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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

2026 Schedule

PROGRAMS

- July 18 History Hike: qatay prairie and lagoon*
 - August 8 Museum Day
 - Aug 14 People, Place, and Time
Lecture Series, Dungeness
River Nature Center
 - August 28 Moving the Mail Exhibit
Opening, Port Angeles Library
 - September 19 History Hike: Dungeness and
3 Crabs*
- * Event fees apply

EVENTS

- July 4 Sequim 4th of July Party at the
Park
- July 6 – 10 NOHC Summer Work Week
- Aug 1 Joyce Daze Festival
- Aug 8 NOHC Open House (Museum
Day)
- Aug 20 – 23 Clallam County Fair
- Oct 25 NOHC Annual Membership
Meeting

Research Library

933 West 9th Street, Port Angeles
360-452-2662

artifact@olypen.com

Open - Tuesdays & Thursdays

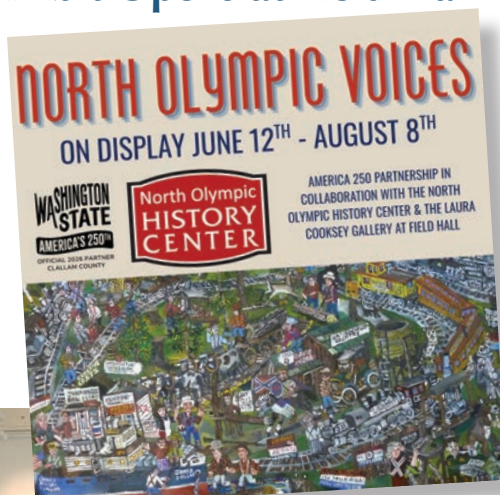
9 am - 2 pm or by appointment



www.nohc.catalogaccess.com
New items added each month

North Olympic Voices Exhibit Opens at Field Hall

Our new exhibition is open at the Laura Cooksey Gallery at Field Hall. Part of our America 250 commemorations, the North Olympic Voices exhibit features artwork, artifacts and photographs that capture the diverse perspectives and experiences from current and former citizens of Clallam County. There was a great turnout at our opening reception, and the exhibit will be at Field Hall until August 8, so you still have time to check it out! The Laura Cooksey Gallery is located at the north end of Field Hall, across from the café, and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 AM – 2 PM.



Washington Museum Day

The NOHC is joining museums around the state to participate in Washington Museum Day, August 8, 2026.

Co-sponsored by the Washington Museum Association and the Washington State Historical Society, the day is designed to engage communities in history, arts, and cultural experiences.

Where: NOHC Campus, 933 W 9th Street, Port Angeles

When: 11 AM – 3 PM

What's Happening: Free guided tours of our Research Library and Artifact Storage Facility, Megafauna Mania, artifact identification activities, and more!



From the President

Greetings,

Summer is here and there is a lot going on at the History Center. To spruce up our campus, we have decided to give the buildings a fresh look with a new coat of paint incorporating a few new colors, stay tuned!

If you haven't heard, we are holding our annual museum day open house on Saturday August 8th from 11:00 to 3:00, hope to see you all there! This is a great opportunity to find out all the new going on's at the center, meet other members and staff, and even get a tour of the facilities.

Here are just a few places/events we have or will soon have attended this year:

The Port Angeles Maritime Festival went extremely well; our cutout of Ediz Gigantus was a hit with the kids and even a few adults.

Also well attended was the June 12th opening ceremony of the "North Olympic Voices" exhibit along with the Laura Cooksey Gallery dedication at Field Hall. The exhibit will remain on display until August 8th, so it's not too late to check it out.

"Moving the Mail" exhibit will be on display at the Sequim Museum from July 2nd through July 30th

"Archaeological History of the Sequim Prairie" - part of the "People, Place, and Time" lecture series. Held at the Dungeness River Nature Center in Sequim. Part 1 of this exciting lecture was on June 19th and was extremely well attended. The next lecture in this series is August 14th; check out the calendar on the below link for more details.

To see all of our events/schedules, check us out at:
<https://northolympichistory.org/nohc-events/>

Until next edition!

Steve Hargis

NOHC Out in the Community

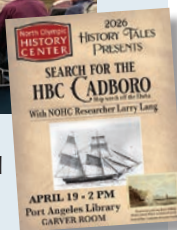


The NOHC teamed up with our friends from The Hub to tackle the moss covering the retaining wall along first street between Peabody and Lincoln Streets.

Search for the HBC Cadboro Presentation



Larry Lang's presentation was informative and well attended at the Port Angeles library.



Dr. Lewis Photo Album

By Becky Schurmann

Paul Gleeson, a retired archeologist and NOHC volunteer, has started a new project to photograph and catalogue a rare photo album which contains 59 unique images of Port Angeles and the Olympic Peninsula from 1887-1891 collected by Dr. Freeborn Sanford "F. S." Lewis, father of Minerva Troy and one of the first doctors to set up practice in Port Angeles. He selected these photos because of his interest in history and felt the need to document the early days of Port Angeles and Clallam County. One of the marvelous features of Dr. Lewis' album are his handwritten captions featuring locations and dates on almost all the photographs.



The album is in very fragile condition and was not a candidate for scanning.

Paul borrowed a special lightbox from the Olympic National Park Visitor Center to enable him and his assistant, Becky Schurmann, to photograph the images without glare. The album was placed on a support board which allowed it to be moved in and out of the light box in order to turn pages with less handling of the fragile album.

They are being processed in Photoshop and readied for cataloging in Past Perfect, our online catalog that you can find at nohc.catalogaccess.com. Look for accession number **1980.91**.



(L) Front Street, 1890

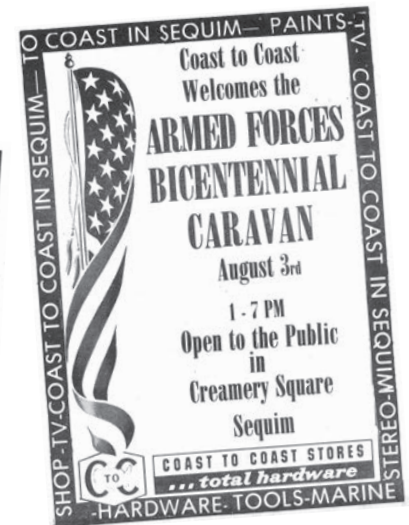


(R) View from Hogback, 1890



Album condition

A Couple of Fun Newspaper Ads We Found from the 1926 Sesqui-Centennial and 1976 Bicentennial in Our Collection.



Slip Point Update - We Have a Lease!

By Eve Datisman

The Keepers are doing a happy dance. June 1, 2026, is a red letter day for the Clallam Bay Slip Point Lighthouse Keepers. The Clallam County Sheriff's office, which is the officially recognized local agency of record, sent Keeper's president Sarah Winter a copy of the signed lease for Coast Guard Slip Point Light Station. The purpose of the license allows the "use of approximately 2.6 acres that include Duplex Quarters A and B, Equipment Building, Shop, Garage and Paint Shed," with space designated for offices and a temporary holding facility.

This excellent news creates the specific bridge to stewardship the Keepers have worked toward since 2023. The Keepers can now move from passionate advocates toward active stewardship. Working in tandem with Parks, Fair, and Facilities and Sheriff's Departments, they can finally step onto the grounds to halt deterioration, prevent vandalism, and begin critical structural stabilization on the weathered 1905 Craftsman-style keeper's duplex and the other buildings on site.

Crucially this unlocks the public preservation grants, and donations and fund one step closer to their ultimate goal: restoring the property, preserving Clallam Bay's rich multicultural history, and opening a vibrant new public park along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Another reason to celebrate: A Coast Guard environmental assessment team has been to the site testing soil and surfaces for asbestos, lead, and heavy metals. This information will be used to formulate a remediation plan. We are waiting on the results and making lists so that we can prioritize the work to be done.

We'll need volunteers to help. If you are interested, please Sign up with Clallam County Parks to support regional efforts – Download a Volunteer Application www.slippointlighthouse.org, or visit the Clallam County Volunteer page www.clallamcountywa.gov/285/Volunteer-Opportunities).

Come visit us at Clallam Bay Fundays, July 10-12, 2026 to learn more.



— Collection Highlights —

The Chautauqua Industrial Art Desk



Dana Shaltry, a NOHC member, made a wonderful donation of a vintage, folding, portable wooden Chautauqua desk. Designed for home education in the early 1900s and, in many cases, sold directly to families by the Lewis E. Myers & Company, the desk served as “a plan to promote the culture of work and play among children in the home.” It features an internal paper scroll which contains lessons on art, natural science, geography, bookkeeping, and basic shapes for drawing. The desk features a blackboard surface and includes various small compartments for storing crayons, paper, and other art supplies.



The Chautauqua movement, founded in 1874 on Lake Chautauqua, New York, was a landmark American adult education and social movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, promoting lifelong learning, culture, and community in rural areas.

1822 Military Drum

This rare drum, donated by Don and Helen Stoneman, is in exceptional condition. It was produced by Pittsfield, Massachusetts drum manufacturer Abner Stevens. Born in Connecticut in 1770, Abner moved to Pittsfield with wife Sophia Morley in 1808 where he opened his workshop and produced drums for the Massachusetts State Militia. In 1812 he added the U.S. government as a client, providing drums to the military for the War of 1812. Following his death in 1842 his son Moseley Steven continued the drum making business. Stevens Drums were used by the U.S. military through the Civil War.

The inscription inside the drum reads:

Abner Stevens,
Keeps constantly for sale, at his FACTORY and MUSIC SHOP,
in the Village of Pittsfield, (Mas.) made in the neatest manner,
all kinds of DRUMS, from Bass down to Toy Drums, FIFES,
FLUTES, HAUTOBOYS, VIOLINS and other kinds of Musical
Instruments, Violin and Bass Viol STRINGS, BOWS, REEDS,
& c.1822



New Storage Shelving

Installing new heavy duty shelving to accommodate our recently acquired collection of newspapers. These shelves will insure the newspapers remain in good condition. The shelving was made possible by a grant from the Clallam County Heritage Advisory Board.



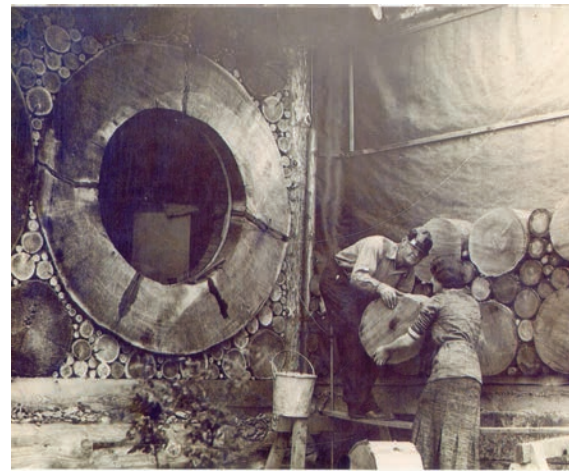
The Place

By Kathy Estes

The Place -- This crosscut stacked log building was built as part of a resort by Adelbert Smith in the 1920s. It was located at the mouth of the Elwha River at the end of Place Road and was featured in a Ripley's Believe It or Not column.



The building was destroyed by an explosion in 1941.



Adelbert Smith and daughter Opal lifting log rounds into place during construction of The Place Resort, ca 1928.



Adelbert Smith and daughter Opal cutting log ends to be used in the Lodge they were constructing for The Place Resort. Looking west near the mouth of the Elwha River, ca 1928.



Interior of the "Merry Elwha Resort"..



Interior of the "Merry Elwha Resort"..

From an interview of Opal Ralston (Smith).

Smith had to build a road before constructing the resort. According to his daughter Opal, "It crossed the river up a ways from the mouth. Probably where it was the narrowest spot. It was like a bridge - only a 'two car' deal.

The center circles were chipped out with hand equipment. The resort had electrical power and plumbing - including two bathrooms.

New owners came to town and had too much to drink. During a cold snap, they had not made provisions to take care of the bathrooms and they froze up. The people put dynamite in each toilet and blew the place up." - *Opal Smith*

Opal Smith McLaughlin Ralston was the President of the Clallam County Historical Society from 1976 - 1983.

All photos in this article are from the NOHC archives.

Albert Morgan, Champion Boxer.

By John McNutt

It is easy to be amazed with the athletes who participate in the fighting sports, such as MMA and boxing. The level of skill is not the only amazing thing. But also, the amount of physical abuse they are willing to endure. Some people seek fame and glory through their toughness. One such person was Albert Morgan Pilkington, who grew up in the Sequim area. Albert had the determination, passion, and sense of purpose to become a world champion boxer.

But Albert was a scrawny kid. Fred [Albert's stepfather] decided to do something about that. Fred had Albert train as a boxer. Fred's goal was to use boxing to put some strength and muscle onto Albert. There were several athletic clubs around Clallam County where Albert could train. Fred only wanted Albert to improve his physical fitness. As time progressed, Albert realized he liked boxing and wanted to compete. Albert would have tested his skills through local unsanctioned bouts. The Eagles and the Elks often hosted "smokers." Boxing matches were called "smokers" because of the fog of cigar smoke filling the arena.



Albert and his stepfather Fred.

His first professional fight was on March 12, 1920, at the age of 16. He boxed under the name of "Tod Morgan". It was thought that the name was the result of a ring announcer misunderstanding his name. It may also have been a better boxing name than Pilkington. .

In 1925 Tod earned the Junior Lightweight Championship of the world. Tod put the title on the line in 15 fights, six of his title fights were in Madison Square Garden.

In 1935 he had a fight in Hawaii which earned him the welterweight championship of Hawaii. Tod then went on to hold and defend his title as Lightweight Champion of Australia. It was reputed that Tod made half a million dollars while fighting. Most of it likely went to the promoters. Tod was a tough guy, but was it all worth it? 22 years is a very long career for a boxer. Tod had 220 bouts with a record of 143-44-33, with 29 wins by knockout. He entered the ring for 1,664 rounds. It is easy to see that he may have endured 5,000 blows to his head.

In July 1951, at the age of 47, Tod suffered a severe stroke while in Reno.



Tod died on July 31, 1953, at the age of 49. The cause of death was "encephalomalacia, chronic post traumatic (pt. was a pugilist)". In other words, all the blows to the head severely damaged his brain.

Tod's lengthy career and various championship belts finally earned him a spot in the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York. The hall noted that Tod was known as the "Seattle Flash" and held the world junior lightweight championship from 1925 to 1929.

The Sequim area has produced its share of champions. Most notably Joe Rantz who won Olympic gold in 1936 as part of the eight-oar American rowing team and Matt Dryke who won Olympic gold in 1984 in skeet shooting. We should remember to add Tod Morgan to Sequim's list of champions.

This article has been edited for space. John McNutt's original story appeared in the *Pensinsula Daily News*.



Forks Timber Museum

Photos from a recent visit. Next time you're in Forks this museum is well worth a visit!

Background from their website:

From the 1950's to the 1970's Forks was the self-proclaimed "Logging Capital of the World", and the Forks Timber Museum was established in 1984 to preserve and document this rich logging history, plus the pioneer history of early homesteaders in the Olympic Peninsula wilderness. Logging is still a significant part of the Forks economy, but tourism to the Olympic National Park and the recent Twilight phenomenon attracts visitors from all over the world, and the museum offers these visitors more than a history of logging.



Jacob our tour guide was well informed and added wonderful interesting details from all the exhibits.



Maritime Festival

NOHC volunteers at our information table at the Port Angeles Maritime Festival. We had fun talking with people about the history center, upcoming events, selling books and our popular Eddie tee shirts.

The Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers, officially designated as Aviation Survival Technicians (ASTs), demonstration was popular.





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- **Traveling exhibits**
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