
Through historical photographs and film, diaries, journals, and other research materials, combined with new and re-dramatized footage, co-producers and directors Lucy Ostrander and Nancy Bourne Haley have created a video documentary that chronicles the amazing life of Thea Foss, the Foss family, and the Puget Sound-based maritime company known worldwide. Dan Sellers worked as the videographer and editor on the project. Completed in 2006, the production spans the more than century-long period beginning in the late 1800’s, when first Norwegian immigrant Andrew Foss and then his future wife Thea came to the United States—and specifically Tacoma and Puget Sound—to find a new life and their fortune.

As explained in the video’s descriptive notes, “Finding Thea” separates the woman from the myth. It combines rare archival footage, photos, and clips from the 1935 Tugboat Annie film… with contemporary reflections on her legacy along Washington’s waterfronts. As historian Michael Sullivan says, it is the “story of a woman immigrant, head of a family who built a [maritime] empire without being an empire builder.”

Lucy and Nancy will discuss the extensive research as well as writing and editing process necessary to produce “Finding Thea.” You won’t want to miss seeing this new video documentary, and hearing personal reflections about the colorful, family-focused Puget Sound maritime history it features.
2006 Fundraising Campaign Raises Over $19,000

We wish to thank all those who contributed to our recent fundraising campaign. The campaign for 2006 was a great success raising over $19,000 as of December 31, 2006. The following participants made contributions and deserve our plaudits and thank you:

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P S M H S

Membership in the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society is open to anyone interested in maritime history. Membership is solicited and inquiries 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. Missing place and program are announced to members by mail. The PSMHS Newsletter is published monthly, September through June, and is free to members. The PSMHS Newsletter is published monthly, September through June, and is free to members.

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PSMHS Newsletter Application

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007
RESERVATION DEADLINE: NOON ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007
Name(s):
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Large Maritime Display at MOHAI
Jack Carver reports that there has been some discussion over the years about how little our artifacts are displayed at the Museum of History and Industry and about the loss of the maritime wing. We heard such comments at the last dinner meeting. In light of that situation, MOHAI currently has more of our models on display than are in our “Essential Seattle” exhibit than they have had for years. So many maritime subjects are displayed that the MOHAI gives the appearance of being a maritime museum. This is the type of inter-organization cooperation that we are trying to organize for future work at South Lake Union.

MOHAI’s director Leonard Garfield should be complemented on the maritime display at MOHAI. The “Essential Seattle” exhibit will be on display through the end of the year. As part of several exhibits, some of our models included are: USS WASHINGTON, BEAVER, DECATOR, NEBRASKA, VIRGINIA V and FLYER.