

**NEXT MEETING  
OF THE PIONEER  
ASSOCIATION OF THE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**Saturday, March 9**

1:00-3:00 p.m.  
(Board meets 11:00 a.m.)

Pioneer Hall  
1642 43rd Ave East  
Seattle WA 98112

Speaker: Norman W. Blye  
"Ferry Tales of  
Lake Washington"

Family History  
TBA

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photo courtesy of Kirkland Heritage Society

*The ferry Lincoln waits at the Madison Park dock for its  
Lake Washington crossing.*

*Winter Meeting to be held March 9*  
**"Ferry tales" of Lake Washington**

Do we need ferries on Lake Washington now to help reduce Highway 520 and I-90 bridge gridlock? Beginning in the in 1880's, and continuing until the opening of the first Lake Washington Floating Bridge, passenger ferries were a main source of travel across the lake.

At the March 9 meeting of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, Renton resident Norman W. Blye will share his "ferry tales" about many of these boats.

Mr. Blye brings a lifelong interest in this subject. When he was born, in 1918, both Blye parents worked onboard Lake Washington ferries. A longtime neighbor of the family, John Anderson, was responsible for most of the Lake Washington ferries in the early 20th Century. Growing up, Norman rode the ferries to visit friends, he commuted from his Bellevue home to school in Seattle and served as an onboard employee, himself, for a time.

The membership meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. with a short business meeting, and a family history presented by a Pioneer Association member. Mr. Blye's presentation follows, and the meeting concludes with refreshments, and a performance by "Vivace", a group from the Pacific Sound Chorus: Gayle Robinson, Bonnie Kulvinskas, Jan Iverson and Judi Milburn (affiliated with the Sweet Adelines International) share barbershop-style harmonies in a mix of "oldies" and newer selections.

## A message from the president

With Spring, we hope, just around the corner, some exciting things are happening at Pioneer Hall.

Under the guiding hand of Catherine Spedden, we have begun to tell the story of the Pioneers of early Washington through the use of displays, artifacts and the individual stories of our own members' ancestors. While the work is just beginning, we hope to have a fair portion of the stories on display by the next general membership meeting, in March.

Efforts also continue on the building renovation project. At the March meeting we will report, in detail, our plans for fundraising.

Our membership is growing, and a committee has been established to review and make changes necessary to improve that area of operations.

All in all, great progress is being made, and I have to thank the members of the board for their dedication, and strong commitment to Pioneer Hall.

I hope to see you at the spring meeting, Saturday, March 9.



*Robert Teague  
President, 1999-2002*

## "More Voices, New Stories" conference March 2

The Pacific Northwest Historians Guild, in conjunction with the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), the Washington State Historical Society and the National Archives of the Pacific Alaska Region, will hold its 2002 conference at MOHAI on Saturday, March 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The conference, entitled "More Voices, New Stories: King County's First 150 Years", will feature exhibits, a special luncheon, lecture sessions, book signings, door prizes and more. Lecture sessions will cover a wide range of topics, and shed light on how various sub-communities participated in the history of King County.

For a complete schedule of events, or for more information, contact the Museum of History and Industry at 206-324-1126.

*www.wapioneers.org*

## Pioneer Association web site up and running

All members of the Pioneer Association who are connected to the Internet are encouraged to check out our new site on the World Wide Web. The commitment of members such as David Fauver have led to an increasingly thorough and easy-to-use site.

Found at <http://www.wapioneers.org>, the site features meeting notices, information about special events, membership guidelines and online copies of current and past issues of the *Pioneer Presences* newsletter. The web site is a valuable and useful resource for our members, as well as an important introduction to our organization for those researching local and family history on the Web.

*Pioneer Presences is published by the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, and has been compiled and edited by Barbara Krohn since 1977. It can also be found online at <http://www.wapioneers.org>. Contributors this issue include Carol Hawkins, Robert Teague, Catherine Spedden and Jeff Christensen.*

## An entertaining fall meeting took us "North to Alaska", and gave a glimpse into another Pioneer family's history

*Submitted by Carol Hawkins*

At the October meeting of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, speaker Art Knutson took us north - to Alaska and the Yukon - while recounting stories about his 25 years as a licensed mate in that region.

Arriving at Pioneer Hall dressed in the uniform he wore while serving as first mate aboard several boats on the Yukon River (including a four-year stint aboard sternwheelers), Mr. Knutson recounted how his childhood years on a Nebraska cattle ranch led him - at 13 years of age - to seek a more diverse and exciting life on the water.

Mr. Knutson illustrated his presentation with slides of the many sternwheelers which served in Alaska and the Yukon, as well as here in the Pacific Northwest, for a time. His stories had to do with problems mechanical to geographical, including detailing those which arose when sand bars shifted, rivers changed course, and seasonal weather made each voyage a unique adventure.

Mr. Knutson's stories and experiences are also recounted in the book he authored entitled "Paddlewheelers of the Yukon Gold Rush". Anyone who wants to see and hear more should track down this interesting publication.

Later in the meeting, Sheila Mottern gave an extended family history of the Wood family, from Renton. The history included stories about Joe Wood Sr. and Joe Wood Jr., who both served as Fire Chief in Renton, as well as about Robert Wood, who started a store in 1878 which became the first true department store in the area (all ten of Robert's children worked in the store at some time or another).

The Wood family history also had a Yukon connection: all five of Robert's sons were among the many local



*Speaker Art Knutson*

young men who went north during the Gold Rush. The family store served an important function during the Rush by extending credit, and providing food and supplies, to carry families over until the men returned from Alaska and the Yukon, presumably with gold in their pockets.

Entertainment at the fall meeting included Guy Edwards playing of the Denny Piano with aplomb while accompanying Jean Roberts (a Yukon family descendant no less!) in performing songs of yesteryear. Their performance included a "sing-along" on choruses and old-time favorites.

Door prizes (see left) and refreshments rounded out the enjoyable afternoon's events.



*Two of the day's door-prize winners:  
Juanita Nordin (left) and Helen Langer Smith (right)*

## Lake Steamers were essential in early development of Kirkland

by Alan J Stein

The Madison Park neighborhood was first settled by a man named John McGilvra in the 1860's. At the time the shores of Lake Washington were densely wooded, and along with clearing his property, McGilvra cut a direct trail from his home to Seattle. This tiny trail would prove to be the event that truly opened up development on the East Side of the lake.

Many early settlers and homesteaders of the East Side got their first glimpse of Lake Washington from McGilvra's property. Once they bought and set up their property, they saw the benefits of this trail as a (relatively) easy connection to Seattle. After rowing or sailing across the lake, it was just a (relatively) short walk up the hill and down the other side to sell their wares or perform whatever other business they needed to conduct in town.

Over the next few decades, more settlers meant more lake traffic. Many small, independent steamboats had set up passenger service, and a small settlement grew up around McGilvra's property. A steamer landing was eventually constructed, and the little trail became a trolley line. We now know this trail as Madison Street. A resort, Madison Park, was built and the little community between Seattle and the East Side became a major nexus for business and recreation on both sides of the lake.

By the 1890's Kirkland had started to grow. Peter Kirk's lure of a steel mill in Kirkland caused more development and therefore more people moved to Kirkland. More steamers appeared on the lake, one of which was the C. C. Calkins. The captain of the Calkins was a man named John Anderson, who had arrived in Puget Sound in 1888 with \$20 in his pocket.

By 1893, Anderson had worked his way up from deckhand and had received his master's license. Along the way he had saved enough money to buy his own boat, the Winnifred, and soon formed the Anderson Steamboat Company. This was the beginning of a small boating empire that would last for decades. Even though Kirk's steel mill eventually failed, Anderson still saw the potential for East Side development. He continued to buy and build more lake steamers and also invested in lakefront property. One of his largest rivals for business were the Bartsch and Tompkins Transportation Company, but by 1907 he was able to buy their fleet

and shipyard (located at today's Carillon Point), assuring him a virtual monopoly in the Lake Washington steamer industry.

Around this time, King County was persuaded to build its own ferry, the King County of Kent, and accompanying slips at Madison Park and Kirkland. This didn't bother Anderson one bit. In fact, he often used to pull his private steamers into the county slips, take on paying passengers and pull away before the county ferry arrived.

By the 1910's both Anderson and Kirkland were prospering. Anderson built over 10 modern excursion boats for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909. More travelers on the lake meant more people discovering the appeal of living on the East Side, which in turn, meant more passengers for Anderson's ferry line. A healthy flow of economy was now in place.

Not being ones to miss out on the flow of money, in stepped land agents Burke and Farrar. They bought Peter Kirk's development company, and set up offices at Madison Park. This office can be seen near the center of the photo, emblazoned with the bold moniker "Owners of Kirkland Townsite". They soon set up offices in Kirkland, also. They quickly became the premiere developers of early Kirkland, and their legacy can still be seen today in many of the structures in the downtown area, and in the layout of some of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Another landmark that should be noted is the ferry Lincoln. This is probably the most fondly remembered ferryboat of long-time Kirkland residents, and was also built by Anderson's shipyard.

In 1914, Anderson was sued by the county for his practice of swiping passengers off the county docks. This and other lawsuits eventually led to the elimination of privately run ferries, but once again, it didn't phase Anderson one bit. He just started building boats, such as the Lincoln, to sell to the county. And, as a final footnote, within a few years Captain Anderson was once again operating all Lake Washington ferries. By the 1920's the county was losing large amounts of money in the operation of the ferry system. Captain Anderson offered to step in and cut the losses. He was taken up on his offer and continued to operate the ferry system until his retirement in 1935.

## Now and Then at Mud Bay

Those who have been in attendance at meetings over the last year have been exposed to some of the historic work being done Secretary of State Ralph Munro's property at Mud Bay, west of Olympia. In a joint effort between the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the State of Washington, the Squaxin Island Tribe and South Puget Sound Community College, a bit of our region's prehistory is becoming history.

At three sites in Eld Inlet, Dr. Dale Croes, professor of archeology at South Puget Sound Community College, and Rhonda Foster, cultural director of the Squaxin Island Tribe, have unearthed a prehistoric village and two fish-trap locations which are believed to be up to 1000 years old. Artifacts from the sites are carefully and painstakingly being recovered.

The most notable element of the project is the cooperation and interdependence of the parties involved, each bringing special skills to the experience: tribal members are taking classes in archeological excavation, college students are being taught the traditions and skills of the native people from tribe members, and all involved are gaining an appreciation for each other, as well as the history slowly being unearthed.



*Dr. Dale Croes (left) and Rhonda Foster (right)*

## Pioneer Association Board Members and Trustees

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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TERM TO JUNE 2002	<i>Mark Chamberlain, John C. Gayton III, Robert Leurquin, Claire Raaum</i>
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TERM TO JUNE 2004	<i>Kathy Dettmar, Carol Hawkins, Catherine Spedden, Muriel Wintersheid</i>

*Help tell the pioneer story:*

## **Materials still sought for new displays at Pioneer Hall museum**

Pioneer Trustee Catherine Spedden is spearheading the Association's efforts to tell the Pioneer story, and your help is requested. Catherine and her team of volunteers are seeking items (see some examples, below) which can be used to "interactively" tell the pioneer story.

Members are asked to contribute to this plan in several ways: by providing items, by sharing stories and information, by giving of their time and special talents, and by offering valuable input and suggestions. A four page questionnaire has been created by the Pioneer Association, and is available by calling its offices at 206-325-0888. A brief summary appears below, including a list of items the Association seeks for new exhibits.

Items may be donated, or provided on a LOAN ONLY basis.

Items of particular interest include: clothes of all ages: work or dress; jewelry; military items; certificates of marriage, birth, awards or mining; kitchen items; furniture; old maps and charts; and dolls, toys and trains. Also desired are photographs of people, places or events, school records, old books and magazines.

Perhaps most importantly, ALL members are encouraged to share stories and photos of your pioneer families. When submitting either, please be sure and include: your name, address and telephone number, dates when known, name and description of item (if not obvious), the names of any persons identifiable in photos or written histories.

Illustrating our state's history with tangible items and personal stories creates a richer, more vital vision of the pioneer experience. Please take time to consider how you may help to bring the past to life. Volunteers are needed to help catalogue items and create the new displays, as well as to put into use any special skills, such as model-making or set construction.

Now is the time. The Pioneer Association moves into the twenty-first century with vision and concrete goals. Please help if possible. Your assistance now not only will help preserve history in Pioneer Hall, but help create it.

***Completed checklist/surveys, family histories, or inquiries about this project may be forwarded to: Catherine Spedden, 10507 NE 151st Street, Bothell WA, 98011-4852 (or call her at 425-488-3164).***



*Catherine Spedden among some of the materials collected for new Pioneer Hall displays*

### **Mark your calendars**

For those of you who (wisely) plan ahead, the dates of some future Pioneer meetings: Saturday, March 9, 2002 (10:00 a.m. board, 1:00 p.m. general); Saturday, May 11, 2002 (board); and Saturday, June 29, 2002 (10:00 a.m. board and general membership).



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT:  Male  Female  Single  Married  Widow  Widower

NAME: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)

Address: (Street Number) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

My pioneer ancestor(s) resided in the Territory of Washington prior to its becoming a State on November 11, 1889. I am a lineal descendant of:

	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CITY/TOWN	COUNTY
(1)	_____	_____	_____
(2)	_____	_____	_____

Add names of any additional qualifying ancestors on the Application Supplement.

I hereby apply for membership in the PIONEER ASSOCIATION as indicated below:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Membership (18 years of age or older):

- Annual Dues ..... \$ 10.00
- Lifetime Membership (One payment or three annual \$50.00 payments) ..... 150.00

To the extent available, please enter the lineage data requested on the reverse side hereof for our records of Washington Territory pioneers and their descendants. For an applicant naming more than one Pioneer ancestor, complete a separate Lineage Record for each additional ancestor.

If a member interested you in joining, please enter the member's name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send this application with your dues to:

PIONEER ASSOCIATION  
1642 43rd Avenue East  
Seattle, Washington 98112-3222

## Former Association presidents honored

A special presentation was made at the fall membership meeting of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. Current Pioneer president, Bob Teague, presented plaques of appreciation to two-time former president Edith Johnson, and three-time former president Barbara Krohn. The plaques were intended to thank both women for their distinguished service to, and on behalf of, the Pioneer Association.



*Pioneer Association president Bob Teague presents plaquest to: Edith Johnson (left) and Barbara Krohn (right)*

**Pioneer Association  
of the State of Washington**  
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**Next meeting of the Pioneers is Saturday, March 9 (see page 1)**