

# Benn's Bulletin

## Summer 2020



# FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN MUSEUM

### WINE, WOMEN & WAMPUM

(Condensation from Men's Magazine  
Jan 1953 By Hoyt McAfee)

Aberdeen, Washington has a spirit of wild and carefree abandon. Attempts have been made to put a bit in Aberdeen's mouth and "tame it down". But like a wily and rebellious mustang, the town has always shaken free.

All those who have investigated Aberdeen agree unlike the practice in many cities, it has no overall vice lord; no charges of corruption, no evidence whatever along those lines. Pimps are virtually non-existent and Madams are scarce. Prostitutes make their own contacts and build up their own trade.

I joined a group of loggers out to celebrate with a tour of the joints. We visited Derby, Club Cigar Store, Grayport, Blue Mule, Spar's Cafe, Owl, Dutch's Tavern, The Antlers, Black Panther, The Silver Dollar, Bright Spot and Rajcich. This was the atmosphere: Juke boxes, stools, booths, chit-chat, bartenders with suggestions

for your "entertainment"; girls, girls, girls - young ones who couldn't possibly be 21, pert wenches, well-dressed "drinking companions", the out & out prostitutes and battered driftwood (just plain old hags).

I discovered there are five types of women of pleasure in Aberdeen: Hotel, Tavern, Private House and visiting /cruising (in a car) prostitutes.

Hotel variety don't have to do soliciting. They basically have set schedules and regular visitors. In bad times (logger out of work) \$5 a night, in good working times \$10. And the men assured me "You get plenty of time on a date". Tavern women are younger. They aren't out to roll you, like in some cities. They'll offer a few moments of pleasure for \$10 or all-night from \$15-\$30. Visiting women are not welcomed by the local girls but the loggers often appreciate the variety. Visitors appear when they know the boys have just been paid, and work in a car or hotel room. If you don't know where to go any

taxi driver can help for between \$5 & \$10 depending on the appeal of the girl. There are still three houses operating "across the river". The girls in the houses are less attractive, older & plumper, but their prices spiral down to \$3.



*Hotel Grayport, Hoquiam 1909*

The Friends' office is now located in the Aberdeen Art Center, 200 W. Market (K Street Entrance) in Aberdeen. With the Covid 19 changes our hours will move. Please give us a call. Our phone number is still 360-533-1976 or email us at [friends98520@gmail.com](mailto:friends98520@gmail.com). We continue to maintain our website, [www.aberdeenmuseumfriends.org](http://www.aberdeenmuseumfriends.org) and Facebook, *The Friends of the Aberdeen Museum*.

## Shanghaiing & Mistresses

From KXRO,  
Kathy Dove  
(niece of Richard Ultican)  
Feb 6 & 10, 1975

From the days when Ultican Tug Dock was at the foot of F Street...my uncle, Dick Ultican had quite a reputation for making a dollar any way that came his way. His place was one of the ones with a hole in the office floor direct into the river.

Whether he was one of Billy Gohl's 'competitors' or not, I really don't know, but I don't think he was, because he had no contact with sailors or loggers at the time when they came into town with their pockets full of cash. Where he did have contacts with them was when they were broke.

He was connected with the shipping companies that loaded at the wharves along there, and he was supposed to have provided them with sailors – for a fee – dropping drunken sailors through the hole in the floor into a shin's boat. In other words, shanghaiing.

When the Ultican Estate was being settled, the mistresses came out of the woodwork all over...More than one of them believed she was the real Mrs. Ultican.

### **TRIVIA**

*Nellie Curtis was a name known in old Aberdeen. What was her profession?* Answer page 6

## Old News– New Again

Reading through early 1900 newspapers, one thing is clear. Disease was everywhere even before the Spanish flu devastated the country and the world. Health was something no one took lightly. Some scourges like measles and mumps went right to the young. Others like grippe (influenza's old fashioned name.), scarlet fever, typhoid, TB, polio, rheumatic fever or diphtheria could strike anyone. In those days, before vaccines, the consequences were devastating and were a constant of life.

In January 1917 the Aberdeen Herald reported that while the grippe epidemic appeared to be abating, there was an outbreak of mumps. (Among other issues mumps can make a male sterile, so it's very serious.) Then in March the Aberdeen School Superintendent said steps were being taken to control the measles outbreak. Hoquiam had 20 cases and took stronger measures, closing all grade schools. Parents were ordered to confine their children to their yards. The health department also reported 6 cases of scarlet fever and one of typhoid that month.

Some statistics were listed to keep everyone aware of the need for protecting health and general cleanliness. In those days the issues were much broader than

“wash your hands” and hand sanitizer was a future development.

\*

Measles kills over 11,000 American children annually.

\*

The careless sneezer is the greatest grippe spreader.

\*

Exercise in the garden is better than exercise in the gymnasium.

\*

Pneumonia kills over 120,000 Americans each year.

\*

Scarlet fever kills over 10,000 Americans each year.

\*

It's foolish to educate a boy or girl and then let them die of typhoid fever.

\*

The United States Public Health Service has trapped about one million rodents in the past 18 months.

\*

Clean water, clean food, clean houses make clean, healthy American citizens.

\*

It is estimated that the average manure pile will breed 900,000 flies per ton.

\*\*\*

The country was filled with new immigrants, sometimes fleeing the devastating diseases of their home countries. Many spoke little English and tended to live in communities of their fellows to help make the transition. Organizations like the Sons of Italy, The Finnish Workers (Communist) and the Finnish Workers Association (Socialist), The Polish Club, The Sons of Norway are some groups that formed. The remnants of some and their meeting halls are still visible and active in the harbor.

These were days, too, when keeping a job was key but so was the pay level. The financial pleas one hears today may sound similar as not everything changes. Unions were just starting to form to try to bring wages to a living level. But many families just barely survived, if at all. The jobs available in the woods and mills were almost unimaginably dangerous. This was way before the time where OSHA & WISHA set standards of safety to be followed. Lives and limbs were lost with regularity.

Are lives being risked today by the way we reopen the country? Each citizen can do their best, but only history will judge how we managed. History will show us if we learned from what went before or repeated it.

Aberdeen World  
 May 3, 1901  
**Bachelor Tax Urged  
 in Aberdeen**  
 The council ought to put a tax on Aberdeen bachelors. There are more of this kind of animal to the square inch in this city than any other city in the world.

**SCHOOL MEMORIES**

Do you have any special school memories? Send them to friends98520@gmail.com or PO Box 722, Aberdeen 98520.

my eyes and just see them. I can see that plaid blouse she had. She had mutton sleeves...a pretty plaid silk...and I'd think, "My she's beautiful." But she really wasn't a pretty woman but she was a sweet person, really nice person. I always liked her."

**Sophia Davidson (1898-1972)**

Sophia recalled that one teacher required that a new quotation be memorized each week. But her sister Elizabeth came to the one-room school at only age four. So she was allowed to recite the same quote each week. She did it all in one run together sentence with



*1918 One Room School Wishkah*

*Teacher Frances Kozlowski*

*Students believed to be mix of Pekola, Stawski & Malinowski families.*

*Girl on porch Sophia Maliowski.*

**Beth Malinowski (1889-1988) -**

"We had Miss Karshner. ... Just one year, ...Talk about things that kids remember. I remember that blouse and skirt and dress she had, just exactly. I can shut

no understanding that it was a quote. "Find a way or make one Hannibal.". The family felt that it became her life's creed.

### **Lou Messmer (1921- 2020)**

The 1st few grades at Finch Farms in Aberdeen. There was one school. It was two rooms for 6 grades. I'd had some in Montana so started in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I contracted the flu so bad I had to learn to walk again. So I had to repeat 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Francis Williams (*Harmon*) was living in South Aberdeen. (*Lou feltt that was significant because she was then living in the same rest home facility as he.*) I was a classmate of hers even though she was a year behind. I picked up most of the childhood diseases early on like diphtheria which set me back but I shouldn't have advanced 2 grades anyway. Then I went to St. Mary's. I walked from Finch Farms 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Emily Airhart (1925 - 2018)**

"3<sup>rd</sup> grade (Sam Benn School) I had Miss Dooley. One time I was working on a math problem, and...she made me stay after school. I usually rode the bus and I sat there



*SAM BENN SCHOOL 1953 –  
Converted to Grays Harbor College  
(Courtesy of Roy Vataja)*

all afternoon and I worked on that, well it seemed like all afternoon...I kept getting the same answer. "No!"

she'd say. So, I'd go back and try it again. Well, finally she told me I could go home. Well, I had no idea how to get home...I walked out the door and my big sister, Lois, was walking home. She was six years older...she'd stayed after for something, I can't remember now. Otherwise I don't know how I would have got home that night. But the worst part of the thing was, Miss Dooley told me to take that math problem home and work on it at home. I got home and it had been right the whole time. Her answer was wrong."

### **Thelma Walczyk ( 1927 - )**

.I went to the Samuel Benn School, ...I walked home for lunch and it seemed like every noon it rained and there would be a river on each side of the street...it was a beautiful school. My 1st grade...was a Miss Fleming... She was wonderful. And the 2nd year was really a good one but I can't remember her name. The 3rd grade teacher was I think Miss Carson. And Miss Carson did something that didn't happen very often, she got married and had a baby! You know, in those days, they couldn't get married...And the 5th grade teacher I didn't like. I won't say her name, but I don't think anybody liked her...she and I didn't ... get along too well. Anyway, in the 6th I got Miss Carson again and that was after she was married. ...then to go to the junior high, was just another couple of blocks over... So I was pretty lucky... And those days, you know, the field was open and you could just go across there.

### **Doug Rice (1930 - )**

"I can remember I didn't like school. But I never missed a day. Always went to school and did the work. And I never took a book home, except one time...I was getting A's in Geometry. But I had a soap box derby car and I had an engine I put on it. And it would go so fast. And I took that engine and put it on a bicycle. What I needed was to see what size pulleys cuz I figured ... I would be able to go with the same size pulleys with the other rigs so I wanted to get the same ratio. So I ended up with the same speed...She (*the teacher*) couldn't figure out... she could only do the tests and things. Never answered it. So I went to my Algebra teacher and I was getting pretty good grades and I asked him the same question. He could not make a formula...From then on I got B's in Geometry and I barely got by Algebra. But I thought what kind of a teacher is it if all they can teach you is what's right here in the book?... So that's what I think about school."

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### **Every Little Bit Helps**

When you make a purchase at Staples, consider applying your sales credit to Friends of the Aberdeen Museum

**360-533-1976**

**Thank You**

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## Aberdeen Museum of History Update

The virus outbreak is setting us all back. But the work on the new Aberdeen Museum has not stopped. The City Museum Board & the Mayor met this month via conference call. They continue to work on siting and concept for the new facility.

First Quarter the Board also added a new member, Vicki Mitchell. Her added expertise is welcome.

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## Rain Glow Festival Deferred to July 24, 2021

The virus is canceling many functions this year including, sadly, the Rain Glow Festival.

But be sure to **get July 24, 2021 on your 2021 calendar.** It is not a date you will want to miss. It must be dark to glow, so the fun will start at 9PM and last til midnight.. The heart of Aberdeen will again be aglow with displays, music and fun.

The Friends will again be a part. Outdoing our Morck adventure will be hard. Our plan is to create a **brothel & bootlegging** show/display. We are really looking forward to it. The extra time will just let us make it even better!

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### National Forest Log Scaling Handbook



United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service UAS

## Log Scaling

By David Wilhelms

### What is a Scaler?

When I landed a job as a log scaler, there was a lot of confusion among my friends and family back in Illinois. Did I climb trees? Did I peel the bark off the trees? I could see that there was going to be some education needed back in the Midwest.

A log scaler measures the length and diameter of a log, and these two dimensions are used to calculate the board foot volume of that log. The log scaler (called a scaler) also determines any volume that will not make lumber or veneer due to a mechanical or organic defect and deducts the appropriate volume. The scaler also determines the best use for that log and assigns a grade to it, based on rules outlined in the Official Rule Book of the Log Scaling Bureaus on the West Coast, known as the Rule Book.

There are specific rules for measuring the length and diameter of the logs, as there are specific rules for grading the logs.

The standard log scaling rule on the West Coast is the Scribner rule. This rule was created in 1846 and is a diagrammatic rule. Mr. Scribner would draw a circle and see how many 1" thick boards, 4", 6", or 8" wide could be drawn within that circle, allowing for 1/4" sawkerf. In 1950 a formula was proposed that smoothed out the irregularities found with the diagrammatic method.

When I was learning to scale logs, there was a 5 year program that took a rookie and taught him to scale all species of logs under all conditions by himself, without any help from another scaler. At that point he was called a Senior Scaler or Master Scaler. He could scale logs rolled out in a log yard, still loaded on a log truck or on the water with the logs contained in a log raft. It was important that the Senior Scaler could work independently. He often was the sole representative of the Scaling Bureau in more remote scaling locations.

### What is a Log Scaling Bureau?

Before the advent of Scaling Bureaus, the volume and quality of logs being bought and sold were not regulated. Buyers, naturally, saw poor quality logs, while the sellers knew that they had high quality wood for sale. Someone finally came up with the bright idea of creating a not-for-profit third party scaling organization to accurately determine the volume and quality of logs being bought and sold on the open market.

To the best of my knowledge, Columbia River Log Scaling Bureau was the first Bureau, formed in 1910. Grays Harbor Log Scaling Bureau was formed in 1924. It's interesting to note that William Boeing (yes, THAT William Boeing) backed the formation of the Grays Harbor Bureau. Of course, Boeing owned a lot of Sitka Spruce on the Olympic Peninsula that would be used to make airplanes for the first World War. Bureaus are unique to the West Coast, with company, State, and Forest Service scalers dominating the rest of the nation.

Scalers are checked once a month to determine the accuracy of their scale. A Bureau Check Scaler will scale the same loads as the scaler independently with a net volume of at least 50,000 board feet. The scaler must be within 1% of the gross of the Check Scaler and 2% of the net. The net percentage is on a floating scale depending on the percentage of defect. Highly defective wood permits a greater discrepancy between scaler and Check Scaler.

Who check scales the Check Scalers? Meetings are periodically held by the Northwest Log Rules Advisory Group which oversees any changes to the Log Rules. All Check Scalers are invited to a log scale round-up. Logs are rolled out, and everyone scales the logs. The individual's log scale is compared to a school solution which has been completed earlier. There are several Check-Scalers involved in coming up with the solution. The logs involved are usually of a type where there is a question of rule application for a specific defect or grade. The last round-up I attended was at a Chehalis, Washington Red Alder mill, focusing on Red Alder grades and defects.

I want to touch on one facet of the Bureau Scale. The cost of log scaling between the Bureaus has not varied that much over the years. As I would tell scalers repeatedly, "The only thing that sets us apart from other Bureaus is our integrity. Don't ever forget that you are the Bureau's representative in the field." I have found that to be true with all Bureaus that I have worked for. Log Scalers take their job and position in the Timber Industry very seriously. I was very fortunate to work with many good scalers who could always be counted on to have fun, but when

it came to log scale, these men are true professionals.



**Donation Received in  
Memory of**

**Lou Messmer  
Gene LaMont Shillinger**



**LaMont Shillinger**

Acknowledgment of memorial donations in our newsletter is normal for the Friends. But something extra needs to be said in thanks to LaMont. He & his wife regularly donated and were patrons of the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum. But it was the contribution of his time that made LaMont stand out for us. At various times he served on both the Aberdeen City Museum Board and the Board of the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum. He was a dedicated historian.

**A clipping from an Aberdeen Herald article - July 3, 1914**

*In recognition of the importance of the Grays Harbor port the federal government has allocated the sum of \$3,800,000 ...for two jetties, one at the south and the other at the north point of the*

entrance. The south jetty was completed some years ago, and work on the north jetty is being completed. The construction of those two jetties have so confined the waters that the bar has been washed out until maximum depth at low water has been increased from 13 to 24 feet, and the commerce of the port has increased in a larger percentage than any other port on the Pacific Coast —which is a broad assertion when the phenomenal growth of the Coast states is considered, but which is fully borne out by the record of four vessels in 1882, and 540 in 1913.

TRIVIA from page 3  
*What was Nellie Curtis' profession? She owned the famed Curtis Hotel. This brothel is particularly remembered as the site of the raid that started the shut down of Aberdeen as a wide open town*



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The Spar Cafe The Black Panther

Sitka Spruce  
Courtesy of  
David Wilhelms

1920's show a little leg



Friends of Aberdeen Museum Board  
Monthly Meeting  
First Tuesday of each month  
6:00 pm  
Market and K (K Street Entrance)

Board Members

Patti Walden - Acting President  
Ruth Hamilton - Secretary  
Nancy Cuyle - Treasurer  
Jennifer Bennefeld  
Amy Herring  
Douglas Orr  
Connie Parson

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

*Join us today!*

FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN  
MUSEUM

Market and K St (K St Entrance)

PO BOX 722

Aberdeen, WA 98520

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Email: [friends98520@gmail.com](mailto:friends98520@gmail.com)

Visit our website:

[www.aberdeenmuseumfriends.org](http://www.aberdeenmuseumfriends.org)



## Beome a Member!

Friends of the Phoenix  
Rising from the Ashes

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

### Membership Application and Record

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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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.)

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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.