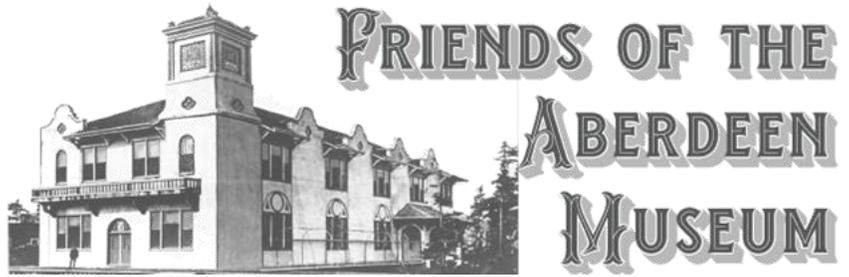


BENN'S BULLETIN

FALL 2019



Myrtle Street Dance

By Becky Carossino



Friends of the Aberdeen Museum partnered with Polson Museum on August 10th for a wonderful event, a celebration of friends and neighbors and all they do to help our communities. Polson Museum developed a display honoring the site of the dance, the Electric Park. Aberdeen and Hoquiam attendees floated in and out through the day so a count for the six hour event was difficult, however the tables and the beer garden were filled most of the time.

Two bands were big hits with those in attendance. Stan the Man and The Harbor All Star featuring Stan Foreman, Dave Reed, Bruce Hughes and Maitland Ward played-great dance

music from the 60's and 70's. 8 Second Ride from Tacoma had line dancers up on their feet with their country hits.

There was good, clean fun as MC David Quigg, asked the Aberdeen and Hoquiam Mayors' teams questions about their neighborhood history.



Hoquiam was named "Best Neighbor" and won the honor to pop the Aberdeen blue and gold balloon bouquet.



Great food was provided by Radio Fryers, Big Daddy's Concessions, El Tequilero, AHS Drama Club selling Dominos, and "beer" garden by Duffy's and the Wine Sellers.

We send out a big thank you to Grays Harbor PUD, City of Aberdeen, Jodesha Broadcasting, Sierra Pacific, Hoquiam Elks, Mark Swanson HHS class of 61, Daily World, Hoquiam Brewery and Crowell Brothers for helping sponsor this event.

Also, thank you to the members of the Board of the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum, the Board of the Polson Museum, and all who volunteered to help make this event happen. Another special thank you to the Board of the Myrtle Street Dance: Deb Blecha, Janet Bess, Shari Maki, Karin Larson, Brenda Parks and Rob Hanney.

You made my job easy, so thank you for all your great ideas, hard work and support! You're the best!

June 9th Fire Remembrance

Friends of the Aberdeen Museum recognized the anniversary of the devastating June 9, 2018 Aberdeen Museum of History fire with a photo display at the Farmer's Market. It was a poignant but positive day of remembrance.

Speakers

Local organizations are eager for information on projects and direction. In the past few months, the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum have provided speakers to The Questers, the Aberdeen Pioneer Association, and the Hoquiam Lions. The talks focused on the several projects the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum have undertaken this year (detailed in other articles) and our full agenda going forward.

These opportunities have been wonderful for us as well; meeting people with photos they allowed us to copy, adding to the list of seniors we need to arrange to interview, and finding volunteers for our growing staff. If you are interested in a speaker or volunteering, call our office at 360-533-1976.

A Look to the Future

It's been a challenging year for the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum. We've suddenly gone from managing employees and running the Aberdeen Museum of History 6 days a week, to an all-volunteer organization with new home and direction. When the museum reopens, we will have a new role with the City taking over management. Our first job will be to redefine our mission, then find a home and finally, get

the right board and volunteers to make our vision a reality.

2019 has been beyond our belief. We started with some new board members, then long term planning, tied down our office at 200 W Market (K Street Entrance). Then we were off with 1st Friday photos, quarterly newsletters, a new web site, a Facebook page, Farmer's Market in June, Founders Day Parade, Glow Festival at the Morck, Myrtle Street Dance, Summerfest, and Thank You dinner for the amazing way our volunteers made our vision happen.

We're starting to plan for 2020. **We need some additional board members and new ideas** but we are excited. We will spend the fall continuing the work we've started with the Voices of Grays Harbor and working with the school districts on the *History Suitcase* project we envision. On top of that, we plan to be ready to offer any needed volunteers to the Museum of History as they begin the massive job of inventory and recording the "lost, found, and



new" that will become a part of the new museum collection.

To and join us call 360-533-1976, come by 1st Friday from 5-8, or drop in to a board meeting at 6 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month in our office, . Market & K St (K St Entrance)

Rain Glow Festival at the Morck Hotel

The 1st year of the Rain Glow Festival was a truly fun event. The Friends of the Aberdeen Museum "glowing world" at the Morck Hotel



was a smashing success with 546 visitors enjoying the beautiful display (or maybe a few more, tallying was a challenge!). There were too many wonderful volunteers to recognize here, but we will acknowledge business supporters who made our display possible: Jones Photo Collection, Harbor Tools, Polson Museum, Tim Quigg, and Techline.

Scattered through the 1st floor of the Morck, Friends of the Aberdeen Museum volunteers, in 1924ish costumes, stood near 3'x5' photos of the original hotel. They were accompanied by

music from the mezzanine. The display finished up with a collection of memorabilia and a column/chair/table flower replication of the original hotel.



It was extremely gratifying to hear praise, from visitors for the opportunity to see and understand what the old hotel was like,

Thank You Morck Dinner

On August 17, a dinner with pizza donated by Dominos was held in the Star Room of the



Morck. The Friends have had a very successful 2019 thanks to the commitment and support of our volunteers. It' is a year that will be hard to repeat with this level of success.

The Friends of the Aberdeen Museum Board is overwhelmed with appreciation. The Board sent dinner invitations to 80 with volunteers and their spouses, who made the year so special for us all and our community.

What's Happening at the Aberdeen Museum of History?

Several things have occurred since our last newsletter issue. The State Archives received an award for the great work they have done on saving the Aberdeen photo collection.

The Aberdeen City Council has approved an evaluation of the condition of the Boeing Building (used in WWII) as a potential museum site. The City Museum of History Board's next step will depend on those results.

The City has also obtained temporary use of a warehouse on the Port to gather all materials from the museum. They are currently scattered to the Museum Annex, RMC in Renton (who did most of the recovery), the State Archives, and a few at the office of The Friends of the Aberdeen Museum office. Once the fire suppression and some other work is complete, the move will begin. Then the City Museum

Board Collection Committee will review items for inclusion in the Museum collection. For more information, contact Stacie Barnum, (360) 537-3229.

Who has the oldest family-owned print shop operating in Grays Harbor County?

See answer later in this newsletter

My Driving “Career”

By Len Airhart (1924-2012)

When I was 11 years old, I came over from Selah to spend the summer with my Grandparents. My Granddad had a job tearing up an old puncheon road that a logger had used and hauling it about two miles and putting it on a new road he was building. We would go down and take peaveys and tear up the old puncheon, load it on the truck, and take it up to the new road and nail it down. (A peavey is a long-handled, pointed tool with a hinged hook on the side, used to move logs.) Grampa had a double hernia and it hurt to ride on the real rough roads. The highway had been bulldozed through and had ruts in it. It had not been paved or covered with gravel. The truck was bouncing him terribly so he taught me to drive. He'd get out onto the road, put it in the ruts, climb up in back--and I drove. I'd drive down

to the bottom of the hill by the Wynoochee River. Then he'd take over. Before we were done, I was driving home and everywhere else. I can remember (once) Mom was standing on the front porch of the house when I drove in. She came out and started hollering at Grampa and the two of them had a battle. He told her to go back in the house that we were tending to the men's stuff. When I was about 13, my Grampa's truck was acting up and making a lot of piston noise so he traded a load of wood for a Model T pickup, and we towed it down to the house. We took both motors out, took the best of everything, and built him one motor. The other motor was strung all over the farm. When we were done and had his running good, he said, "Now, that one's yours if you can put it together and make it run." George Coogan, Ronnie Snider, and I got together and we made it run. That was the first time I was picked up by the State Patrol Sergeant Hamm. He took me home to my Granddad. My Granddad said, "He ain't got any money. Put him in jail." I drove all over and it wasn't until they cemented the new hi-way that I started having trouble with the State Patrol. I got to know Sergeant Hamm pretty good. He'd spot me driving and he'd follow me home. He'd start giving Grampa hell. Grampa said, "He's got to earn his own living. He and his mother live on

what he makes. If you don't like what he's doing put him in jail."

I remember coming out of the old Wilson Mill. I was loaded and so was Grampa with slashings, which are the first boards cut off the log, one end is thick and the other thin. We hauled them out to Central Park to cut them up with the buzz saw. Just as I started up the hill, I spotted a panel truck back there with the lights flashing. I just slowed up and Sarge went by me to the top of the hill and he motioned for me to pull over. Then he motioned for me to come on and we went down to the house. He went in and gave Grampa hell again, warning me to stay off the hi-way. Of course I told him I couldn't see any way between that mill and the house except the hi-way, so we were told not to come out anymore at 2:00, because that's when he came out. We had to go in the morning and get our wood.

The day I was 16, Mom and I went in to get my license. I passed the written exam and the young guy at the desk said, "Well, what have you got for us to go drive?" Hamm came walking up and he said, "I've passed him on his driving, just give him his license." When we got out on the edge of town, he pulled us over and he told us, "Now he's 16 and he's got a license. I don't care if he has to earn a living, if he does something wrong he's going to jail or he's going to pay a

fine." Mom said, "That's good." I was more careful after that, and I didn't get picked up.

My second pickup I cut down and made a race bug out of it. I put a downdraft pre-heater carburetor in it, a Bausch ignition, and a big scoop on top of the carburetor so that the faster I went the more air pressure I got and the higher compression. The head down was warped so I took it to Uncle Joe and he planed it down so that I had about 10 pounds more compression than most Model T's. I raced against anything that moved.

The racetrack was the highway between Aberdeen and Monte. We pretty much knew what Hamm's schedule was and we didn't race when we thought he might be out. I won most of the time. I don't know how fast it could go, when it hit 50, the speedometer quit. We sold it to George Coogan and he traded it to a guy for a Model A coupe and some cash. He took it to the Seattle-Tacoma Raceway and won money the first day that paid for all of it. A few weeks later, he took out 40 foot of fence with it. He put it back on the trailer, brought it back to us, and wanted us to fix it. We took one look at it and it was all smashed up. We decided somebody was going to kill themselves with it so we wouldn't touch it.

Who has the oldest family-owned print shop
operating in Grays Harbor County?

Dunsire Printing since 1959

A donation was received
in the memory of
Ethel Evensen

Visit our First Friday Photo display

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

A donation was received
in the memory of
Ed Scherieble

*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

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

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.