



LAKE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
QUINAULT
AND MUSEUM

P.O. Box 35
354 South Shore Road
Quinault, WA 98575

Newsletter
Spring & Summer 2008

WOW! WHAT A STORM! WE GOT HIT....HARD!

WE WERE FOREWARNED that there was a storm coming, days in advance, actually, but until that fateful December day blew in, no one could have predicted the devastation it would bring. The power was out early on in the day and Criss Osborn was trying to get out of the South Shore and over to my house where we at least had heat from the fireplace. Trees were breaking off or uprooting, roads were covered with debris if passable at all and albeit, stop and go, she headed out. It was while she was stranded at the Lodge that she heard the crash! The museum got hit by a falling tree! Actually it was the top of a second-growth hemlock, not all that large, only about 2' in diameter but packing quite a wallop, landing right smack dab in the middle of our new display room.

WE GOT LUCKY.. BUT NOT TOO LUCKY....

THE FOLLOWING DAY Criss and I were able to get to the museum where we found Dan Chandler and Doug Lisherness already working on damage control. The tree was resting on Mom and Dad's (Eudie & Doug Marston) circa 1928 steamer trunk which remarkably, was still intact. We spent the day removing most of the artifacts out of harms way and assessed the damage. We were pleased that very few items were broken. The large oval portraits were still hanging on the wall as were the antique plates and Jigger's butter churn which was displayed on a small shelf. Also faring well were the cast-iron stove, (imagine that) the ice box, the washtub and washboard, the school desk and old Clearwater School bell, as well as most of the small kitchen implements that went along with frontier life.

THE BAD NEWS WAS that we no longer had a ceiling or roof. The three exterior walls were bowed out, all the sheetrock and insulation were water-saturated and beyond salvation. At that time the only things that looked to be relatively undamaged were our shingled interior walls and our beautiful tiled floor which we could hardly see for days to come because of the tree and all its trimmings, the ceiling and roof which were now on the floor as were much of the wall material. We were injured.

THE BUILDING WAS NOT SECURE so with the help from friends who put their own concerns on hold, we removed all the artifacts from the premises and put them in safe storage. During this time most of us had no power, limited or no water, little communication with not only our own community members but what was happening around the rest of the world. During these desperate days the Quinault Lodge came through like a trooper and opened its doors to anyone in need, with rooms, bathing facilities, meals, or just a place to come in out of the elements, warm up, wash up and have a bite. Criss and I came to rely on and very much appreciated their hospitality during this difficult time. We were without power for 10 days.

With such devastation our admiration and thanks goes out to all of those PUD workers who labored around the clock to restore the service in such a timely manner.

THE DECISION WAS MADE to repair the room even if it meant replacing all three exterior walls plus the roof and ceiling. Dan started in, first with cleanup and clearing and then the assessment. He found that even though the damage was extensive, we will be able to repair much of the structure and that's where we are today.

ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE we are happy to say that the rest of the museum was spared the wrath of the storm except for three broken windows. The hillside behind the museum looks like a clear-cut logging show but rest assured that with the ability of Mother Nature and her 160 inches of rain a year we will soon have a natural garden, if not a jungle.

WITH A BIT of shuffling, stuffing and sifting we should be up and running by mid-June. And, as it has been in past years, other than the weekends, our hours in June will be dependent upon the weather and activity.

Article by Phyllis



Yup, this is our display room.



Looking out front...note the shingled roof hanging down.



Doesn't look all that bad from the outside....



Here we're standing inside looking up toward the ceiling. Oops, big hole... and "What's that roof doing there?"



First day. Dan is helping us take the artifacts out of the room.



Today...Work in progress.

FIVE-COURSE DINNER TO BENEFIT THE MUSEUM

On the weekend of June 27-29, 2008, the Quinault Lodge is planning an event in celebration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1937 visit to the Olympic Peninsula, his luncheon at the Lodge and the 70th birthday of the Olympic National Park which was established in 1938, during the Roosevelt administration. A benefit five course dinner at \$75.00 a plate is planned for the evening meal, the proceeds going to the Lake Quinault Museum to assist with the expenses incurred from the December 2007 storm.

On Saturday the festivities will begin with a "Fireside Chat" of which FDR was so remembered. And, to have a chat you need FDR, so not only are they having him but Teddy as well, albeit in the form of professional impersonators. At noon a reenactment of the 1937 luncheon will be served. We are fortunate to have two copies of the original menu from that luncheon, one from Eudie Marston who was one of the servers that historic day and the other, which also included a card signed by FDR, from May Torres. The Quinault school was just past the Lodge where the Forest Service office is now located. School was let out for a time so that the kids, with teacher in tow, of course, could walk over to see the President. We interviewed a few of these "kids," asking, "What do you remember about the day the President came to Quinault?" Elizabeth (Streater) Tarbox: "I was in the 8th grade and remember seeing the President in the lobby and there were secret service people all over the place." May Torres was a senior that year and said that she and fellow classmates were standing outside the soda fountain wing. Shortly, President Roosevelt passed through the group and on into the building. Everyone was in agreement that it was raining that day, raining hard, actually. Dorothy (Marston) Esses, 3rd grader at the time, remembers standing out on the deck looking in the windows and President Roosevelt, seeing the children out in the rain, waves his arm in a welcoming gesture and said, "Let the children come in," which they immediately did. Vern Wilson was a 6th grader. He recalled the rain and flags, lots of flags and on that same note, 2nd grader, Betty Miller laughed, "We all had little American flags that we were waving. Of course, with the rain coming down steadily, the flags were soaked and I can remember my arm turned bright red from the dye running out of my flag!" Alice Esses must have had inside connections because she got to join the party for lunch. Way to go, Alice!

If any of you would like to attend the "Museum Benefit Dinner," please be aware that the Lodge is limiting the number to 60 persons so early reservations are advised. Quinault Lodge: (360) 288-2900.

And, if we can assist you in any way please feel free to contact us at:
Phyllis Miller: 288-2317 phyllisandrodney@hotmail.com or
Criss Osborn: 288-2583 criss013@centurytel.net

We hope you'll be able to join us for this historic celebration. It sounds like it'll be lots of fun and remember....the dinner will be helping us here at the museum!

UPDATES

Brochures

The museum brochure that we reported on in the last newsletter is close to being completed. It's now in the hands of Amy Ostwald for fine tuning and from her it'll be sent to the printer. We were hoping to have it out and about by this time but it didn't happen. Financing for the brochure is from Grays Harbor Tourism which receives much of its funding from the hotel/motel tax, of which a good deal is generated right here in our own community. This tax is earmarked to promote tourism and fortunately our brochure falls into that category. Since we don't have it as yet, be looking for it to be included in the next newsletter.

Grant from Quinault Nation

It's been a year since we received the \$5,000 grant from the Quinault Indian Nation. It's in the bank drawing interest (we hope) and will be there when we're ready for it. It will be put toward enhancing our Native American exhibits which we had hoped would be in progress by now but due to the unforeseeable events beyond our control (namely, Sir Hemlock) we were set back a bit. Our main concern and energies at this time is to restore order to our back display room and get moved back as soon as we can. In the meantime, we are creaking at the seams in our Great Room.

Visitor Information

Last year our visitor information center went very well and we are looking to continue it this year. In fact, we have already been paid our funds for this season's services. We have maintained our outdoor kiosk throughout the year and will also have an information area indoors when we're open to the public.

Flowers are coming again

As in past years we will again be decked out in our flower finery. Seward's Greenhouse has once again extended their generosity. We have also been the recipient of splendid baskets and bedding plants from the horticulture class at the Quinault School. Each spring they have their plant sale but always manage to save some for contribution to our "good looks."

NEW STUFF

From the Lodge we have two of the original wicker desks, circa 1926.

An upright grand piano, thought to be the first piano in Quinault and said to have been brought in by Neil Jones, circa early 1900's. Compliments of Jean (Sansom) Barkhurst.

Donated by Karen Creviston, a circa 1930's Singer treadle sewing machine.

Our "Bite of History" booklets are still available at \$10.00 each.

In Memory.....

We have lost another of our invaluable charter board members. John Clayton passed away May 24th, 2008 at his and Kathy's home at the side of Big Creek. He devoted many hours and ideas to the museum from our very beginning. He was the right-hand-man for Dan on many projects, was a "go-for" anytime, he disposed of innumerable utility trailer loads of construction waste and designed the drainage system to keep water away from the building, that being his own "special assignment." He was very concerned with safety and security all around the museum.

We will miss seeing him in his old purple crusher hat, puttering at one project or another.

Each of us has our own special memories of John but here's a few we'd like to share with you, captured in pics....



Working with Dan....



"I've got my end," he says to Dan.



Getting flowers at Seward's



"Sumpin's wrong..."



Yup, definitely wrong!



Goodby, dear friend.

And as he gazes at the museum, "It's lookin' good!"