

The purpose of the Spanaway Historical Society is to assemble and preserve the history of the Spanaway area; that the knowledge gained therein may be used for the education and improvement of the community.

- ☺ **Thanks** to the efforts of hard working and nimble fingered (turning ribbons into bows can be a challenge) volunteers, the SHS sold 893 handcrafted wreaths for a grand total of \$7,872 profit for the **WINTER FUNDRAISER!** Way to go!!
- ☺ Holiday Decorations replaced dust mice, spider webs and even a few sleepy spiders during the **NOVEMBER HOUSE CLEANING** as volunteers prepared the museum for December's Open House. **Thanks to all** who helped create the lovely atmosphere and yummy treats for this festive event!
- ☺ Items and descriptions representing "Early Spanaway Merchants" were displayed at **THE SPANAWAY PARKLAND LIBRARY** during the month of January. **Thanks** to our own Energizer Bunny (AKA **SHIRLEY ZLOCK**) for reaching out to the community and sharing Spanaway's history with citizens who haven't had the opportunity to visit the Prairie House Museum.
- ☺ The reliable and skilled **LION'S CLUB VOLUNTEERS** continued to show up on monthly Saturday sessions and perform the many projects necessary to insure that the museum stays warm, dry, safe and intact. We've said it before and we'll say it again. . . a huge **Thank You!**
- ☺ How fortunate for SHS to have **SCOTT AND BEULAH MARQUARDT** donate both their time *and* landscaping skills to improve and sustain the museum grounds. **Thank You** for the beautiful and appreciated results!
- ☺ **STAN LEE** added the **Welcomed Donations** of a coat & fur capes to the Archival Clothing Collection, as well as, historical material for the research section of the library. **Thank you, Stan!**
- ☺ Chicks, Crafts, Curiosity and Kids all made for a super successful 21st **KIDS' DAY** in April.

Volunteers guided close to a hundred eager visitors through Pioneer Experiences described by energetic kids as "So much fun - if you don't do them every day!" The coordinating wizard, **ROBIN BARNES**, once again provided our community with a day of learning and sharing. Robin also received her 50-Year Girl Scout Pin this year. **Thank You, Robin!**



✂ MAY 28 FLAGS PLACED
 ✂ JUNE 4 YARD SALE
 ✂ JULY 17 ANNUAL



- ❖ **SHOWING & GIVING** *SHOW* your appreciation for America's veterans and *GIVE* yourself meaningful memories on **May 28 from 10 AM to 1 PM**. Over 2,000 flags and crosses will be placed in **FirLane Memorial Park** to pay homage to our military heroes. Family, friends & neighbors are invited to begin Memorial Day Weekend commemorating those who fought and served our country. **See You There!** (Hammers and/or wagons will be helpful & appreciated.)
- ❖ SHS is teaming up with the Parkland Lion's Club for the **BIGGEST AND BEST YARD SALE** in town! This is the perfect opportunity to drop by the museum and donate those spring cleaning treasures currently taking up space in your garage.
- ❖ Super Selection! Super Sales! Mark your calendar and take advantage of great **YARD SALE** deals on hundreds of items on **SATURDAY, JUNE 4 from 9 AM to 4 PM**
- ❖ The **"BRING A BASKET" MEMBERS & FRIENDS POT LUCK PICNIC** will be held on Sunday, **JULY 17th** beginning at noon. Baskets any sizes, any shapes and containing any items will be used for the Silent Auction Summer Fundraiser. This is always an enjoyable afternoon of chatting, munching and enjoying the entertainment. Burgers and hotdogs will be provided and members supply the "extras" - all those yummy salads, desserts, rolls, etc.!



Prairie House Museum continues to fulfill its Mission Statement

- **The LOG HOUSE** is a Must See! **DAN SCOTT** and **ART PRESSEL** put in many hours of volunteer work during the dismantling, preservation & construction of the newest hands-on exhibit building. Art also added a few bumps and bruises during the project. It's a good thing he's as hardy as he is skilled. Final touches are being added to the exterior and the interior display project is 'Coming Soon.'
- **COOPERAGE EXHIBIT - HOMESTEAD ROOM & NEW EXHIBIT ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF MUSEUM**
- **NEW WALL DISPLAYS** are in the Gift Shop, including a map entitled "**Pasture Land Adjoining Cattleherd's Station At Spanueh Nisqually**" [ca.1847, William F. Tolmie]
- A **NEW** shipment of **SHS SWEATSHIRTS & TEE SHIRTS** is now on sale in children & adult sizes.

In This Issue:



- Recognition
- Mark Your Calendar
- In Progress. . .
- Endowment Fund
- Community Connection
- Mystery Object
- Memorial
- Spotlight on History

Did You Know The Use Of This Museum Artifact?



The answer is (. . . drum roll. . .) a **BONE DISH**. A favorite gift to brides in the late 1800s, **BONE DISHES** were considered a necessary part of a table setting for the Victorian table. The crescent-shaped dish was kept at the edge of the dinner plate, enabling them to curve around the dinner plate so the bones removed from fish could be stored away from the uneaten food. Some were made in more fanciful shapes and many resemble fish.

Community Connection

Celebrate!Spanaway is the *Number One* online resource for keeping the local community informed. A Business Directory, Visitor's Guide, Youth Resources, Bethel Schools, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Local Events and links to other Pierce County sites are a few samples of information available at: www.celebratespanaway.org
Bookmark it today!

Spanaway Lion's Club

A community service organization made up of men and women of all ages, from various businesses and professions, who share a love of serving our Community together.

www.spanawaylions.org





Take Me Out to the Ballgame!



Following the arrival of the railroad in the early 1890's, called "Tacoma's Number One" recreation rendezvous for games, The young men in the community worked long hours were spent being productive - trapping, hunting or fishing put this rigorous lifestyle keep them from investing in what was



1906

the Spanaway community was booming. Spanaway Park was boating, dancing, listening to orations, big picnics and playing in local businesses or family homesteads. Leisure activities food on the table. However, Spanaway's early citizens didn't let known as the Athletic Club.

Around 1915, Mr. W.C. Fowler became the first club president and the monthly meetings were held at the home of Mr. Dolph. The Athletic Club was active in many sports and sponsored one of the first Spanaway Baseball Teams. In no time, they were gaining a Winning Reputation as they outscored both the teams from surrounding communities and the Semi-Pro teams. In 1906, four of the ten teammates were named Benston and by 1921 the fifth Benston (Elmer) was becoming famous locally and out of the area.

Elmer Benston (catcher) and Harley Franklin (pitcher) were known as a "real pair" of baseball stars. It was said that "when Harley pitched and Elmer was the catcher, a team didn't have a chance to win." There were offers from the Big Leagues to play. Sadly, tragedy struck on September 8, 1922, and Elmer's career was cut short with his untimely motorcycle accident and death on Spanaway's Pacific Highway.

In 1924, Harley played with the League All-Stars (who had Babe Ruth and Bob It was never the same for Harley after the accident.



1921

Tacoma City League All-Stars and defeated the Timber Muesel playing on their team) on Babe Ruth Day. He and Elmer had something special together.

Harley Franklin



Visit the Museum to see Harley Franklin's original Babe Ruth Baseball, Mitt and Cleats
Courtesy of the Harley Franklin Family

Elmer Benston



IN MEMORY

We will miss our longtime and supportive Spanaway Historical Society member **Katherine Sheik** "We Treasure the Past with Memories That Last".

REMINDER "Oops!" Speaking from personal experience, it's very easy to overlook paying the yearly membership dues. Please double check your records or call Kathy Creso - Membership Coordinator @ (253-537-7515) to make sure your membership is current. Thanks for supporting the Spanaway Historical Society!



? New Mystery Artifact?

Membership Prices

- General - \$8 Spouse \$5
- Seniors age 65+ - \$6 Spouse \$5
- Student age 18-22 - \$6
- Under 18 - \$5



Do You Know

- ◆ The name of the train that ran between Tacoma & Spanaway?
- ◆ How Spanaway got its name?
- ◆ How the first plats of land were surveyed in Spanaway?
- ◆ What started the fire that destroyed the majority of Spanaway's business district in 1922?

Answers will be in the next newsletter OR go to www.celebratespanaway.org and find out right away!



"Preserved Today ~ Remembered Tomorrow"



WHAT: Endowments provide ongoing benefits for organizations by earning interest and keeping the core endowment principal intact. When an endowment donation is made to SHS it is an investment, not expenditure.

WHY: Without the financial security needed to provide the funds necessary for building maintenance, artifact preservation and community program support, there is no guarantee that the Prairie House Museum will continue to operate in the forthcoming years. Our growing community needs a facility for future generations to experience and learn about the past in an authentic and hands-on environment.

HOW: Contributions to honor a new baby, remember a special occasion, a memorial tribute for a loved one or as part of your estate plan are great reasons to participate in the SHS Endowment Fund program. Estate donations can be made through wills, assignment of life insurance, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder, trusts, assignment of certificates of deposit and transfers of property such as cash, stock, bonds, real estate. Please complete the form below and mail to: **Spanaway Historical Society, P.O. Box 1238, Spanaway WA 98387**

Donations in any amount are Tax Deductible and will be greatly appreciated!

Spanaway Historical Society Endowment Fund Donation

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I would like to make a donation of:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other Amount

Please make checks payable to **Spanaway Historical Society Endowment Fund** ~ Thank You!

MUSEUM INFORMATION

LOCATION & HOURS
812 East 176th Street

Along with the special events, the museum is open every **Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and on the 3rd Sunday of each month between 2:00 - 4:00 PM.** For Group tours of any size, contact the museum at:
253-536-6655 or 360-832-6662