



Anacortes Museum News

Spring 2018

Museum and Preservation Board discuss future of Olson Building

In the past few weeks, residents of Anacortes have heard and read about the Port of Anacortes' discussions regarding the historic Olson Building at the corner of 3rd and Commercial. The Port voiced concerns about liability and the cost of maintaining the 1902 building.

The Anacortes Historic Preservation Board (AHPB) has been actively working to encourage the Port of Anacortes to preserve the building, passing a motion at their last meeting that states, "The Anacortes Historic Preservation Board requests the Port of Anacortes provide time to study the Olson Building and the Marine Supply & Hardware Building preservation options."

At the Port's March 15 status meeting, AHPB member Ken Hansen focused his remarks on the Olson Building condition report completed by the Port's engineer that lists all possible improvements that can be made to the Olson Building. Hansen, speaking as an individual, said that for old buildings a more realistic solution is to do what is required to reinforce the building and make it safe rather than attempt to bring the building fully up to current code.

The Olson Building has a rich history. It was home to the The Skagit Saloon, Skipper's Tavern, Delmonico Oyster House and the State Bar, along with many other small businesses. Today, the Olson Building is home to The Business, Bikespot, Classic Upholstery, Marine Title Company and storage for Marine Supply. The museum staff has posted a historic timeline on the website about the Olson Building: www.anacorteswa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7061



Unidentified man in front of The Skagit Saloon (c. 1912). The Olson Building was constructed in 1902 and expanded in 1907.

Here's more about the Historic Preservation Board and Certified Local Government...

The City of Anacortes Historic Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance 2530) was passed by City Council in March 2000. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic resources within the City of Anacortes and to preserve and rehabilitate eligible historic properties within the City of Anacortes for future generations through special valuation, a property tax incentive, as provided in Chapter 84.26 RCW. The Historic Preservation Board was established through this ordinance: www.anacorteswa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1875

The Historic Preservation Board serves as the City's primary resource in matters of historic planning and preservation. The five members of the board are volunteers appointed by the City Council for three-year terms. Their major responsibility is to identify and encourage the conservation of the City's historic resources by initiating and maintaining a register of historic places and reviewing proposed changes to register properties. It also works to raise community awareness of Anacortes' historic resources through its House History Program and recognizes significant contributors with Preservation Awards.

In December 2003, the City of Anacortes attained the status of Certified Local Government. Washington State's Certified Local Government (CLG) Program helps local governments actively participate in preserving their historic and cultural resources with financial and technical assistance. This nationwide program was established by the National Historic Preservation Act. In Washington State, it is administered by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). Responsibilities of a CLG include maintaining a historic preservation commission, surveying local historic properties, enforcing state or local preservation laws, reviewing National Register Nominations, and providing for public participation in historic preservation activities: www.dahp.wa.gov/local-preservation/certified-local-government-program

In May 2005, City of Anacortes Ordinance No. 2705 established special valuation for historic properties as provided in Chapter 84.26 RCW. It designated the Anacortes Historic Preservation Board as the local review board to perform the functions required by Chapter 84.26 RCW and Chapter 254.20 WAC. The Ordinance also states that all Anacortes properties designated under authority of Ordinance 2530 shall be eligible for special valuation as set forth in chapter 84.26 RCW: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2048>

Museum assisting AHS with research for The Rock documentaries

Two recent stories on Anacortes High School's live magazine program, *The Rock*, include a historic perspective thanks to the Anacortes Museum. Staff at the museum supplied background research, photos and movies to the video editors at the high school.



Bobo mural installed on Carnegie Building steps.

The first piece focuses on our local gorilla hero, Bobo, and features an interview with local muralist, Bill Mitchell. Here's a link to www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CIM99_nx_M.

Bobo was a western lowland gorilla born in 1951 acquired by the Lowman family soon afterward. He came home to Anacortes in December 1951. In December 1953, the Lowmans gave Bobo to the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle where he lived until his death on February 22, 1968. Bobo was a huge attraction at the zoo. To see more Bobo movies, visit the Anacortes Movie Catalog tab on our website: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/451/Anacortes-Movie-Catalog>

The second piece is about the rock which has become the namesake for the program. The large granite rock behind the high school is a symbol of school spirit and pride for the students. Traditionally, seniors have added graffiti to the rock although other classes occasionally assert their authority with paintbrushes of their own.

Museum Director Bret Lunsford and Museum Advisory Board member Gib Moore (both former AHS students) were interviewed for the segment. Moore shared that the large granite rock had to have been deposited during the last Ice Age as this type of granite is not native to Fidalgo Island.

The museum provided several historic Rhododendron yearbook photos for the documentary. In these photos, paint first appears on the rock in a 1958 photo. Moore noted that the flat face of the rock was exposed in 1955 and that it may have been about that time the students first started to paint it. Moore recalled the time students from Mount Vernon High School came over and painted the rock, causing conflict between the two schools.

Lunsford shared that the rock has been moved several times to accommodate expansions of the high school. In 1974, it was moved several hundred feet northward to its current location to make room for construction of the new high school buildings that were dedicated in 1977. The rock may need to be moved again for the new high school.

Here's the link to AHS graffiti rock documentary: <https://youtu.be/lr11OltRzU>

Thanks to *The Rock* for including Anacortes history in their excellent live magazine program. This channel is used for live events streamed from Anacortes High School. Tune in each Thursday at 2 p.m. to see *The Rock*, a ten-minute live magazine program produced by students in the Advanced Digital Media class. Anacortes High School sports are also streamed LIVE on this channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ahslive>



1946 photo of The Rock donated by Phyllis Ennis, Rhododendron Editor. (Photo not used in yearbook.)

Pulp mill exhibit in the works



Puget Sound Pulp and Timber mill complex at 17th and R Avenue with Morrison Mill complex at left. Behind it is Cap Sante.

Last fall, Museum Advisory Board member Gib Moore suggested the museum create an exhibit on the pulp mill, which operated in Anacortes at the foot of 17th Street from 1925 to 1978. Both museum staff and former employees and their families were enthusiastic about the idea.

Director Bret Lunsford has been meeting regularly with former pulp mill employees and their families for group discussions and planning sessions for the exhibit. Already dozens of artifacts, photographs and stories have been gathered.

The exhibit opening will be held in June at the Maritime Heritage Center. Stay tuned for more details about the pulp mill exhibit in our summer newsletter.

<http://museum.cityofanacortes.org>

Dave Margeson promoted as W.T. Preston and Maritime Curator

Effective February 1, former W.T. Preston docent, Dave Margeson was promoted to W.T. Preston and Maritime Curator. Dave has been with the museum since June 2014.

Dave's new role will cover interpretation of the Anacortes Museum maritime history collections, with emphasis on the stabilization, preservation, maintenance and interpretation of the W.T. Preston. Dave also will coordinate the operation of the Maritime Heritage Center, including staff scheduling and ticket sales.

Dave graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Forestry. He was an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and received a Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement. He graduated from the U.S. Army Engineer School and has a Work Simplification Certificate from the College of Saint Thomas.

Prior to retiring in 2012 after several years in the forest products industry, Dave spent five years as construction project manager supervising land development at a large Skagit County golf course and worked for an environmental company as a national program manager for water and natural resources.

In addition to his work for the museum, Dave currently is a Guemes Island volunteer firefighter and recently was elected Chair of the Guemes Fire Commissioners. He and his wife Shirley have lived on Guemes full time for 13 years. They have two adult children (twins), and five grandchildren.

Dave has been a strong educator on the W.T. Preston for nearly four years. We look forward to seeing more great things to come from R Avenue in the months and years to come.



Dave Margeson on bridge of W.T. Preston

2017 Volunteers of the Year named

Al Bofenkamp and Terry Slotemaker were named 2017 Volunteers of the Year at the Museum's Holiday Open House on December 14.

Al Bofenkamp was cited for his passion for Anacortes history and his enthusiasm in sharing what he has learned with museum guests. He is a valuable addition to the Carnegie Gallery on Wednesdays.

Terry Slotemaker was honored for his faithful work in establishing and maintaining the very important Research Files that are integral to our ability to assist the public with research requests and provide a basis for our exhibit and education research. Terry has also continued to update the four books he authored for the museum on the exploration, fishing, geology, and lumber industry on Fidalgo and Guemes islands. We are very grateful for Terry's ongoing work.

Community invited to participate in AHS History Wall Project

Artist Mary Ennes Davis has been commissioned to create a public art installation in the new Anacortes High School. The piece will include the history of the schools, the significance of the location of Anacortes, and reflections that represent the uniqueness of the schools, prominent Anacortes figures and early days of the town.

The artist and the Anacortes Museum are seeking input through a community gathering to be held from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, at the Maritime Heritage Center, 703 R Avenue, Anacortes.

Input can include stories, memories or photographs, anything that pertains to the history of the schools. Mary and museum representatives will be present to meet community members, ask questions and listen to stories. They are hoping for a lively discussion!

Any photographs, scrapbooks and memorabilia you can share would be helpful. The museum will create appropriate paperwork depending whether the items are to be loaned or donated. (Loaned items will be scanned and returned.)

If you are unable to attend but have items that you would like to be considered for the wall please email museum staff at coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org or drop off items for the wall at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 8th Street, Anacortes. Call the museum at 360-293-1915 for more information.

In 2016, Mary completed a similar history wall for the La Conner School District. Follow this link to see the beautiful history panels now installed in the La Conner Middle School on Sixth Street in La Conner: www.crowriverstudio.com

Please plan to attend this community gathering and pass the word. Invite retired teachers and alumni to attend this event and participate in the creation of our own History Wall.

**Anacortes History Wall Project Gathering
4 - 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 10
Maritime Heritage Center, 703 R Avenue, Anacortes**

Fidalgo School alumni plan 150th anniversary

Alumni and friends of the Old Fidalgo School are invited to a reunion and pot-luck lunch celebrating the 150th anniversary of the school's 1868 founding.

**Old Fidalgo School Reunion
10:30 a.m., Saturday, July 28**
At the "new" Fidalgo Elementary School
13590 Gibraltar Road, Anacortes

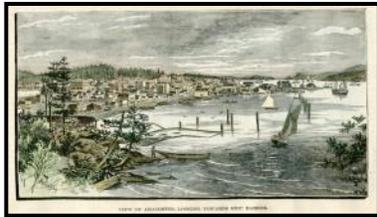
**It's not too late! Please pay your dues.
Thank you for your support!**

W.T. Preston/Maritime Heritage Center open weekends starting April 7

The W.T. Preston sternwheeler and Maritime Heritage Center will open weekends in April and May. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Summer hours, June through August, are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays. Questions? Call the museum at 360-293-1915.

Learn about Fidalgo's historic North Shore

Major canneries, a railroad line and a trash dump are some of the surprising ways the community used the shoreline between today's State Ferry Terminal and downtown.

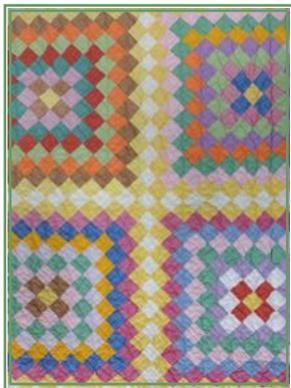


Anacortes toward Ship Harbor 1890s

Join Museum Director Bret Lunsford, who will share tales of the historic North Shore of Fidalgo Island.

**Fidalgo Island's historic North Shore
7 p.m., Wednesday, May 9, at the Anacortes Library**

Antique Quilts at the Museum in April



Linda Dunlap's 1950s era quilt, "Postage Stamp."

Antique quilts are on display through the month of April in a special exhibit at the Carnegie Gallery.

Co-sponsored by the Fidalgo Island Quilters guild, the exhibit features treasures from FIQ members' private collections. The event is part of the FIQ's annual Quilt Walk, which is an official Skagit Tulip Festival event.

The Fidalgo Island Quilters support the museum each month by helping to inventory, photograph and correctly store a backlog of hundreds of textiles. We are grateful for this productive and deeply satisfying collaboration. The exhibit runs through April 30.

**Antique Quilts in the Carnegie Gallery in April
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday
1 - 4 p.m., Sunday**

Anacortes Museum Foundation

Through memberships, the Anacortes Museum Foundation supports and assists the educational and preservation goals of the Anacortes Museum.

Become a Member – Support Local History!

Benefits of Annual Membership and Annual Membership Categories

- ◆ FREE admission to the *W.T. Preston* and Maritime Heritage Center
- ◆ 10% discount at the Museum store
- ◆ Invitation to exhibit openings and special events
- ◆ Quarterly Museum newsletter

Senior (65+)/Student	\$20
Individual.....	\$25
Family	\$40
Business/Organization	\$75
Sponsor	\$100
Life.....	\$250
Donation.....	\$___

New Member Renewal

(Contributions tax deductible to fullest extent of law)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

*Please make checks payable to: Anacortes Museum Foundation.
Send to: 1305 8th St, Anacortes, WA 98221. Thank you!*



**Anacortes Museum
1305 8th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1915**

The Carnegie Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The Museum Office is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

The Anacortes Museum and Maritime Heritage Center exist to preserve and interpret the history of Fidalgo and Guemes islands and to nurture in the community an awareness and appreciation of its heritage.