

The Lopez Island Historical Society & Museum

P.O. Box 163 • Lopez Island, WA 98261 • lopezmuseum@rockisland.com • www.lopezmuseum.org

Newsletter

Fall 2008

The Lopez Museum was selected to be one of eight museums featured in the Washington State Rural Heritage pilot program. We collaborated with the Lopez Library

to select more than 200 photos from our collection to post on the state library's website. We also scanned several hand-written diaries and letters that tell fascinating stories about Lopez Island.



Elmer & Norman Mitchell

Here are a few of the photos you'll find in the Rural Heritage collection. There are currently about 70 images posted, and we are working to get the rest of them up before the end of the year. Go to: <http://washingtonruralheritage.org/lopez/> and click on "Lopez Island Grant Photographs Collection."



Cora Standley & Gladys Guard

Most of the photos in our collection came to the Museum through Gertrude Boede's efforts. She, with a handful of other dedicated volunteers in the 1970s and '80s gathered photos from local families, and made reproductions when the donor wanted to keep the original.

During the past few years, the Lopez community has recognized the value of this resource, and has supported the Museum's efforts to preserve and catalog these treasures. We currently have more than 2,000 images in a searchable database, and are hoping to add another 1,000 during the coming year. Collection Managers Christi Carter & Connie Kyser, have also created a set of notebooks filled with photocopies of the cataloged images



Mrs. Tralnes with her turkeys

along with each photo description. It is an easy way to browse photos of particular families or places.



Sam Wilson, George Wilson & Philip Range in a humorous photo, date unknown. The sign on the step reads "BACHELORS HALL." It is flanked by bottles of rye & bourbon.

We are available to help with your research projects year-round, and invite you to visit the museum during the winter to have a look at the photo collection. You'll learn more about the island, and maybe find a distant cousin along the way.

Message from the Board

by Holly Kent, President

Visitors ask the most interesting questions. "What is the highest point on Lopez?" If you answered "Lopez Hill at 553 feet," without even thinking, then you could be a Lopez museum docent. Other frequent questions include: "How did Lopez get its name?" (...for Gonzalo Lopez de Haro, an explorer in 1790. The British renamed the island "Chauncey's" in 1841, but it went back to Lopez in 1847.) "When was Lopez settled?" (Samish & Lummi have been on Lopez for thousands of years. Hiram Hutchinson was the first white settler around 1850.) "Why did people settle on Lopez?" Mostly for the same reasons people settle here today—their dream of a better life.

It was great fun interacting with visitors this past summer. I loved

the two young women from Scotland who were fascinated by Scotty MacLeod's kilt and clothing ensemble worn by one of our mannequins. They had never seen such a long horsehair sporran. (You'll have to come in to see what a sporran is.) Mary (MacLeod) Harris, Scotty's daughter, recently donated Scotty's cap and "Hold Fast" pin to complete the outfit.



Scotty MacLeod

By taking the time to come to the museum, visitors show us they want to know more about Lopez Island history. I have lived here only a short time, but even I feel a certain amount of pride when I talk to folks about how the Lopez community has gathered and protected its history. My guess is that most of you share that pride. Please continue to support your history museum..

LIHS News

by Mark Thompson-Klein, Museum Director

We try to come up with something new and different each year. You may know that we have designed and fabricated a new exhibit each year for the past 5 years. We do this so that you have the opportunity to learn more about Lopez Island's colorful past, and also so that your visitors have the chance to see what makes Lopez the unique place it is.



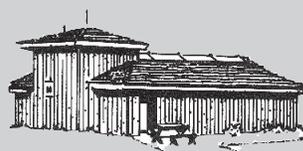
Mother Brown with daughter Mary Jane from our 2006, After Hutch exhibit

Our newest project stretches our education mission. Ellin Evans and Laurie Latta are developing a Lopez history curriculum that will benefit Lopez students. They are working to gather relevant material that meets state education standards. We hope

to expand the curriculum to create a Lopez history book filled with great photos and accounts of all the colorful men and women who have made Lopez what it is. Once the curriculum project is complete, Laurie

and Ellin will move on to a couple of other unique family-oriented projects—details will be in our Spring, 2009 newsletter.

The *Sally J* is getting a fresh coat of paint. This beautiful boat seems to invite former, and current, fishers to share stories of their experiences on the water. The *Sally J* was built for Bastion Jevick, who fished off Iceberg Point. In addition to the good news about the *Sally J*, a group of southend neighbors recently pooled their resources to restore Jevick's fishing cabin. It's encouraging to see the community's commitment to preserving the island's heritage.



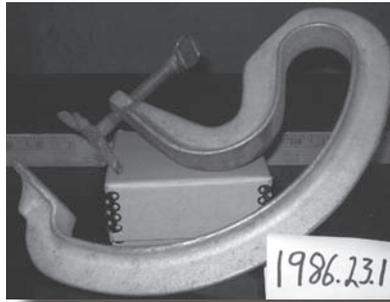
Lopez Island
Historical
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& Museum

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Collection Managers:	
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The Collection: Photos & Artifacts

Connie Kyser began organizing and cataloging our artifact collection earlier this year. Gertrude Boede collected many of these items, and kept a detailed hand-written account of each. Connie's job is to identify each item, assess its condition, mitigate any problems, pack the object in an appropriate container, create a catalog record with photo, and store the item in appropriate place. She has cataloged nearly 300 items so far, and will continue her work throughout the winter. The aluminum clamp pictured here was donated by Clark & Phyllis Lovejoy in 1986. Send us a note if you know how the clamp was used.



It's a clamp—any idea what it was designed to hold?

Christi Carter has been cataloging our photo collection—more than 2,000 prints, negatives and slides so far. This involves many of the same steps as the artifact process:

identify, assess, mitigate problems, store in an appropriate way. We estimate there are still 4-6,000 photos yet to catalog.

Scanned images represent a new challenge. We have received more than 1,000 scans in the past couple of years—we have preserved them in several different formats (disc, 2 hard drives) but haven't worked out a way to make them accessible. We welcome your ideas.

Please let us know if you have any Lopez photos or artifacts you would like to donate to the museum.

Please consider giving your children, grandchildren, favorite uncle or aunt a gift membership to LIHS.

It's a great way to keep your loved ones in touch with Lopez.

Please enclose \$25 for each (tax-deductible) Gift Membership

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

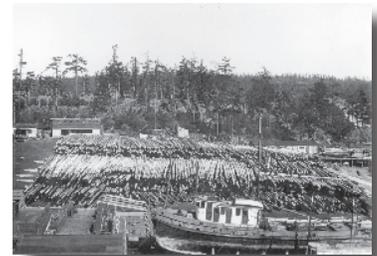
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Barlow Bay 1



Richardson Fishing Season



Barlow Bay 2

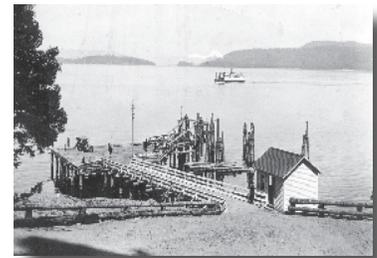


Winter in Lopez Village

You may order Historic Lopez notecards by calling the museum.

*Prices are \$7.50 for a 4-pack;
\$18.50 for a 10-pack.*

We have a great selection of photos to choose from.



Lopez Ferry Landing c. 1925

Your Museum in Winter

The door may be closed, but the Lopez Museum is still an active place.

We keep the current exhibit on display until after the first of the year to accommodate school groups and non-summer visitors. Please call if you would like another look at *Settling Lopez*.



Mud Bay School, 1937

Front row: Al Lovejoy, Dale Dwight, Bruce Kilpatrick, Billy Bosh, Darold Harmon (SP?), Billy Gaddis. 2nd row - Donna Graham, Esther Schroeder, Charlotte Orcutt, Lanita Davies, Pat Lynn, Eileen Dwight, Joan McLeod. Back row: Louie Schroeder, Duane Weeks, Ed Norman, George Higgins, Billy Burt, Pete Nielson, Teacher: Mrs. Engle

We are also available to help with your research projects. Looking for information on Lopez settler families, your own homestead, or any other Lopez Island topic? The LIHS photo catalog has expanded to include more than 2,100 images. We can search the

catalog for people, places and things. Our Collection Managers, Christi Carter and Connie Kyser will continue to add to the catalog throughout 2008.



Port Stanley School

We print archival quality photos from our collection year-round. Photos for personal research cost only \$10 for an 8 x 10. We can print up to 12 x 18, and also create note cards from any image in the collection.

The Port Stanley School is available to rent year-round. We have seen everything from art shows to dance classes, to reunions and weddings at PSS. It's a warm and inviting setting—described by Lopez caterer (and LIHS trustee), Kim Bast, as "quintessential Lopez." What's next? Two of our trustees, Laurie Latta & Ellin Evans are developing a local history curriculum for Lopez School students—a project we hope will be the seed for a Lopez history book.

Nearly all our funding comes from within the Lopez community. We are grateful for your support.

Please support the Lopez Island Historical Society to help collect, preserve, interpret, and share local history.

Memberships and donations are fully tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

- Individual \$15 + Family \$25 + Business \$50 +
 Sponsor \$100 + Benefactor \$1,000 +

Name _____ Phone _____

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The Lopez Island Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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