

From Carnegie to the Cedar River: Renton's Libraries

By Elizabeth P. Stewart

Libraries have always been a symbolic center of Renton life. From the "library" of Renton Cooperative Coal to the 1914 Carnegie Library to the 1966 library-over-the-river, repositories for learning continued a tradition that started with the striving immigrants who first settled our city. Throughout the city's history, Rentonites have acknowledged the need to grow and learn, and to have a place dedicated to that endeavor.

As early as 1907 the Renton Mine Association had amassed a collection of reference books that served as the core of the Renton High School library. In the nineteenth century Workingmen's Associations in England and Wales often maintained collections of reading material for the betterment of laborers, so it is not surprising that Renton coal miners would continue the tradition. Renton High School continued to build on the Mine Association's collection, and by 1925 the school had over 750 volumes for student use.¹

When Renton began talking about a public library in 1913, the city had fewer than 3000 citizens. Yet one foresighted woman, Neva Bostwick Douglas, took the initiative to apply to the Carnegie Foundation for funds. Libraries were one of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie's pet projects, and his foundation assisted in the construction of 2500 of them across the country.² Mrs. Douglas's application succeeded in winning \$10,000 in grant money to build the first public library in Renton.³



Neva Bostwick Douglas spearheaded the effort to get funds for Renton's Carnegie Library. (#1967.000.239)



President's Message

By Sandra Meyer, President

Renton Historical Quarterly

Susie Bressan, *Graphic Design & Layout*
Louise George, *Copy Editor*
Daisy Ward, *Text Input & Copy Editor*
Karl Hurst, *City of Renton Print and Mail Services*

Renton Historical Society Board of Trustees

Sandra Meyer, President
Theresa Clymer, Vice President
Phyllis Hunt, Treasurer
Elizabeth P. Stewart, Secretary
Vicki Jo Utterstrom, '11
Anne Melton, '11
Kristie Walker, '11
Kevin McQuiller, '11
Barbara Whitehurst, '12
Lay Chan, '12
Susie Bressan, '12
Betty Childers, '13
Larry Sleeth, '13
Rachel Vdolek, '13
Andy Sparks, '13
Terri Briere, City Liaison

Museum Staff

Elizabeth P. Stewart, Museum Director
Daisy Ward, Administrative Assistant
Dorota Rahn, Volunteer Coordinator
Sarah Samson, Collection Manager
Pearl Jacobson, Volunteer Registrar
Louise George, Volunteer Secretary

Renton History Museum
235 Mill Avenue South
Renton, WA 98057
Phone: 425-255-2330
FAX: 425-255-1570

www.rentonhistorymuseum.org

Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm

Admission: \$3 for adults

\$1 for children

Always free to members and to the general public on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month.

Board Meetings: Please call the museum for time and location.



Spring is here, and through the cold winter months the Society has been busily working to support the Museum and expand our contacts within the community. We recently staffed a booth at the Spring Festival, and have participated in other venues related to the Renton High School Centennial.

We are preparing for our Annual Member's Meeting on Tuesday, June 7. We hope all Museum members come to this annual event to meet new board members, enjoy a casual meal, and participate in a silent auction. In addition, we will be giving our annual George and Annie Lewis Custer Award for Heritage Citizenship. This year's award goes to the student editorial staff of Renton High School's ARROW Magazine, for their April publication that highlights Museum artifacts and includes an interview with Don Custer about Renton High School. The other nominee for the award was Minter's Earlington Greenhouse, a business that has been in Renton since the 1920s and has been very supportive of the community.

Also this winter our Capital Campaign Planning Committee concluded their first set of informational interviews on the Museum Master Plan. Most of those interviewed to date were curious and interested in our proposed approach. They had some very good suggestions on how we could succeed. Around 25 interviews were conducted with local nonprofit, elected, business, cultural and media representatives. The Board is being trained to conduct future interviews over this year.

As of this writing, the Renton Historical Society Endowment Fund has returned to its all-time high, making up for the losses suffered during the 2008 - 2009 economic downturn. We will remain diligent in working with our Edward Jones representative, making the best financial decisions possible at each point in time. It isn't easy and can be quite stressful, but I think the Endowment Committee has done an outstanding job in reviewing and approving major moves in the portfolio.

I want you all to mark your calendars now for our Fall fundraiser at the Renton Senior Center on October 26, 2011. Our emcee will be Comedian John Keister who will also entertain the group. We will also have our silent auction. Tickets can be purchased online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/173461. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006. All you need is the event number (173461) and they can take your credit card order over the phone.

Many thanks to our most excellent Museum staff and Board. I thank you all for your dedication and service to this very important heritage institution.

Renton Museum Report

By Elizabeth P. Stewart, Director

Our changing exhibit calendar is set for the rest of this year, and we have some thought-provoking and even fun topics coming up! Opening on June 7 is *Voices of the Duwamish Tribe*, a moving exhibit of documentary photographs by Joanne Petrina. Joanne studied



photography at the University of Washington and the Photographic Center Northwest. She followed the Duwamish people for two years at the peak of their unsuccessful campaign to achieve federal recognition as a tribe. This collection of images reveals their determination to preserve and celebrate their culture against all odds. This exhibit marks the first time her photos have been displayed in Renton, the center of the Duwamish people's tribal lands. *Voices of the Duwamish Tribe* will be on display June 7 through August 27.



In July we open our annual summer exhibit of art projects by English as a Second Language (ESL) students of Renton Technical College. This is the sixth year for this rewarding partnership between the Museum and the College's ESL program. The students' artwork explores their experiences as new residents of Renton and South King County, as well as providing insight into the cultures of their home countries. This exhibit will be up July 12 through August 27.



Our big event this year is *Journey Stories*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit that opens here on September 6. *Journey Stories* explores Americans' history of immigration, mobility, and transportation innovation, drawing on the Smithsonian's collection of photographs, objects, research, and oral histories. Every American—whether indigenous or pioneer family or new immigrant—has a story that starts with leaving everything behind, and Renton residents are no different. The Museum's companion exhibit looks at the explosion of Renton's population during World War II, when wartime manufacture of planes, tanks, and trucks attracted new residents from around the U.S. Both exhibits will be on display from September 6 through October 16.



Finally, we'll have a fun (and super-secret for right now) exhibit opening the week before Halloween. Just a hint to keep you guessing: it looks at the myth and reality behind one of the Pacific Northwest's enduring legends.

As you can see, we're changing exhibits faster than we've ever done before, and we're excited about the changes. More reasons for you to visit. and if you're a business-owner, plenty of sponsorship opportunities!

Liz Stewart

"From Carnegie to the Cedar River: Renton's Libraries" continued from page 1

While everyone acknowledged the importance of a library—particularly if foundation funds were paying for it—the site was controversial: many complained that it would be too far out of town. City Council could not agree on a location, but securing a site was a prerequisite for accepting the Carnegie funds. State Librarian J. M. Hitt advised Council that “the all-important thing... is a central location... in the midst of saloons if necessary.”⁷⁴ But when Ignazio and Jennie Sartori donated three lots on the edge of North Renton, the decision was made. The City could now officially accept the foundation’s funds and construction could proceed. Still, opposition persisted. A newspaper editorial advised readers:

“Don’t let the thought that you don’t like the location stop you from doing your duty. The library is here, just the same as the Cedar river is here[,] and it is your duty to make the most of it.”⁷⁵



Newly built Carnegie Library, 1914 (#41.0911)

When Renton opened its sturdy Georgian showpiece on March 11, 1914, it was only eight years behind Seattle’s library.⁶

A Seattle construction firm was able to bring the project in at the \$10,000 price tag, and the Renton City Council appropriated another \$1000 for salaries, books, and maintenance. Businesses and individuals donated almost \$800 more, but Renton High students worried “that is not near enough for the proper equipment of the library.”⁷⁷ The first Renton Library was designed with space for 8000 volumes; it opened with a collection of books donated by individuals and the Seattle Library. One of the most well-known librarians, Winifred Daniels, served for over 25 years, finally retiring in 1954. When she started in 1927, the entire annual library budget was \$2500, and Miss Daniels’s salary was \$80 a month.⁸

As early as the 1930s Renton began to outgrow its library; with the explosion of Renton’s population during the war years, the Carnegie Library was bursting at the seams. A study conducted by the Washington State Library found that the city’s population had increased by 257% between 1940 and 1950.⁹ The library built for 8000 books now held 68,000.¹⁰ In 1944 the King County library established a branch in the Renton Highlands to serve the new residents of wartime housing there; on January 1, 1947 the Highlands branch became part of the Renton Public Library. The addition of the Highlands branch further strained the library’s resources, so much so that the Library Board briefly considered closing that branch for lack of resources.¹¹ As early as 1947 the Library Board began discussing affiliation with the county library system as one solution to the lack of funds, a question that they raised repeatedly during their meetings in the 1950s.¹²

Borrowers' Register							
Date	Number	No. of cards	Age of minor	Non-resident	Re-natal	Name	Residence
3/11/14	01	1	a			Guitteau, Florence	Renton, Wash
"	02	1	a			" " Lucy	" "
"	03	1	"			Guitteau, Mrs. Emma J	" "
"	04	1	J			Sherlock, Ross	" "
"	05	1	J			Morin, Dolphus	Renton
"	06	1	J			Isackson, Walter	" "
"	07	1	J			Butler, Glen	" "
"	08	1	J			Boley, Fred	" "
"	09	1	J			Oaterhoudt, Delmer	" "
"	10	1	J			Bennett, Walter	Renton, Wash
"	11	1	"			Mendes, Tony	" "
"	12	1	J			Christenson, Thomas	" "
"	13	1	J			Sandstrom, Robert C	" "
"	14	1	"			Postovai, Elsie	" "
"	15	1	J			Dullahan, Clarence	" "
"	16	1	J			Pangica, Gertrude	" "
"	17	1	"			Pelchnick, Josephine	" "
"	18	1	J			Varalli, Kate	" "
"	19	1	"			Telban, Mary	" "
"	20	1	J			Fuller, Harry A	" "
"	21	1	J			Tedlockik, Anna	" "
"	22	1	a			Illian, Henry	" "
"	23	1	J			McMahon, Agnes	" "
"	24	1	a			Nard, Irene	" "
"	25	1	J			Tedlocnik, Molly	" "

Florence Guitteau was the first library card holder at the Carnegie Library. (Carnegie Library Borrower Register, #1995.036.001)

Nevertheless, cautious voters defeated three bond issues before a \$150,000 bond issue was passed in November 1964. As with the Carnegie Library, two factors were uppermost in the minds of voters: cost and building site. A survey indicated that many Renton residents preferred a site closer to downtown businesses and pedestrian traffic, but City Council insisted that only city-owned sites could be considered, and these were few.¹³ The successful bond issue was championed by the Greater Renton Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters, and had at its center the vision of a civic complex on the Cedar River. This vision made all the difference. Renton residents were captivated by the prize-winning design for a new library that would straddle the river, near a new City Hall, senior center, community auditorium, and park grounds.¹⁴

The *Record-Chronicle* attributed the Carnegie Library's demise to "the influence and enthusiasm of the community's disciples of progress."¹⁵ "No longer will [the library's] early-20th-Century [sic] architecture mar a landscape graced by the new over-the-river library and the junior-skyscraper city hall," the newspaper concluded.¹⁶ Even some of the old library's former champions were happy to see it demolished to make way for the new. Remembering the flights of creaky stairs and cramped quarters, Miss Daniels declared, "That building can't be torn down too soon to suit me."¹⁷ Yet not everyone was impressed by the new library's unique design. Publisher John Fournier lamented the fact that the Carnegie Library's classic architecture was being replaced by "modern glass hothouses and concrete structures which have little form and less beauty."¹⁸

The new library, designed by Johnson-Campanella & Co., stretched eighty feet across the Cedar River, resting on twelve giant columns and the riverbanks themselves. Materials that were state-of-the-art for 1966 were used, but the library's unique design and location required that book stacks be located on the left bank of the river, because of their weight. Some of the library's new features included "a telephone-intercom system, a listening unit in the music department, and waterlights to highlight the river at night." Air conditioning was omitted, however, because of the cost. The total cost for the project was \$327,560 for 20,000 square feet.¹⁹ The old Carnegie Library was torn down in 1968.

"A NEW AGE NEEDS NEW SERVICES"

Give Renton a New Library

VOTE 'YES'

— FOR A —

NEW, MODERN BUILDING

A Modern Library Helps - - -

- ✓ You in your job
- ✓ Pursue hobbies and interests
- ✓ Open new channels of information
- ✓ Your children in school
- ✓ Enrich the cultural environment of the community
- ✓ You to be proud of your city
- ✓ Establish well-rounded programs for the whole community not now available

Vote 'YES' on the Paper Ballot Nov. 6

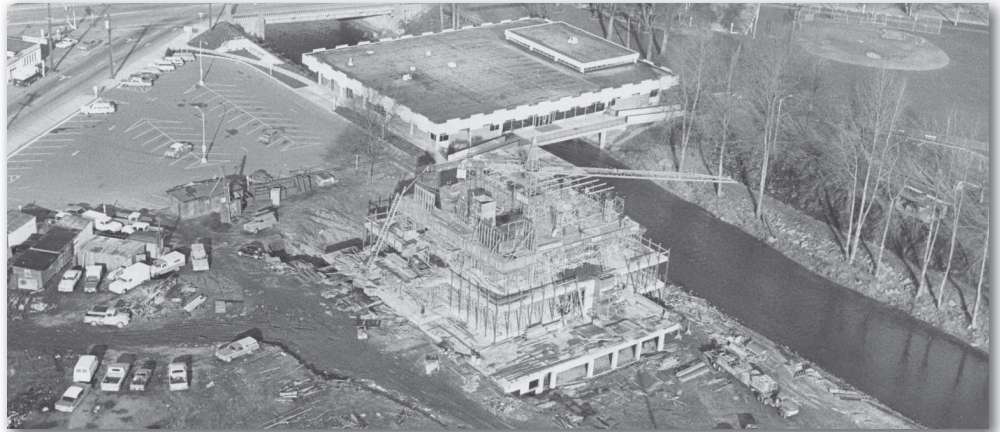
Flyer for the 1964 library bond issue.

"From Carnegie to the Cedar River: Renton's Libraries" continued from page 5

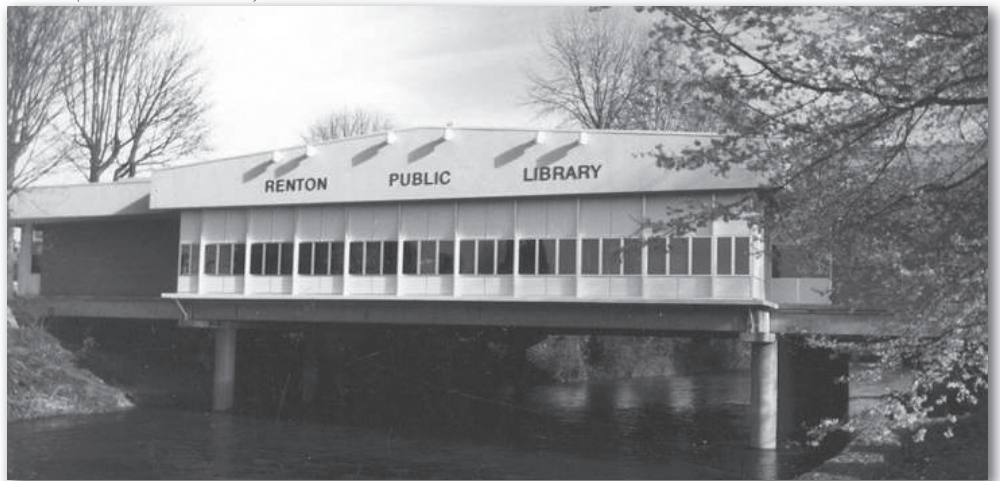
More than 1000 people attended the opening of the hard-fought new library on April 17, 1966. Laurie Renton, an eight-year-old great-grandniece of Capt. William Renton, cut the ribbon, and Louis Barei, past president of the library's Board of Trustees, served as master of ceremonies. Architect David Johnston presented Mayor Donald W. Custer with a golden key to the library. Honored guests were long-term librarian Winifred Daniels and Florence Guitteau Storey, holder of the first Renton Library card issued in 1914.²⁰ The iconic library-over-the-river, a one-of-a-kind landmark, was born.

POSTSCRIPT

By the 1980s the combination of advancing technology and age made library staff worry about their ability to deliver the best possible services to Renton readers and researchers. The Library's Board and City Council wrestled with ways to accommodate new technology—more computer stations, increased need for electricity, advanced security systems, and growing interest in ebooks and online references—in the beloved 1960s building, just as Carnegie Library proponents had done fifty years earlier. As early as 1962 State Librarian Dorothy Doyle questioned whether a community with a tax base of less than 100,000 could support an independent branch library system, and the recession of 2008 exacerbated that challenge.²¹ In February 2010 voters made the decision to annex to the King County Library System.



Aerial view of the completed Renton Library and the City Hall under construction, ca. 1966. (#1992.999.6906)



Renton Public Library, ca. 2002 (#2002.003.5787)

¹ "The Library," Duwamish (Renton: Renton High School, 1925), 44.

² "Carnegie Library," Wikipedia entry, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnegie_Library, accessed 4 April 2008.

³ Morda Slauson, *Renton—From Coal to Jets*, (rev. ed. Kent, WA: Olympic Reprographics for Renton Historical Society, 1976, 2006), 60.

⁴ Dorothy Doyle, *Report on a Survey of Renton's Public Library Services* (Olympia, WA: Washington State Library, March 1962), p. 8.

⁵ Morda C. Slauson, "Library Dedication on April 17," *Renton Record-Chronicle*, [ca. April 1966], n.p.

⁶ "Renton Library 50 Years Old," *Renton Record-Chronicle*, ca. 1954, n.p. (vertical files, "City—Library," Renton History Museum); Clarence Bagley, *History of King County, Washington* (Chicago, Seattle: S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1929), 1:455.

⁷ Morda C. Slauson, *Renton—From Coal to Jets* (reprint, Renton: Renton Historical Society, 2006), 60.

⁸ Slauson, *From Coal to Jets*, p. 60-61.

⁹ Doyle, *Report on a Survey of Renton's Public Library Services*, 3, 10-11.

¹⁰ City Engineer Frank Harris had hoped to use WPA funds to add a children's room at the back of the building, but when he died in 1940, the plans dropped. Emergency Recovery Administration funds—a New Deal agency—allowed the library's landscaping to be refurbished and some interior improvements to be made. "Cultural Era Ends as 54-Year-Old Library Crumbles Into Rubble," *Record-Chronicle*, 17 April 1968, p.1; Photograph #41.0175, Renton History Museum Collection.

¹¹ Doyle's report 1962 report looked very unfavorably on Renton's decision to attempt a branch library. "It should be evident that Renton's total population size does not warrant a branch library," she wrote, "but one does exist, and deactivation of an existing facility is seldom looked upon with favor." Doyle, *Report on a Survey of Renton Public Library Services*, 63.

¹² Doyle, *Report on a Survey of Renton's Public Library Services*, 8.

¹³ Doyle summarizes the challenges with site location. Doyle, 67-70.

¹⁴ "City Council Authorizes Bid for New Renton Library," *Record-Chronicle*, 26 May 1965, p.1.; "New Library Design Wins National Honors," *Record-Chronicle*, 16 June 1965, p.10; "City Buys More Land for Center, Opens Bid for Modern Library," *Record-Chronicle*, 23 June 1965, p.1; Slauson, *Coal to Jets*, 61.

¹⁵ "Cultural Era Ends."

¹⁶ "Cultural Era Ends."

¹⁷ "Cultural Era Ends as 54-Year-Old Library Crumbles Into Rubble," *Record-Chronicle*, 17 April 1968, p.1.

¹⁸ John Fournier, "What's Going On Here," *Record-Chronicle*, 22 September 1965, p.2.

¹⁹ Program, "Renton Public Library Dedication," 17 April 1966 (Vertical file: "City—Library," Renton History Museum). Head Librarian Marcella Hillgen quoted a price tag of \$344,322, in Hillgen, "Renton Bridges a River," *Library Journal* (1 December 1966), 5866. Millgen was head librarian for the new library.

"Renton Bridges a River," *Library Journal* (1 December 1966), 5866. Millgen was head librarian for the new library.

²⁰ Morda Slauson, "Colorful Ceremony Marks Opening of Renton Library," *Renton Record-Chronicle*, 20 April 1966, p.1.

²¹ Jim McNett, "Facelift Due for Renton's City Library," *Renton Reporter*, 23 October 1984, n.p.; Wendy Giroux, "Membership Soars, But Understaffed Renton Library Worried About Service," *South County Journal*, 12 December 2002, n.p.

From the Collections Department... Memories of Renton's Boom *Help us tell this story!*

By: Sarah Samson, Collection Manager



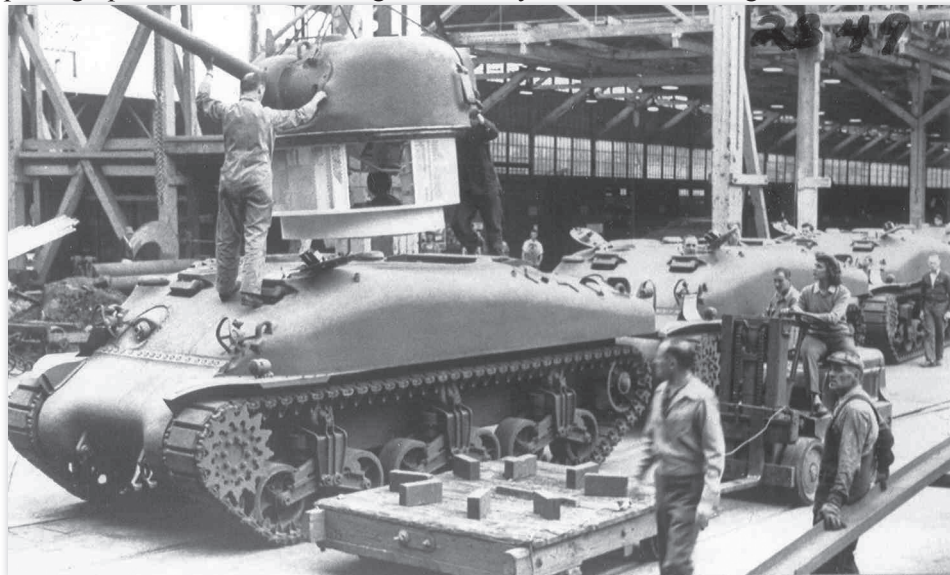
During World War II, Renton experienced explosive growth. This formerly sleepy suburb of Seattle transformed almost overnight into a bustling town supported by wartime manufacturers The Boeing Company and Pacific Car & Foundry. Workers from all over the United States streamed into Renton to build B-29 Superfortresses and Sherman tanks. This immigration caused the city to react and change quickly in order to accommodate all the newcomers.

In 1941, Renton's population numbered just 4,488 people. After the war, 16,039 people called Renton home. Renton's Housing Authority struggled to keep up with the mass immigration. New houses quickly sprung up in government developments in the Highlands. Prospective home owners were required to show proof of employment at either Boeing or Pacific Car & Foundry. Inevitably, the quick growth included some growing pains. Renton High School became so full it had to add temporary buildings for classrooms behind the main building.

This is the story we seek to tell in an exhibit scheduled to run concurrently with the Smithsonian exhibition *Journey Stories* from September 6-October 15. Were you a "Rosie the Riveter"? Was your mother or grandmother? Did your family immigrate to Renton during WWII? Do you have any stories, photographs, or artifacts relating to this story? We will be taking oral histories this summer on this topic. If you are not



1945 Boeing Cafe and Canteen employee badge. (RHM# 2008.009.001)



Sherman tank assembly line at Pacific Car & Foundry, 1944. (RHM# 41.2849)

interested in giving an oral history, we are also accepting written histories. Photographs and artifacts from this time period are currently underrepresented in our collection. Do you have something you are willing to donate? Please contact Collection Manager Sarah Samson at ssamson@rentonwa.gov or 425-255-2330. Help us tell this Renton story!

If you are interested in giving an oral history, please call the museum at 425-255-2330.

Volunteer Report

By Dorota Rahn, Volunteer and Education Coordinator



Dear volunteers and members of the Renton Historical Society,

I hope that by the time you read this it is warm and sunny, a nice change from the cold and rainy weather. In spite of, or maybe because of, the discouraging outdoor temperatures, we managed to attract several new volunteers recently.

Please welcome Karianna Derr, Jose Perez, Vijay Ram, Eric Rowe, Andrea Simpson, and Steven Thomas. Thanks to Karianna, Eric, and Jose the museum is able to continue implementing the Coast Salish Curriculum for fourth graders in the Renton School District. Karianna, Jose, and Eric are among the youngest volunteers at the museum; they are in their teens and twenties. Vijay, Karianna, and Jose have already started greeting museum visitors on Saturdays. Jose will also be documenting the Mexican restaurateurs in Renton, an extension of the research for our *Sustaining A City* exhibit. Andrea will be involved in doing oral history. Steven Thomas greets visitors at the museum and we hope that additionally he will get involved in other aspects of the museum operations.

The Museum's Volunteer Committee provides social and educational opportunities for volunteers by inviting them to visit different museums and other places of interest in the Renton area. Since March museum volunteers have visited the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum located in Seattle and the Washington Banana Museum in Auburn. We learned so much about the history of the police force in early days of the city of Seattle, and we saw historic documents, photographs and artifacts dating back to the 1800s from both the Seattle Police Department and King County Sheriff's Office. At the Banana Museum we got to experience artifacts, folk art, and other cultural oddities. It was a perfect venue to visit on April Fool's Day. If you have suggestions about places you would like to visit with a group of devoted volunteers, please contact me at 425.255.2330 or drahn@rentonwa.gov.

We'll need plenty of volunteers this summer, particularly before and during Renton River Days, Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24. Please keep these dates in mind and let us know if you can help with providing information at the booth, welcoming visitors to the museum, and helping children with hands-on activities.

In the Museum Education area, docents and I are taking the Coast Salish Curriculum to several elementary schools this spring. One down, and four more to go before the end of the school year! Students enjoy handling Coast Salish replicas and learning about the Coast Salish Native American culture. We plan to continue teaching about other aspects of Renton history in the future.

I hope we will meet during the Annual Meeting on June 7, as we honor our volunteer workforce!



SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION
OCTOBER 26, 2011

Join Emcee John Keister at the Renton Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person. Join us to Celebrate Renton's Past and Promising Future and to Support the Renton History Museum!

Call 425-255-2330 for event information or tickets or to purchase on-line go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/173461>.

Join the Renton Historical Society Today!

Name: _____
Membership Level: _____
Business Name: _____
Address: _____
City:State: _____ Zip: _____ + 4 (_____)

Please make checks payable to the Renton Historical Society.

VISA/MASTERCARD # _____ Ex.Date: _____

Your Signature: _____

- Please share your e-mail address with us: _____
- Please send me a volunteer application form. (32/1)

Mail To: Membership Secretary, Renton Historical Society
235 Mill Avenue South, Renton, Washington 98057-2133

Please Choose Membership Category & Any Donation You Wish To Make:

- Student/Teacher Individual (\$12) _____
 - Senior Individual (\$12) _____
 - Individual (\$20) _____
 - Senior Couple (\$20) _____
 - Family (\$30) _____
 - Patron Benefactor (\$100) _____
 - Business (\$100) _____
 - Corporate (\$100) _____
 - Life (\$500) *One Time Only*
(partially tax deductible) _____
 - General Fund Donation _____
 - Endowment Fund Donation _____
- In Memory of: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Obituaries Collected



denotes former Society Life Member



denotes former Society member

August 10 - September 30

- Emily Baglien
- Charles H. Beresford
- Geraldine (Jerri Jr.) Broeffle
- Terrie R. Carter
- Betty Ann Crookston
- Walter B. Edwards
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Grim
- Timothy Heppenstall
- Clarice Hills Kyle
- Charles F. (Rick) Kokko
- Martha Mae Kokko
- Virginia L. Larson
- Dr. Richard Lomas
- Eugene MacDonald
- Florence B. Mathieson
- Margaret Ann (Ferry) Neuharth
- Barbara (Bobie) Pastore
- Patricia Bright Peterson
- Dorothy Poeske-Haber
- Ruth J. Sagen
- June Alberg Schultz
- John Wilkinson
- Raleigh E. Williams
- Gladys Winston

Memorial Contributions February 15 - May 15

Terrie R. Carter
Patty Yothers

Greg Diamond
Lila M. Campen & family

Charles F. (Rick) Kokko
John & Eleanor Bertagni; Hazel & Peter Newing

Martha Mae Kokko
Daisy Ward

Francis Suzick
James & Lillian Young

Mick Vergillo
Mr. & Mrs. Al Armstrong

Mary Monaghan Williams
James Williams

Memorial Contributions (Over \$100)

Dr. Alfred Graham
Bertha Renton Graham

General Contributions

- Charles & Jeanette Delaurenti
- Mark & Barbara Whitehurst
- Jennifer Davis Hayes
- Dennis & Kathleen Stremick
- Judy Matson
- Gerald & Carole Edlund
- United Technologies (matching gift)
- Margaret Feaster

In-Kind Donations

Pritchard Design
Partial cost for designing 2010 Annual Report

New Memberships

- Ken Gustafson
- Don Gentry
- Gail Williams
- Bertha Renton Graham
- Helen Kaump

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

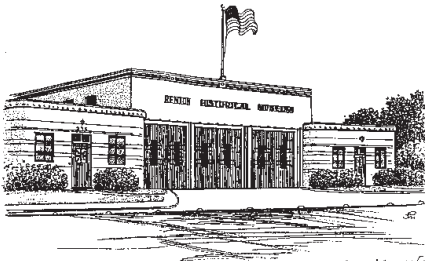
In April 1975, the City of Renton dedicated a 22-foot hand-carved pole in the Fred Meyer Shopping Center. The pole, carved by master carver Jim Ploegman, honored the late Henry Moses, the last hereditary chief of the Duwamish people and distinguished Renton High School athlete and alumni. The pole stood in the same spot, somewhat unnoticed, for almost 35 years.

In November 2009 Renton Municipal Arts Commissioner Fred Lund noticed that the pole had disappeared from its place. Questions to Fred Meyer management and the Duwamish Tribe revealed that no one knew what had happened to the pole. In early December Fred picked up on local reporting about the theft of a West Seattle honoring pole and its subsequent recovery in Keizer, Oregon. Along with the West Seattle pole was a second unidentified pole. The Arts Commission connected Seattle Police and Fred Meyer management, and investigation revealed that the second pole was indeed the missing Renton art piece.

Carver Jim Ploegman and White Bear teamed up to repair and repaint the damaged pole in 2010. On Saturday, May 7 the newly restored Moses Honoring Pole was returned to its rightful place in the pole's second dedication ceremony. The dedication was presided over by Renton Mayor Denis Law and Duwamish Tribal Chair Cecile Hansen. Ms. Hansen explained the symbolism of the vivid carved animals on the pole, and Mayor Law celebrated Renton's vibrant cultural life.

The Moses Honoring Pole now rests in a more visible spot in front of Fred Meyers.





Nonprofit Org
US Postage Paid
Renton, WA
Permit No. 105

Renton History Museum
235 Mill Avenue South
Renton, WA 98057

In Hindsight...



Is it summer yet? Three little boys await the completion of the first Henry Moses Pool in Liberty Park, 1950. (#1997.076.4589)