



# Strait History

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 3 SUMMER QUARTER JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2025

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

### 2025 Programs

October 19.....Annual Membership Meeting  
(Noon); History Tales: Survival  
stories from the January 1700  
earth quake and tsunami.  
(2 pm), Black Diamond  
Community Hall.

### 2026 Programs

January 8.....Esther Webster Art Exhibit,  
and Studium Generale Presen-  
tation Peninsula College.

March 14..... Minerva Troy Art Exhibit  
Opening, NOHC Research  
Library



[www.nohc.catalogaccess.com](http://www.nohc.catalogaccess.com)  
New items added each month!

### Research Library

933 West 9th Street, Port Angeles  
360-452-2662  
[artifact@olypen.com](mailto:artifact@olypen.com)  
**Open - Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
9 am - 2 pm or by appointment

## NOHC Annual Membership Meeting and History Tales Presentation on October 19th!

Please join us at noon at the Black Diamond Community Center in Port Angeles (1942 Black Diamond Rd) for this year's annual membership meeting followed by our final History Tales presentation of the year by local author Melissa Slager at 2 pm.

As part of our updates to the NOHC bylaws this year, we have moved the annual membership meeting from spring to fall, allowing us to better recap our progress over the previous year, and rope our Board of Directors election into a single meeting – we really hope you can be there.

The meeting will include updates from the Executive Director and Board President, displays from 2025 exhibits and programs and light snacks, refreshments and dessert auction. The membership meeting will begin at noon.



Ballots will be available to members. Nominations from the floor for board members will be available as a write-in option.



At 2 PM, Melissa Slager will present her research and new historical fiction book *Contests of Strength*. "This lush historical novel—14 years in the making ... ties together the latest scientific research with the oldest Native stories about the Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami of January 26, 1700."



## From the President

What a busy summer here at NOHC. As you will see in this issue of our newsletter volunteers have been very active. A lot of time and effort goes into putting on an event such as our History at the Hub night as well as preparing for public events like the County Fair. In addition, our upgrading of our collection inventory consumed many hours of dedicated work. We are grateful having such wonderful volunteers keeping the mission of NOHC alive and well.

This year we are taking a different approach to the annual membership meeting. As you saw on the cover, we are having the meeting in person at the Black Diamond Community Hall. We are hoping that this new direction will create better communication within the entire membership and give members a better understanding of the work being done and our accomplishments.

### Lincoln School Update

We are making progress moving forward with resolving the Lincoln School issue. After the City of Port Angeles threw a curve ball our way with their "final offer" of \$600,000 for our campus, which would not cover half the costs of the construction of a new curatorial building, we are moving forward with our plan to sell our northern acre of land at the corner of 8th and C street, and use the proceeds from that sale to pay for the removal of the school building. We are currently in the process of completing a short plat in order to get a new parcel number from the City. Once we have our new parcel number, we anticipate listing the northern acre on the market this fall. When you see the "For Sale" sign go up, don't worry – we aren't moving anywhere!

*Bruce Murray*

## History Hikes Wrap Up

Another year of history hikes wrapped up this month with our final trip to the Clink Bridge site on the Dungeness River. Our earlier 2025 hikes took us to Indian Island and the Dungeness Recreation Area AKA Voice of America Park to peel the "onion of history," revealing the many intricate and interrelated threads of human and natural history in this wonderful place we call home. Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements on next year's History Hikes and other programs coming soon.



NOHC's Executive Director, David Brownell, leads a History Hike to Indian Island.



History Hike to Clink Bridge.

## Big Moves at the Center

This summer marked the beginning of a massive undertaking at the Center – a complete reconfiguration and inventory of our large artifact collection. The primary driver for the project was simple – we are replacing our older shelving with a material called Medite, a museum-quality type of particle board that does not off-gas chemicals and will provide more stable, preservation quality storage conditions for our artifacts for many decades to come.

As we work through swapping out our shelves, we are taking the opportunity to inventory, photograph, and select a permanent location for our large artifact collection in the Artifact Storage Facility building. Volunteers Becky Schurmann and Eve Datisman have taken this project by the horns, working through each item diligently and making sure that we have all of the appropriate information in our PastPerfect database. This project will continue for at least a year, and you can track our progress by regularly checking our online catalog site ([nohc.catalogaccess.com](http://nohc.catalogaccess.com)) to see what new items have been added to the catalog!



Volunteer Becky Schurmann photographing and documenting items in our collection. Eve Datisman showing the inventory lists being developed.



## 2025 Volunteer Field Trip and Luncheon

Our volunteers enjoyed some much-deserved staff appreciation time on our summer field trip to Sandy Key's barn museum in Sequim, followed by lunch surrounded by some of Sandy's beautiful vintage automobiles. The library ladies enjoyed a "ride" in Sandy's Lincoln continental. His museum collections always impress and inspire, and we are so thankful to Sandy for his generosity and welcoming the Center's visits... thanks Sandy!



## NOHC Accepts Newspaper Collection

Publisher of the Peninsula Daily News and other local papers, Sound Publishing, was recently acquired by the Carpenter Media Group. As part of the acquisition, Carpenter Media Group has begun liquidating many former Sound Publishing buildings, including the storage facility that housed the past editions of many local newspapers, including the PDN, Sequim Gazette, Forks Forum, and many more. Unfortunately, this happened at the same time as massive cuts to the State budget resulted in the Washington State Library, the ostensible repository for these newspapers, losing a substantial portion of their funding and multiple staff positions.

As a result, local historical societies, museums and other repositories have jumped in to save the day, providing safe homes for these newspapers. This August, the Center received four pallets of newspapers for permanent curation, including the PDN, Sequim Gazette, Sequim Chronicle, Port Angeles Evening News, and other smaller papers. Editions of the Forks Forum were sent to the Forks Timber Museum, and the Jefferson County Historical Society has taken on preserving other regional papers.

Our next goal is to find somewhere to store all of these papers – four pallets is no small matter! In the meantime, if you visit the Center, be prepared to see some serious newspaper stacks...





## Rockin and Rollin at the Hub

A huge thank you to all those who came out for our first-ever History at the Hub fundraiser, and to the High Mileage band for some great music and a good time! We met quite a few new folks, and our “make your own block print” art activity was a big hit. We also owe some serious appreciation to Kyle and Roxanne, owners of the Hub, for sharing their space and supporting our work.

# HISTORY AT THE HUB





## Clallam County Fair Recap

Despite some rainy and windy days, the Fair was a blast. George Washington (as portrayed by Vern Frykholm) was very popular with the crowds, especially the young folks. Our resident sea monster Eddie was also in attendance and feeling very photogenic. We enjoyed smiles, meeting new friends, and snacking on some delicious fair fare – we will see you again next year!



(Left) Hannah Anderson was a participant in the Hands on History competition in 2019. She stopped by the NOHC table to see what we are up to. Hannah now works as a CNA. She says that her participation in the HOH competition was challenging and fun, and that the skills learned in researching and writing her report have helped her over the years.



Families enjoyed our Ediz cutout.



Clallam County Fair Royalty stopped by our booth. Princess Keira, Queen Aliya and Princess Julianna.

## Meeting the Community at Joyce Dazes



NOHC board members Mike Doherty and Bruce Murray, along with Executive Director David Brownell meeting people, talking about the History Center while having a good time at Joyce Dazes celebration.

## In the News!



NOHC board member Steve Hargis, shown during one of his underground tours he gives for the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce.



## Webster Collection Update

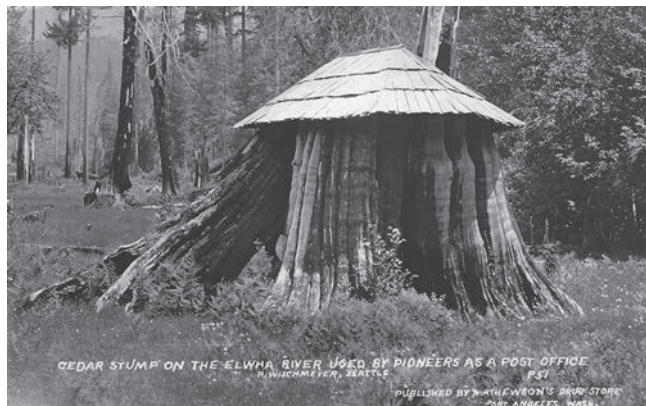


In our last newsletter, Spring 2025, we featured a few small photos from the Webster Collection that volunteer Larry Lang was documenting and scanning into our digital collection. One of the photos that caught my eye was of several women doing laundry at the Olympic Hot Springs.

To my surprise, while we were conducting our inventory update of archival item last month, I discovered this washing machine that appears to essential be the same as the one in the photograph. What a fun find. Our archives hold so many memories from the past.



## The Mail Must Go Through: Travelling Exhibit Coming Soon!



Cedar stump Post Office on the Elwha River

This year the Center received a Clallam County Heritage Advisory Board grant to support the creation of a travelling exhibit that covers the history of mail delivery and post offices on the North Olympic Peninsula. The exhibit will be displayed at various locations around the county – if you know of an organization that might be interested in showing the exhibit, please let us know!

## The Ups and Downs of the Stairs in Port Angeles

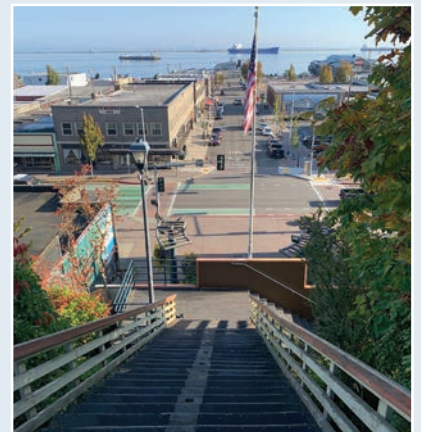
A new photo collection, Sargent/King, is currently being scanned and documented by Paul Gleeson. These are glass plate negatives. Here's a fun sampling of the progress of the Laurel Street stairs.



Stairs originally came straight down.



Creating the retaining wall and the fountain area. Stair will angle around behind the wall.



Current view looking down the stairs.



## You Never Know Where a Photo will Lead You

While sorting through our collection of photographs of people in our research library, volunteers came across this intriguing picture of a young woman. Who was she? What's her story? With a little research, her story came to life. The young woman is Ethel Turneure. Ethel made candy in her home kitchen and sold it at her husband's business, the Union Drug Store in downtown Port Angeles. She operated this business for over 32 years ending in 1955. In a column from the *Clallam County Shopping News*, she is quoted saying *"One memory that stands out in my mind concerns the many boxes of candy we sent out during the war. In those times, we sent boxes of candy to all Port Angeles area boys all over the world. I was always warmed by the thought of those men at such far away places in the world, living in all sorts of dreadful conditions, getting a box of candy from their hometown."* In our collection is a beautiful assortment of her candy boxes.

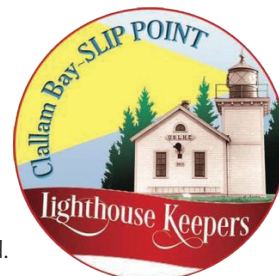


Ethel Turneure, age not know, around 1920. Possibly her High School portrait?



## Keeping Up With the Keepers

The Clallam Bay Slip Point Lighthouse keepers met with Clallam County Sheriff Brian King on Wednesday 13 Sept. to get an update on securing the lease for Keeper's Cottage and the land associated with it. Sheriff King has been corresponding regularly with his contact at the Coast Guard and has good news. The lease is ready to be signed, however, the environmental report which was done several years ago is now out of date and a new hazardous elements and contamination survey and report must be done. That is in process and should be completed by the end of this year. The County has sent out a request for bids to do the cleanup; and will act as soon as possible after the report is finished and filed.



At this point there is also the possibility that a conveyance of the property to the county may happen in lieu of a lease. The Keepers would prefer this option, but the timeline for a conveyance is about the same as for the lease.



Ribbon Cutting: the Bridge to Nowhere now goes somewhere.

When either happens, the county will close the property to trespass by vehicular traffic and secure the property. This will be some type of gate, but they will maintain the parking lot and allow access of foot traffic to the beach. In the meantime, The Keepers and groups of designated volunteers have been allowed access to some of the buildings on the grounds. They have done an inventory of work and will soon be calling for help to refurbish one of the original sheds on the grounds, remove an old playset in order to improve parking, and work on blackberry abatement. The volunteers who work on that project may have help from a small herd of Boer goats (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) who love to do nothing more than eat blackberry vines.

The Keepers may soon be able to use the offices of the Sheriff's detachment for a review of the communications and emergency preparedness needs of the Strait

While it seems that the wheels of bureaucracy turn slowly, when we reflect that the group has only been organized since 2023, the enthusiasm for this project makes it feel like we are travelling at sub-space speed which for Star Trek fans is warp 9.9999. That's much faster than the speed of light, in fact, almost instantaneous.

Check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/clallambayslippointlighthousekeepers> to see what's happening as it happens.



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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.

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