



The Homesteader



Woodinville Heritage Society, P.O. Box 216, Woodinville, WA 98072 www.woodinvilleheritage.org

Mark Your Calendar:

July until September

Museum open every Sunday, 1-4 pm, until Labor Day

July 11, 6.30 pm

Board Meeting
DeYoung House

July 14

New exhibit featuring Hollywood Farms: 1913 to present
DeYoung House

July 20, 1 to 4 pm

Annual Picnic is a potluck this year. Join us for food, fun, history, and a trivia contest.
DeYoung House

August 8, 6.30 pm

Board Meeting
DeYoung House

Sept. 12, 6.30 pm

Board Meeting
DeYoung House

Sept. 21

Program with Elsie Mann, author of *Maltby and Neighbors*, including chapters on Woodinville and Grace
DeYoung House

October 10, 6.30 pm

Board Meeting
DeYoung House

Dec. 14

Annual Christmas Brunch including Christmas Reading
DeYoung House

President's Message

The DeYoung House and Museum provide a variety of opportunities to many people. For some, the Museum is a place of education, where we share our rich heritage and stories with current and future generations. For others, the House is a gathering place where our community can enjoy our diverse programs and events. Our beautiful garden, highlighted by the Grandmothers' Fountain, provides a peaceful area for reflection and gratitude. Indeed, we are truly fortunate to have such a grand facility to share with our members, friends, neighbors, and community. The Heritage Society Board and I are committed to continuously provide these opportunities.

The fact is, all of these opportunities come with a price tag. We need electricity for the lights, water for the garden, and insurance to protect our precious assets. I must commend our Board for being exceptionally good stewards of our funds and resources. But, while we

are an extremely efficient organization, our operational revenues consistently fall short each year. In order to meet this challenge, the Board has requested that a Fund Development Committee be formed. The sole purpose of this Committee is to create a strategy that will expand our fund raising capabilities.

The first thing the Committee will need is volunteers who would like to share their creative fund raising ideas. The time commitment is minimal, perhaps two hours each month through the end of the year. If you would like to be involved in preserving our heritage for future generations, please contact me by phone (425-368-8003) or email (rchatte@frontier.com).

On a separate note and as a reminder, Summer is here and that means it is picnic time!! I look forward to seeing all of our members, community partners, and friends at the Heritage Society Picnic on July 20th.

—Rick Chatterton

April Program Featured Egon & Laina Molbak

Members and friends of the Woodinville Heritage Society had a special treat at their April membership meeting in the Sammamish Valley Grange Hall.

Egon and Laina Molbak very graciously

shared their family's story and why they came from Denmark to settle in Woodinville, where they would buy a run-down set of greenhouses and build them into the world class nursery they are today. Egon's family had been

involved in horticulture so his love for plants and gardening started early in his life. He came to the United States in 1948 to spend a year as an exchange trainee of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. He and

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Looking back 100 years . . .

In a few weeks, the Museum will offer another new exhibit: the story of the Hollywood Farms and adjacent landmarks. Many photos and artifacts will be on display. To set the scene, let's look back 100 years ago . . .

Frederick Spencer Stimson launched his new hobby in 1910 by purchasing 206 acres in the Sammamish Valley, south of Woodinville. Farm estates were a fashionable diversion for wealthy capitalists in the early part of the 1900s, and so it was with Stimson, whose name was associated with the lumbering business in Seattle. The Stimsons built a large home on the acreage which they used as a weekend and summer retreat and to entertain many friends from Seattle. Eventually, they made the house and farm their permanent home in 1918.

Stimson founded Hollywood Dairy Farm in 1912, which became a model of scientific dairy management with its prize-winning herd of Holstein cows. He was said to have paid \$20,000 for a single, prize-winning cow and \$100,000 for a blue-ribbon bull. The sprawling farm contained a large barn with 100 stanchions for the cows, a slightly smaller barn for grain and the seven teams of horses, a calf barn, a sheep shed, a piggery, a bunkhouse for 50 employees, powerhouse, carpenter shop, laundry, and concrete silos full of field corn. Stimson accomplished the conversion from stump land to a

paying farm in just four short years. (Today, the valley farmland and house have become Chateau Ste. Michele winery.)

He had a spur built from the main railway line in the valley to his farm, and it terminated in front of his ice cream parlor where ice cream, eggs, butter, cream, and sausages (from his swine) were sold. Eventually he opened a dairy store at Westlake and Pine in Seattle, which also sold the farm products, as well as sandwiches.

On the hillside to the east of the dairy farm was the Hollywood Poultry Farm, a joint interest of Stimson and his friend, Morton Atkinson. Stimson financed the farm, and Atkinson managed it for half-interest. Atkinson knew the value of selective breeding and purchased breeding stock from England, Australia, and New Zealand. He developed a strain of White Leghorn chickens that won egg-laying contests all over the country. By 1928, Hollywood Poultry Farm was known worldwide. (Today, the property has been developed as The Farm.)

Meanwhile Fred Stimson's wife, Nellie, developed a complex of greenhouses on the farm where flowers bloomed copiously and were sold at her Hollywood Gardens store on Second Avenue in Seattle and shipped as far as Honolulu, Hong Kong, and Nome, Alaska.

--Terri Malinowski

Colonial Days at Wellington Elementary School in April



Three Wellington Elementary pupils enjoyed Colonial Day.

The fifth graders of Wellington Elementary spend weeks learning about colonial times. Then in the spring, the school has a Colonial Day, where the children dress up, are given colonial names (and the boys are given an occupation), and have hands-on experience with crafts from the 1600s. There are ten stations for the children (divided into ten groups) to experience in rotation: butter churning, tin punching, Johnny cake and bread

making, quilt and rug making, candle dipping, corn-husk doll making, and horn books (quill and ink). The children take their handmade crafts home to show their families. At the tenth station, WHS's own Suzi Freeman and Marilyn Fullmer participated. They dressed up for the time period and gave a short talk on what it was like to live during colonial times, as well as answering the children's' questions. Adults and children alike enjoyed the day.



Marilyn Fullmer & Suzi Freeman took their roles seriously by dressing in Colonial style.

Molbak Program Continued from page 1

and Laina were engaged before he left Denmark; he returned to Denmark in 1949 and they were married in December. In 1950, they came to the United States on their honeymoon.

They arrived in Seattle on a rainy night and, as Egon explained, their first year here was fascinating. Several years later a friend happened on the Nicholas Greenhouses while on an evening drive and suggested Egon should have a look. Egon's response was "No, no, no", but he thought about it that night and next day went out to have a look. Woodinville in 1956 was in the boon-docks. "It was pretty bad but interesting," Egon said. The Nicholases were having difficulty competing with California and its climate so, as Egon explained, "They were probably relieved to find a buyer". There were possibilities to make a living so, in December 1956, they moved into the greenhouses.

Woodinville's businesses were on the other side of the tracks; the greenhouses were in the midst of the

residential area. They were told that they were on the wrong side of the tracks.

During one of the coldest winters, 1957, their



boiler shut down. Egon and Laina saved the greenhouses by covering the plants with newspapers, making fires in buckets, and carrying torches throughout the greenhouses.

At first the business was strictly wholesale but little by little they began selling retail from April 15 to June 15. In

1968, they decided to go retail year round.

They raised four children in Woodinville and built a business that grew into what is today a world class nursery. There is so much more to learn about their family and Molbak's Nursery.

DVDs of the April program are available at the Woodinville Heritage Museum or on our website www.woodinvilleheritage.org.

—Phyllis Keller

Do you know what this tool is?



If you can identify this "tool", email Suzi Freeman with your answer. Her email is: suzibelle@comcast.net. The answer will be revealed in the September/October issue of *The Homesteader*.

Good Luck!!



Phyllis Keller with the well-known Lincoln Toe Truck at the new MOHAI.

Phyllis Keller Spoke at the KC Preservation Program and AKCHO Annual Awards Presentations

Phyllis Keller, Merwin Cederblom, and Suzi Freeman, from WHS, joined a large crowd of heritage and historic preservation enthusiasts from all corners of King County. They gathered at the new Museum of History & Industry on April 23rd to celebrate the preservationists' accomplishments in 2012.

Here is an excerpt of Phyllis' talk about the beginnings of AKCHO:

So how did the preservation program in King County get its start?

It was the Bicentennial that got people in communities across the nation involved in heritage activities and none more so than King County!

When members of historical societies from throughout King County first met to talk in 1975, there were only 36 historical

groups. They would incorporate as the Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) in 1978.

Thanks to the vision of AKCHO 35 years ago, King County has one of the most robust historic preservation communities in the state with a landmarks ordinance that is incredible. Scores of landmarks have been designated and protected.

As AKCHO's first president, I have been a part of it from the beginning, too. Would we be where we are today without it? I don't think so.

AKCHO has been a powerful force for coordination because only teamwork gets the really big jobs done. Just think of what we can do together in coming years!

Available from the General Store

Books:

- *Village in the Woods*..... \$16
- *A Glimpse of Woodinville*..... \$10
- *Woodinville Coloring Book*..... \$5

Life in Woodinville DVDs:

- The DeYoung Family.....\$7
- John Emil Halver III.....\$7
- School Days - The '40s & '50s..... \$7
- Woodinville Methodist Church History.....\$7
- Life on Hollywood Hill.....\$7
- Woodinville - The Early Days.....\$7
- The Molbak Story.....\$7

Books and DVDs can be purchased by sending a check for the total amount *plus \$2 shipping for each item*. Don't forget to indicate which books and DVDs you would like to purchase.

Send your check along with your name and mailing address to:

Woodinville Heritage Society
PO Box 216
Woodinville, WA 98072

Our Mission:

The Society's mission is to acquire, preserve, & perpetuate the artifacts and history of the greater Woodinville area.

Our Vision:

We will be viewed as an essential partner in the fabric of our community.

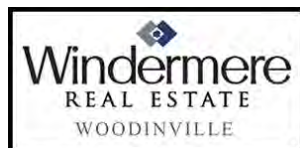


The Heritage Society is now a proud member of:



Brittany Park
<http://www.leisurecare.com/fairwinds-brittanypark/>

The Woodinville Heritage Society would like to thank our Website, Community, and Business Sponsors:



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www.seamonsterstudios.com



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www.woodinvillecemetery.org



King County Cultural Services
www.4culture.org

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The Homesteader

is a bimonthly publication of the **Woodinville Heritage Society**.
If you would like to become a member and receive this publication regularly, email us at:
info@woodinvilleheritage.org

Woodinville Heritage Museum at the DeYoung House
14121 NE 171st Street
Woodinville, WA 98072

one block east of 140th Avenue NE.
Museum open every Sunday, 1-4 pm,
Memorial Day until Labor Day