



# The MUSEUM *Light*

August 2010

Edmonds - South Snohomish County Historical Society & Museum

## End of an Era

This month we bid farewell to the person who's been the driving force of the museum for the last 17 years. Our museum director Joni Sein is leaving to start a new life in North Carolina. Joni is loved and respected by all who know her and will be greatly missed by everyone at the museum and the South Snohomish County Historical Society.

Congratulations Joni on an outstanding 16 years of stewardship. We wish you bon voyage and the very best for all the new adventures that lie ahead.



*They'll be big ones to fill!!*

## Lake Ballinger, its Ladies and Lessons in Congeniality



*Members of the Lake Ballinger Ladies Club, May 23rd 1946*

We were recently paid a visit by some members of the Lake Ballinger Ladies Club, an institution spanning 88 years and only recently dissolved. Their generous donation of items from the club over the years not only opened our eyes to the secret lives of these fine upstanding ladies but also got us thinking about the lake itself. It's changed a great deal over the last 120 years and many of us may be unaware of its past. So this month we present a potted history of the area and some details About the wonderful ladies of Lake Ballinger.



*continued on page 3*

### *In this Issue:*

Bon Voyage Joni.....	front page
Lake Ballinger and its Ladies.....	front page, pp.3,4
Director's Message.....	page 2
A Moment in History.....	page 6

Research Corner.....	pages 5,8
A Blast from the Past.....	page 7
Membership News.....	page 7
Playing Card Mysteries.....	page 6

**The Edmonds - S. Sno. Co.  
Historical Society & Museum**

**Phone:** 425-774-0900

**Fax:** 425-774-6507

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 52,  
Edmonds, WA 98020

**Shipping Address:** 118 5th Ave. N.,  
Edmonds, WA 98020



**Interim Museum Director**

Andy Eccleshall, e-mail:  
edmondsmuseum118@gmail.com

**Collections' Manager**

Caitlin Kelly, e-mail:  
kellyrcaitlin@gmail.com

**Society Officers**

**President:** Fred Bell, e-mail:

Dinger.bell@verizon.net

**Vice President:** Jack Hall, e-mail:

res0kr0w@verizon.net

**Recording Secretary:**

Verna Rauscher, e-mail:

vrauscher@comcast.net

**Treasurer:** Mary VanMeter, email:

maryvm1@frontier.com

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Bertie Kvinge, e-mail:

kvingeb@aol.com

**Membership Committee:**

Darlene Newquist, Jack Hall, Bill  
Lambert

**Board of Governors**

**Through February, 2011**

Mike Wilcox, e-mail:

mandmwil@verizon.net

Darlene Newquist, e-mail:

alphywiffy@comcast.net

Pat McKee, e-mail: n/a

**Board of Governors**

**Through February, 2012**

Stan Krahn, e-mail: n/a

Johnny McGraw, e-mail:

johnnymac7777@comcast.net

Stephanie Rogerson, e-mail:

ssrogerson@hotmail.com

**Board of Governors**

**Through 2013**

David Johnson, e-mail:

Damago3@comcast.net

Bill Lambert, e-mail:

welambert@comcast.net

Laura Hall, e-mail: n/a

**Website: [www.historicedmonds.org](http://www.historicedmonds.org)**

## From President Fred Bell

There is an old saying that "all good things come to an end" and it appears our Museum will be experiencing that phenomena very shortly. Our Museum Director of sixteen years, Joni Sein, is leaving us to relocate to North Carolina. I feel fortunate to have been instrumental in choosing Joni for the Directors' position in 1994 and privileged to have observed the changes and advancement she has brought to the Museum. She will be missed.

Due to her departure and, as an interim measure, the Board of Directors have asked Andy Eccleshall to step in and fill the void created by Joni's leaving.

Andy will be in the Museum each Tuesday and Thursday and would welcome your dropping by to introduce yourself.

Fred

## From Museum Director Joni Sein

Wow! I've seen some amazing changes at the museum over the past sixteen years. Too many to list but I assure you that it has been a team effort. We have so much to be proud of! I have complete faith that we will just keep getting better.

It's time for me to take a break so I'm turning over the reins to Andy Eccleshall to introduce some new ideas. Andy has been active in the Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission for several years and has a genuine interest in Edmonds history.

I can't imagine not contributing somehow someday. We'll see where this leads to but always know that a huge part of my heart will always be with the museum.

Joni



The Museum Light is a publication of the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society whose mission is to perpetuate the memory and spirit of our pioneers; to identify and preserve historical documents, relics and incidents; and to encourage historical research, today and tomorrow.



## Lake Ballinger

As we make our way along RT 104 to or from the I5 we are presented to the north with a brief respite from the stop signals and tail lights. Lake Ballinger is a pleasant vista, lined with homes whose backs turn to the hustle and bustle in favor of a cooling view over the lake. Few of us are aware of the history of the Lake, the story behind its name or its changing appearance over time.

Originally called Lake McAlear, its 4 acre island is said to have been discovered by Ira Bartholomew in 1890 who gave it his name. Quoting The Everett News, September 16<sup>th</sup> 1893; "When Mr. Bartholomew first visited the island about four years ago he saw at once the possibilities of making of it a beautiful as well as a valuable little farm and summer resort."

Mr. Bartholomew cultivated the island with all kinds of vegetables and cut his meadow as many as four times during one season "and up to this date this season he has harvested eight tons of the finest hay." Mr. Bartholomew refused an offer of \$1,250 per acre for the island in 1893, amounting to \$5,000 and was also offered fabulous prices for building lots but refused stating that he wanted to sell the whole island when the time came to part with it.

In 1901, while fishing on the lake, Judge R. A. Ballinger had a conversation with Mrs. Julia Bartholomew. She stated that this would be their last winter on the island due to their age. Judge Ballinger pulled a \$20 gold coin from his money belt and purchased the place on the spot.

Judge R. A. Ballinger was one time Seattle Mayor, president of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition and US secretary of the Interior. He renamed the lake after his father, an officer in the Civil War.

By 1907 the shore of the lake was home to several sawmills and the lake was used as a holding pond for their logs.



Lake Ballinger 1907

The Ballinger House was constructed on piers off the island and later moved onto the land.



Ballinger House

A causeway was built from the island to the shore. Pictured is Shirley Ballinger Vaughan around 1936 standing on the wooden causeway.



Shirley Ballinger Vaughan

*Continued on page 4*





## The Lake Ballinger Ladies Club

Recently the Edmonds Museum was delighted to receive a donation from an organization which gave some insight to the area known as Lake Ballinger over the course of 88 years. The Lake Ballinger Ladies Club (originally the Lake Ballinger Community Club) was formed on March 9<sup>th</sup> 1922. The group would meet monthly during the school year, with meetings suspended over the summer months of June, July and August. Quoting from the minutes from the very first meeting; "In every community a very necessary attribute is congeniality and sociability. By such a turn of mind, Mrs. Harry Robinson debated the possibility and advisability of assembling together the Ladies of Lake Ballinger to debate the possibility of forming a club affiliation. So in the generosity of her heart, invitations were extended to each and every lady residing at Lake Ballinger, to meet with her on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at her home.

At this time, a bounteous repast was served at 12.30 o'clock and to the hostess, many compliments for its completeness was extended."

The group comprised of 22 original members and though numbers fluctuated, at times membership numbered several dozen.



The Lake Ballinger Ladies Club members May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1946.

ESSCHS is a private, non-profit organization (501 c-3) and receives no regular funding from the City or County.

We welcome your support and membership!!!



Faithful minutes were kept describing meeting venues and hostesses and co-hostesses, officers and finances. Each member would bring a "hearty sandwich" for their lunchtime gathering which became part of the refreshment table. A large salad would be provided by a designated member, as would the dessert with the hostess providing coffee or tea. After lunch the ladies would get down to the business of the day. Each member would contribute a dollar to the treasury and the funds would be disbursed for various causes.

"On several occasions the graduating high school offspring of a member was presented with a monetary contribution for college expenses at Edmonds or Shoreline Community College. In November and December, club members donated huge gift baskets for needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition to the non-perishable food items, the group would donate a twenty five dollar gift certificate from a local grocery store. The ladies also gave generous donations of toiletries and toys for Pathway for women through the YWCA of Snohomish County. Food banks in Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace also received many donations of non-perishable items from the Lake Ballinger Ladies Club.

In recent years, with ailing health and the passing of several members, numbers have declined markedly.

"With heavy hearts, those of us remaining feel the need to disband the Lake Ballinger Ladies Club as of spring 2009."

Clubs and societies such as these have played an extremely valuable roll in our community over the years, their efforts often going unsung as their goal is community service rather than notoriety for their efforts. If anyone has information about similar clubs or organizations in the area be sure to let us know so that we can continue to build the story of our community.



## Research Corner

By Kathe Hall

### Bungalows and Richard W. Sears

In 1857 India became a British colony. Hmmm, where am I going with that piece of information and what does it have to do with bungalows? Well, the average east Indian lived in a simple, one story hut called a bangala. English colonists adapted the word bangala to refer to any single story structure with a main room surrounded by other living spaces, hence the word bungalow.

The 20th Century, evolving from rural to urban, saw a tremendous growth in the middle class. The average family's income in 1910 was \$1,236, affording little buying power and making the luxury of an architect's skills out of the question. Rosemary Thornton, in her book "The House that Sears Built" writes about a family that worked, *literally* day and night, for 7 years in order to buy a house. Instant gratification was not part of their life style. A limited income? Can't afford an architect? Tired of squeezing your family into an apartment? What's a family to do?

Enter Richard W. Sears, a man who saw a need and had the brains and organizational skills



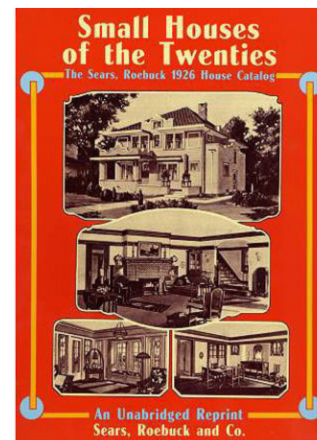
to fill that need. However, it took a number of years before Mr. Sears perfected his plan. In 1895 Sears Roebuck & Company sent out a catalogue that gave home builders the capability of ordering and buying the materials necessary to build a home for themselves. Thirteen years later they advertised a page in their catalogue offering building plans. They also had a catalogue featuring house plans and building materials. Eventually it all came together in a single package.

The building materials would be delivered by train to the nearest depot together with an elaborate 75 page instruction book. Sears claimed that a man with average building skills could build his own house in a very short space of time if he followed the directions exactly.

House costs varied with size and design upgrades. Basic prices were between \$500 and \$5,000.

The less expensive home was 500 square feet and the high end home had 1,472 square feet on the first floor with slightly less on the second.

The catalogue listed the basic price and then upgrades were added according to what you could afford. The less expensive house offered the following options: storm doors and windows, screens, front and rear steps, type of shingles and wall finishes. The higher end home had similar options but with upgrades on the wooden built-ins and exterior and interior paints.



There were a variety of heating, plumbing and electrical choices that you could order to complete your package. Can't afford a designer? No problem. The company even hired an interior designer to provide furniture arrangements for each bungalow plan.



## A moment in history

Historical notes by Doug Egan from 1975

Historical news today centers around the old Edmonds Olympic Hotel which has been demolished to make way for a modern condominium. It came down with a crash on Wednesday, October 22nd. There were no cheers from the few people watching, I believe that all felt as I did, sadness to see a grand old building going to its death. It is sad that it had deteriorated to the point where it was unfeasible to restore it.

[The hotel was built by The Minneapolis Realty and Investment Co. in 1890 and was first operated] by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Stevens. The grand opening was April 16th, 1894 and it was then known as the Stevens Hotel. It was a three story, frame building, with a turret cupola facing Puget Sound, and was considered a fine example of Victorian architecture.

During the years it had several owners, each of whom made some changes in the building. In 1908 the owner was O. W. Johnson and the name was changed to the Olympic View Hotel. He sold to Mrs. Annabelle Turner of Spokane who opened a dining room and added several improvements, including "water closets" and bath tubs. At this time the hotel had 43 rooms, all comfortably furnished.



## A Window into Edmonds Past

In 1915 J. W. Reynolds took over the Olympic Hotel, buying it at auction from Mr. & Mrs. Bacon. Mrs. Reynolds later sold it, in 1928 to J. T. Franklin. Why is this significant? Well, the museum was thrilled and exceptionally grateful to the descendents of Reynolds and Franklin, some of whom still live in Edmonds, for recently donating the diary of their Grandmother, Mrs. Reynolds. The diary consists of entries from 9/15/03 to 6/27/25, beginning in Charlevoix, Michigan and documenting the daily life of a pioneer woman, her journeys and experiences. It makes fascinating reading and makes one appreciate the struggles our forbears endured. Here's a short excerpt. There will be much more to follow in the next edition of *The Museum Light*.

*"July 1st, 1908*

*Made bread & did my ironing. Mother and I went a ways with R this morning and came back with our aprons full of Roses. Got a crate of strawberries & looked them over. Did some mending. For some reason I feel so tired when night comes."*

Thank you to John McGraw and Gloria Needham and Albert Zulauf for your generosity to the museum and the citizens of Edmonds.

## Arriving Soon!!!



Our deck of Historic Edmonds Paying Cards is nearing completion and will be available in the museum store in the coming months. This is sure to be a very popular item.

## ...and while we're on the subject, DID YOU KNOW?

It is believed that the first playing cards were planned around the calendar. With 52 cards in the deck, one for each week of the year; 4 suits, one for each season; 2 colors, one for night, one for day; and if the values of the cards are added up (presuming the jack is 11, the queen 12, the king 13 and the joker 1), they total 365.

Some historians believe the 4 suits are symbolic of the four original great classes of men, hearts representing the choir-(coeur)-men; spades representing the swordsmen; clubs representing the peasantry and diamonds representing citizens and merchants.

It makes a game of gin seem so insignificant!



### A Blast From The Past!!!

While we bask in the wonderful warmth of summer, our eyes are upon the approaching fall season and the sports that go along with it. A little piece of news from 1962 caught our attention.

The Columbus Day Storm of '62 was responsible for perhaps the longest half-time in Edmonds athletic history. The storm rolled in during an Edmonds/Shoreline game, "allowing Shoreline punter Tom White to catch his own punt - five yards behind where he kicked it." The power on the field went out throwing the game into darkness. "The game was halted at half time and was resumed the following Monday. At half time the score was Edmonds 6, Shoreline 0, but two days later the final score favored Shoreline with a score of 13 and Edmonds 12. It is unknown if the teams sat in the darkened locker rooms listening to half time pep talks for two days!"



### Our Next Exhibit PLAYING WITH THE PAST The Antique Toys Return!!

Get ready for a festive walk down memory lane with some things that Santa brought you many moons ago!

November and December 2010

**(We've found another place for all of your coal).**

### Business Members

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Arista Wine Cellars                   | M Karr LLC                                       |
| Bank of Washington                    | McDevitt & Andreason                             |
| Beck's Funeral Home                   | Nama's Candy Store                               |
| Char E. Garrett, CPA                  | Petosa's Family Grocer                           |
| Clyborne Real Estate                  | Reliable Floor Coverings                         |
| Edmonds Bakery                        | Resident Cheesemonger                            |
| Comstock Jewelers                     | Salon 512  |
| Edmonds Bookshop                      | Sno-King Signs                                   |
| Edmonds Chamber of Commerce           | Sound Styles                                     |
| Edmonds Printing Co.                  | Union Bank                                       |
| Edward Jones/Alan Lawrence            | Walnut Street Café                               |
| Guildmark Antique & Appraisal Service | Van Hollebeke Insurance & Financial Services     |
| J & J Pharmacy                        | Washington Federal                               |
| Main Street Electric                  | Windermere Real Estate-- Ron & Michelle Clyborne |



- D. J. Wilson
- Peggy and Lewis Soraich
- Robert and Claire Brine
- Margaret S Setchfield
- Avis Frank
- Randy Huybers
- Martin and Judy Banel
- Gene Peterson
- John Pauls
- Betty and Bob Campbell
- Janet Chalpnik
- Wendy Wisdom
- Rick and Valerie Speed
- Tom and Mary Hawley
- Denise Dell-Stewart
- Dianne Hoffmann
- Oliver and Miranda Culley
- Jeanie Blair
- Marty Ronish
- Nicole Fagin and David Spence
- Doug and Patti Pierce
- Heidi and Royce Napolitano
- Brett and Cat Jackson
- Joan Baker
- William Barnum
- James Sawyer
- Ray Dubois
- Kurt Larsen
- Jack Miller
- Dean Nichols
- Dee Engstrom
- Debbie Wajda
- Justin MacFayden
- Marc Matsui

The following memorial donations were received

**In memory of**  
**Renee Pollock**  
**Kay Hedges**  
**Fern Schoppert**

Memorial donations are put into our general fund unless otherwise specified.



Edmonds-S. Snohomish Co.  
Historical Society & Museum  
PO Box 52\* 118 5th Ave. N.  
Edmonds, Washington 98020

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit  
Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Lynnwood, WA  
Permit # 1071

## EDMONDS MUSEUM'S



The Summer Market opens July 3rd and goes through October 2 on Saturdays. For information, please call:  
Margaret Wilcox 425-776-7201 or  
Jerry Freeland 425-742-4512



**Museum Open Hours:**  
Wednesday through Sunday,  
1pm to 4pm

*Continued from page 5*

I thought it was interesting that no matter how small the house there was always room for an upright piano. Certainly a commentary on the kind of entertainment families enjoyed.

It has been over a hundred years since the first Sears home was sold and interest in them hasn't waned. Rosemary Thornton writes that a "modest Sears home" recently sold for \$816,000 in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Some things just get better with age.

Sources: (available through the Edmonds Library)

Small Houses of the Twenties: The Sears, Roebuck 1926 House Catalogue

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia and Dover Publications, Inc; 1991

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia is a research library focusing on social and cultural history of the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, with a particular focus on architecture. Scholars and home owners researching historic houses may use their library.

Arts and Crafts Home Plans

Hanley-Woods LLC

Hanley Home Planners; 2004

The Houses that Sears Built

Rosemary Thornton

Gentlebeam Publications; 2002

Classic Houses of Seattle

Caroline T. Swope

Timber Press; 2005