



# Strait History

VOLUME XIX WINTER 2025 NUMBER 1

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

### 2025 Programs & Events

*All programs are free and open to the public  
unless otherwise noted.*

#### Events

- June 7-8 ..... Port Angeles Maritime  
Festival Booth  
July 18-20 ..... Sequim Lavender Festival  
Booth  
August 2 ..... Joyce Daze Festival Booth  
August 14-17 ..... Clallam County Fair Booth

#### Programs

- March 30 ..... Restore the 4 Program  
May 31 ..... History Hike: Dungeness  
Recreation Area\*  
June 14 ..... History Hike: Indian Island\*  
June 20 ..... History Tales: Early Photos of  
Familiar Places – Digitizing  
the McClinton Family Photo  
Collection.  
July 12 ..... History Program: Mid Valley  
Farm with North Olympic  
Land Trust  
August 22 ..... History at the Hub Night 4PM  
August 24 ..... History Tales: Puerto de Nuestra  
Senora de los Angeles–Spanish  
Explorations and Interactions  
on the North Olympic  
Peninsula.  
September 20 ..... History Hike: Clink Bridge\*  
September 27 ..... LOL: Excavations at the  
Jamestown Veterans Memorial:  
Exploring The Jamestown  
Picnic Site.  
October 19 ..... History Tales: Survival stories  
from the January 1700 earth  
quake and tsunami.

\*History Hikes are paid programs; tickets are available from the Jefferson County Historical Society ([www.jchsmuseum.org](http://www.jchsmuseum.org)). Program cost is \$45 for members of NOHC and JCHS; \$60 for non-members.

## Award from North Olympic Land Trust



The North Olympic Land Trust is recognizing the Center's work "teaching our community about the historic significance of conserved lands" with their 2025 "**Out Standing in the Field Award**." The Center and NOLT have partnered on a series of programs over the past three years exploring the rich history of some of the Land Trust's conservation areas and restoration projects. We are planning another joint program this summer on July 12 at Mid Valley Farm in Sequim that will examine the post-glacial history of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley and how shifting climate patterns and other factors have influenced current land use patterns. More information will be available soon at [northolympiclandtrust.org](http://northolympiclandtrust.org).



## NOHC Collections Added to Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

We are excited to announce that our digital collections have been added to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The DPLA is a nationwide search portal that allows the public to search across digitized cultural heritage materials all in one interface. "The Digital Public Library of America amplifies the value of libraries and cultural organizations as Americans' most trusted sources of shared knowledge. We do this by collaborating with partners to accelerate innovative tools and ideas that empower and equip libraries to make information more accessible."



In partnership with the State Library of Oregon, the Washington State Library has created a DPLA "service hub" for the Northwest which aggregates these records called Northwest Digital Heritage. A custom portal for these records can be found at <https://nwdh.dp.la/>. NOHC records will appear in the search results in the DPLA portal, and those records will link researchers back to our online collections catalog (<https://nohc.catalogaccess.com/>) for more information. This effort is part of our broader strategy to "increase awareness and use of collections" in our new strategic plan, and we are especially proud that our collections pushed DPLA over the 1 million records mark!

## From the President

Let me introduce myself.

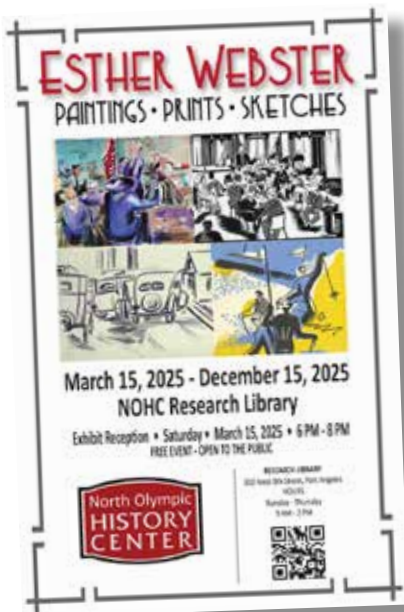
Although I'm new to NOHC, I am not unfamiliar with the Olympic Peninsula having come here regularly for more than thirty five years for vacations and family visits. I moved to Port Angeles in the summer of 2019 after losing my home in Paradise, California, and the beloved Gold Nugget Museum. All were burned in the devastating Camp Fire. I had volunteered at the museum for thirty years, ten of those on the board of directors. I especially enjoyed my time spent on developing and curating exhibits. Our museum was a very active center for the entire community with year-round programs, events and rotating exhibits.

I believe 2025 will bring positive changes and exciting new directions. Our five year Strategic Plan outlines appropriate goals to help us accomplish and maintain our mission; We connect the past to the future, through the present. Our plan calls for greater engagement with the entire Peninsula community. Increased community outreach programs, off-site exhibits with partner institutions, building membership and communication within our organization. This is essential to achieve long-term financial stability.

I look forward to many enjoyable moments as I continue to discover the North Olympic Peninsula and its rich history.

*Bruce Murray*

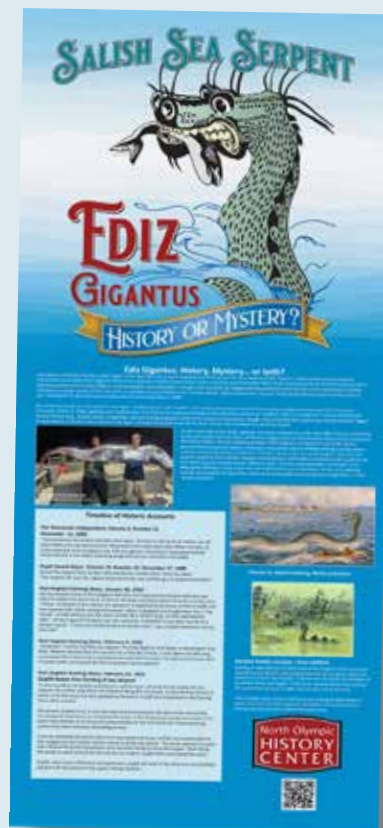
## Esther Webster Exhibit



Our Exhibit of Esther Webster's paintings and sketches from our archives opened in the Center's Research Library on March 15th. We had a great turnout from the community and members as well. The show will be up until December. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by on either Tuesdays or Thursdays during research library hours.



## KONP Home Show



Our new Eddie banner was on display at this years KONP Home Show. Eddie, the North Olympic History Center's mascot, attracted lots of attention. We are planning on developing some fun outreach events using Eddie.

Volunteers at our booth were busy both days answering questions, selling books, tee shirts and promoting the History Center. In addition we added several new members!

## History Tales Program Date Switch



The June 22 History Tales presentation has been moved to the opening of the Olympic Outdoors exhibit at the Port Angeles library on June 20th. Long time NOHC volunteer Larry Lang will be presenting "Early Photos of Familiar Places - Digitizing the McClinton Family Photo Collection" at 6pm.



# New Year, New Strategic Plan

With the new year comes new challenges and new opportunities. The NOHC Strategic Planning Committee has been hard at work for the past four months putting together our new five-year (2025-2030) strategic plan. The plan is ambitious and energizing, aiming to align our goals and values in a way that continues our current trajectory of growth and sustainability. An overview of the strategic plan goals is available below, but I encourage interested members to review the full text of the plan on our website.



*Executive Director, David Brownell during strategic planning meeting.*

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Goal #1:</b> | <b>Improve Financial Position.</b>  |
| Strategy 1:     | Achieve long-term financial stability.  |
| Strategy 2:     | Develop a Financial Plan.   |
| <b>Goal #2:</b> | <b>Improve Staffing and Governance.</b>   |
| Strategy 1:     | Continue to expand and diversify the Board and increase Board participation.          |
| Strategy 2:     | Build additional capacity for mission-based activities.                               |
| Strategy 3:     | Improve volunteer management.   |
| <b>Goal #3:</b> | <b>Expand Outreach &amp; Advocacy.</b>  |
| Strategy 1:     | Increase public awareness and community engagement with mission.                      |
| Strategy 2:     | Develop historic preservation leadership on North Olympic Peninsula.                  |
| Strategy 3:     | Build community around preservation.  |
| Strategy 4:     | Establish museum exhibition space(s) that are accessible to both locals and visitors. |
| <b>Goal #4:</b> | <b>Manage Collections.</b>  |
| Strategy 1:     | Continue digitization efforts and growth of online collections.                       |
| Strategy 2:     | Curation and preservation of collections.   |
| <b>Goal #5:</b> | <b>Manage Facilities.</b>   |
| Strategy 1:     | Manage Research Library.  |
| Strategy 2:     | Manage Artifact Storage Facility.   |
| Strategy 3:     | Improve campus curb appeal.   |

## New Strategic Plan, New Committees

One of the most critical elements of our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is reinvigorating our existing committees and forming a few new ones to meet the growing scope of our operations and outreach. **These committees are open to any member of NOHC** and entail varying levels of commitment and time depending on their assigned duties. I encourage you to review the list and consider joining (or even leading!) one of these committees and getting involved with the Center. We are especially looking for members of our Membership, Outreach and Events Committee and our Collections and Exhibits Committee. Joining a committee is a great way to get to know fellow history enthusiasts and support the Center by helping us fulfill our mission to “connect the past to the future, through the present.” For more information or to sign up for a committee, please contact Director David Brownell.

## 1. Research Library

**Committee Responsibilities:** Ensure research collections are organized, inventoried and accessible to the public; ensure library is a safe and comfortable space for staff and visitors; conduct periodic review and update of relevant policies and procedures; identify any environmental, building or staff issues and notify the Director and/or appropriate staff of issues.

**Committee Meeting Date & Time:** 1st Tuesday of the month, 10 AM

## 2. Building & Grounds

**Committee Responsibilities:** Keep buildings and grounds clean and in good condition; improve and maintain street appeal of NOHC campus; identify issues and/or repair failing equipment and fixtures; conduct regular maintenance and upkeep of equipment, appliances, and I.T. infrastructure; maintain and improve security and fire detection/suppression.

**Committee Meeting Date & Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, April through September

## 3. Collections and Exhibits

**Committee Responsibilities:** Improve and maintain collections storage and organization; create/update collections inventories and maps; identify and digitize collections, make accessible through the online catalog; conduct periodic review and update of relevant policies and procedures; address any environmental, storage or accessibility issues and notify the Director and/or appropriate staff. Identify potential stories, artifacts, and themes for exhibits; assist with drafting exhibit text; coordinate with editorial committee on graphics, text and design/layout of exhibit; assist with setting up and removing exhibits.

**Committee Meeting Date & Time:** 1st Wednesday of month, 12:30/1 PM

## 4. Editorial

**Committee Responsibilities:** Identify potential stories for newsletter and/or publications; research, draft, review, and/or edit written materials intended for publication; assist with distribution of newsletter and publications.

**Committee Meeting Date & Time:** TBA

## 5. Membership, Outreach and Events

**Committee Responsibilities:** Identify events and programs that meet NOHC's mission; assist staff with planning events, set-up and tear-down; ensure adequate staffing of NOHC booth and/or programs and events. Develop membership campaigns and outreach strategies.

**Committee Meeting Date & Time:** TBA

## 6. Finance Committee

**Committee Responsibilities:** Ensure fiduciary responsibility and sound management of NOHC finances; assist Director with identifying and planning fundraising opportunities; assist Director with identifying and applying for grants that match the Center's mission; manage annual budget drafting and review process.

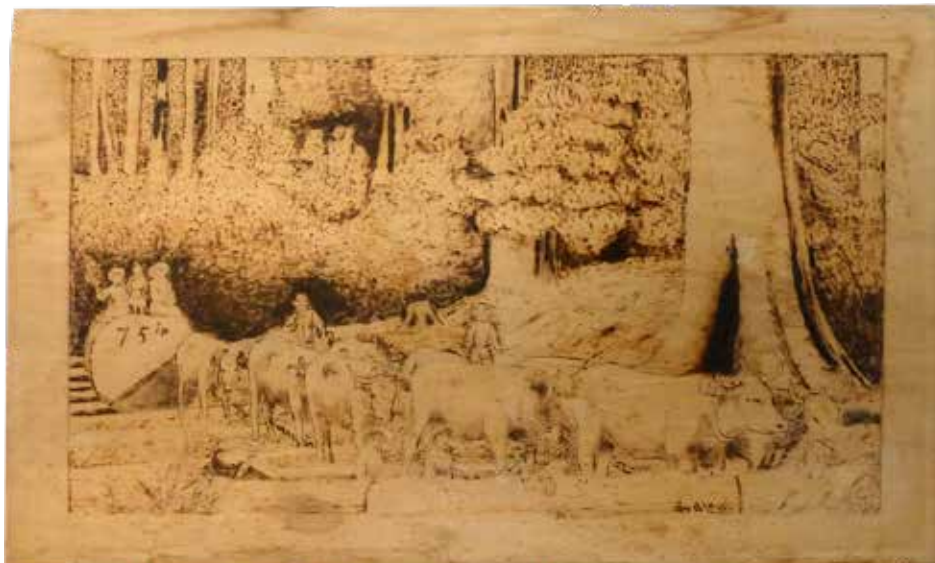
**Committee Meeting Date & Time:** Second Monday of the month at 2 PM (following monthly NOHC Board of Director's meeting)

# What ARE you Doing with that Hot Poker?

Pyrography - "writing with fire", from the Greek pyr (fire) and graphos (writing) - probably originated in Egypt and was used to decorate pottery and furniture. Pyrography spread as we spread. In the 200s BC in China it was known as "Fire Needle Embroidery," in 1300s Europe was used to decorate furniture, musical instruments and all manner of daily functional objects as well produce art.

Pyrography is also known as "Poker Work" and "wood burning".\* The former indicated the tool most associated with its production and used popularly until pyrography became the preferred term.\* Pyrography was a relatively inexpensive way to create art with tools at hand. An iron or steel nail (a nib) could be mounted in a wooden handle (grip) and heated safely then used to burn the design into a object. Different tip shapes were made to create varying line styles and shading options.

At NOHC we have a remarkable example of pyrography done by Sudlow, whose signature can be seen in the bottom right, depicting two women and a young girl riding on a 75" diameter log being dragged out of the woods on a puncheon road by a ten-yoke team of oxen with two drivers. The bottom foreground shows the heads and shoulders of two other family members.



Oxen logging on a puncheon road. To see the image more clearly and follow this link [www.nohc.catalogaccess.com](http://www.nohc.catalogaccess.com) and look for **object 1980.98.1** in our online Catalog.

The basswood, plywood panel was likely part of a kit from a company like Flemish Art Company (Flem-Ar-Co) in Brooklyn, NY, which produced do-it-yourself pyrography kits and sold them through mail-order companies like Sears & Roebuck from the 1880s - 1920s. They also provided unfinished wood pieces with a design pre-stamped on them (in brown or purple ink) that could be burned over by the purchaser.

Our panel does have pre-stamped design, but the artist, Sudlow, turned the panel over to create original art.

The factory design is a three-quarter profile outline of a young woman with a big bow in her hair and dressed in late-Victorian or Edwardian style, with a fancy filigree design in the bottom corners. The image is difficult to see, but If you increase its size on your screen it is much clearer.



1907 Beginners pyrography kit from Flem-Ar-Co

\* Poker Work indicated the tool most associated with how pyrography was done. It was used popularly until pyrography became the preferred term. Wood burning is a subset of pyrography because burning designs are still being made on leather.

## In the News!



## Court House Windows

David Brownell, Executive Director of the North Olympic History Center, top, is handed a piece of ultraviolet-filtering window tinting from Ralph Parsons, Clallam County maintenance worker to be placed on the window to protect historic paintings on the stairway of the section of the county courthouse, including an 1890s depiction of Port Angeles Harbor by artist John Gustaf Kalling. The Center is working with the county to preserve the stairway artworks by adding the window coatings to reduce damage from sunlight and installing an electronic UV monitor to track potentially harmful rays. - *Peninsula Daily News*

## "Garbage Grannies"



Two longtime NOHC volunteers, Dona Cloud and Kathy Estes on the front cover of the Peninsula Daily News! The two friends who call themselves the "Garbage Grannies" volunteer each Wednesday picking up trash around their west side neighborhood.



## Restore the 4 Update

Our Restore the 4 outreach event was a resounding success! Our thanks to Steve Hauff for his great presentation on the history of the Rayonier 4 Willamette Locomotive to a standing-room-only crowd of over 100 local rail history enthusiasts. Between donations and the raffle, we raised **\$3,651** for the restoration of the 4 – another huge thank you to all those who generously donated and all who attended.

Exciting progress is being made on efforts to restore the Rayonier 4 locomotive. The City is working on getting the locomotive restoration work out to bidders! We expect to send the material to bidders this spring, and we hope to get the work largely completed this summer. We're actively seeking interested, qualified contractors for the restoration work. Because the work will involve lead paint removal and media blasting, this is more than can be done by our group of enthusiastic volunteers - if you know of someone who would be interested in bidding, please contact us at [fixthe4@yahoo.com](mailto:fixthe4@yahoo.com). A re-design of the shelter has been completed, and we're collecting bids for construction. While the structure as re-designed will be a bit more expensive, it is a much better design in at least two ways – first, it is larger, offering better protection from the rain to both the locomotive and to visitors; and second, plans are for a steel framework with posts in the corners – meaning that there won't be lots of big posts making it hard to see the locomotive. Some things you can do to help support the project today:

- Help fundraise -- if you've got an idea for an event or a way to fundraise, let us know how we help!
- Tell your friends and family -- the more people we have supporting the project, the better our chances with grants to help fund the work. Ask them to sign the guestbook page at the <http://www.restorethe4.org/guestbook> website.
- Give directly -- any amount helps!



*David Brownell presents Judy Reandeau Stipe with a \$1,000 donation from NOHC supporting the Restore the 4 project.*

## Clallam Bay Slip Point Keepers Update



*(Left)  
Keepers Debra Willey  
Boynton, Sarah Winter  
and Susan Heiny at the  
Non-profit Volunteer  
event in Forks 2/22/25*

Conveyance of the Slip Point Lighthouse and grounds has been in the works for over 25 years.

### Good News!

The Coast Guard has formed a specific committee to facilitate the transfer the change of ownership of the Slip Point grounds. The Clallam County Sheriff's Department is the entity of record for the transfer and the Keepers are working closely with them. The details will take a while, but this is an indication the transfer will finally take place. The Keepers are working with the Sheriff's office, the Parks, Recreation and Fair Department, and county commissioners to assist in any way that they can.

The Keepers' Five-year Strategic Plan is almost complete. We are working on the Governance section of the plan and are wrestling with which committees we need, what their duties will be, and who will head each committee and report to the board. All are welcome in the discussion, our next meeting will be Saturday March 15. 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Sekiu Community Center. The Strategic Plan committee will be presenting the whole plan to the Board for adoption at the April, 16 meeting. Join us at 4:00 PM Sunsets West Co-Op.

### Events:

- Monthly meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:00 PM Sunsets West Co-Op.
- Feb. 22 --The Keepers were part of the Non-Profit Volunteer Matching Event Heal at the Forks Congregational Church. On display was our Keepers Merchandise, a lighthouse birdhouse which was raffled off on March 9.
- March 8 Rural Development Initiative Grant Presentation Ceremony. Congratulations to Leanna and Ray Colby for completing the program and being awarded \$3000.00 for Keepers projects.
- March 15 – Strategic Planning Meeting, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Sekiu Community Center
- Memorial Day weekend – Bridge Opening at Clallam Bay Park TBD.
- June 8-9 – Maritime Festival, Port Angeles Boathaven, Marina, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- July 11-12 – Clallam Bay-Seki Fun Days – Come see us at our booth.



## Local Author John Kendall's Stories Now Available Online

We are pleased to announce that we are working with local historian and author John Kendall to make his history articles available on our online catalog. John is a volunteer researcher with the North Olympic History Center, a prolific author and is regularly featured in *Seniors Sunset Times*, a free newspaper that is available on the North Olympic Peninsula. John's stories can be found via a link on the "Collections" page on our website, or by searching for the "John Kendall Collection" on our catalog access site, <https://nohc.catalogaccess.com/>. Recent uploads include essays about the Grand Army of the Republic veteran's colony, pioneers Don and Hattie Pullen, the Port Angeles Opera House and much more – please check them out!

"This is just the beginning," said Kendall. "When finished there may be up to 40 of my articles. Hopefully other contributors will add to this resource."

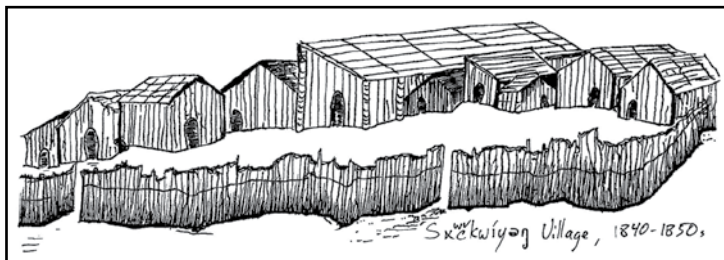




## Learning Our Landscape



Our first Learning Our Landscape presentation of the year focused on the history of Sxʷčkwíyən, a S'Klallam village located at the entrance to Sequim Bay. The program had a great turnout, filling every seat in the Jamestown Tribal Library. Our upcoming September 27 "LOL" will be a follow-up presentation on archaeological excavations at the Jamestown Tribal Veterans Memorial and examine how the results of those excavations fit within the broader Sequim Bay cultural landscape that included Sxʷčkwíyən. We hope to see you there!



## Clallam County Leadership Course



Director Brownell (3rd from left, back row) completed a six-month Clallam County Community Leadership course hosted by Rural Development Initiatives, Inc. In addition to building leadership skills and connections with community leaders from various fields, the group collectively created and allocated \$5,000 in funding for a teen/youth leadership pilot program hosted by the YMCA.

## New to Our Collection

We received a donation of photos, newspaper clippings and memorabilia from Roy and Mary Gotham, former owners of The Toggery. After 100 years in business The Toggery closed in 2014. The donation includes photos from the December 1965 fire that destroyed the Aldwell Building. Thanks to fire doors, The Toggery survived the fire with just smoke damage. Our thanks to the Gothams for these unique pieces of local history.





# The Mail Must Go Through<sup>1</sup>

Since the ubiquity of computers and more recently smart phones that put email and video chat into our back pockets, mail delivery has taken on a much different meaning. The way we get personal mail has almost obliterated one aspect of a service that was begun on July 26, 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General of the United Colonies.

I wonder how many of us take mail delivery as a given. Most of us have grown up with mail delivery to our door that we could count on six days a week. Most of us got a daily newspaper so would always have something waiting for us in that mail box. If we lived in town many of us had post office boxes and we knew at what time the mail would be sorted and ready for us to pick up. My grandmother planned her day's activities around the time designated by the local postmaster for delivery. And we knew that even with inclement weather, we could still be in contact with the world through the efficacy and efficiency of postal service.

This interests me because I'm fascinated by how a country as large as ours -- 3,717,813 sq. mi. including Alaska and Hawaii, and with 48 contiguous states, almost 3000 miles wide -- could manage to continuously communicate across the breadth of an expanding nation. What became the United States Postal Service was the nexus of communication. As the frontier was pushed west, outposts, trading posts, and small communities grew, and the first two buildings that were erected in any settlement were a general store with a post office and a church.

Take a look at this USGS Map and focus, not on the roads and other markers of contemporary civilization, but on the coastline of the Pacific coast from Queets, around Cape Flattery and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca around the tip of the Quimper Peninsula where Port Townsend is located.

Think about the settlement of this region and how it would have looked from the 1850s until the 1930s covered in old growth forests with occasional prairie land. Ask yourself this question: What form of transportation would be the most important to move the mail?

All along the Strait of Juan De Fuca and down the Pacific Coast to Queets, towns were founded where there was a natural harbor. The majority of those towns are gone now. But there were post offices and each and every one served by sail driven packet ships, steamers, and canoes. Tim Fletcher, the current Mayor of Forks, had a great granduncle Earnest (Ern) Fletcher who sailed a supply boat named after his sister. The *Myrtle May* hauled supplies and the mail to the mouth



of the Hoh River which were then picked up and carried up river for delivery.

As trails were surveyed and roads were cut to logging camps and settlements away from the coast, mail delivery changed as well. Ships still delivered to those towns with harbors and off-loaded to horseback riders, canoes, horse-drawn or gasoline powered wagons to make the journey inland. To get to Sol Duc Hot Springs in 1912 The mail would have been delivered to Crescent Beach, freighted by wagons to Lake Crescent where mail bags and packages were loaded on barges, then taken across the lake to Fairholme, loaded on wagons again to make the long steep climb up to the post office which was the Sol Duc Hot Spring Hotel. To get to Forks from 1884 to 1892, mail was delivered at the mouth of the Pysht River, then carried over an old Indian trail until a road was cut from Clallam Bay. There was an alternate route after 1900 when Mora got a post office. From Mora it was offloaded into Indian canoes and polled up the Quillayute River then up the Bogachiel River to Forks. The same procedures were used on the Hoh and you can see in the photo.



***Canoes in the Hoh River, probably in Jefferson County - Forks Timber Museum (CMP) - University of Washington Digital Collections***

How do we know this? The North Olympic History Center received an archive of postmarks, covers, and postcards from Chester Masters (1936-2019), a well-known philatelist from Sequim. This archive has a piece of canceled mail from every post office that has operated on the

North Olympic Peninsula from Port Townsend to Queets. For each post office he added a map showing where the post office was located, wrote a short paragraph detailing its history, often adding postmasters and postmistresses who had cancelled the piece included in the archive, and location changes which often required a new name, listing all of those. Is it Sequim, Seguin or Sequin -- we have postmarks for all of them.

If you are interested in taking a look at Chester Morris' archive of postmarks and covers, it can be found in the online collections of the North Olympic History Center <https://northolympichistory.org/> Search for object ID number 2024.1.71

Fun fact: When the USPS instituted Parcel Post, between 1913-1915, several people mailed their children using that service. The first was in 1915 when the Beagues paid 15 cent for stamps and an unknown amount to insure their baby boy for \$50. They handed him over to the mailman who dropped the boy off at his grandmother's house about a mile away. In June 1920, First Assistant Postmaster General John C. Koons rejected two applications to mail children, noting that they couldn't be classified as "harmless live animals," according to the Los Angeles Times. 2

1. The Pony Express, with its motto "The mail must go through", operated for 18 months starting in 1860, revolutionizing communication by reducing delivery time between the U.S. east and west coasts to about 10 days. Though short lived, it played a pivotal role in connecting California to the rest of the nation before the transcontinental telegraph. Its enduring legacy lies in proving that year-round transcontinental communication was feasible. Romanticized as a symbol of the Old West, the Pony Express epitomized rugged frontier resilience and independence, embodied by its dedicated riders and swift horses. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pony\\_Express](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pony_Express)

2. "When People Used the Postal Service to 'Mail' Their Children" <https://www.history.com/news/mailling-children-post-office>



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# Membership

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

Thank you for supporting the **North Olympic History Center**. Your generosity will help us connect with our north peninsula communities by increasing our outreach efforts including programs like our History Tales and Learning Our Landscape presentation series, creating new exhibits, adding to our ever growing digital library and artifact collection, and supporting our research facilities while maintaining our center's legacy as a community resource, sharing the region's cultural heritage for the enjoyment and education of us all.

## Become a member, give the gift of membership, or make a donation.

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