

San Juan Historical Museum

Winter 2009

The San Juan Historical Museum

PO Box 441
405 Price Street
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360-378-3949

www.sjmuseum.org
museum_admin@sjmuseum.org

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### Office Hours

*Tuesday thru Friday*  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
or by appointment.

### Museum Tours

*November - March*  
May be arranged  
by appointment.  
Please call 378 - 3949

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Board of Trustees

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### Museum Staff

Kevin Loftus, Director  
Jacki Riley, Research

## What we Remember: A Fireside Chat with Island Elders

On the evening of January 24, a gathering of Islanders and visitors from afar, assembled in the San Juan Island Library to hear stories of what island life was like in past days.

The idea was thought up back in May of 2008 as a part of "Our Town: A Century in the Making." The project is a series of events celebrating the centennial of Friday Harbor. The partners in the project are the Historical Museum, San Juan Island Library, Skagit Valley College, San Juan Community Theatre and The Town of Friday Harbor. Funding for the projects has been provided by the San Juan Island Community Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Washington State Library. The Fireside Chat was one of the museum's contributions to the events.

The event was a rousing success! The panel of esteemed Islanders was 17 and 162 people attended the event. An attendance record for a library event was broken. Stories flowed from photos displayed from the museum's collection. Historian Mike Vouri, was the moderator for the evening and used the photos to spur recollections. The evening was limited to 2 hours, but it seemed like we could have continued all evening. The event was so successful that numerous requests were made to have others. The good news is that we will be having other chats in the future, so watch for updates. A few of the many comments on the event follow:

*Your "Fireside Chat and Community Discussion with Island Elders" at the library on January 24 was one of your best projects since the oral histories you did a decade or so ago. Mike Vouri's slide show and wry remarks were perfect for evoking commentary from esteemed island elders and members of the audience. It was wonderful to hear these facts and stories about our community come to light, and hopefully get recorded, before it is lost forever. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I hope you have another event like this again, soon.*

—David Bentley, Friday Harbor

*Island Elders are a treasure of our community offering history and humor and perspective. Even if we know each other, often we only meet at the Post Office or on Spring Street without the time or place to converse at length. The January 24 evening offered insight into lasting values and a renewed sense of the special nature of our community with family and friendship spanning generations. I hope there will be more of these special evenings.*

—Emily Reed, Friday Harbor

## Recent events

### Leadership San Juan Islands Cultural and Historical Systems Challenge Day

The Historical Museum recently hosted a day long event for Leadership San Juan Islands (LSJI.) San Juan County is taking the initiative to develop its own network of home-grown leaders through LSJI. 2009 will mark its fifth year of seminars designed to educate and motivate the islands' current and aspiring leaders of today and tomorrow. LSJI searches for adults who would like to develop their professional leadership skills while learning more about issues facing the San Juan Islands within our systems of governance, education, economics, environment, social/community health and history/culture. The Museum was pleased to host the history/culture event day. A panel of historical and cultural leaders presented topics that focused on their areas of expertise. The goal of the day was to present a socio-anthropological overview of the San Juan Islands.

**Thank You** to all of our members and donors who have contributed to the Historical Museum over the past months. We couldn't do our work without you!

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jerome Hammond            | Sam & Emily Connery      |
| Lothrop, Shirley          | Albert & Priscilla Nash  |
| James & Linda Bergquist   | Glen Garrett             |
| Ted Middleton             | Gallanger, Noel and Lois |
| Rob & Teddy McGregor      | Jim & Jackie Huesman     |
| James & Janice Shipman    | Edith Dickinson          |
| Tracy McClintock          | Mel & Florence Harrison  |
| Patrick & JoAnn Ballenger | Jack & Sondra Raub       |

### Memorial Gifts

**For Norman & Caroline Mills**  
**For Carl Stoddard**  
From Betty Nash

### ~~~~~ Wish List ~~~~~

- Volunteer help two hours a day, twice a week.
- Laptop computer.
- Office copier.
- Donations for critical repairs around the museum.
- Electric can opener.
- Grant writers.
- Docents— if you would like to be a docent, call Romona Jones (378-2896) or Mary Jean Cahail (378- 2294)

## Upcoming events

### Images of America—Friday Harbor

*February 13, 7:00 p.m.*

Join authors Mike and Julia Vouri for a presentation of the new book, **Images of America - Friday Harbor**. The book chronicles Friday Harbor history using over 200 historical photographs, most never before published. A presentation of select photographs from the book with a narrative on the historical aspects of each photo will make for an interesting evening. Signed copies of the book will be available for sale. Proceeds from book sales will go towards ongoing museum preservation projects

### Friday Harbor 1900—1930

*February 26—March 13*

A lobby exhibit at the San Juan Community Theatre in partnership with the Town of Friday Harbor. Using artifacts, photographs and vintage advertisements the exhibit will show changes that occurred over time from 1900 through the 1930s.

### New Museum Website

A modernized and updated museum website will be launched this spring with a new look ,format and content.

### Encampment Weekend

*May 23 & 24*

In a new museum partnership with The San Juan Island National Historical Park, encampment weekend will take place on the grounds of the museum Memorial Day Weekend.



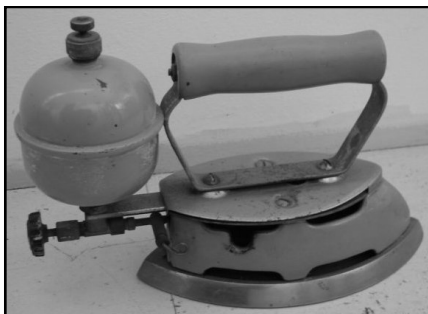
*San Juan Military Band c. 1908*

## Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustees

All San Juan Historical Society members with current memberships are invited to attend our annual meeting on **Tuesday, March 3, at 12 p.m. in the Etta Egeland Resource Center.** At the annual meeting, the election of Board of Trustee officers will be

held. There will also be a presentation of photographs used in the new Images of America—Friday Harbor book. Author and Historian Mike Vouri will share stories and thoughts on the images he used for the book. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

## San Juan Story Collection



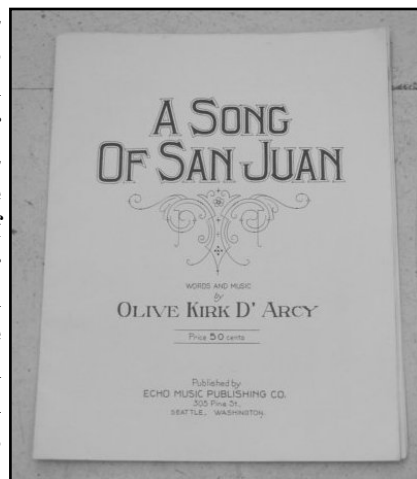
Wondering what to do with your grandmother's old quilt? What about those old letters and photographs. How about something more recent like

a piece of your winning 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade float.

Now you can use them to help tell the story of life in our island community. With funding from a generous grant the San Juan Island Library is working with the Historical Museum, Town of Friday Harbor, and the San Juan National Historical Park on a new digitization project. We are putting a call out to the community to share items that help tell the story of what it means to live on our island from the turn of the century to the recent past. These items will be part of an online collection for all to see and learn from. This will help us tell our story and cultivate our sense of identity. It will also help us preserve our unique history for our current and future generations.



And the best part about this project is you can share your items without having to give up ownership of the item even for a day. We will scan it on the spot and send you home with the original as well as an electronic copy. We will also have an audio recorder to capture the bigger story behind individual items.



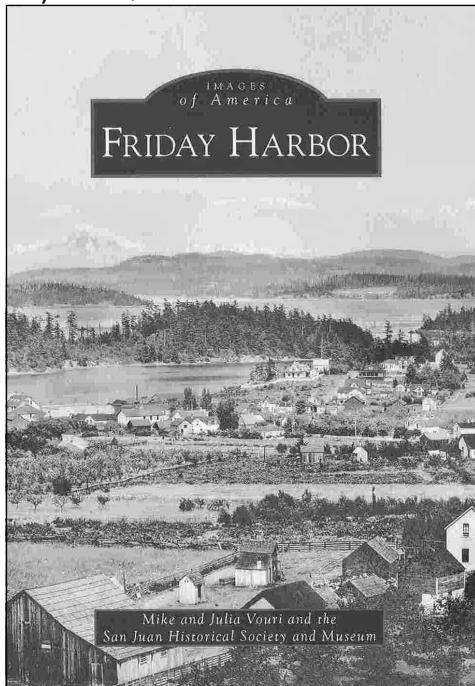
Your first opportunity to share items will be **Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> at the High School Library from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** We will have two scanners and one photographer and a lot of volunteers. We can take anything you can bring inside the high school library. In addition to regular sized photographs and text, we will be able to digitize large format and 3-dimensional objects. You can make an appointment in advance or just show up. To make an appointment call the Historical Museum at 378-3949 or email at [museum\\_admin@sjmuseum.org](mailto:museum_admin@sjmuseum.org). Call either the Library or the Historical Museum if you have any questions!

This grant was awarded by the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Library Division, funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

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Post Office Box 441  
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*Images of America: Friday Harbor*  
**On Sale Now!**

**Purchase yours from the museum today.**

## Support the San Juan Historical Museum today!

For more than 40 years, the San Juan Historical Museum has worked to interpret and preserve our island's rich heritage. Your tax-deductible gift will help us develop new exhibits, lectures, and programs, buy archival supplies to maintain the photographs and artifacts entrusted to our care, preserve our historic buildings, and so much more.

*Please detach this form at dotted line and return with your donation to San Juan Historical Museum PO Box 441 Friday Harbor WA 98250*  
**Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**This is a (check one)** ☐ Renewing Membership ☐ New Membership

☐ ***I would like to volunteer!***

☐ ***I would like my newsletters emailed to me.***

Please mark your Membership level:

☐ \$100 Benefactor ☐ \$50 Sponsor ☐ \$35 Business ☐ \$25 Family ☐ \$15 Individual ☐ \$10 Senior (60+)

In addition to my annual membership dues, I would like to contribute a tax-deductible donation of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to designate my additional donation for the King House Restoration Project

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to designate my additional donation for \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make your check or money order payable to The San Juan Historical Museum. Please do not send cash.***