

# San Juan Historical Museum

Preserving the history of Friday Harbor and San Juan Island since 1961

### Winter 2011

#### San Juan Historical Museum

PO Box 441 323 & 405 Price Street Friday Harbor, WA 98250 360-378-3949 www.sjmuseum.org

### Administrative Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM or by appointment.

#### Museum Tours

November through March \*by appointment. Please call 378 - 3949

#### **Board of Trustees**

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# Peeling away history

by Kevin Loftus, Director

The new year dawns with more improvements being made at your museum. We had hoped to take advantage of the perceived "winter lull" that we always think will happen. Not too surprisingly, that does not seem to be the case again this year, which is actually a good thing!

Work is nearing completion on painting and wall repairs being performed to the interior of the King House. The upstairs rooms needed the most attention after foundation problems were addressed nearly two years ago. Robert Strasser and his crew at Best Painting in Friday Harbor, have spent a great deal of time fixing cracks and applying new paint to the interior walls of the 117 year-old structure.



Extensive wall damage was revealed under layers of paint & wallpaper.

One of the more interesting aspects of the project has been to look at the history of the walls. By that I mean, peeling away layers of paint and wallpaper. We have seen some interesting "eras" of paint and wallpaper that have adorned the walls over the years. The Lawson Room had a fair amount of cracking, all the way down to the wood lath boards from the original plaster process. One could see the plaster process through the layering. We noted different colors of paint gave way to wallpaper which gave way to paint which was then wallpapered over and on and on it went.



All of this may seem like a stretch for an interesting article, but for us it has been an interesting experience to peer into the past history of the King House. Thanks goes to Robert & Debbie Strasser and Daniel at Best Painting and Boyd Pratt for assistance in this process.

At left: Original paint and wallpaper applied to upstairs foyer walls.

# Remembering Roy Franklin



Roy during flight training for the United States Navy, 1943

Roy Franklin, an island aviation pioneer, passed away on February 3. Roy was a legend in many ways and left a lasting legacy of service to the island communities. Roy was a Navy carrier pilot in WW II and returned to his home state to establish a successful commuter airline, build an airport and perform hundreds of medical flight evacuations. He did that all while prevailing against numerous adversities that came his way during the early days of flight in the San Juans.

In November 2008, the Historical Museum hosted Roy for a talk about his book "Island Bush Pilot." That evening Roy captivated us with stories about his life and his adventurous flying days, all served up with wit and humor.

We wish to honor Roy by sharing a little of his story to honor a great man who did so much for so many. Below is a reprint of an article Roy wrote for this newsletter in 1998.

## The Bushman

by Roy Franklin

Many long time island residents remember the days before medivac helicopters made a ride to the hospital quick and relatively easy. This was the day of the "Bushman" (tail #N-27782). The Bushman was introduced to San Juan County in April of 1954 by Island Sky Ferries Inc., the local Air Taxi Co. owned by Islander Roy Franklin (twenty years later the name of the company was changed to San Juan Airlines Inc.). This airplane was the first one in the county with the capacity to carry a full stretcher, plus attendants. It was used for twenty five years as the County's air ambulance. During those years, the Bushman carried thousands of people on scheduled and chartered flights, as well as the sick and



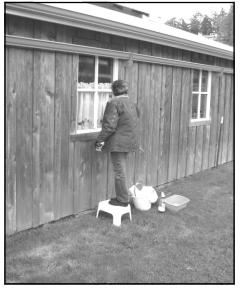
dying to the mainland, flying day and night out of every conceivable cow pasture, airstrip, and even sometimes off an island beach. During those busy years, the Bushman flew over 500 medical evacuations from the Islands. She was also the last "Gull Wing" Stinson in the States to be carrying the U.S. Mail, which she did for years between Anacortes, Lopez and Friday Harbor. The Bushman had a job in the mountains as well. For 23 fire seasons, the Bushman was under contract to the Mt. Baker National Forest. Her job was to drop supplies by parachute to firefighting crews, trail crews and mountain top fire lookouts and to transport weary smoke jumpers back to their Eastern Washington Methow Valley jump-base. She later flew an additional five fire-seasons out of Port Angeles for the Olympic National Park. San Juan Airlines and the Bushman were sold in 1979.

# Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

# Tuesday March 8, at 12:00 noon in the Etta Egeland Resource Center

Please join us for our annual membership meeting and election of Board of Trustee officers for the coming year. All members of the Society are invited and encouraged to attend.

We will also be honoring our volunteers who provide so much needed support to the museum throughout the year. A light lunch and refreshments will be served.



Board member, docent and super volunteer Romona Jones begins a little spring cleaning outside the barn.

#### In Memoriam

#### For Derry Gislason

Cyndy Gislason

### For Etta Egeland, Juanita Rouleau, Ed & Peggy Tuck

Bob & Vonnie Nichols

#### New & Renewing Members

since last newsletter publication

Higginson Beyer, P.S. Charlie Ratcliffe Store More Storage -Jim & Jeanie Garrett Rob McGregor

Ted Middleton Jane & David Cable Thompson & Associates CPA's

-Dick & Mary Thompson Joyce Sobel Doug & Barb Ray Mitzi Stack Edith Dickinson Jim & Patsy Scribner Irene Vandersluys Bert & Arlene Gaulke Patrick & Jo Ann Ballenger

Shelle Cropper

David & Mary Ann Anderson
Arne & Judy Bentzen
Sam & Emily Connery
Gary & Linda Thompson
Pat Ball
Ruby & Tex Blankenburg
Eugene & Donna Alexander
Jerry St. Dennis
Ruthe Ramirez
Dale & Carol Marble
San Juan Pest Control
-Steve & Bobbi Billmyer
Nedell Lanros-Crawford

Nedell Lanros-Crawford Grace Swan Susan Swan-Esposito

Jody Burns

Dan & Eileen Drath Shirley Lothrop Craig & Jill Dorsey Archipelago Consulting -Lynn Danaher

Charlie & Nancy Lindenberg

Sharron Crinean Barbara Clary

Steve & Judy Kennedy Pam & King Fitch Mel & Florence Harrison

Michael Nash Shirley Zyph Sally Bryan

Molly & Maurice Liebman

Rick Galer Diane Timm

Patrick & Marti Hughes

We truly appreciate your support in helping us to preserve the history of San Juan Island. Memberships are a vital source of revenue for the museum. We could not continue our work without your support and involvement! **Thank You!** 

# San Juan Historical Museum

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