Anderson Island Historical Society’s
A Little Old, A Little New News

President’s Letter.  Bob Bedoll

2022 has been another great year for the Anderson Island Historical Society, and it’s all thanks to our wonderful and dedicated volunteers. With COVID restrictions lifted, we were able to resume our set of full-featured events. We started with a full-featured Farm Day, including a huge plant sale, great food created by Chef Kevin Waltz, kid’s events led by Beula Robb, and a petting zoo presented by Doug Emerick. Special thanks go to the farm day coordinators Carol Pascal, Jeanne McGoldrick, and Sue Salo.

In July we had an amazing salmon and rib bake. For the first time ever we served over 700 salmon and rib meals, and set new records for ticket sales and silent auction proceeds. This event provides half of our annual funding, so it is important for AIHS, as well as being a great community-wide event. Over 70 volunteers help out every year. Special thanks are due this year to Jerry Simonsen, who led the Salmon bake team, Rick Warter, who led the rib team, and Phil Lutes, who did most of the purchasing. Also thanks go to the amazing silent auction team, led this year by Eileen Laskowski and Jill Aschendorf.

Coming up in September will be our yearly apple squeeze – though this year there is a dearth of apples on the island, so we may end up holding a very limited squeeze. I am happy to announce that we will be resuming our monthly potlucks and programs beginning on September 24. This will be our first potluck since February of 2020, almost 2 ½ years!

A special word of thanks goes to our Gift Shop managers, Leslie Lamb and Virginia Cummings. They staff the gift shop every weekend throughout the summer and into the fall. The gift shop is one of the primary destinations of island visitors, and a significant contributor to our annual budget. Visitors stop at the gift shop first, and then visit the farmhouse or the Archival Building.

Throughout the year our Operations team, under the direction of Operations Chairman Wayne Wallace, has been busy maintaining and enhancing the farm. We finally were able to bring power to the ‘Annex’, the large metal building at the west end of the farm. The team is building a woodshop inside the annex to enhance our ability to maintain the facility.

This year we reorganized our garden support team under the direction of Vice President Carol Pascal. Sue Huseby is stepping down as community garden coordinator after fifteen years of amazing service. Taking her place will be a team of garden coordinators, one from each of the four gardens. Val Oppenheim will be overseeing our new greenhouse, Laurie Opsal will lead the landscaping team, and Mo Harlow will join Jane Groppenberger in coordinating the Garden Market.

Your historical society could not succeed without the great folks who make up the board of directors: Carol Pascal, as Vice President, handles the taxes, the insurance, and this year reorganized our garden teams. Todd Billett, as the long-time treasurer, maintains the financial records, Dave Durrett is our secretary and creates minutes for the meetings, all of which are available on our web site. Peggy Hodge, our Education chairman, arranges all the potluck programs, and this year has trained over 40 docents who staff the farmhouse and archival building on weekends. Penne Wilson handles all our publicity, including this newsletter, the reader boards, and the Sounder articles. Wayne Wallace is our Operations Chairman.
Chairman. Rick Anderson is our archives director, and is responsible for all the exhibits at the farm. Ed Stephenson, the previous AIHS president, manages the Archival Building (with help from Jon Fields).

Finally, I want to thank all of you, our members, for joining with us to make the AIHS a wonderful part of Anderson Island life, both this year, and for many years to come.

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The Story of The Anderson Island Story -Bob Bedoll

Many of you will remember the movie “The Johnson Farm Story”, which we showed at our January potluck and program in 2019 (just before we had to shut down due to COVID). That movie told the story of the Johnson Farm. It was conceived by islander John Larsen, who directed the film and arranged the key interviews with the six islanders who worked on the farm years ago as teenagers. Rick Anderson wrote the narration and also narrated the film. Bob Bedoll edited the film. (This film is available for viewing on our YouTube channel – search for “Anderson Island Historical Society”).

After the film was shown, many islanders asked us what we were going to do next. The obvious next step was to tell a broader story – the story of Anderson Island. John bowed out of any follow-up, but Bob persisted, with some help from Rick Anderson. In 2017, Bob had created a set of 24 posters for the Archival Building, depicting the history of the island. The posters were based on the book “Anderson Island” by Liz Galentine. Bob thought that each poster could be turned into a brief 3-minute video, and the videos could be stitched together to make a feature length film. In April of 2020, Bob put together an outline of the movie and began working on it. With some help from Rick Anderson, a script was written for each poster, and a set of historic photos assembled. Initial versions of each video were created throughout 2020 and by the end of the year, a short video existed for each poster.

Because all AIHS public events were shut down by COVID, it didn’t seem like creating a feature length film was a good idea. But AIHS also had a vision of introducing videos into the archival building museum. Bob acquired four Samsung 10” tablets, and loaded the videos onto those tablets, together with an easy-to-use visitor-friendly interface. The tablets and videos debuted in the summer of 2021, and were an instant hit. Now visitors to the archival building are given a tablet, and can select a video to play for any poster they are interested in.

Once the videos were in place, the next step was to create a feature length movie. On “The Johnson Farm Story”, John Larsen had asked Walt Johnson and his niece to act as hosts to tie the various video segments together, and that technique was very effective. Bob asked Rick Stockstad to play a similar role for “The Anderson Island Story”. A longtime island resident, Rick has also had a career in television, and hosted a local TV show. This made him an obvious choice to host “The Anderson Island Story”. Bob and Rick recorded 13 separate introductions at various locations around the island. Rick also recorded the narration for all twenty-three video segments. We were also fortunate to be able to create introductions and interviews with Rick Anderson, Dianne Avey, Arild Barrett, Todd Billett, Vivian Skagerberg, and Ed Stephenson.

In the fall of 2021, Bob stitched all the video segments together, added the introductions and interviews, and also added a separate opening segment. Rick also recorded the closing music (“Wedding Day at Troldhaugen” by Edvard Greig) on the pump organ at the AIHS farmhouse. By the end of 2021, an 80 minute movie had been created. The movie premiered to a full house on February 26 of 2022. The movie will be shown again at the Anderson Island Film Festival in September, and will be available on our YouTube channel – just search for “Anderson Island Historical Society”. If you haven’t seen it yet, I encourage you to watch it – you will find it entertaining and enlightening.
Thank you, Sue, for 15 years of service!

Sue, Sue, quite extraordinary, how does your garden grow?

Sue Huseby began her work as Garden Coordinator more than 15 years ago, when one spring day, she went to the farm and asked a friendly soul that she met how to sign up for a garden. She was greeted with, “Well, there really isn’t anyone now to ask. Would you like to have the job? You can have your choice of the empty plots.”

So it began. When Sue first took over, there were about 22 gardens. There was no archival building, or restrooms, or repaired barn, or even a trailer to dump weeds. Where the archival building stands, helicopters once landed. There were just two outhouses for use on the property and much of the space was barren. The gardens have evolved over time and initially the space between Coops 1 and 2 was primarily grape vines. These vines would be removed so that the space could be divided into eight plots. The Pumpkin Patch was a project in collaboration with the farm work party who tilled, built the fence, and the elementary students who planted the pumpkins. But the students were unable to sustain their enthusiasm for the continuous care the gardens required and the next summer, the plot was divided into three gardens and made available for more gardeners. The last six gardens were added three years ago to bring the total number of gardens to 38. The gardens are always allocated and there is always a waiting list.

Sue believed that her role as garden coordinator meant that she was responsible for preparing the gardens for new tenants, assigning the gardens and then meeting with the new user to explain the rules, and obtain their signature, introduce them to the farm and the available resources like the compost and weed trailer, assign them a key to the garden locks and show them how to access the restrooms. Her most important role, however, was that of communicator. She wanted to know each of the gardeners and how she could best help them to be successful. She gave them hints and tips, showed them how to repair irrigation hoses, and sometimes just sat with them and helped them to pull weeds and place plants strategically.

Beside her on this journey was her husband of almost 54 years, Bill. He also volunteered at the farm and often helped Sue to till a new garden. He helped to stabilize the egg room, build the tractor barn, and also helped Dave Jacobson build the kitchen in the Lois Scholl room for the preparation of food and to increase its usability as a meeting space.

Many island newcomers are attracted to the gardens when they view their summer beauty, but not everyone is aware of the work that it takes to keep a garden growing. They do not realize that gardening is a year-round chore. Some realize that they would rather photograph and paint the gardens and just admire their beauty than tend them. Thus, there is generally turn-over in the gardens as people have life changes and are no longer able to commit to the care of a garden, or they learn that gardeners must dedicate more time and energy to make the beauty emerge than their busy lives allow.
The Heckman Collection

The Historical Society recently received the gift of a collection of manuscripts, notes and correspondence representing the life’s work of Hazel Heckman (1904-2002), who lived on the island for many years. Hazel was the author of many short stories and novels, including her best-known work, the beloved *Island in the Sound*.

Hazel was a keen observer and participant in island life as well as her hometown community in Kansas, and her letters and stories make fascinating reading. The Historical Society is currently curating this material with a goal of making most of it accessible to the public.

Included in the collection are some 150 unpublished short stories and the manuscripts of six novels, three of which were published. Some options being considered for this material are to publish a volume of *The Complete Stories of Hazel Heckman*, or perhaps an E-Books, or at least provide links to files that could be accessed on-line. Stay tuned!

No Place Like Home

Back in the summer of 1977, Dena Reeves and John Parrish were married on Anderson Island. Several of the island gardeners provided flowers and decorations for the wedding, and when Archie Reeves, the father of the bride, tried to compensate them, they all refused to accept any compensation. Archie then offered to donate to the Historical Society to show his appreciation for their support.

The outcome of this was that Archie donated a native American “Acorn Grinder” (pictured) to the museum. As a young man, he had carried this artifact, which weighed about one hundred pounds up from the bottom of the canyon of the Kern River in California.

Years went by, and the Acorn Grinder sat in the Museum portion of Coop I, scarcely noticed amid the baskets, quilts, and other island antiques in the collection. Last year, the AIHS Board agreed that a more appropriate home for this artifact should be found.

Some research led to the discovery that the Kern River Valley was the ancestral home of the Tubatulabal Tribe, headquartered in Weldon, California. The Tribal Chairman, Robert Gomez, when contacted, affirmed that this type of artifact was representative of their tribe’s way of life. He confirmed that the tribe would indeed be pleased to have the item returned to them.

Several attempts to coordinate with tribal members travelling to the northwest failed to result in a successful exchange of the item. Recently, Scott Dickey, an island resident who had heard about this story, volunteered to deliver the acorn grinder to the tribe on his trip to Southern California.

Scott picked it up from the museum and delivered it to the Kern River Valley Museum on July 25. Scott is pictured with Chief Gomez, who has expressed his profound gratitude and that of his tribe to the Anderson Island Historical Society. The Acorn Grinder has returned to its proper home!
Museum and Programs

The Johnson Farmhouse and the Archival Building are open on weekends Farm Day through Apple Squeeze in October and then on Saturdays and Sundays via appointment at the Museum store. On the day of Apple Squeeze (usually in early October), you will be able to visit the Farmhouse, AB Museum, Logging Museum, Coop 2 Museum, and the Johnson Farm barn. Docents will be available to answer questions and guide visitors. Watch for the OPEN flags at each site.

Feel free to wander our trails and farm buildings. All of the buildings have signage that indicate their historical use. The trail around the two ponds is also marked and helps visitors to know more about the ecosystem on the island. AIHS docents have been busy volunteering at the Johnson Farm in the Farmhouse and the Archival Building museum from early spring until late fall. Visitors (adults and kids) who visit the Farmhouse, have the opportunity to play the “I Spy” game (created by Lee Ann Whitaker). Island visitors to the AB museum have been enjoying digital tablets with narrated videos (created by Bob Bedoll and Rick Stockstad) accompanying the posters and displays of island history, following its progress from the 1800’s to the present. The tablets are available during farm visiting hours on Saturday and Sunday. Please check the website for current open hours. If visitors or islanders require visits on weekdays, please call Peggy at 760-521-4972 to arrange a museum visit.

Speaking of docents, there is an opportunity to join our Johnson Farm docent team. Docents act as volunteer guides at the Johnson Farm. Now it is your turn to think about getting actively involved in the AI Historical Society as a DOCENT. Be a bridge between visitors and the AIHS Johnson Farm and our island. Stimulate curiosity and a deeper understanding of our island history. Actively engage visitors of all ages on their journey of discovery of the historical farm and the island. For more information about AIHS docents, go to the AIHS website Select the “docent” tab and check out the information regarding docent roles, responsibilities and benefits at http://www.andersonislandhistory.org. We will be recruiting for the next training planned for Spring 2023. Please contact Peggy anytime to sign up for this opportunity. 760-521-4972 or bookwoman1@centurylink.net. We are all looking forward to getting back to the activities we all enjoy on the island.

Special THANK YOUS to this season’s docents: LeeAnn Whitaker, Bruce Buchanan, Susan Smith, Luci Janzen, Rick & Barbie Stockstad, Sheryl Jaschke, Ann Ingham, Ellen Cool, Peggy Hodge, Jane Groppenberger, Sharon Bruhn, Kim Kowalski, Penne Wilson, Dave Hummel, Jerry & Linda Simonsen, Cindy Harcastle, Diana Hasland, Jeanne McGoldrick, Mary Rabe, Iris Mohr, & Irene Freed.

AIHS is planning to resume POTLUCKS and SPEAKERS on September 24. If you have an idea to share for a program speaker or know of someone with an interesting topic, please let Peggy know. The Fall line-up will begin with a program featuring “Bottomfish Communities in Puget Sound: WDFW’s Assessment and Monitoring Activities” with Dr. Robert Pacunski. The member Potluck will start at 6:00, with the program following at 7:00. Programs are open to all islanders and visitors. October 22 will feature a reprise of Belen Schneider’s “Birds of the Johnson Farm.”
All photos are on display in the Archival Building. Come and check them out the remainder of September on Saturday or Sunday when the building is open.

Annual Photo Contest Winners

Best in Show—Val Oppenheim-Frog among the Roses

Close-Ups
1st-Lisa Gilmore—Autumn Droplets
2nd—Nancy Fitzgerald—Dahlia Glory
3rd-Eugene Orr-The Rose

Historical Photos, Events, People
1st-Dave McGoldrick-Peter Puget Returns
2nd-John Ullis-Andersons at the Rib Bake
3rd-Chuck Hinds-Good Morning, Anderson Island

Critters
1st-Lisa Elliott-Orcas out in Front
2nd Nick Farafontoff-Wylie Coyote

Pets
1st-Jerry Simonsen-Vampire Kitty
2nd-Kathy Baxter-Lucas on the Lookout

Landscapes
1st-Val Oppenheim-Island in the Fog
2nd-Nancy Fitzgerald-Ray Park Beauty
3rd-Eugene Orr-Interlachen

Seascapes
1st- Tim Vanhaverbeke-Morning on the Sound
2nd-Lisa Elliott-Morning on Eagle Island
3rd-Glenn Kasman-A Ferry Fine Morning

Snow
1st-Mimi Welch-Warm Love on a Cold Day
2nd-Val Oppenheim-Ancient Apple Tree in Snow
3rd-Nancy Fitzgerald-The Old Barn

Sunrise-Sunset
1st-Lisa Gilmore-November Dawn
2nd-Glenn Kasman-Evening at Andy’s
3rd-Dave McGoldrick-Firey Sunset

Birds
1st-Lisa Elliott-Intent Eagle
2nd-Dave McGoldrick-Eagle Pointer
3rd-Elizabeth Engle-Duck
On Not Understanding Anderson Island

By HAZEL HECKMAN

The voice on the telephone was feminine and disarming. I was told that the Anderson Island Historical Society had a new exhibit on display, and I asked if they had any information about the exhibit.

The society had recently acquired a collection of letters, photos, and artifacts related to Anderson Island's history, and they were interested in sharing this information with the public. I asked if they had any information about the exhibit, and the woman on the phone said yes.

I mentioned that I was interested in learning more about the exhibit, and she invited me to visit the exhibit and learn more about the island's history. I accepted the invitation, and we agreed to meet at the Anderson Island Historical Society.

The exhibit was called "A Little Old, A Little New News" and was edited by Penne Wilson. The exhibit included a variety of materials, including photos, letters, and artifacts, that highlighted the island's history and culture.

I was able to learn more about the island's history and culture, and I was impressed by the exhibit's quality and depth. The Anderson Island Historical Society is doing a great job of preserving the island's history and sharing it with the public.

This article is one of many in the Hazel Heckman collection that we are working to make available to the public.

We hope you enjoy this article and please let us know if you would like to see more!

"A Little Old, A Little New News" edited by Penne Wilson is a publication of the Anderson Island Historical Society which is solely responsible for its content.

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