



# Newsletter

## Fall & Winter, 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

We have had a good year here at the museum, surprisingly so, considering the lousy weather throughout most of the summer. We certainly didn't find many guests asking where they might find the rainforest. Our volunteer hosts Ginger Robertson, Nancy Erben, Becky Hansen, Betty Miller, MilLee Jolibois, Elizabeth Carlyle, Carol Miller, Willa Jones, Mack McElwee, Alfreda LaBonte and our own special lady, May Torres diligently met everyone with a cheery smile and abundant information. The Quinault horticulture class and Swards Greenhouse came through again with beautiful flowers and Carl Cozad and Brooke and Brian Edwards helped out with the yard work. We even saw Mike, the new owner of the Quinault Merc, pushing a mower around our yard...in the rain. Thanks guys. It's time for recognition of our terrific board members who are the backbone of our museum. So many behind-the-scene jobs are accomplished by them and without any acknowledgement whatsoever. Without these members we surely wouldn't have the museum we have today. Betty Miller, Jerry Jones, Criss Osborn, John Clayton, Kathleen Praxel, Tom Northup, and Phyllis Miller, stand up and take a bow! Not forgotten are all of you faithful members, for your continued membership and generosity which supports the museum, we thank you.

**New Members:** We do get a few new members each year and sadly, we also lose a few. In August the Quinault classes of 1960-1965 were here for their 42-47 year reunion. As they were packing up to leave, Phyllis rounded up those she could and encouraged them to visit the museum. May was hostess that day and of course she knew all of these past graduates since her daughter, Pat, was a 1962 graduate. The day was getting late and several had a long way to travel but they had a pleasant visit with May and a personalized tour of our museum. We have four new memberships this year, the first two of which were at the reunion... John Mills of Louisville, KY and Robert Slimp of Brinnon, WA, Bob and Brenda Snell of Seattle, WA and The Aberdeen Museum.

With the expert help of our good friend, Sudi, we are now in the process of designing a three-fold brochure. Our unique logo that you see in the upper left corner of this page was also Sudi's creation. We recently refined our mission statement and will include it in the brochure.

### **Lake Quinault Museum Mission Statement**

*In viewing the past, we look to the future. The rich histories of the proud communities surrounding Lake Quinault deserve safekeeping. Our goals are the preservation and display of these objects of historical and educational value.*

## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER COMES TO MUSEUM

New to the museum this year is a visitor information center. It's funded through Grays Harbor Tourism which collects a hotel/motel tax from our local resorts, motels, vacation rentals and lodges and distributes funds back into the community for the purpose of tourism enhancement. We designed an outdoor kiosk board and had it mounted at the East end of our front porch. The outside of the kiosk is shingled with the pattern matching the adjacent wall and the interior side facing the porch has an adjustable brochure holder capable of holding up to 24 different brochures. Wes Johnson, who also made our burl benefactor/memorial plaque years ago, made the kiosk and visitor information sign. Inside the museum we have a table set up with visitor information material. All costs were paid by GH Tourism as well as \$600.00 to the museum for hosting the information center during the summer months. Also, depending on how it fares the inclement weather, we plan on maintaining the outdoor kiosk throughout the year. There is visitor information available across the street at the Forest Service office but they do not include any commercial business such as brochures on our local motels, restaurants, guide trips, etc. All in all we think it's a win-win arrangement, our local establishments are getting exposure and advertisement, the tourists are receiving additional information on local attractions and the museum has many more visitors plus a little income to boot!

When recommending the terrific hiking trails around us here in the National Forest we had to warn our guests of the closed Gatton Creek trail. The horrific windstorm in November of last year had a devastating impact on that particular trail. In fact, it strongly resembled a logging clear-cut. To illustrate the enormity of the destruction we asked Pete Erben for pictures of the area taken after the storm. The month before, during the mushroom festival in October, Phyllis took her mushroom enthusiasts along that same trail, taking numerous pictures along the way. Little did she know of the upcoming storm and the damage that it would bring. The before and after pictures that we feature in one of our display journals shows what the forces of nature can and does do here in the Quinault Valley.



As we continue to acquire new artifacts we occasionally receive an article unknown to us. This time it was a long iron implement resembling a harpoon. Brought to us by Marc Jensen, who said he dug it up in the back yard of his vacation home here on the south shore it became our “whatsits”. David Richmond said it was a vintage hay hook used with loose hay and inefficient at best. It was finally identified on an internet search under “harpoons” as: “This is not a harpoon!” It is indeed a hay hook! How about that, folks?! From now on you look up what it’s not! It was described as such:

## HAY HOOK

Donated by Marc Jensen

This hay hook is often mistakenly identified as a harpoon, probably because it is large, iron and has two barbs that open outward. It was dropped into a bale of hay on a wagon, and after it was inside the bale tension on the rope attached to it opened the barbs so the bale could be lifted into the loft of the barn. A trigger released the barbs so it could then be withdrawn. It appears to be quite similar to a hay hook patented by F.H. Bolte in 1884 (U.S. Patent No. 307,906, Nov. 11, 1884).



**Single Hay Hook**



**Double Harpoon  
Hay Fork**

John Olson stopped in not long after we had identified and tagged the hay hook and, not one to be outdone, jumped in his truck, took off on down the road towards home and returned 15 minutes later with a double harpoon hay fork. Going back in time he said, “*The double harpoon hay fork was considered, by many of the local farmers, as a great improvement over the single harpoon.*” He then explained, “*There was a track in*

*the peak of the barn from which a small carriage ran that carried the hay the length of the barn. At the end of the barn (or in the driveway) the track had a lock that the carriage would then drop a single block from which the (hay) fork was attached. The fork was pushed into the back half of the load first. The two little dogs (on the fork) were set so they would grab the hay. When the hay was over the spot that the mowers wanted it, they hollered and the loader tripped the load with the trip rope. (The trip rope pulled the dogs flush with the fork allowing the hay to slip off) The loader then pulled the carriage back with the trip rope and set it again.” John continued, “If the loader was good, there were four forks of hay to empty the load. However, he had to be careful on the last two so he didn’t catch the hay rack with the fork or it would be lifted off the wagon. There were two mowers and one loader. A wife or child usually drove the horse and the two mowers were pitchers (we assume using a pitchfork) when they went to the field. There was usually a mark on the ground for the horse that showed where the end of the barn was, to make sure the carriage wasn’t pulled out through the end of the barn.”*

We might add here that the “mow” (rhymes with cow) was the area in the hayloft where the hay was stored and thus the workers filling the mow were known as the “mowers.”



In addition to the hay fork John has also supplied us with the “John Olson cattle branding iron” and an ancient bear trap. We pass on to others the information that is given to us, unless we know otherwise. Thus goes the branding iron:

### **BRANDING IRON**

John Olson cattle branding iron:

J O

The John Olson cattle brand is described as a J O with channel bar pointing down.

The Quinault Valley used to be “open range” to cattle and horses. The cattle were branded for identification as everyone’s cattle ranged together.

The Olson and Osborn brand was a “double” OO. The Esses brand was a 9 - (nine bar).

Most of the cattle owners also had ear marks for identification. Esses had the tip of the right ear off. Olson and Osborn had under-bit in right ear. Ignar Olson had under-bit in left ear. Earnest Olson had tip of left ear off. Jasper Bunch had left tip off with under-bit also.

Bud Loomis of Humptulips had jokingly, the ultimate earmark. Both ears off which could eliminate all other marks.

### **BEAR TRAP**

This bear trap was purchased in 1904 by Ignar Olson. It was last set and trapped a large bear in 1952 by Ignar. The valley was open range for cattle in those days and this bear was killing small domestic calves. A bear trap was never tied solid, they used what was called a toggle. A toggle was a vine maple about 8 to 10 feet long with the trap ring tied to the upper portion. Thus, when the bear started moving through the brush and trees the toggle would become tangled and stop

him. The trap had to be set by using clamps on each spring. This trap looks very vicious but remember that it was used 50 to 100 years ago. They are no longer in use.



How the Evergreen Blackberry came to Quinault

- or -

“Have Berry, Will Travel”

Related by  
Jerry Jones

It seems that when the Haas family homesteaded here in the early 1900’s one of the few available berries was the salmon berry. The color was a bland orange, the flavor not much better. It was definitely not a desired berry for jam or pie. So they wrote back to the old country, that being Germany, and had blackberry plants sent out. Now you know the story of “How the evergreen blackberry came to be in Quinault.” Actually, if you think about it, the large bushes of evergreen berries were mainly found in and around the fields of the old homesteads. That is, before the birds indiscriminately scattered seeds everywhere!