

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



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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.

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 Troidhaugen” 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.



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



Thank you, Sue, for 15 years of service!



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!



Lois Scholl and Hazel Heckman



Acorn Grinder



Chief Gomez and Scott

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 Hardcastle, 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.”



Back Porch of the Farm House taken in 1976

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 disarmingly young.

Telephone communication to Anderson Island is by cable across Drayton Passage and is sometimes less than the well-oiled mechanism touted by Ma Bell in *Time Magazine*. Calls come in for warehouses in Los Angeles, for San Francisco T.V. or camera repair stations, and, at least once, for a Portland weight-reducing salon.

But this one was meant for me. "I teach anthropology at the University," my caller said apologetically. "I hope I haven't inconvenienced you."

I assured her that she had not. Some days the phone does not ring at all. Anderson Islanders, generally, are not telephone addicts and most of them keep busy out-of-doors. All out-going and incoming calls save those to or from Lakebay on Longbranch Peninsula, Herron Island and vicinity, where we are not acquainted, are toll calls. The ringing of the phone bell creates a mild feeling of pleasant expectancy. As do most writers when work is not flowing smoothly, I welcome distraction.

In addition, I liked the voice that went on to say that she and her four upperclass students were launching upon an ambitious project called *The Cultural Ecology of Anderson Island*. Would I help?

"Of course," I said incautiously. "How?"

They had prepared a detailed questionnaire and a brochure of explanation. She hoped I would serve, not so much as mentor as guide to the homes of Islanders they wished to interview. She would call within two weeks for an appointment.

I began some notes in anticipation of the visit. Ecology ("the branch of biology dealing with the relations between organisms and their environment") is one of my favorite

Definition four: Sociol.- The sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another.

Simple! A pipe. A natural. My caller had said they might take an hour of their time and mine to come at a summation, following which they wished to interview every year-around resident of the community. But an hour in which to construct a resume that traversed a hundred years of transmission of a way of living that my caller and her students

The subject, at her own instigation: Anderson Island Culture. Should such be kept unaltered?

"A visiting professor from Alaska who had never been on the Island argued that what we needed in such places was 'a dilution from outside,'" she told me, "to keep us from the curse of provincialism. I guess he meant hickism."

"Maybe he was right. When I came home and saw for the first time the clearing in the woods for a commercial center, I stopped the car and got out and sat

it's hay or wood or garden stuff. And the neighbors do the same by us. But we really don't expect anything in exchange," she said, laughing.

In *The Sea Around Us*, Rachel Carson wrote, "In all the world of living things, it is doubtful there is a more delicately balanced relationship than that of island life to its environment."

Does the answer lie, then, in insularity? In the natural preservation of indigenous species, in the exclusion of foreign strains?

But Anderson Island is no Galapagos. Served by several ferry runs a day, it lies within four miles of a densely-populated area. Each year sees an increasing horde of visitors seeking recreation in the woods and on the waters. Of recent years, a real-estate development with a golf course and a country club has added thousands of lot owners. A few years ago a duo of human jokesters imported a pair of coyotes that have altered the small animal population.

Socially, Islanders still live by the old-fashioned concept of looking out for each other. Recreation still consists of all-Island affairs, where the youngest children and the most elderly adults mingle on a first name basis.

The answer must lie with the year-around residents, many of whom are descendants of early settlers, who used, without exploitation or squandering, the

earth and waters of their environment, or in the fact, as one young visitor charmingly put it, "you have to gear down to become an Islander." People have learned to gear down.

All of this seems pertinent to the current long-drawn-out effort of these deliberately-paced Islanders to negotiate a zoning change from General Use (which has resulted in the parcelling of nearly one-fourth of the Island into postage stamp size lots) to Suburban Agriculture with a one-acre minimum variance, a classification more consistent with the character and ethics of Island residents.

Whether or not the request is granted is up to the County Planning Commission and the County Commissioners. And here again the petitioners are baffled. How do you explain a way of living so foreign to the modern concept of "You can't stop progress," in the popular connotation of the word?

Has anyone, lately, considered the inevitable end result of high-density spacing of mice and geese and humans in a circus-cumbers arena?

Hazel Heckman is the author of Island in the Sound and Island Year, both about Anderson Island.

"You have to gear down to become an Islander."

subjects, especially as it pertains to Island organisms, both animate and inanimate.

But "cultural" ecology? I opened *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*.

Definition number two of the word "Ecology" reads: The branch of sociology concerned with the spacing of people and institutions and the resulting interdependency.

Meaty! But baffling. Disregarding the old shake-covered clubhouse, the no-longer-used Wide Awake Hollow school building, the non-denominational Island-built chapel, and the late Rudy Johnson's farmstead, slowly being converted to museum status, the Island boasts no "institutions" as such.

I turned to the word "culture."

perceived as essentially unchanged for going on four generations!

They were largely right, moreover, in their conception. During my own twenty-six years on Anderson Island I have seen daily evidence of the tempering of the winds of unchangingness and of the preservation and persistence of a rural quality of life, an asset that has remained unique throughout more than a century and that has, indeed, been transmitted from one generation to another.

The project was not without precedent. A few years ago a young Island native participated as a leader in a seminar in the sociology department of Western Washington State College, where she was a student.

down on a log and bawled out loud. I guess that was pretty provincial of me."

My own group came. I had my hour. Teacher and students listened politely and made notes. But I knew a sense of failure. I had made no real case as to why the girl wept, any more than I could say why I, a comparative late-comer, deplore the sight of logs going off and mobile homes coming in to replace the trees and underbrush.

I went along with the students and their teacher for the first interview, with an Island native, a ruggedly-successful, self-reliant woman who seemed startled by the question as to barter between Islanders. "Well, of course, we pass along our surplus, whether

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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