Sunday, February 8, 2015 was a fun day in Naselle where Your Pacific County Historical Society held its annual meeting following the Deep River Ladies Auxiliary smorgasbord.

The program started with a short business meeting with President Steve Rogers giving a brief update of Society activities and introducing board members before conducting an election of officers.

When, at the last moment, our scheduled speaker was unable to attend, President Steve Rogers masterfully stepped up to the plate and gave a very interesting photo presentation on historical South Bend buildings including the original construction and the 100-year anniversary and renovation of the Pacific County Courthouse.

Steve has gathered an impressive collection of old photos as well as many stories of Pacific County’s people and places which he wove together into an entertaining presentation.

After completing his slideshow Steve answered a variety of questions from the audience.

Volunteers Make It Happen

Your museum could not exist without volunteers.

As a token of our appreciation we hold a volunteer breakfast each year. The photo below was taken at the June 19, 2014 breakfast at the Barge. Thanks to one and all.

What’s Happening?

Things have been quite busy with Your Pacific County Historical Society in the past year. In June we held our annual volunteer appreciation breakfast at the Barge—See Page 1. August found us at the Fair where our booth earned first place. We held a open house and reception for Jean Shaudys in October in recognition of her gift of Vince’s collection of model farm equipment to the museum. In October we recognized Jan and Richard Wilson for the loan of their beautiful oyster plates that are on display in our lobby. December brought Sydney Stevens for a book signing for her Ghost Stories of the Long Beach Peninsula.

And, finally, in February, Bill Lindstrom treated us with his presence at a book signing for his historical novel Villain or Victim, a story about John Tor-now. We continue to work through our storage issues and have made great progress on the challenges of sorting, cleaning, and organizing.

Steve Rogers

Book Notes

Just a reminder that your museum has a well-stocked bookstore full of local, county, and state history as well as books on indigenous plants, birds, and animals. We have everything from cookbooks to coloring books as well as locally produced smoked oysters and soap.

One of our more recent books is Soldiers in the Woods, about the Spruce Division:

In late 1917, shortly after the United States entered World War One, the U.S. Army established the Spruce Production Division as a means of obtaining, as quickly as possible, enormous quantities of Sitka spruce airplane-grade lumber for our European allies as well as our fledgling U.S. Air Service. In about one year, the Division was supplying tens of millions of board feet of lumber per month.

Soldiers in the Woods is the story of the Division’s Pacific Northwest operations, which virtually took over the Northwest lumber industry, built 13 logging railroads, three large sawmills, and put some 30,000 soldiers to work in the woods and mills. This 328-page hardbound volume is packed with 300 rare photographs, illustrations, and maps.

Your Pacific County Historical Society, is a non-profit 501 (C)(3) organization located at 1008 Robert Bush Drive PO Box P, South Bend, WA 98586.

President: Steve Rogers
Vice-President: Don Corcoran
Treasurer: Christy Marrs
Secretary: Patricia Neve

Directors
Stuart Freese, Sue Pattillo, Senja Edwards, Marshall Tate, Bunny Williams, Buck Smith

Museum Manager/Newsletter Editor: Patricia Neve

www.pacificcohistory.org
museum@willapabay.org

Follow us on Facebook

Pacific County Historical Society
NEW MEMBERS (3/23/15)

Leonard Bennett
Ida Blacketer
Vic Boekelman
Kay Booth
Kristi Butler
Joe Camenzind
Fred & Jackie Dracobly
Rich & Judi Ellingwood
Deward & Joyce Evans
Sandy Golden
Dave Habersetzer
Sheryl & LeRoy Harris
Jeffrey & Kay Hasu
Ron & Ginny Hatfield
John & Lois Karnas
Don & Val Kinney
Dale Little
Margaret Payne
Gail Pratt-Shea
Paul Stephens
Dick Stephens
Roy Stephens
Jason Wiss

DONATIONS (3/23/15)

Dorothy Antilla
Edwin & Helene Beck
Fred & Jan Kulczycki
Elizabeth Bottemiller
Patrick & Teresa Brame
Antoinette Brown
Richard & Sarah Bullard
David & Judith Burleson
Kristi Butler
Clarence Campbell
Helen Campbell
Harold & Loleita Case
Millie Clements
Gene & Alice Clements
Anna Clevenger
Evelyne Coburn
Calvin & Mary Coie
Christine Cottrell
Stewart Crook
Lee & Melinda Crowley
Bud & Jean Cuffel
Curt & Leona Cunningham
Donna Daly
Barbara & Robert Danielson
Phil Davis
Randy Dennis
Gary & Celeia Dennis
Fred Dracobly
Mary & Galen Ellingson
Glenn & Helen Everitt

Arthur Floetke
Dorwin & Delores Fosse
Stuart & Donna Freese
Walter & Karen Green
Gloria Gerwig
Sallie Gillies
Joseph & Patricia Girard
Luwanna Graham
Donald & Joann Graves
Gretchen & Karl Gunderson
Mac & Carol Guscott
Bob & Nancy Hall
Eloise Hanable
Barbara Hart
Phillip & Clara Hawks
Bonnie & Eric Hayford
Frederick & Margaret Hazeltine
Peter Heckes
Dorothy Hill
James Hillery
Karl & Larry Hofer
Elizabeth Holm
Jennifer & Johathan Holm-Hamel
Larry & Yvonne Howell
Adolph & Geraldine Huber
Donald Inglin
G. A. Jacobson
Karen & Robert Johnson
Eileen Keller
Brian & Roberta Kilgore
Benjamin & Judith Klein
Cheryl Kochopulos
Fred & Jan Kulczycki
Neva & Chris Leach
Dude Little
Susan Little
Margaret Macy
Sally Malone
Anne & Karl Marlantes
Allie Mattson
John & Vickie McNamara
Ronald Meek
Richard & Sarah Mergens
Charles & Sharon Mills
Hershel Standifer
Thelma Moody
Michael Moore
Mike & Tamara Morris
Charlotte & Charles Morrison
Sandra Moser
Lois Munch
Patricia Neve
Douglas Nevitt
Donald & Neena Newman
Nancy Olson
Gerald & Virginia Pea
Ann Pederson
Joel & Elizabeth Penoyar
Frances Penttila

Billy Jo Peterson
Norris & Maureen Petit
Florence Phelps
Joanne Phillips
Pioneer Grocery
Emily Popovich
Rodney & Norma Poppe
Gerald & Barbara Porter
Powell, Seiller & co.
Guy Priest
Anita Raistakka
Charles Ratcliffe
Mary & David Raybell
Lawrence & Selma Remington
David & C.A. Retther
Steve & Denise Rogers
Antone Rohrer
Mary Lee & Chris Rose
Anne Russell
Gayle Russell
Clinton Rutherford
Terri & Dave Sandgren
Jean Shaudys
Peggy Shaules
Robert & Haldis Sholes
Frank & Diane Shuka
Orville Standifer
Hershel Standifer
Robert & Karen Steudler
John & Carolyn Steuer
Evelyn Stevens-White
Gordon Tambellini
Scott & Charlotte Taylor
Lydia Taylor
David & Sandra Tellvik
Penny Tetter
Larry & Barythe Topping
Jean Tweedie
M. Van Deren
Arlene Vessy
Joseph & James Weiberg
James & Nancy Wheaton
Rodd Wheaton
G.A. & L.L. Wiegardt
Frances Williamson
Greg & Sherrie Wonhoff
William Wuorinen

DID YOU KNOW.....
♦ We had over 700 visitors from 35 countries in 2014?
♦ We had 3,000 visitors from all 50 states in 2014?
♦ We are the only museum in a 50-mile radius that does not charge admission?
♦ Your donations keeps us open?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
If you have been looking for a great way to get involved with your community, perhaps you could consider volunteering one day a week at the Pacific County Museum in downtown South Bend. We need help at our front desk. The shifts are generally from 11-4 weekly and involve greeting visitors, answering the phone, and directing folks to restaurants and other local areas of interest.

There are historical books, magazines, and photos at your disposal and it’s a very comfortable and relaxed atmosphere.

The “job” is whatever you want it to be. Some folks prefer to be at the desk and greet visitors and others like to wade in and help with mailings, filing, cleaning, etc. Contact the museum for more information.

THE BEWILDERED OYSTER

“Oh me, Oh my, What shall I do?”
Asked the oyster of its mother.
“Yesterday I was just a girl
But since I slept, I am her brother!”

“There’s no sense in your complaining
I haven’t the time to bother;
You’re not the only changeling here
Since I have just become your father.”

———Florence M. Pratt
Bruceport

The grass is green, the flowers sweet
The loggers’ tread with careless feet,
The cables swing, the donkeys blow,
A flunky hastens to and fro.
Old Father Time the people say
Reaped the change and went his way.

On this lone spot a village stood
Close beside a sheltering wood,
There was a store, in itself a story.
Plunger, dinghy, yaw, and dory
Anchored to spend the day,
At “Wahoot-sin” on the bay.

White and Redmen gathered here,
The native oyster every year.
Mallard and curlew, some to spare,
A lonely stranger’s tempting fare.
Schooners from Frisco anchored here,
Sturdy captain and stalwart crew,
Thus the town received its name
From a craft which went a-flame.

Trouble brewed without a truce
On the schooner Robert Bruce.
The cook he boiled, he flamed, he stewed,
At the captain, crew, and food.
What did he do with curling lip?
But mutiny and cook the ship.

To save the crew, the Indians came,
And then, forsooth, they got the blame.
The guilty cook had quickly fled
They gave him up as “memaloose,” dead.
The old hull was for years, they say,
A touch of color to the bay.
For those who cherish golden dreams,
There’s golden bullion so it seems
From California’s golden soil.
An ancient trader his spoil,
Far beneath the sand and clay,
At “Wahootsin” on the bay.

The big waves wash away the shore
Where old “Gee’wheet” sings no more,
Where strangers found a welcome glow,
Only the waters ebb and flow;
Only the gulls are left to dwell;
Only “to mahn was” sighs farewell.

--Myrtle Johnson Woodcock, 1921

“Wahoot sin”--Indian name for Bruceport.
“Memaloose”--dead.
“Gee’Wheet”--Indian doctor of Bruceport.
“Ta mahn was”--An Indian superstition.

On December 11, 1861, the schooner Robert Bruce was deliberately set fire in Willapa Bay by the ship’s cook and it burned to the water line. The ship was in the Bay loading oysters to be taken to San Francisco. The crew was rescued and having lost all their belongings, they built cabins on the beach and settled in what became Bruceville, and, eventually Bruceport.

This wonderful poem by native autor Myrtle Johnson Woodcock tells the story of this edeventure. Time and tide have taken their toll and the village is no longer, but stories and history keep the history alive.

Information courtesy of historylink.com

Sou’wester On Its Way!

The latest edition of our historical magazine is in its final stages of publication. The 36-page double issue “A Sense of Place” features the history of place names in South Pacific County.
Prepared by noted author Sydney Stevens, in cooperation with the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, it will be a great read and an important historical document packed with information and photos.
Pacific County Historical Society
PO Box “P”
South Bend, WA 98586

Return Service Requested

Early Logging Scene—Mill Creek—1912 - Pacific & Eastern/Sunset Timber Company
Donor: Addie Shay  Photo: Charles Liddell - Pacific County Historical Society 12.10.80.1