

PSMHS
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2007

PUGET SOUND MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 9731

SEATTLE WA 98109-0731

APRIL DINNER PROGRAM:

*THE PORT OF SEATTLE AND ODYSSEY:
AN UPDATE REPORT*DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR
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BOOK FOR SALE. Bill Lightfoot's *Beneath the Surface: Submarines Built in Seattle and Vancouver, 1909-1918*. Autographed price to PSMHS members, \$29.00 plus \$3.00 shipping. Contact Bill Lightfoot at 11322 SE 77th Place, Newcastle, WA, 98056. 425-228-6241 or billlight@earthlink.net. 4/07

BOOKS FOR SALE. Two books for those interested in the early exploration that brings Northwest maritime history to life: *The Early Exploration of Inland Washington Waters* and *With Vancouver in Inland Washington Waters*, both edited by Richard W. Blumenthal. \$31.29 each includes shipping and sales tax. Contact Dick Blumenthal, 406 126th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98005 or RichardWBlumenthal@hotmail.com 4/07

around the waters of Queen Charlotte Sound? According to the February 28, 1873, *Victoria British Colonist*, three Bella Bella canoes "...encamped near Cape Caution at the mouth of Belle Isle Inlet..." reported that they discovered a fair amount of wreckage on the beach and two masts visible off in deep water. But when a number of vessels returned from a fruitless search for survivors that March "...the general belief is that the lost propeller (screw steamer) ran on the Devil's Ridge (a dangerous cluster of rocks near Cape Caution) and that she went to pieces almost immediately." Later, that summer, the general consensus was that the steamer ran up on the rocks of the Sea Otter Group "...low sunken rocks about six miles outside of Queen Charlotte Sound."

GEORGE S. WRIGHT was a wood, two masted steamer, 116 feet in length and 314 tons. Among any surviving wreckage might be her large cast iron boiler, the 30 inch diameter single cylinder engine, crankshaft, and steam related cast iron rods, levers, valves, etc., and perhaps some of the wood keel and frames with their large drift bolts.

Hopefully, these details might set off something in someone's memory who has spent time in those treacherous waters. And if you do come across something unusual make sure you get the GPS coordinates, if possible. Who knows maybe one of our old salts might earn some much deserved fame for the discovery of a long lost shipwreck! Contact **Rick James**, UASBC researcher, Courtenay, BC, tel: 250-338-7740. ☐

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A P R I L

DINNER MEETING:

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 4, 2007

SWEDISH CULTURAL CENTER
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MENU: BAKED CHICKEN
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RESERVATION TODAY!BAR OPENS AT 6 PM,
DINNER AT 7 PM

PROGRAM:

THE PORT OF SEATTLE AND
ODYSSEY: AN UPDATE
ALEC FISKEN, A PORT OF SEATTLE
COMMISSIONER AND WELL-KNOWN
FIGURE ON THE CITY'S WORKING
WATERFRONT WILL PROVIDE US
WITH HIS UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE
OF THE PORT AND THE ODYSSEY
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NEWSLETTER

PUGET SOUND MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY • APRIL 2007

**APRIL DINNER PROGRAM:
PORT OF SEATTLE & ODYSSEY:
AN UPDATE REPORT**

Alec Fisken, a Port of Seattle Commissioner and well-known figure on the city's working waterfront, will present the Society's dinner meeting program on Wednesday, April 4. In the past he has been an observer, former reporter and editor of *Marine Digest* publications, City of Seattle staff member, and now a public port maritime and related transportation issue policy-maker.

The Port of Seattle, according to its *2005 Report to the Community*, is continuing its rapid growth as the major public port on Puget Sound. Building on historic high traffic volumes in 2004 a record number of shipping containers moved through the Port Seattle facilities in 2005. On a percentage basis it had a faster growth rate than any other port in the United States. In 1999 the Port served 6,600 cruise line passengers and in 2006 this grew to 735,000 passengers and 196 vessels. In addition to the Port's marine terminal operations Seattle Tacoma International Airport served 29.3 million passengers, its highest level in its nearly 60 year history.

From Alec's unique perspective, he will outline the Port's colorful history and use this context to discuss its current operations and possible future directions under the leadership of a newly-named executive director. Also of special interest to Society members, the veteran maritime leader will offer his views on the outlook for the Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center, an interpretive facility which has operated at Pier 66 on the Elliott Bay waterfront for almost ten years. ☐

Volunteers Needed in Our Popular Research Library

We need more volunteers for our library program. Our library gets a lot of requests for information. Local people are suggested to come over to the library and our volunteers will help them find material. But a fair amount of the requests are from afar and those people are unable to come

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PSMHS online: www.pugetmaritime.org



Membership in the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society is open to anyone interested in maritime history. Membership is solicited and inquires should be addressed to: PSMHS, P.O. Box 9731, Seattle WA 98109-0731. Monthly meetings are held September through June on the first Wednesday of each month. Meeting place and programs are announced to members by mail. The PSMHS Newsletter is published monthly, September through June, and is free to members.

**PUGET SOUND
MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY
206-624-3028**

**PRESIDENT: GEORGE OSBORN
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GEORGEOSBORN@COMCAST.NET**

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APRIL 4, 2007
PHONE/FAX: 206-324-2638
E-MAIL: MARINEART@AOL.COM
US MAIL: PSMHS**

NOTES & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Library Volunteers Needed

[continued from front page]

to Seattle to do research. We respond to their requests as best we can. But we are sorely short staffed now to do these requests.

The PSMHS volunteers are in the MOHAI library from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Thursdays and from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on Saturdays.

We also need help working on the collections of boxes of maritime paper ephemera that have been donated to the Society but often contain material unsorted so we really don't know what all is in the boxes. It is very necessary that we find out what is in these boxes or it is useless and we just become a "Grandma's Attic."

Please call **Pat Hartle** at 206-938-2397 if you can spare some time to help us do this very necessary work in our library.

Armed Forces Day Weekend Honoring Our Military Maritime Heritage

Armed Forces Weekend will be May 19th and 20th. This event at South Lake Union Park, at the Wharf, and the Armory will feature restored wooden military patrol and rescue boats built during World War II side-by-side with modern small craft used by today's Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Army.

A full schedule of ceremonies, presentations, demonstrations, and reunions will honor our nation's

military maritime history and those who have created this proud heritage during the past 60 years. The event is sponsored by Combatant Craft of America, in association with the Center for Wooden Boats, Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, and other partner organizations.

Captain Harold Huycke Passed Away February 12th

Captain Huycke was a longtime PSMHS editorial board member for *The Sea Chest*. He was a noted historian of square rigged ships and sailed as bos'n on C.A. THAYER on her last voyage from the Pacific Northwest to San Francisco. Because of his role as a member of the Cape Horner's Sailing Society, ship surveyor, traditional sailing ship historian, and wonderful person, he will be sorely missed.

Deaths Noted for Two Maritime History Supporters

From PSMHS member **Mike Mjelde** we report the passing of two noted maritime history supporters: **Jim Hermanson** of Port Townsend and **John Todd Jr.** of Seattle.

Jim Hermanson of Port Townsend wrote an article on the bark SOUTHERN CHIEF which, old and rotten, literally went to pieces off the Washington coast during a storm in 1894. The story appeared several years ago in *The Sea Chest*. Jim wrote two very fine

PSMHS Membership Application

- Individual/Family Membership \$40
- Associate (Libraries, Museum, Non-Profit) \$40
- Sustaining Member \$50
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I/we would like to receive information about how I/we can remember the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society in my/our estate planning or planned charitable giving program.

MAIL TO: Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society,
P.O. Box 9731, Seattle WA 98109-0731 (Include your check)

PSMHS Dinner Meeting Reservation

**CLIP AND MAIL FOR DINNER MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007**

RESERVATION DEADLINE:

NOON ON MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2007

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Total Number [at \$30 per person]: _____

Total Amount of Check: _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PSMHS
MAIL TO:**

**PSMHS DINNER,
P.O. BOX 9731, SEATTLE, WA, 98109-0731**

Call 206-938-2397 for changes, cancellations or questions.
Guests are always welcome. Please include payment.

Reserve Early and Notify of Cancellation. A member who makes a reservation and then does not attend a dinner or give notification of their cancellation in a timely manner (48 hours) will not be refunded their money for the dinner. The Society must pay for the number of meals we have reserved in advance, regardless of the number of meals actually served since the caterer orders several days in advance. Walk-ins cannot be guaranteed a meal.

illustrated books about the Port Townsend area: *Rural Jefferson County: Its Heritage and Maritime History*, and his second book, *Port Townsend Memories*. He was also co-author of the book *Port Townsend: Years That Are Gone*. Because of Port Townsend formerly being Port of Entry for Puget Sound, it generated many colorful stories about ships and men following the sea. Over a period of years Jim published stories in the *Port Townsend Leader* on many maritime subjects and his books were a compilation of his many articles. Jim was an able contributor to preserving maritime history.

Mike also notes the passing of John W. Todd Jr., who besides being the owner of Shorey's Book Store, was for many years the editor of the monthly PSMHS newsletter that preceded *The Sea Chest*. Mike mentions that John was the first person who got him interested in joining PSMHS in February 1957 and was his sponsor. John was a great source for used maritime

books and many of the reference volumes in Mike's personal library came from his shop.

Researcher Appeals for Shipwreck Information

The Underwater Archaeological Society of BC is currently involved with documenting and surveying a number of historic wrecks along BC's Central Coast. One particularly famous marine tragedy was that of the US steamer GEORGE S. WRIGHT which disappeared somewhere in Queen Charlotte Sound with 33 souls aboard in January 1873. It was quite the sensational story on both sides of the border for some time, especially since there were rumors of the survivors being massacred. Unfortunately, the real circumstances behind the loss still remains a mystery—as does the actual location of the shipwreck.

Therefore, we wonder if anyone out there might recall coming across anything out of the ordinary