MAY 2007  
Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society  
P.O. Box 9731  
Seattle WA 98109-0731  

MAY Dinner Program:  
THE BERTÉ OLSON STORY:  
PUGET SOUND’S FIRST WOMAN FERRY BOAT SKIPPER  

Don’t forget to make your dinner reservations early!

THE BERTE OLSON STORY:  
PUGET SOUND’S FIRST WOMAN FERRY BOAT SKIPPER  

Jill Johnson of Whidbey Island will present her acclaimed one woman performance about Captain Berte Olson, the first woman ferry boat skipper on Puget Sound, at the May Society dinner meeting. During the program, “Little, But Oh My!” Johnson takes on various roles—including Olson as a young girl growing up in the late 1800s and a female ferry captain and company co-owner in the 1920s and 30s.  

According to a HistoryLink article, “Olson was a Norwegian-born ferry operator who with her husband ran ferries at Deception Pass and in Hood Canal.” With Scandinavian determination Berte Olson first learned how to run and handle a passenger steamer in what was at the time a totally man’s maritime world. Later she became a successful entrepreneur who for years guarded fiercely her private ferry route franchises against state government bridge building plans that threatened to put her out of business. As the article about Olson concluded, she was “gutsy” and “a force to contend with.”  

An accomplished storyteller, Johnson will bring Olson’s fascinating history to life in this interesting, dramatic living history program. Join us, bring a guest and make your reservations now for this one woman performance about Puget Sound maritime history.

PSMHS online: www.pugetmaritime.org
NOTES & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Members Renew at Higher Levels

We thank the following members who have renewed their annual membership dues at elevated levels during the past couple of months:

- NAVIGATOR: Stein Kruse
- BENEFACtor: Gilbert Joynt
- PATRON: Mike Garvey
- Captain Eugene Stearns
- James G. McCurdy
- Jerry Lawrence
- Robert P. Hart
- John R. Graham
- Captain F. B. Jerrell
- Robert O. Sylvester
- Hans Brouwer
- John S. Williams, Jr

Sustaining Members

- Sponsor: Scott Morris
- Carol Greene
- William Cruchon
- Peter Strong
- SUSTAINING: Roger Sherman
- Michael Temcon
- M/M Ray Pardo
- William Lundquist
- Don Simpson
- Robert Bell
- Richard Johnson
- Paul Polak
- Chuck Cardiner
- M/M Lew Jordan
- Miles McCoy
- David Grover

Stories of River Navigation to be Featured in The Sea Chest

The June 2007 issue of The Sea Chest will feature stories of those who relied on transportation via inland waterways. River navigation provided cross-country movement that was faster and more dependable than primitive roads and trails. The settlers relied on rivers to deliver products of their labor and to provide their need of manufactured goods.

Authors Art Knutson and Otto Bratrud describe their challenges of navigating the great Yukon River from the gold rush era up to the beginning of World War II. Author John McClelland covers the history of Cowichan River corridor. Most immigrants to the Puget Sound Country probably arrived by way of the Cowichan after traveling from the East over the Oregon Trail. Watch for the June issue featuring these fascinating tales in your mailbox.

Research Library Still In Need Of More Volunteers

As we mentioned last month, we need more volunteers for our popular 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 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. Your donations are truly welcome, but only if they pertain to our mission.

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.

PSMHS Membership Application

- Individual/Family Membership: $50
- Associate (Libraries, Museum, Non-Profit): $40
- Sustaining Member: $50
- Sponsor: $100
- Patron: $75
- Corporate Membership: $500
- Benefactor: $500
- Navigator: $1000
- Work(ed) for a Matching Gift Company

Name(s):
Address:
City State Zip
Telephone (H) (W)
E-mail
Sponsor (if any)

Total Number [at $30 per person]:

PSMHS Dinner Meeting Reservation

Clip and Mail for Dinner Meeting Wednesday, May 2, 2007
Reservation Deadline: Noon on Monday, April 30, 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. Note: 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 caterers reserve several days in advance. Walk-ins cannot be guaranteed a meal.

PSMHS EZ Communications Form

- To the Treasurer:
  - I want to discuss a donation or bequest
  - I can suggest a possible program

- To the Volunteer Coordinator:
  - I have surplus time & talents. Can I help?
  - I can suggest a potential new member

- To the Acquisition Committee:
  - I want to discuss a possible donation
  - I have a possible article for The Sea Chest

Please contact me:

Name:
Address:
City State Zip
Phone E-mail:

RESERVATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007
E-mail:

PSMHS Board of Governors:

- President: George Osborn
- Vice President: Chuck Fowler
- Treasurer: Margaret Binnendyk
- Recording Secretary: Gary Syverson
- Secretary: Karl House
- Past President: Eric Lindgren