington Territorial Census Project

Thanks to all of you, especially the volunteers who have signed up to index Washington’s territorial county censuses. Since October 2002, the Secretary of State’s Office has made great strides with the posting of seven county censuses and two county naturalization indexes on our website. About ten more censuses are completed and will be posted soon. The website is <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/history/search.aspx>.

Please check our site regularly to see if a census from your county has been posted. By July 2003 we will have images available from all the censuses in the Washington State Archives. I would appreciate any feedback regarding our site since it was designed in part to serve genealogists and family historians.

Your amazing energy is also allowing us to expand the project to include naturalization records too. The Grant County Genealogical Society completed

the first naturalization index and several more naturalization indexes will be posted soon.

The Speaker’s Bureau list is also available on-line. If your group is interested in hosting a speaker on territorial history, I encourage you to consult this list which will be updated regularly. Marlys Rudeen from the Washington State Library is also creating a presentation to promote the Territorial Census project and the genealogical resources the library offers. If your society is interested a presentation, please call Marlys at (360) 704-7132 or mrudeen@secstate.wa.gov

Again, I want to thank everyone who has contributed on this project. Together we are preserving Washington’s valuable legal and historical records for future generations.

—State Archivist Jerry Handfield

Changes to the WMA Awards and Scholarship Program for 2003

By Lisa Hill-Festa Chair, WMA Awards and Scholarship Committee

At a meeting of representatives from the WMA Executive Committee and the WMA Awards and Scholarship Committee in December, it was decided to make several changes to the scholarship and awards program. This is mainly due to the fact that the 2003 scholarship program will be partially underwritten by a generous and much-appreciated monetary donation from Artech Fine Arts Services in Seattle. Also, the WMA Silent Auction has been raising more money than ever before to support the program. Therefore, the additional funding has allowed the WMA to provide more benefits for 2003 scholarship recipients. It is important to note though, that the financial commitment for scholarships is subject to review every year.

Scholarships

Although only three scholarships will be offered, each scholarship will provide greater benefits to the recipient. An individual need not be a WMA member to apply for and receive a scholarship. A scholarship recipient must attend the WMA annual conference to receive the stipend. Also, each scholarship recipient is required to write about his or her experience at the conference or to write about a session he or she attended. The article will be published in a future Museum Messenger newsletter. See the sidebar for details of the three scholarships available.

Awards of Excellence

By presenting several Awards of Excellence each year, the Washington Museum Association recognizes the outstanding achievements of museums, heritage organizations, and individuals. To be eligible, the nominee must have exhibited the ability to set standards of leadership through outstanding service, established precedent, fulfilled mission and purpose, showed marked improvement, and provided an extended level of service to the community served. One small change has taken place with the

awards. Awards are given in four categories per two annual organizational budget sizes—"less than \$150,000.00" and "\$150,000.01 or more"—to better reflect current museum budgets. See sidebar for details of the Awards of Excellence.

A change has taken place with the Board Award of Excellence. Only the WMA Board of Trustees can nominate and choose to award an institution, project, or individual with the distinguished WMA Board Award of Excellence. The Board has the sole responsibility and discretion to issue this award or multiple awards each year. Nominations for the Board Award will no longer be accepted from the general WMA membership or from the Awards and Scholarship Committee.

Nominate, Nominate, Nominate!

It is the hope of the WMA Board and of the Awards and Scholarship Committee that everyone will keep their eyes and ears open for exhibits, projects, programs, publications, and individuals who you feel are outstanding in the museum and heritage field in Washington State—and to please nominate them! Also, please help spread the word about the Awards and Scholarships! The recipients of the 2003 WMA Conference Scholarships and the WMA Awards of Excellence will be honored during the conference at a special awards and scholarship ceremony. The 2003 conference will be held at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture in Spokane, June 18-20, 2003.

A nomination form for the Awards of Excellence and an application for the 2003 scholarships are included in this issue of *Museum Messenger*. The forms are available as well through Lisa Hill-Festa at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, telephone: 206-789-5707. All applications and nominations must be sent to the Nordic Heritage Museum and be postmarked by March 31, 2003. The address and further information are included on each form.

Three Scholarships Available for 2003 WMA Conference

Ellen Ferguson Student Scholarship

Eligibility: The applicant must be a current student in a college or university pursuing training in the museum or heritage fields or having a sincere interest in those fields.

Application Requirements: The applicant must explain:

- current status as a student
- interest in the museum or heritage field
- desire to attend the conference
- need for a scholarship

Award: The scholarship grants to the recipient:

- a \$200.00 stipend
- fully paid conference registration including all meals and events associated with conference registration
- a one-year complimentary membership in the Washington Museum Association

Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship

Eligibility: The applicant must be a volunteer in any position at a museum of any size.

Application Requirements: The applicant must explain:

- the volunteer position within the institution
- desire to attend the conference
- reasons for desiring a scholarship

Award: The scholarship grants to the recipient:

- a \$200.00 stipend
- fully paid conference registration including all meals and events associated with conference registration
- a one-year complimentary membership in the Washington Museum Association

WMA Working Professional Scholarship

This completely new scholarship is tailored for a professional working in a museum who would not be able to attend the conference because of financial constraints.

Eligibility: The applicant must be a working professional on any level, in a museum of any size.

Application Requirements: The applicant must explain:

- current status as a working professional
- reasons for attending the conference
- reasons for desiring a scholarship

Award: The scholarship grants to the recipient:

- a \$200.00 stipend
- fully paid conference registration including all meals and events associated with conference registration
- a one-year complementary Washington Museum Association membership

Awards of Excellence Categories

The current award year runs from January through December 2002.

Exhibits — new, temporary, traveling, or permanent

Projects — including educational, collections management, public programming, web site, etc.

Individuals — who have provided significant contributions to an institution or to the museum profession

Publications — including posters, newsletters, catalogs, exhibit invitations, books, films, videos, etc.

Process Benchmarking for Museums

A Technical Leaflet by Barbara Moe,

Curator at the Naval Undersea Museum and WMA Board Member, has just been Published in the Winter 2003 Issue of *History News*.

Titled "Process Benchmarking for Museums," the Technical Leaflet guides the reader through the benchmarking process as a means to identify ways of operating more efficiently or effectively by incorporating the use of best practices exhibited by other organizations, both for-profits and not-for-profits. It involves sharing information between organizations on practices, procedures, and performance. Benchmarking is an organization development intervention primarily used by for-profit organizations as a method to improve processes. To benchmark a service or process is to designate it as a standard against which to measure your own service or process. These standards are visible in highly successful organizations and are part of what makes them successful—they are doing some things extremely well.

As museum professionals, we have

used informal benchmarking for problem solving for years as we share better methods of doing our jobs. Conferences and workshops are full of helpful ideas to incorporate. This article presents help for museum managers to better understand this important tool. It has intended to move understanding of the process from a casual use and application of benchmarking principles, or sharing of information and techniques, to a more defined, systematic methodology for the deliberate planning for change.

The six descriptive working steps discussed here move the reader from mythology to methodology, providing a way for museum professionals to swap ideas that really work into a formal, systematic process for copying the best of class.

This is the second Technical Leaf-



Barbara Moe with *History News*.

let authored by Ms. Moe. "Explosive Ordnance Safety: The Boom in the Back" appeared in *History News*, Spring 1998. *History News* is a national publication distributed to museum professionals. All technical leaflets, past and present, are available for purchase as part of the American Association for State and Local History technical support library.

Grants Available

April 3, 2003 is the deadline for Preservation Assistance Grants, through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) — 202-606-8570, preservation@neh.gov or www.neh.gov.

CAP Grants — IMLS wants to get the word out that non-competitive funds are still available for up to \$7,890 in Conservation Assessment Program grants, to be used to hire a consultant to assess your conservation needs. Please contact Heritage Preservation at 202-634-1422 or 888-388-6789 or khoffman@heritagepreservation.org for an application. Or you can download an application at www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/-CAPAPPPG.HTM. An article on a former CAP museum, The Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository, can be read at www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/-capmusm.htm.

National Preservation Institute 2003 Catalogue Available

The National Preservation Institute has made available a catalogue of the over 30 2003 seminars in historical and cultural resource management.

Of particular interest to Washington State organizations are four new seminars on laws and regulations that cover the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); compliance for non-specialists under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; regulatory requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966. The latter relates to projects funded or approved by a U.S. DOT agency that proposes the use of historic property or land from a publicly owned park, recreation area, or refuge.

Free online tools for cultural resource managers to use in training and reference are available at www.npi.org, including tools for preparing agreements under Section 106 of the National Environmental Policy Act, such as model language and standard stipulations for Memoranda of Agreement.

For further information contact the National Preservation Institute at (703) 765-0100, info@npi.com, or www.npi.org.

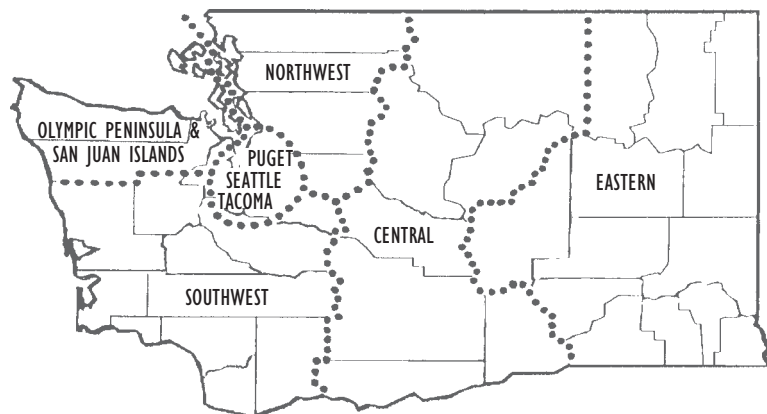
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REGIONAL MEMBER NEWS



PUGET SOUND/SEATTLE-TACOMA METRO REGION

Bellevue Art Museum will have its own NEST, an ongoing project featuring site-specific domestic environments and/or surroundings by local artists. Every two months selected artists will be given the task of reconfiguring the former Museum library space into their ideal living environment that incorporates art, sound and multiple aspects of design into an interactive visitor experience. Bellevue Art Museum is located at 510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. Admission is free on the third Thursday and the last Saturday of each month. For more information call 425/519-0770.



The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture is concentrating on cooperative efforts showcasing Native Americans during 2003. A major exhibit, *Out of the Silence: The Enduring Power of the Totem Poles* will trace the history of the poles since 1778. Dr. George MacDonald, director and curator, has brought the Burke collection of poles out of storage for this event, which will close Sept. 1, 2003. Denis Martynowych is the new Associate Director of the Burke Museum. He has been Director of Facilities and Planning for the UW College of Arts and Sciences for nine years. Congratulations are also in order for Robin K. Wright, Curator of Native American Art, who received a Washing-

ton State Book Award for *Northern Haida Master Carvers*, UW Press. Hers was one of 10 books selected from a pool of 400 published by Washington authors. Information on the Burke is available at 206/543-5590 or www.burkemuseum.org. The Museum is located on the University of Washington campus.



The Center for Wooden Boats is offering free publicity in their 2004 calendar for organizations planning a wooden boat event that year. Contact Dick Wagner at dick@cwbo.org or 206/382-2628 with the date and details.

The Daybreak Star Arts Center is presenting an exhibition *Duwamish: The Spirit Returns The Past to the Present* to celebrate the 2002 Duwamish Canoe Paddle. The exhibition is made possible by the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. The Center is located at Discovery Park in Seattle. For information call 206/285-4425.

The Fort Lewis Military Museum has completed major repairs, including a lift installed to the Army Family Gallery and restoration of the front porch. For information write to: The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum, P.O. Box 331001, Fort Lewis, WA 98433-1001.



The Frye Art Museum in Seattle will present a retrospective *In Line with*

Al Hirschfeld, which will run Feb. 1-April 20 in the exhibition galleries. Educational workshops are available by calling the education department at 206/622-9250. Executive director Richard V. West announced that the Ann Jespersen Internship Fund has been established to remember Jespersen, the museum's collection manager who passed away last fall. Donations may be made to the fund in care of the Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Ave., Seattle, WA 98104. Phone 206/622-9250 or visit the website www.fryeart.org for information on hours and exhibits. Museum admission is free.



The Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society & Museum is excited about 2003, which promises to be an exciting year. Thanks to last year's Washington State grant, their ship, *Shenandoah*, is out of the water and on dry ground, according to Executive Director Chris Erlich. You may write to the museum at P.O. Box 744, Gig Harbor, WA 98335-0744 or email www.gigharbormuseum.org.

Historic Seattle has announced its 2003 educational programs on architecture and the design arts, which engage citizens in discussions about the importance of historic preservation. On March 4 Jeffery Oschsner will present "Making the New Metropolitan Center: Building & Design After the Great Fire." Dennis Anderson will outline the initial architectural development of Seattle's neighborhoods and single-family homes. A book-signing by the co-authors will follow the event. The group's Sixth Annual Bungalow & Craftsman Home Fair will be held September 27 at the Seattle Town Hall. This event is extremely popular, and reservations are now being taken. For further information contact Historic Seattle at 206/622-6952 or at www.Historicseattle.org.

The Museum of History and Industry in Seattle has received a generous grant from the Breneman-Jaech Foundation to upgrade recording equipment and acquire digital audio recorders, a digital camera, lights and

microphones, a deck to transfer mini-DVs to VHS tape, a TV/VCR, and the training to use it all. This is a boon to their on-going *Speaking of Seattle*, the oral history project that provides transcribed information through the Sophie Frye Research Library. This volunteer project has produced a 10-minute video narrated by Paul Dorpat that overviews 2002's work. For information on the oral history project contact Dr. Lorraine McConaghy at 206/324-1126, ex23 or lorraine.mccinaghy@seattlehistory.org. The Institute of Museum and Library Services recently awarded the museum a prestigious General Operating Support grant that will supply \$50,000 of unrestricted operating support for 2003. They were one of two Washington museums to receive the award. For more information contact information@seattlehistory.org.



The Naval Undersea Museum's library in Keyport is on the downward side of its mountain-

ous task of reorganizing holdings. While entering each book into the new catalog system, the library's mission was redefined—some of the books were relocated to organizations where they can better serve the public. This has allowed the museum to collect some rare books that directly pertain to their mission. Bill Galvani and Barbara Moe attended the NHSA Annual meeting in Buffalo, N.Y., where Bill was elected president of the NHSA. He was also awarded the Casper J. Knight Jr. Award, a national award for his significant contributions over time to the organization. The Museum is located at 610 Dowell Street, Keyport, WA 98345. Its phone is 360/396-4148.



The Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard is hosting the touring exhibit *Full Circle: First Contact* until

May 25, 2003. It portrays the first contact between Viking and Native Americans 1,000 years ago, 500 years before Columbus landed in America. Information is available at 206/789-5707, by email nordic@intelistep.com or at the www.nordicmuseum.com.

The Pacific Science Center is celebrating the Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Bicentennial Anniversary by traveling back in time 200 years in the IMAX presentation *Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West*. The presentation will be held until May 11, 2003. Call 206/443-3611 or visit www.pacsci.org.

Seattle Art Museum has been selected as one of only eight venues to display the famed Landowne portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart. Traveling along with this quintessential American image of the first president are five text panels. The exhibit *George Washington: A National Treasure* will be displayed Mar. 21 through July 30, 2003. SAM also offers seasonal free public tours led by qualified docents, at all of their venues. Tours last 45 minutes to one-hour. Sign language interpretation is available upon request with two weeks notice. For tour information call 206/654-3123. For SAM information contact P.O. Box 22000, Seattle, WA 98122-9700 or phone 206/625-8900.



The new Tacoma Art Museum

will open May 3, 2003 with three primary exhibits in four galleries. The spacious galleries—the largest with 4,200 square feet and a 35-foot ceiling—have windows keyed to Tacoma's industrial landscapes. Architect Antonie Predock designed the new museum. To see the latest developments visit the Tacoma Art Museum website at www.TacomaArtMuseum.org.

NORTHWEST



The Museum of Northwest Art (MoNA)

is exhibiting *Commentary on Nature and the Indy 500* by the husband and wife team of Johanna Nitzke and Richard Marquis until April 6. Johanna's collections of nostalgia are nestled in vintage boxes and frames, altogether fashioning a garden through which the viewer may wander. Richard, often connected to "California Funk Art" brings an amused and

sentimental touch to model cars built by young boys. MoNA at LaConner may be accessed through their website at www.museumofnwart.org or by phoning 360/466-4446.



The Skagit County Historical Museum is pleased to have been a partner in the "Oral History of the Skagit River" component of the

Earthwatch Institute's extensive Skagit County conservation research project. Knowledgeable Earthwatch volunteers from across the USA worked at the Museum throughout this past summer digitizing and inputting information into a user-friendly data base under the direction of Librarian Mari Anderson Densmore.

Snohomish County Planning & Development Services has begun an ambitious program through its Historic Preservation Commission. The agenda includes encouraging voluntary preservation of historic properties in the county through educational outreach, the creation of a Local Register of Historic Places, and the tax-saving certification of qualified rehabilitation projects through special valuation. All of these benefits are due top the Snohomish County Council's unanimous passage of the Historic Preservation Ordinance last April. Complete text of the ordinance is available at www.co.snohomish.wa.us/pds/910-historic/hpordfinal.pdf. The Snohomish county Planning Services may be contacted at 425/388-3311, ext. 2372.

SOUTHWEST

The North Clark County Historical Museum at Amboy has installed 40 fold-out panels that provide information on geology, Native American culture, and history. The museum compiled a territorial history of their area as a part of the commemoration 1853 to 1889 when Washington was declared the 42nd state. Sources were documented from their archival

collection and are available on the Sesquicentennial Commission website at www.secstate.wa.gov. Cheryle and Char Easter of Amboy have co-directed, photographed, written and produced a documentary that includes local loggers "in transition." For more information, check their website at automeka.com/logger or contact the museum at 360/247-5800.

The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum's newly restored Seattle, Spokane & Portland engine is ready for viewing. To augment the visitor's understanding, an "N-Gauge" railroad depicting the Gorge on the north bank of the Columbia River from Cape Horn to Stevenson is also complete—right down to Beacon Rock. Volunteers spent over 1,200 hours on the exhibit. The Center, the City of Stevenson, and the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce have received a grant from the Columbia River Gorge Economic Development Fund to install 28 historic streetlights along the Stevenson's five block retail area. To learn more contact either 509/427-8911 or 1-800/989-9178 or the Center at 509/427-8211, www.columbiagorge.org or email info@columbiagorge.org.

Pacific County Historical Society is spending the winter cataloguing a plethora of new donated artifacts. With such contributions, a new museum is needed, and plans for a new structure are also part of the Society's work. The museum is helping a Japanese author who is writing a book on the first Japanese in America, who were marooned on the Washington Coast in 1833, by searching for ceramic pieces that may have been left behind. Although the shipwrecked sailors ended up at Neah Bay, they were rescued by soldiers from Fort Vancouver, which increases speculation that such china may have survived in southwest Washington. For information on this project and other Museum events, contact 360/875-5224 or visit www.pacificcohistory.org.



Pomeroy Living History Farm will hold its 23rd annual Herb Festival May 17-18 at the Farm at 20902 NE Lucia Falls Road in Yacolt. The greatly anticipated Herb Festival is a fundraiser in support of the educational programs. Free admission and parking. For information, email pomeroy@pacifier.com.

The Lake Quinalt Museum, located in the former US Forest Service building on the South Shore Road near the Quinalt Lodge, has outgrown its space and will soon be moving to larger quarters. The Museum that opened last summer is used by the school system as part of their classroom work.

It focuses on the history of the rain-forested Quinalt Valley of northern Grays Harbor County.

The Ocean Shores Interpretive Center has begun a program of Learning Boxes for Grays Harbor teachers in public, private, and home schools, thanks to a grant from the Grays Harbor Community Foundation. The beginning project involves four subjects that come with learning activities, videos, CDs of music, activities, and research information, along with cassette tapes, books, and artifacts. The Center opens for spring April 1. Information is at the website oceanshoresinterpretivecenter.com or phone 360/289-4617.



The Moclips-By-the-Sea Historical Society & Museum at Moclips held a grand opening and a park dedication in northern Grays Harbor County. They are preparing for the 2005 Centennial of the town that was once a famed Northern Pacific Railroad destination spot. A park was dedicated to Dr. Edward Lycan, former owner of two huge Moclips Hotels at the turn of the century. The new museum is located at 4658 State Route 109 in Moclips, in a facility donated by the Ocean Crest Resort. For information on the new museum visit www.moclips.org or email the Society's president, Kelly Calhoun, at barnacle@olynet.com. For information phone 360/276-4411.

The Polson Museum has many new exhibits, including a large steam donkey that used to be displayed on Highway 101 in Hoquiam, made possible by a two-day project with volunteer and business help valued at \$3,000. Thanks to the Ancient Mariners of the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority, a new sled for the existing Lidgerwood donkey upgraded the exhibit near the blacksmith shop. Last year the Polson Museum received a donation of over 500 glass plate negatives of Josiah Sterns work. Recently another 1,400 glass negatives were donated, along with a large assortment of prints. Learn more about the Polson at www.polsonmuseum.org or call 360/533-5862.

The Quinault Heritage Center has spent the winter resting up from the extremely successful "Journey 2002 Paddle to Taholah" that drew thousands of people to the Quinault Indian Nation last summer for a four-day celebration, potlatch, races and games. The Heritage Center was the scene of sewing dance capes, vests and the weaving of cedar regalia for months leading up to the event. Lalani Chubby, Museum Director, has been developing new displays of artifacts and photographs of the event. The museum is sponsoring basketweaving classes at the Taholah Community Center that are being taught by Lalani, a recognized basketmaker. The North Grays Harbor County Museum is located at the end of Highway 109 in Taholah. For further information visit the Nation's website at www.quinaultindian.nation.gov.

The Westport-South Beach Historical Society will begin their pre-summer season with all inclusive activities at the Museum and Fresnel Lens Annex to celebrate Discovery Days in conjunction with the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority. The Historical Society's latest acquisition is a Surf Rescue Boat recently donated by the US Coast Guard that has been installed on the grounds.

CENTRAL

The Central Washington Agricultural Museum at Union Gap accepts BIG donations of artifacts to their collection. Recent examples include three tractors (a TO Massie Ferguson with attachments, a John Deere MC crawler with blade, and an Allis Chalmer Model L), a John Deere wagon, a portable orchard wind machine, a 1943 Army truck, a box buggy, a scoop mobile and a Sampson windmill. It appears as though their volunteers, including members of the Antique Farm Equipment Club, have their work cut out for them, with 12 major projects now underway. The museum is located at 4508 Main Street in Union Gap. Their mailing address is Central Washington Agricultural Museum, P.O. Box 3008, Union Gap WA 98903.

Franklin County Historical Society has completed restoration of the Presbyterian Church in Connell as a museum to serve to northern part of the county. The church is included in the book *Washington State Historical Churches*. Ann Billesbach from the Nebraska State Historical Museum has been working with the Society through a grant from the American Association of Museum. She has helped survey the collection policies, procedures, and preservation methods. A new employee for the Society's office is Sherel Webb as administrative assistant to Jacque Sonderman, Director.



YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM

The Yakima Valley Museum has completed a major remodeling project and has opened three new exhibits, including the pair *Treasures from the Collections at the Washington State Historical Society* and *Treasures from Around the World at the Yakima Valley Museum*. First steps have been taken in the projected five-year development of new core exhibits on the history and culture of the Yakima Valley. John A. Baule, Director, reported that \$4,602,000 was raised, against a goal of \$3,958,000, for the

remodeling of the museum, which included new HVAC equipment, new security systems, a new roof, new electrical systems, state of the art storage spaces, and other improvements to the 65,000 square-foot facility. To find out more call 509/248-0747 or visit www.yakimavalleymuseum.org.

EASTERN

The Jundt Art Museum at the Gonzaga University will feature contemporary paintings and drawings by E.J. Krisor, of Ellensburg, WA, until April 2. The free exhibit is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For more information call Paul Brekke, assistant curator at 509/323-6613. For Docent Tour arrangements call 509/323-6611.



The Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (MAC) in Spokane is proud of Jochen Wierich, the new Curator of Art, who has been published in the Spring 2003 issue of *Winterthur Portfolio*, a journal of American material culture. Titled "War Spirit at Home: Lilly Martin Spencer, Domestic Painting, and Artistic Hierachy," Wierich's 20-page article portrays a middle-class family celebrating a momentous event in the Civil War; Wierich is a scholar of early American art created during the Civil War. The MAC has many events, programs, and exhibitions; information is available by phoning 509/363-5330.

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