



Lake Quinault Museum

Newsletter

Fall 2000

353 South Shore Road, Quinault, Washington 98575

How Did It All Begin?

During a Forum meeting in March, 2000, it was brought to the group's attention that the Forest Service office building would be partially vacated and a sizeable room in the downstairs portion would be available. After the meeting, Betty Miller and John Olson discussed this bit of news and both thought it would be great if the community could use this space. For what, they didn't really know, but they weren't going to pass up such a great opportunity! Upon further thought, Betty said to John, "You know, John, I have always had the hopes of seeing a museum representing our local families and history."

Well, the rest, as they say, is history. Betty called a few people together and on April 5, 2000, they met at the library to discuss the possibility of forming a museum. Attending this first meeting were Betty Miller, Leslie and Roger Blain, Karen Creviston, Clarice McDonald, Phyllis Miller, Criss Osborn, Nancy Petrick, Kathleen Praxel, and May Torres. We all realized that a lot of work was ahead but the rewards would be well worth it. So, with that in mind we proceeded to establish a working body. Kathleen Praxel agreed to be committee chairperson. With her guidance, we formed the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. We now have an insurance policy, a checking and savings account, a mission statement, and employer identification number and an outstanding logo by artist Sudi.

Over 500 guests and visitors have viewed the Lake Quinault Historical Museum since its opening. The guest book lists people from as far away as Puerto Rico, Finland, Israel, Australia, France, England and Beijing, China.

Museum Opening

After months of preparation, the *Lake Quinault Historical Society and Museum* opened its doors on the 23 of September, 2000. One hundred and thirty people attended the "preview opening". The museum features a pioneer "home", artifacts from the local communities, a Native American display, logging area, and many photos.

In June of this year a Forest Service special permit was issued to the *Lake Quinault Historical Society* for use of the lower level of the Quinault Forest Service building as a museum. A display case donated by **Don Root's SHIPYARD** was the beginning of the actual museum, a woodstove from the **Polson Museum** and the loan of a large cedar canoe were the first items to be put on display.

Steve Rutledge made a wooden donation box from local woods and gave it as a gift to the museum.



Wish List

The Lake Quinault Museum is always looking for items to further expand and enhance displays. Old school items such as hand bells, reading books, slates, etc. are needed. Also, any written family histories and/or photographs. (The photographs are not kept but scanned by computer and the original photo is returned to its owner.)

These items can either be donated or given as outright gifts. The Historical Society has forms to fill out indicating what the item is, a description of the article, and the owner. The item is then given a number that corresponds to the form. The forms are kept on file in the museum.

Joe Kestner's Handmade Violins



photo by Dell Mulkey, Quinault, Washington

Joe Kestner, shown here in a 1939 photograph, was known for his painstaking craftsmanship in creating violins. The violins were crafted from native Olympic Peninsula woods and were self-designed and sturdily constructed instruments.



Museum Farming Display

Hand ploughs, axes, saws and an unique "fiddle seeder" (a seed broadcasting implement) are a few of the items in the museum's farming display.



J.T. Quigg's, Marion 33 car, 1913

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Museum Pioneer Home Display

This area is a mix of styles and time periods and includes an Edison phonograph, 1879 treadle sewing machine and a hand cranked wooden washing machine.

Membership Form

All members receive the *Lake Quinault Museum Newsletter*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

- Benefactor.....\$200.00 or more
- Sponsor.....\$50.00
- family.....\$30.00
- member.....\$20.00

New ___

Membership Renewal ___

Gift Membership ___

Become a member and participate in the planning and growth of the Lake Quinault Historical Museum

Detach and mail with your check to: Lake Quinault Museum, P.O. Box 35 Quinault, WA 98575

Museum Volunteer May Torres

Volunteers are a necessary component of a museum and the Lake Quinault Museum is fortunate in having May Torres generously donate her time. May works on Thursdays and is a favorite of the visitors and guests that view the museum.

May is from one of the pioneering families (Olson) and answers questions that visitors have with humor and local knowledge of the area. May retired as the postmaster of Quinault, Washington in 1981.

Thank you May.

Recollections

Every family has stories about their ancestors, some about courage, adventure, or romance, and then there are the humorous stories. Below is an excerpt from the book, TRAILS AND TRIALS OF THE PIONEERS OF THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA, by Lucile H. Cleland

".....Mrs. Kestner once shot a cougar - In telling of it she said, "The first time I missed him. The second time I hit him in the same place. But the third time I got him."

Museum Suggestions

The museum has a notebook for suggestions and ideas. We encourage both members and visitors to tell us or write down their thoughts. We will try and implement as many as possible.

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To: