

# The Museum *Light*

Quarterly Magazine of the Edmonds South Snohomish County Historical Society and Museum

## Present



## The Future



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*The Museum Light* is a quarterly journal published by  
the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical  
Society and Museum  
[www.historicedmonds.org](http://www.historicedmonds.org)

## -Toys of Yesteryear-



[Nov.20-Jan.18, 2015]  
New Exhibition at the Museum

Message from the Museum Director,  
Dr. Peter Bojakowski

Dear Members,

I would like to welcome everyone as the new director of the museum. Perhaps as a reminder to some of you, my name is Peter Bojakowski. I received my Bachelor's from the University of Nevada, Reno and Doctorate from Texas A&M University. In addition, I hold certificates in Historic Preservation, Conservation of Archaeological Objects, and Museum Studies.

My area of expertise is Archaeology. I am particularly interested in early modern Atlantic shipbuilding, and 16th- to 18th-century maritime history. Over the past few years, I have participated or directed numerous surveys and excavations in Europe, North America, and Asia.

My wife Katie and I, and our two beautiful children, live in Everett, WA. We enjoy surfing, scuba diving, hiking, and camping. Most of all, we love traveling and exploring new and exciting places around the world.

Join us to experience our current and new exhibitions. We have got plenty of engaging activities for everyone!

Dr. Peter Bojakowski, *Executive Director*

## President's Message

2014 was a very good year for your Historical Society and Museum.

The renovated Carnegie Library opened to rave reviews and new opportunities. Following the upgrades in past years, and with the pending development of the Museum Plaza and grounds announced at the Heritage Days Dinner and Auction, this beautiful building is well on its way to being restored to reflect its original grandeur. We are very appreciative of the leadership and hard work of former Director, Tarin Erickson, and many volunteers.

We are pleased to welcome Peter Bojakowski, as he brings new ideas and his vision for the Museum. Peter and his wife, Katie, and family have already been actively engaged in our fall projects and have exciting plans for 2015.

The Farmers Markets were a big success again this year with solid leadership by Margaret and Mike Wilcox, Jerry Freeland, Jack Hall, Dean Averill, and many volunteers.

New activities like the Scarecrow Festival, and the Heritage Days Dinner and Auction have brought increased community support and engagement, and financial stability to the organization.

Collections stewardship, the acquisition, preservation, and display this year provided an opportunity to review 40 of our best and recognize our 40th year as a Museum. This collection is available on our improved web site: [www.historicedmonds.org](http://www.historicedmonds.org)

I hope that you as members are experiencing renewed interest in and appreciation for your Museum. A shared sense of history is essential to a vital community. I believe we play a critical role in providing that for this place called Edmonds. It is

only by knowing our past, that we can fully understand our present and effectively shape the direction of our future.

As we approach year end, I encourage you to consider the Museum in your year end giving plans. We are a certified 501c-3 not for profit so your gift should be tax deductible. Your contributions will be put to good use I assure you.

Thank you for your membership support in the past as well as in the future.

William E. Lambert, President



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## Research Corner

by Kathy Hall

Since the dawn of time people have chosen to live, by necessity, where food and water are readily available. Once those life sustaining basics are in place then consideration is given to creature comfort in the form of shelter and shelter has always been dependent on what is readily available.

Imagine this area when George Brackett first landed: a dense forest, trees, undisturbed by man, growing for centuries, extending as far as the eye could see. This was a location that not only provided food, and water, but the means to make a living and materials to build houses for people, barns for animals businesses for shopkeepers, and schools for children.

For the early inhabitants the most convenient method of transportation was by water so naturally, lodging houses, and small stores were constructed near Front Street and George Street, now Sunset and Main. Housing was scattered, but generally close to the waterfront.

Time passes and the 474 people living in Edmonds in 1900 increased to 1,114 in 10 years. The growing population required more housing, buildings for businesses and necessary services. In addition a population that may have begun as a group of single men became men with families and children so schools needed to be built. Soon the few streets were lined with a variety of structures and with it the age old problem, fire.

The year was 1906 and the executive officer of the International Society of Building Inspectors reported that fire losses for the country had been in excess of \$500,000,000 and these losses would be preventable if buildings were constructed in a way that prevented their destruction by fire. Obviously buildings constructed of wood and in close proximity to one another were very vulnerable to fires.

## *Sound the Alarm:*

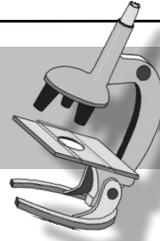
What happened when someone noticed smoke coming from an unlikely source, heard the crackling of wood, or the acrid smell of smoke permeated the air? There was no city-wide alarm system, there was no fire department, there was no fire truck or firemen. A small town had to depend on its hometown heroes, members of a volunteer fire fighting team. The number of volunteers in Edmonds varied between 12 and 35 men.

The town was notified of a fire originally by word of mouth and those nearby located the cart with the fire hose and went to work. With the advent of the telephone, a call was placed to Mrs. Eisen and she in turn turned a crank that triggered an alarm. Later a fire tower was built next to the Carnegie Library and an alarm was placed inside. After a fire the wet hose was hung off the wooden supports of the tower and allowed to dry.

Water was the next problem. Edmonds did not, at first, have a water system so Carl Eisen and others filled and carried 50 gallon barrels of water which they poured into a tanker on the back of a truck. Water was then dispensed through a water hose. There was never enough water pressure until the Yosts formed the Spring Water Company. With the new system they put in 10 hydrants around town. However, the hose was still attached to a cart. A Ford fire engine with a water pump was purchased for the city in 1938.

The year was 1909 and Edmonds experienced 2 major fires. The first was the Yost Lumber Mill. The fire was first noticed around two o'clock in the morning and the alarm was sounded. Marshall Otto and Harry Rogers brought the hose cart to the mill, but an hour later the mill was completely destroyed.

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## *Fires in Edmonds*

Fortunately the night watchman escaped the blaze. The loss was between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars. There was no insurance.

The second fire involved the Jennie E. Jones block which was located on George Street. B.N. Davis, sleeping in the back-room of his confectionary store woke up at 2 a.m. and smelled smoke. He called in the alarm to switchboard operator Dan Yost who then called James N. Otto who rang the fire bell. Mr. Otto and Mr. Yost got out the fire cart and headed for the fire.



Image 238.35e/Edmonds Historical Museum Archives

Too late! The fire destroyed a group of new wooden buildings. Five separate businesses were involved: B.N. Davis' E-Z Confectionary store, Brackett and Roscoe Grocery, the Patterson Hardware, the post office, and O.E. Williams Jewelry store. Unfortunately the private business' were under insured. The firemen were aided by citizen volunteers and were instrumental in saving some of the merchandise. Lesson was learned and Florance R. Beeson bought up the lots with the destroyed buildings and replaced them with the Beeson Building. After this, buildings in the business area were constructed of materials other than wood.

Another major fire in the business district occurred April, 1928. Loss was estimated at \$20,000 and again the businesses were under insured. The building was owned by Henry Chandler and was occupied by the

Edmonds Club, and Edmonds Bakery. The W. H. Otto building was also affected gutting Leyda's Electric shop and the Music Box. The fire was believed to have started in the pool room and was not noticed until the rear portion was "a mass of flames". This was a fire with uncontrolled flames and intense heat. The flames literally burst through the front windows and doors of the building. In addition to the incredible heat water from the hoses was puddling on the sidewalks adding to the danger of downed electrical wires. The combined hazard of flames, water and electrical wires required the firemen to attack the flames from another angle. The flames then jumped across Main and ignited the Princess theater building, the Hoffer building, and the Briggs building. Following a wind change the fire then attacked the concrete wall of the Beeson Building burning the exterior stair, the cornice, and the roof.

## Research Corner

by Kathy Hall

With the help of the Greenwood fire station #21 the fire was finally put out. Other buildings in the vicinity suffered blistered paint, and broken glass.

Fires in the home could be caused by over heated stove pipes passing through walls, defective chimneys, use of inflammable materials to clean clothes or repairing machines, etc., and leaving trash that could easily catch on fire close to the living structure.

Sparks from the Oakland Shingle Mill ignited a fire on the roof and entered the attic of the Royal Hotel located at First Avenue and Main Street. Just prior to that a grass fire had been extinguished across First Street. A year later, in 1932, Harry Larkin started the fire in his kitchen range and went back to bed. This was not a good decision, as an overheated stovepipe was thought to be the cause of the fire. The exterior of the hotel remained standing, but the interior was gutted.

Gordon Maxwell recalled a fire in 1921 that burned an area from Five Corners to Yost Park leaving

nothing but “blackened logs and ash.

In November, 1932 an old lodging house located on the south end of Main Street between Front and Second caught on fire. The source of the fire is not mentioned, but evidently it spread very rapidly and left only a shell. The building was the oldest landmark in Edmonds.

Fires can start accidentally or not, and in the 1935, Edmonds had its first possible arson case. A neighbor of the Sidney M. Cook family saw a man, with an arm shielding his face, running away from the Cook house. A play house on the property was destroyed by fire and when the firemen entered the home they

### Announcement: Friends of the Museum

The Rosabel Semon Guild began in 1990 as a support group for the Edmonds Historical Society. It was recently restructured to Friends of the Museum to help create wider participation by members of the Museum.

There will not be standard monthly meetings. Instead there will be a variety of possibilities to help with a one day event or longer in order share your talents and interests with the Museum. We might need folks to pass appetizers at an exhibit opening or to be included in set up for the Scarecrow Festival or the Haunted Museum. We also need help in putting up and taking down our Christmas décor. There are things all throughout the year that are interesting and fun to do that help the Historical Society.

More information about Friends of the Museum will be coming in the future.

- Darlene Newquist



Image 238.3/Edmonds Historical Museum Archives

We would like to acknowledge the following donations and membership levels:

**Donations received since April 1, 2014:**

Katie and Bill Brougher  
Glen and Diane Rice

Vernon Chase

**Diamond (Lifetime) Members:**

Bette Bell  
Bill Blandin  
Norma Bruns  
Millie Engels  
Jack and Kathe Hall  
Dave and Marlene  
Johnson

Bill and Judy Lambert  
John and Gloria Osberg  
A.P. VanMeter  
Mary Beth Walsh  
Windermere Real Estate/  
Edmonds Office

**2014/ 2015 Membership News**

Thanks to all of you who have been museum members during the 2014. If you have not yet renewed for 2015, please do so as soon as possible as we will be updating our membership database to continue correspondence with in 2015 and beyond. Your continued support is very important to the success of the Museum, new and exciting exhibitions, and educational programming. We truly appreciate it!

*In Memoriam*

The following memorial donations were received since March 1, 2014 in memory of:

**Liz Carpenter**

Donated by Kay Crymes

**Robert Taylor**

Donated by Leslie and Margaret Walden

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

**Platinum Members:**

Kristi Roberts and Steve  
Bowman  
Dave and Sheri Buelow  
Bob and Carol Clos

Dorothy Gross  
Rusty Pelican Restaurant  
Steve and Jean Pennington  
Stanley and Rita Wiklund

**2014 Gold Members:**

Bob Aldrich  
Sandra Allbery  
Dean Averill  
Stephen Beck  
Robert and Claire Brine  
Katie and Bill Brougher  
Bruce and Jo Caldwell  
Ted Carpenter  
Lawrence and Linda Cohen  
Jim and Marilyn Cook  
Barbara and Patrick Fahey

Jerry Freeland  
Knud and Dorthe Hansen  
Don and Donna Kleweno  
Chuck and Pauline LeWarne  
Arthur and Suzanne Lowell  
Norma Murphy  
Darlene Newquist  
John and Shirley Pauls  
Ralph Sorensen  
Mike and Margaret Wilcox

**2014 Business Members:**

Acura of Lynnwood  
Aria Gallery  
Arista Wine Cellars  
Bank of Washington  
Becks Funeral Home  
Char Garrett, CPA  
Cheesemongers Table  
Chermack Construction  
Chirstopher Gallery  
Cline Jewelers  
Comstock Jewelers  
Edmonds Bookshop, Inc.  
Edmonds Chamber of Comm.  
Edmonds Harbor Inn  
Edmonds Memorial Cemetery  
Edmonds Veterinary Hospital  
Edmonds Vision Center, P.S.  
Evviva Wood Fired Pizza  
Housewares  
J. Rankin Jewelers

M. Karr LLC  
Magic Photo  
Main Street Electric  
Maverick Label  
McDevitt & Duffy  
McDonald McGarry Insurance  
Myedmondsnews.com  
Norse Home  
Peggy L Sanders Attorney at Law  
Reliable Floor Covering/ Att Brick  
Rick Steves Europe Through the  
Backdoor  
Salon 512  
Sandberg NW Volvo  
The Refinery Salon  
The Wooden Spoon  
Urban Wire Works  
Walnut Street Coffee  
Washington Federal  
Windermere Real Estate/ North

**Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society**

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!

Edmonds-S. Snohomish Co.  
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**Museum Open Hours:**  
Wednesday through  
Sunday  
1pm to 4pm

**Front cover:** The present and future vision of the museum plaza based on a design by Clayton Moss (FORMA). The highlights include:

- > elimination of the front steps center rail, coupled with height extensions on side hand rails allowing a more inviting approach to the building
- > eliminating the structure surrounding the bell, and relocating the bell to area adjacent to the alley
- > significantly opening up exposure to the museum and planned plaza area to the left of the front steps; features open plaza space: with benches for use by passers-by and those wanting a pleasant area for relaxing
- > noticeable reduction in shrub plantings to be replaced with lower density plantings allowing the museum building to be showcased

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**RESEARCH CORNER SOURCES:**

**Edmonds Review:** Feb. 8, 1907; May 8, 1909; Jul. 10, 1909

**Tribune Review:** Apr. 13, 1928; Oct. 9 & 11, 1929; May 22, 1931; Oct. 2 1931; Mar. 25, 1932; Nov. 11 & 25, 1932; ,Aug. 17, 1934; Dec.11, 1934; Aug. 36, 1935

**Edmonds Beacon:** April 17, 2003

**Museum File:** Fire Department

**Gem of Puget Sound,** p30

This holiday season the Museum is an official drop off location for **Toys for Tots**. We invite you to stop by and donate new unwrapped toys for less fortunate kids.

We are accepting toys or cash donations until Saturday , December 13th, 2014.

