



Strait History

VOLUME XVI SPRING 2023 NUMBER 2

MISSION STATEMENT

**We connect the future,
through the present,
with the past.**

2023 NOHC Meeting Dates

NOHC Board Meetings: Second Monday of the month at noon on Zoom and in the ASF conference room.

Membership Committee: Second Monday of the month at 2 PM on Zoom and in the ASF conference room.

Collections Committee: Last Tuesday of the month at 11 AM in the Research Library.

NOHC Membership Potluck and Campus Tours: June 17, 1 PM – 5 PM at NOHC.

2023 NOHC Program Dates

Learning Our Landscape Presentation Series: Second Thursday of the month at 3 PM on Zoom (link on website and Facebook page).

Elk Creek Conservation Area History Walk (partnership with NOLT)

History Hikes - Discovery Bay:
Anderson Lake State Park: June 10 at 10 AM.

2023 Other Dates

NOHC "Piece of the Peninsula" Online Auction: April 17-21

NOHC Vintage Sale: May 20

PA Maritime Festival Booth June 10-11

County Fair Booth: August 17-20

Lincoln School Request For Proposals Announced

Per our previous communications regarding the Lincoln School, the Lincoln School Committee and NOHC Board posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Lincoln School building on April 21, 2023. Copies of the RFP are available on our website or by request. We encourage outcomes that focus on supporting our local community and shared history, such as:

- Preservation of the iconic building or the façade of the school that faces north.
- Any new construction on the property to reflect or complement the architectural design of Lincoln School.
- Purchase by a nonprofit organization that provides social, health, housing or other community support services whose mission is compatible with the NOHC.
- An organization that will renovate, maintain and operate the Lincoln School building and/or the north portion of the campus.
- A cooperative use agreement with the purchaser for the NOHC to access space in the renovated Lincoln School or replacement building(s).

Proposals should be submitted by mail to the NOHC at PO Box 1327, Port Angeles, WA 98362. If you know an organization or individual who might have an idea or project for the Lincoln School, please spread the word!



WA Humanities SHARP Grant Wrap-Up

Our 2022 WA Humanities SHARP grant helped us play "catch-up" on a laundry list of backlogged collections organization and digitization tasks that had piled up since the beginning of the pandemic, the most important being the implementation of our new Scope of Collections. During the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown, a committed group of volunteers were able to keep our library open for a few hours a week, but the Center lost momentum processing new donations that continued to arrive. Without volunteers on hand to accession and catalog these items, they began to accumulate in great number.

Our 2022 SHARP grant award allowed us to train new volunteers and to work our way

through most of this backlog. Just sorting and inventorying the materials that had been donated took us nearly two months. We were also able to implement our new Scope of Collections while working our way through the materials, using this as a training opportunity for our volunteers who will turn their attention to our broader collections once we have finished working through the backlog. We conducted multiple workshops with volunteers training them to work through library, archival, and museum cataloguing processes, which has allowed the NOHC to start moving forward again as an organization. Without a doubt, the NOHC is a stronger organization than we were a year ago, in part thanks to the support of Humanities Washington.



Research Library - 931 West 9th Street, Port Angeles, 360-452-2662
Open - Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am - 2 pm or by appointment

Look for more on our website at www.northolympichistory.org
Remember to "Like Us" on our facebook page www.facebook.com/northolympichistorycenter

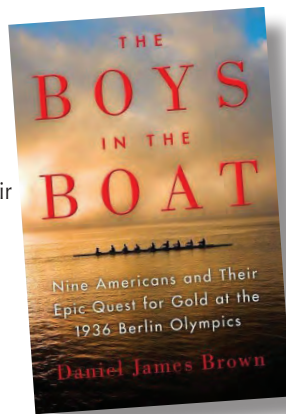
Boys in the Boat

History just doesn't happen in the past. It's all around us and happening all the time. We just need to step back and look for it.

For a long time, Joe Rantz and his contribution to the US Gold Medal win in the 1936 Olympics held in Germany was a mostly a local story. The crew teams at the U of W knew about it and it was part of Crewing history, but George Pocock, the builder of the boat, was better known. There wasn't a lot of local hoopla about a boy who had been abandoned in Sequim by his family when he was 15. His scrappiness and his drive to succeed and his will to survive were foundational in the U of W win.

In the early 1980's Matt Dryke was the only local boy to be mentioned with signs at the Sequim city limits honoring him as an Olympic Gold Medalist in 1984. That changed with the Publication of Daniel James Brown's 2014 publication of *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*.

Suddenly Joe Rantz and his team were the center of attention and again, the signs honoring Olympic Medalists were updated to include his name. KCTS 9, Seattle's PBS station, produced a half-hour documentary that was picked up by the National PBS stations. There were author talks in conjunction with Joe's family. Schools adopted the book as part of their curriculum, and the Olympic Peninsula got a brush with fame as people came to visit

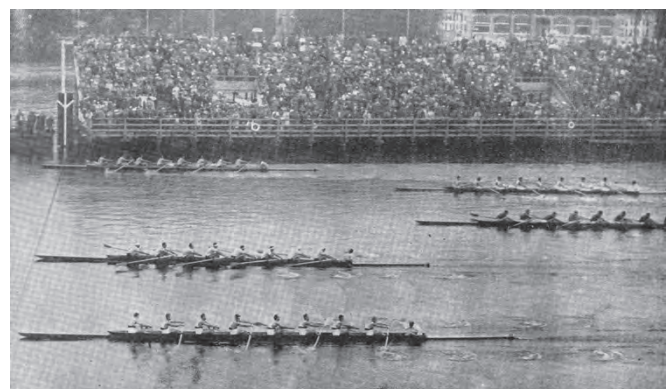


The Sequim Museum and Arts, located at 544 N Sequim Avenue, in Sequim have a wonderful exhibit on the Boys in the Boat. Photo above taken at the museum. Well worth a visit! Open Wednesday-Saturday 11am-4 pm



Now nearly a decade later, Joe Rantz and the UW crew team are getting a chance to shine again. A wonderful new chapter of history in the making is going on.

- George Clooney is directing a new movie, *The Boys in the Boat*.
- The Members of the Sequim High School Interact Club have successfully lobbied for the movie's premier to take place here on the Olympic Peninsula in Sequim by taking over the social media campaign to help the Sequim Rotary's project: the Joe Rantz Rotary Youth House to benefit Sequim's homeless youth.
- The Rotary Club project honors Joe's early life, when he lived alone for two years, working in logging, doing odd jobs and excelling in school. They have just raised the first \$28,000 of the \$750,000 needed.
- On March 31 Joe Rantz's daughters Judy Rantz-Willman and her sister Jennarose Rantz-Murdagh gave a talk about their father at the Dungeness Schoolhouse.
- The Interact Club at Sequim High School, whose whose goal is to promote youth leadership and community service, is continuing its work to make a difference locally by volunteering to assist with projects for Habitat for Humanity, Sequim's Spring Service Day, and others.



Crossing the finish line to win the Gold Metal

The McClinton Family Photo Collection

By Larry Lang

I began this project in April 2013. The initial objective was to scan the negatives for preservation in digital format. The collection consists of fourteen boxes of black and white glass plate photographic negatives containing a total 398 negatives.

By 1886 the family had moved from Nevada, to California, and in that year moved to Jefferson County, Washington, where Judge McClinton was appointed District Judge prior to winning election. In 1890, Judge McClinton was elected Superior Judge of Clallam, Jefferson and Island County and the family moved to Port Angeles. It was probably about that time that Roy and Ray developed an interest in photography.



Ray and Roy McClinton standing by one of their cameras. Roy and Ray are fraternal twins born May 10, 1876 in Carson City, NV. The photo is probably from the early 1890's



This photo is of a display of photographs on a tall pyramidal stand. Perhaps, most notable is that the display is labeled "McClinton Brothers, Amateur Photographers". Photo is labeled as First Clallam County Fair (1895), held at the Opera House.



The Lady of the Lake. First steamboat on Lake Crescent, photo from before 1895. This is one of many photos in the McClinton collection of outings on Lake Crescent and environs.



Photo of Sol Duc Falls, possibly the earliest photo taken.



Photo of a large log on a horse-drawn wagon, pre-1895.

Hands on History

Our Hands on History day went well with Pepper Raymond receiving first place for her presentation on the Lady of the Lake and William Roening received second place with his presentation of Deer Park. Both students impressed the judges and audience. Pepper and William will receive \$1,500 and \$750 scholarships for their hard work!



"Look Back at North Olympic Peninsula History"

Radio Vignettes with Sandy Keys

The NOHC is excited to partner with KONP, our local radio station, and Sandy Keys to produce a new series of vignettes sharing historic facts and information about the North Olympic Peninsula. Research and written by the Center, these short pieces are read by local legend and long-time NOHC supporter Sandy Keys and broadcast on KONP 101.7 and 101.3, Strait Country 102.1 and Z104.9 Sequim. Our first three vignettes broadcast in April featured the Dungeness River paleochannels, the history of the Brittle Prickle Pear, the only native cactus on the Peninsula, and the 1914 Port Angeles Regrade project. Tune in today to hear something new (or old?) about the Peninsula!

NOHC Collections

This photograph of a Makah potlatch on Tatoosh Island was taken by Indian Agent Samuel Morse around 1900. The Makahs dried their fish on racks overlooked by the Cape Flattery lighthouse. This photograph is in the collection of NOHC but at this time has not yet been added to the digital archive. Photographs that are not yet available digitally can be researched through the History Center's Research Library.



This photo was available on the shoreline viewer created by the State of Washington's Department of Ecology. Follow this link for additions views. <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/shorephotoviewer/Map/Shoreline-PhotoViewer>



From the Director

Greetings to members new and old! This Spring we took the "NOHC Road Show" to the KONP Home Show, and next we will be heading to the Port Angeles Maritime Festival in June. We have replaced our display at the Port Angeles Visitor's Center and have some big plans for new exhibits in the Federal Building. I hit a bit of a speed bump when I gifted myself a broken ankle for my birthday in early April, so the new exhibits have not been installed yet, but I'm hoping to get to work on them as soon as I am out of my boot in June. I want to thank our new Director and volunteer Bruce Murray for his great graphic design work on our new exhibits and newsletters – we have received nothing but positive feedback! In addition to the exhibit delay, I have also had to push back some of our Spring programs a few weeks until my mobility improves. Updates on programs and events can be found on our website and Facebook page. Our second annual "Piece of the Peninsula" online auction successfully raised over \$2,000 for the Center. We will be following up with our one-day vintage sale on May 20 at the Lincoln School, from 8 AM – 2 PM... hope to see you there!

Director Brownell Updates DAR, other Organizations



Executive Director David Brownell has been making the rounds, promoting the Center and our work to local organizations and social groups like the Daughters of the American Revolution, Clallam County School Retirees Association, and more. As part of our efforts to better inform and engage the North Olympic Peninsula community, David has been giving updates on all of our accomplishments over the past year and recruiting new members and volunteers. If you are a member of a group that would be interested in a presentation on local history and/or our doings at the Center, please contact us today!



Annual Meeting

Members, volunteers and Directors mingled and enjoyed refreshments at the Fine Arts Center at our Annual Membership Meeting on March 12. Though the chilly weather kept us inside, it was great to meet members new and old! Director Brownell gave an update on our various projects over the past year, followed by a presentation by Advisory Director/Volunteer Extraordinaire Eve Datisman on her work digitizing and documenting the 1914 Port Angeles Regrade Project (AKA 'sluicing of the hogback') photo album donated by John Warder. Finally, Director Steve Hargis gave a short presentation on the fascinating history of the Port Angeles Underground Tours.

For more information on these tours and reservations please visit: <https://www.portangelesheritagetours.com>

Comments from your Board President

Welcome to summer at the History Center. The positive responses from our renewed efforts to better communicate with our membership and the community are welcome. My primary thought for this Newsletter is, "How can we each better support the Center?" Some pretty simple suggestions include VOLUNTEER!! and also Volunteer! There are many ways the Center would benefit from just a few hours of your time, whether as a one-shot assist or as a regular schedule of hours. Our needs are similar to most businesses - everything from office administration, to library/research assistance, to basic building and grounds maintenance. If you can spare the time, please don't just depend on "the other guy" to 'gitter dun.' At present, we depend on David Brownell to coordinate volunteers so give him a call at the main office 360-452-2662. And...thank you in advance.



Bill Brigden, 2023 President, NOHC Board of Directors

Sequim Manis Mastodon in the News Again!

This information taken from the Texas A&M website discusses new findings pertaining to the Mastodon found in the Sequim area.

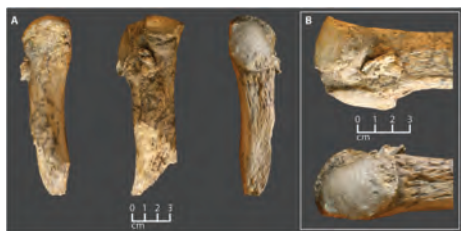
"A team of researchers led by a Texas A&M University professor has identified the Manis bone projectile point as the oldest weapon made of bone ever found in the Americas at 13,900 years.

The team studied bone fragments embedded in a mastodon rib bone first discovered by Carl Gustafson, who conducted an excavation at the Manis site in Washington state from 1977 to 1979.



Photo of the Mastodon display in the Sequim Museum

Using a CT scan and 3D software, Waters and his team isolated all the bone fragments to show it was the tip of a weapon — a projectile made from the bone of Mastodon, prehistoric relatives of elephants."



Carl Gustafson and his wife showing his discovery of the mastodon



More information can be found on their website: <https://research.tamu.edu/2023/02/07/texas-am-led-research-team-identifies-oldest-bone-spear-point-in-the-americas/>

Wall Crank Telephones Transferred to JCHS



This year we are working on making space in our collections storage spaces for items currently stored in the Lincoln School, and future acquisitions. One way this is accomplished is by deaccessioning objects and artifacts that are hazardous to the collections, don't fit our scope of collections, or are duplicate items. We recently deaccessioned eight wooden wall crank telephones, keeping three phones and a switchboard for our permanent collections. Our deaccession process starts by reaching out to the donor, if possible, to inquire if they would like the items back. When this is not possible, we reach out to other museum and local historic societies to inquire whether they are interested in acquiring any of the objects. In this case, we were excited to find a new home for two of the phones with the Jefferson County Historical Society, who lack any of these models in their collections. We are very pleased that the phones will be used for education and exhibits at JCHS!

Book Sales at Our Research Library

In addition to the extensive research services offered to the public we have a nice selection of local history books for sale. Members receive a 10% discount!





P.O. Box 1327, Port Angeles, WA 98362
Address Service Requested



www.northolympichistory.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympic Mailing
Service



*Spring
newsletter
sponsor*

*Interested in helping to sponsor our newsletter?
Please contact Executive Director, David Brownell
at artifact@olympen.com or 360-452-2662*

NORTH OLYMPIC HISTORY CENTER

Serving as a volunteer or on a NOHC committee is a great way to learn about the NOHC, meet like-minded history buffs, and enjoy being part of our team. Volunteer position descriptions and an application form are available on our website. We are currently looking for members to serve on the following committees:

Membership/Events Committee – assists staff with developing the NOHC membership base, planning activities and events, and conducting outreach in our community. This committee meets monthly for 1-2 hours.

Lincoln School and Strategic Planning Committee – assists staff and the Board with outreach regarding future potential uses of the Lincoln School, conducting research and compiling feedback for the Board of Directors. This committee meets monthly for 1-2 hours.

**Looking to Get Involved? Become a Volunteer!
Join a Committee!**



- Upcoming Events
- Lincoln School RFP
- Boys in the Boat
- McClinton Photo Collection
- Hands on History
- Looking Back
- NOHC Collections
- From the Director
- Promoting NOHC
- Annual Meeting
- President's Report
- Sequim Mastodon
- Telephones Transferred
- Books for Sale

WHAT'S INSIDE