

BENN'S BULLETIN

A Publication of The Friends of the Aberdeen Museum
Summer 2019

Market & K St (K St Entrance)

(360) 533-1976

Tues & Thurs 1-4 pm

HELEN KLEEB

The Oregonian Statesman Journal

Helen F. Kleeb was born in South Bend, Washington, January 6, 1907 to Ethel M. & Arthur William Kleeb. Her father was the mill superintendent of the Kleeb Lumber Co. By 1920 the Kleeb family was living in Grays Harbor, Wash. On November 14, 1920 it was announced Helen was chosen as Freshmen Secretary of Aberdeen High School.



Figure 1 Helen Kleeb as Miss Mamie Baldwin from "The Waltons" television series.

By 1923 the family had moved to Silverton, Oregon. In 1924 Helen graduated from Silverton High School. In 1925 she moved to Portland and began attending the Ellison-White Conservatory of

Music, in The Broadway Building, which had the Doris Smith Stagecraft dept. & Elizabeth Woodbury, Speech Art, which she was most interested.

In 1926 she began appearing in Benson Polytechnic class plays and did skits for groups such as the Sunnyside Theater for the Parent-Teacher Assoc. such as dramatic readings, comedy, etc. Many of these done with Ruth Archer.

In May 1928 Helen landed her first big leading role in the Rose Festival Pageant "Where Rolls The Oregon." She played a beautiful Indian Maiden at Multnomah Civic Stadium. Her choice roles in plays like "Merton of The Movies" and the burlesque "Chestnuts off The Community Chest." She had also played several roles with "The Henry Duffy Players."

In November 1928 the Duffy Players took Helen to Seattle for what was said to be two weeks of plays but she continued with the players to San Francisco and in January 1929 signed a contract to appear with The Duffy Players for the rest of the year in San Francisco, in the leading role of the play "Her Night Out." Then to Los Angeles with the play "Mary's Other Husband." "Helen leads a cast of all-round ability with a deliciously droll characterization as the hard-boiled maid."

In December 1929 Helen was back in Seattle with the Duffy Players and then back to Portland by April 1930 with the players. In 1931 she was back in California with Morgan Wallace in "The Hollywood Play House." In November 1932 Helen was back in Portland at the "Taylor Street Theater" in "Street Scene." Acting jobs were getting scarce as the Depression set in. She then switched from the stage to radio.

On December 14, 1932 Helen Kleeb became a regular cast member of the popular KGW Radio series "The Homicide Squad with Captain Niles of Portland Police." She continued with the Taylor Street Players as

well. 1933 ad "Helen Kleeb in "Meet The Wife." 25c Matinee, all seats reserved."

In 1934 Helen joined the cast of KEX's "Covered Wagon Days" where she played the part of Daphne May. The program was a large production, even by network standards of the time, sponsored by Gevurtz Furniture Co. "Covered Wagon Days is the story of the conquest of the unclaimed west of the 1850's. The caravan makes its weary way over the plains and hills following a trail that leads straight to the promised land, the Willamette Valley. Chronicled are the pioneers' troubles, hardships, heartaches and joys." The program had been an instant hit with listeners right from the start, lasting nine seasons. It was the longest running radio serial in the Pacific Northwest.

In March 1935 Helen left for San Francisco for the play "The Party's Over." In January 1936 she was back in Portland at Civic Theater for the production of "The Mad Hopes." In July 1936 Helen, back in San Francisco, finally broke through as an NBC Pacific Red Network actress, heard regularly on "The Winning West" and in August 1936 on "Death Valley Days."

On November 27, 1937 Helen F. Kleeb (30) married 34 year old John Gerald Prendergast in San Francisco. By 1940 they were living at 1890 27th Ave. She continued working in radio until his death on August 17, 1950. Helen then moved to Los Angeles where she began a film and television career.

This was just the beginning. Television acting would become her place in history, appearing in countless programs like: I Love Lucy, Dennis the Menace, The Twilight Zone, Gunsmoke, Bonanza, Mister Ed, The Munsters, Get Smart, Dragnet, Adam 12, Little House On The Prairie, Highway To Heaven & Who's The Boss? and many more.

In 1958 Helen used her voice talent on a new record album. Stan Freberg, a voice artist known for his outrageous parodies was commissioned by the Oregon Centennial Committee for 1959 to write and produce a three-act musical play. Blitz-Weinhard Brewery Co. sponsored the play "Oregon! Oregon!" It was recorded by Capitol Records during several night-time sessions in December 1958, and released as a limited edition LP record for sale as an audio souvenir during the centennial year. Freberg cast Helen for the lead role as the Witch, who wanted to put Oregon "back in the bottle" unless the citizens of the State could guess her name. On April 18, 1959 Helen F. Kleeb married Elmer Garrison.

In 1961 Freberg cast Helen again in his historical parody "The History of the United States of America" where Helen portrayed famous flag maker Betsy Ross. In the Freberg history version, George Washington was aghast to discover that his proposed polka-dot flag design was replaced by Betsy's stars and stripes. Her reply was the tune "Everybody Wants To Be An Art Director."

On September 14, 1972 "The Waltons" CBS Television series debuted and on October 12, 1972 TV viewers were introduced to Helens' most remembered recurring role. Miss Mamie Baldwin, one of two elderly spinster daughters of a long-deceased gentleman bootlegger. Miss Mamie and Miss Emily naively carried on the tradition of "Papa's Recipe" long after the originator had passed. He had taught the recipe to his daughters, which he framed as a cure-all medical service to the community. Helen played this role for 9 seasons, ending in 1981. On December 28, 2003 Helen Kleeb Garrison died at age 96 in Los Angeles. Helen's resting place is at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, California.

Save the Date

Founders Day Parade

June 29, 2019
Friends Office Open
11 am – 4 pm

Aberdeen Rain Glow

Friends at Hotel Morck
9 venues, Laser show, light parade
Costume contest
July 27, 2019

Myrtle Street Dance

August 10, 2019 1-7pm
Presented by: Friends of Aberdeen Museum
& Polson Museum
Celebrate the cooperation of our two
communities
Free Admission

Summerfest Scavenger Hunt

Aug 17

First Friday Photo display

First Friday of Every Month
Friends of the Aberdeen Museum office
5 – 8 p.m.
Market & K (K Street Entrance)

Donation Received

in Memory of

Delores Moe Erak

Was GH College established in 1930 or 1942?

See answer later in this newsletter

I Like to Go to Grandma's House

By

Cora A. McDermoth

(Published 1929)

I like to go to Grandma's house,
She don't live very far;
She's always glad to see a chap,
And there's cookies in the jar.

I like to go in summer time,
When the sun is shining hot;
The great big porch is always cool,
And there's a green grass spot.

I like to go in winter time
When the wind howls "Oo-Oo";
When the big fire is in the grate
Just laughs and talks to you.

I like to go to Grandma's house
And in the attic play;
There are things enough up there
To 'muse a chap all day.

I like to go to Grandma's house,
I'm glad she don't live far;
The best time to go is when
She fills the cookie jar.

*McDermoth Elementary in Aberdeen was named
after Cora's husband*

Her book of poems was published in 1929

The Myrtle Street Dance

The Myrtle Street Dance is being held on August 10th from 1 to 7 pm. This is a FREE event and is co-hosted by The Polson Museum and The Friends of the Aberdeen Museum. The event was inspired by the Hoquiam and Aberdeen communities. We want to celebrate the caring and the support they have shown to each other recently. We hope to have a fun and relaxing day where we can build further support and communication. We want citizens and community leaders to know they are appreciated and their kindness has not gone unnoticed.

For the event, we have permission to close Myrtle Street between Sumner and Cherry, part of Cherry Street, and use the PUD parking lot. We picked this block of Myrtle as a remembrance of Electric Park. It was a place where our communities came together sharing a ball field, park, and electric production. We will have a display highlighting the facility to remind attendees of the meaning of the location.

The dance will include music from 2 bands, Stan Foreman and the Harbor All Stars featuring Stan Foreman, Dave Reed, Bruce Hughes and Maitland Ward from 1 to 4pm . They will be playing music from the 60's & 70's. From 4 to 7pm we will have 8 Second Ride from Tacoma, they will be playing country western music. So bring a chair, sit back and enjoy the music or enjoy 'cutting a rug' or in this case, pavement. When you need a break, there will be food vendors, a beer garden, friends to greet, and new people to meet.

Check the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum's Facebook page for updates.

For more information contact:

Becky Carossino, Chairman

360-580-5166

Email- friendsplans@gmail.com

Friends of the Aberdeen Museum

Myrtle Street Dance

PO BOX 722

Aberdeen WA 98520

Aberdeen Rain Glow at the Hotel Morck



We want you to know that the Friends of the Aberdeen have committed to open the 1st floor of the old Hotel Morck as a chance look at what the inside looked like back in its heyday. The Hotel Morck, in Aberdeen, Washington is historically significant for its broad contributions and direct connections to the commercial development of the Grays Harbor region¹ and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We want you to enter a Glow World that will take you back in time and we hope that everything you see there will be a surprise.

We just came into possession of old Morck Hotel memorabilia and we know it will bring back memories. It's surprising us each day as we look for photos and memorabilia that visitors might enjoy. *(cont'd next page)*

As part of our goal to create this unique world in the dark we are looking for outdoor wall projection lights, holiday projectors, rope lighting, neon and LED lighting, wall washers in different colors, and any unique type of illumination devices or lighting that might help us create a spectacular experience and Glow World.

A group of the Junior Class at Aberdeen High school will be creating another Glow World as part of their Senior Class project and they will be looking for lighting and inspiration as well.

The Aberdeen Rain Glow Festival is hoping to have at least 9 Glow Worlds as part of the Festival this year. Each Glow World is created by different groups. Aberdeen Rain Glow is still searching for two more groups interested in participating and creating a Glow World of their own.

It's a light thing so we have to wait for dark, so take a nap and join us on Saturday, July 27 from 9 pm to midnight and expect to be wowed.

For more information go to aberdeenartcenter.com/glow or Contact Douglas Orr at 562-208-4226

1 <https://www.nps.gov/articles/hotel-morck.htm>

Was GH College established in 1930 or 1942?

Answer: 1930

Board of Aberdeen History Contribution

John Shaw

I am the Executive Director of the Westport South Beach Historical Society. We have the Westport Maritime Museum and also own the Grays Harbor Lighthouse and in September of 2018 I was appointed to the Board of the Aberdeen Museum of History. I am generally just referred to as the "Museum Guy" out in Westport.

At our recent Grays Harbor Museum Association meeting, the Chair Nancy Cuyle asked me if there could be something written from the Aberdeen Museum Board that she could include in the next Friends newsletter. I asked a few other members their thoughts and an update certainly seemed simple enough. In thinking it over, most of what we have done to date has been in open meetings and available to the public and it is also a "Board process", meaning as a group. So it occurred to me that sharing some of what has happened so far and what is up-coming up from "my own" perspective would be best and that leaves other Board members a chance in this forum in the future. Maybe this is a getting to know the Board members story, where we can share our "individual" opinions as well. What we say as a Board is in the minutes, so I want to make sure to point out that this is not speaking "for the Board", it is my own view. As you may already be reading, I am very respectful of process.

As a member of the Aberdeen Museum Board we operate under City Ordinance and must comply with the same rules as the City Council. The quick version is that the Board is a great group and to date have engaged in setting down an updated framework for the new Museum as outlined by the American Alliance of Museums, with whom we are members. We have adopted updated collections policy that meets AAM standards as part of building an operation that can be accredited when it becomes operational again. There are several other areas of museology that we must update and embrace that include Ethics, practices and professional standards. The Board began a process to find a new site or sites and has hosted a public workshop and in the last two meetings winnowed down

the possibilities for further investigation. It is a process to say the least.

The Mayor asked the Board to investigate a point of engagement that could be integrated in the final planning of the Gateway Project. A committee was established and the architects for that project will be reporting at the next Board meeting. Most people have heard that there is a project coming together to redevelop the Morck Hotel. While the AMH will take no direct involvement, it has been proposed that there would be space developed for Aberdeen specific history to be displayed. In addition to these two future points of engagement, the Board is working towards a core or home location to house business, collections and likely another location for engagement.

There are a lot of balls in the air including the big one, that of insurance settlements from the fire and the establishment by the Mayor and City Council of what the budget will look like moving forward along with a serious Capital Campaign. I believe we are laying bricks a step at a time towards the new Aberdeen Museum of History and I would encourage patience among all interested parties. It is a process and we are committed to raising the bar and not just being quick.

In leaning this towards the members of the "Friends" of the Aberdeen Museum I will share my own position on how our groups can work together.

I attended the Aberdeen Pioneer Association meeting this past Saturday. Very nice event, familiar faces, AMH Board Member Don Lentz, is also the President of the Pioneers. There were "Friends" of the Aberdeen Museum in attendance and Nancy gave a report and spoke of Friends activities. During the meeting portion Jo-Celle Strom asked if the "Friends" and Pioneer Association might need to join or merge in the future.

This discussion was interesting to me in context of recent readings on various organizational models for museums. Friends Groups are still growing in numbers. Large Museums are now sporting many "Friends" groups that will align along their own specific interests. "The MET" has 20 plus adjunct "Friends" groups. OK, we are not "The MET" but as we look at operational models it is important to consider. I was very happy hearing the updates of the "Friends" work on oral histories and plans for continued work strengthening and building its own group.

I am a proponent of a municipally run Museum as the core of operations with support of strong "Friends" groups. We currently have only one Friends group, but the question from the Pioneers reminded me that it is not exclusive. I can see Pioneers being Friends of the Museum as well as our Genealogy Society and there are likely other specific interests that may arise as we grow the New Museum. I believe it best that all have "their own" identity that is created by their own specific group. The Museum Board has its own specific identity/ interest and that is to re-build a new and better Aberdeen Museum of History and operation that will become a point of pride for Aberdeen and a key component of revitalizing our downtown.

How everyone works together will be important. Friends groups by their nature can engage in ways that the City cannot. I see one of our jobs as the Museum Board is to create the core operations that attracts the support of strong yet independent Friends Groups which will benefit all involved.

At every Board Meeting to date, we have asked for public comments and I would encourage members of the current "Friends" to feel free to attend our meetings.

Friends of the Phoenix

Rising from the Ashes

Membership funds go towards preserving and celebrating history in our community.

Membership Application and Record

Date _____

Member/Business Name _____

Phone number(s) _____

Email _____

I would like to receive the quarterly newsletter. Mail _____ email _____

I choose the following Membership:

Family/household - \$50 per year Youth/Student - \$5 per year

Individual - \$25 per year Senior 65+ - \$20 per year

Business - \$100 per year Sustaining Individual/Business - \$300/\$500 per year

Memberships start from date of payment and last one year.

I wish for my name to remain anonymous, not to be displayed in person or in any Friends of the Aberdeen Museum, or Aberdeen Museum publications.

Would you like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities? Yes No

If so, please list areas you have interest in (i.e. event volunteer, office volunteer, data entry, fundraising, board member, etc.)

I am interested in the volunteer waiver program.

I understand that I can earn my membership after completion of 10 volunteer hours. This waiver can be requested again once my membership year ends.

*We are always looking for people who have a
passion for Aberdeen's history.*

Join us today!

FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN MUSEUM

Market & K St (K St Entrance)

PO BOX 722

Aberdeen, WA 98520

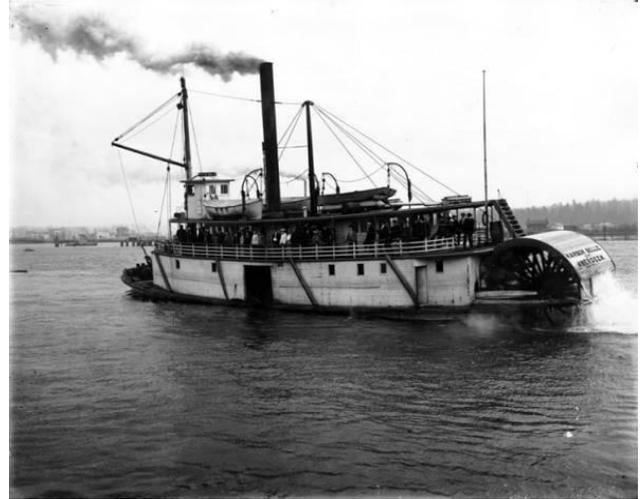
(360) 533-1976

Email: friends98520@gmail.com

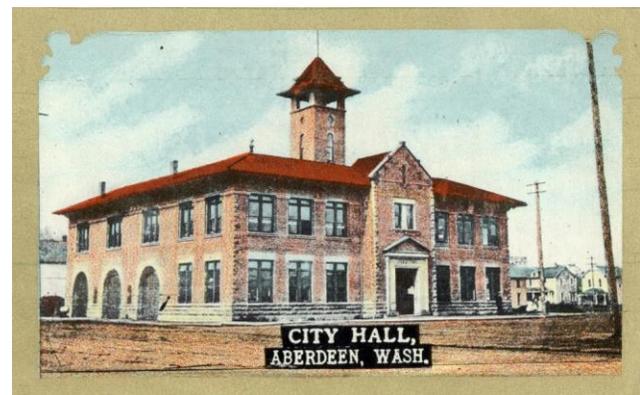
and

Visit our website at

www.aberdeenmuseumfriends.org



Sara Long - Harbor Belle Aberdeen



Aberdeen City Hall Courtesy Chehalis Valley

Train Station



1918 Wishkah Boom Splash



Friends of Aberdeen Museum Board

Monthly Meeting

First Tuesday of each month

6:00 pm

Market & K (K Street Entrance)

Board Members

Patti Walden - Acting President

Ruth Hamilton - Secretary

Nancy Cuyle - Treasurer

Jennifer Bennefeld

Amy Herring

Douglas Orr