

Message from the President

By Mary Peterson

September marks the “beginning of the beginning” of a new year for the board of directors of the SMAA. By the time this newsletter comes out we will have introduced our new board members and the new executive board will be ready to take the helm.

The coming year will bring the excitement of new events and the comfort of traditional ones. The Hats Off to Sidney luncheon, the High Tea, the Ice Cream and Pie Social, our members’ Christmas party and our volunteer picnic will give all our board and all of our volunteers a chance to renew friendships while helping us achieve the mission of the Association; the introduction and display of works of Northwest artists and the exploration of our Northwest and regional history.

We will introduce a wonderful “new” heritage quilt and award another scholarship. We welcome both new and experienced artists in our Helen Norris Open Show in May and be filled with awe at the artwork displayed in the Student Show in January. I’m sure many of our readers are already working on a quilt or need to work for our shows next summer and we’ll once again have the opportunity to display the work of the South Kitsap Artists’ Association.

We will continue to offer the Gallery as a meeting place when the space is available and hope to watch our art education program grow with more art classes in all genres.

The Sidney Museum & Arts Association is an organization that encourages talent, self-expression and the opportunity to grow personally in perhaps a direction that you’ve yet to explore.

We look forward to saying hello to our long time friends and getting to know our new ones during the next year. Stop in and say hello. Take a look at what this community has to offer. Take a minute to enjoy your museums and your art gallery. We couldn’t have done it without you.

This has been an eventful, exciting, rewarding and busy two years and I will miss many of the duties required as president. HOWEVER. . . I hope to remain on the board as I have several projects in mind and look forward to devoting the time necessary to achieve additional goals. As many of you know, I have fallen in love with the Log Cabin Museum. I will be calling many of you to invite you to join the Orchard family.

They need occasional help with day-to-day activities, dressing, getting ready for Christmas, spring cleaning, etc. I’d love to see the Log Cabin open on weekends year round but the Orchards can’t manage that on their own. They need help only you can give; greeting visitors, answering questions and generally taking the part of hostess or host on their behalf. It’s great fun and I look forward to working with new volunteers as well as welcoming back our regular, dependable, wonderful crew.

We always welcome new members to the Association and will challenge each of you to bring in a new member during the coming year. It’s easy. Ask a neighbor or friend. Tell them what we do, Art. . . History. . . two constants in our ever-changing world. A membership in the Sidney Museum & Arts Association is a vote of confidence. For the past, for the present and the future.

Thank you,
Mary

**Sidney Museum & Arts Association
Board of Directors - 2003-2004**

Mary DeSanta Peterson - President

360.769.9551
molly01@harbournet.com

Pam Heinrich - Vice President

Facilities Committee Chair
Art Gallery Committee Chair
360.876.3881

Virginia Collins - Secretary

Fund Raising Committee Chair
Volunteer Committee Chair
Hospitality Committee Chair
360.871.4717

Glory Berglund - Treasurer

360.871.0048

Gerry Bruckart

Roy Carr - Education Committee Chair

360.876.5336

Fred Chang - Newsletter Editor

ferrycommuter@yahoo.com
360.649.0150

Lynne Little - Membership Committee Chair

360.871.4965
prislyn16@hotmail.com

Mallory Jackson - Public Information Committee Chair

360.876.1031

Louise Ness - Museum and Historic Committee Chair

360.871.2237

Bess Olson

Abe Porter

Virgil Reames - Financial Overview Committee Chair

Sonnie Selbig - Historian

Maxine Spillinger

Jessie Turner

Judd Turner - Grants Committee Chair

Deb Danielson - Gallery Manager

Tuesdays 360.876.3693
Other days 360.871.4859

The Sidney Museum and Arts newsletter is published quarterly.

The Sidney Museum and Gallery is located at 202 Sidney Avenue. The museum and gallery are open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

The Log Cabin Museum is located at 416 Sidney Avenue.

360.876.3693

Letters to Anna

by Mary Peterson

Dear Anna,

Oh, how we enjoyed your visit! To think that you're all the way across the country again almost makes me cry. We did so many things and saw so many places while you were here.

It seems a shame that we wait to enjoy what we have until we show it off to visitors but then I realize that sometimes it takes seeing something through the eyes of a stranger to renew the sense of wonder. Not that you will ever be a stranger. I honestly think we slipped back to our childhood when we were walking the beaches and climbing through the woods.

Do you know how long its been since I walked the length of a moss covered log when I could have just as easily gone around it? Or sat on the beach and sifted through shells and tiny stones looking for treasures to be taken home in sand-filled pockets? I'm just now getting back to the routine of home and family and secretly planning our next visit.

Mother Orchard wishes you well as I write this letter. She's up to her ears in fabric, putting together another one of her wonderful quilts. Our worries about her possibly failing eyesight and dexterity have gone by the wayside as we watch her complete thousands and thousands of tiny, perfectly spaced stitches in record time.

She apparently never lets a piece of fabric leave this house as her "stash bag" produces scraps of shirts, pants, dresses and aprons that haven't seen the light of day for a dozen or more years. She's even put together a pillow top made entirely of yellow silk cigar ribbons. She won't reveal the source of the ribbons but she has so many that we wonder if she isn't offering to clean up after the local lodge meetings just so she can go through the garbage!

Remember Sadie's mother, Marsha? She's the darling lady that stayed with us for a week and scandalized Mother Orchard with her "carrying on". Well, just when we thought Mother Orchard had forgotten about her a gentleman showed up at our door asking if "that lively Marsha lady" was still here. I thought we were going to have to find the smelling salts.

Mother Orchard told the visitor in no uncertain terms that Marsha was no lady and there were other more applicable terms than "lively" that could and should be used to describe Marsha's demeanor.

Photos from Old Port Orchard

These three photos are among the hundreds in the SMAA Archives. They hail from a time when you could obtain all your staples from stores along Bay Street.

I don't believe the first two are standing. The third one (Miller General Merchandise) still stands at the southeast corner of Bay Street and Sidney Avenue. It was later called the Blanchard Building, and now the Coe Building. It's for sale now. This photo shows some of the potential in the building, and how Bay Street looked without the marquee.

-Fred Chang

Howe Brothers Hardware and Port Orchard Meat & Provision Company
Edward and Harry Howe - proprietors of Howe Bros. hardware. 1900.
Red Clements proprietor - PO Meat and Provision Co.

Letter to Anna^{Continued}

We didn't get a chance to ask the gentleman's name but were able to let him know that Marsha was no longer a visitor before Mother Orchard slammed the door. Teddy was a wide-eyed witness to the entire scene and asked his grandmother what a "lively lady" was. Her attempt to explain was laced with stuttering and much fanning of her face and was totally without substance. Fortunately Teddy's attention span did not exceed the explanation.

I must finish this letter as two of my friends are coming over this afternoon and we're going to dig out all the old quilts stored in the closet and ask Mother Orchard to tell us about their history.

Lewis sends his love and thanks your clever husband for fixing the radio after Teddy spilled his cocoa in it.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Emelia

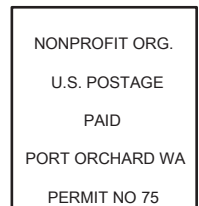
MEETING SPACE NEEDED

The members of the South Kitsap Artists' Association need a place to meet. If you know about space available for meetings please contact Loretta Anderson at 360-876-1415.

McNair General Hardware, Alex McNair proprietor. First hardware store.
Miller General Merchandise Store. George E. Miller proprietor. 1900
Photos Courtesy of Virgil Reames, SMAA.

December 4 and 5
December 11 and 12
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sidney Museum and Arts Association
202 Sidney Avenue
Port Orchard, WA 98366



Comments about the Log Cabin

“That is such a cool toilet. Can I use it?”

“My great-grandma made the hair wreath upstairs.”

“I came in here when I was a kid and always wanted to come back. “

“Do those statues live here?”

“Hello! Where are you from?”

Visitors to the Sidney Gallery, the Historical Museum and the Log Cabin often come ~ from far away.

In the past ninety days we've had visitors from: Oregon, California, Washington D.C., Connecticut, Minnesota, Arizona, Idaho, New York, Vermont, Montana, the United Kingdom, South Carolina, Maryland, North Dakota, Guam and Japan.