



MHS News Quarterly

Fall 2010 Volume 10, Issue 1

APRIL 2011

**MAGNOLIA HISTORY MONTH
and
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE
MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Wednesday, April 6th, 7:00-8:00pm at Magnolia's Bookstore

Book Reading by Authors of
MAGNOLIA: MEMORIES & MILESTONES
and
MAGNOLIA: MAKING MORE MEMORIES

Refreshments and discussion on how the books were created
Please RSVP to reserve space (206) 284-2430

Sunday, April 10th, 2:00-4:30pm at Our Lady of Fatima

**UNVEILING OF SCULPTURE STONWORK
by MAGNOLIAN JOHN LEGLAR**

depicting historical scenes and landmarks of Magnolia

PAUL DORPAT, LOCAL HISTORIAN

will speak about his upcoming book on Ivar Haglund

JEAN SHERRARD AND PAUL DORPAT

will discuss the historical practice or repeat photography
using some shots of Magnolia "Then and Now"
and from their exhibit which will be on display in April at the
Museum of History and Industry

Third Week of April - Date, Time & Location -To Be Announced

DEBBIE DIMITRE as Catharine Blaine in a theatrical performance
with question and answer session following
This program is appropriate for 5th Graders and Up

Saturday, April 30th, 10:00-12:00pm and 2:00-5:00pm at Magnolia Library

will hold two Writing Workshops
"WRITING DOWN YOUR MEMORIES AND MEMOIRS"
Please RSVP to reserve space (206) 284-2430

Historical Mementos and Gifts will be given out throughout the events

More details will be at www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org

**KEEP CHECKING BACK AS WE BEGIN TO MAKE MORE MAGNOLIA HISTORY!
PLAN TO JOIN US!**

Magnolia Historical Society to Commission Sculpture

by Jeff Cunningham

In commemoration of The Magnolia Historical Society's 10th anniversary, in April of 2011, the Society has commissioned sculptor John Leglar, a Magnolia resident, to produce stonework, which will be on permanent display in the Magnolia Village. Leglar earned his BA studying art and architecture and works with a wide variety of mediums, such as steel, bronze and stone. He has worked with various local public artists and sculptors on many projects, including hand carving rosette samples for the Washington State capital renovation project.



John Leglar in his studio located in Magnolia

The sculpture itself will be a Texas limestone panel in bas-relief, hand drawn and hand-carved. Leglar's design will feature several iconic images from Magnolia's past and present. Inset in the middle will be the first plat map showing the outlines of the claims of the first five settlers of Magnolia. The piece will portray such familiar sights as the West Point Lighthouse, Magnolia's first landmark (1881), as well as the Magnolia Bridge. Magnolia's namesake flower will grace the relief as well as Magnolia's famous madrona trees. When an early explorer Captain George Davidson first named this region Magnolia Bluff in 1856 on a ship far from the bluffs above West Point beach, he mistook the native madrona trees along the bluff as magnolia trees. A steam locomotive will be depicted as well, which relates to the early days at Smith Cove when the first train of the region, the Seattle Lakeshore and Eastern, first laid tracks and eventually became a part of the famous silk trains of JJ Hill's Great Northern trains. There will also be short descriptions honoring Magnolia's native heritage and Dr. Henry Smith, Magnolia's first pioneer.

From Indian Charlie to Lady Willie Forbus I Was Hooked *How I came to be a Chronicler of Magnolia's past*

by Monica Wooton

As it appeared in the 75th Magnolia News Anniversary Edition, October 27, 2010

What hooked me on Magnolia's history were the people behind the then "only rumors" I had heard: Magnolia's first pioneer-Henry Smith-an eccentric, powerful doctor/agriculturist; Ambrose Kiehl-surveyor of Fort Lawton-genius, gifted photographer of this old growth land; lighthouse keeper German M. Rouse and his diary entries of life at the West Point Lighthouse in 1898; gentle Indian Charlie-last native American removed from a Magnolia beach homestead to a reservation; Major General Henry Ware Lawton- who supposedly captured Geronimo and for whom the Fort was named; Johan Hanson-Pleasant Valley dairy farmer-were there really cows where Our Lady of Fatima is today?; Frances Atherton-producer of the Magnolia School plays that raised funds for wartime and whose production pictures showed Magnolia's dads vamping in "Some Like It Hot" drag; and Lady Willie Forbus, first woman lawyer in Seattle, first state legislator for the 36th district from Magnolia and lover of stylish hats.
(continued on next page)

From Indian Charlie (continued from page 2)

And, there were other stories: native people living here before there were European American settlers; how Magnolia got its name; what it was like growing up in Magnolia during World War II; what an archeological dig in the 90's on the West Point beach revealed about this bluff long ago and its inhabitants then, 4,000 years ago.

And, there were the buildings like: the homesteads of Smithers, Stanley, and Carr; Officer's Row in Fort Lawton; The West Point Lighthouse; The Home for Crippled Children; The Admiral's House; the much lamented 1950's-60's Magnolia movie theater and the bowling alley.



Ambrose Kiehl-surveyor of Fort Lawton

But, mostly there were the still alive Magnolians who lived and made Magnolia history and could tell their stories like: Bob Kildall and Discovery Park; Barbara Wade Gates, the essential "valley" (Pleasant Valley) girl who made egg salad sandwiches and was a soda jerk at the fountain of The Magnolia Pharmacy in the 40's; Scott Smith, the man who battled Metro and its sewage treatment plant at the beach at West Point for 20 years; Hal Will's boyhood stunts, knowledge of and drawings of Magnolia's wooden trestles, and his railroad photos and research; Bett Samualson, who grew up on one of the Magnolia dairies, and had the 60 year old pictures to prove it. And many, many more Magnolians who wrote and gathered and documented Magnolia history in wonderful written stories, many first person narratives, and who gathered from family picture albums historic pictures of Magnolia never seen before: The Russ Langstaff's, the Monty Holmes', the Patty Small's, Dale Forbus Hogle's, and Roy Scully's who interviewed, were interviewed, researched, sourced and documented Magnolia history for two of the most ambitious and awarded literary efforts of any Seattle neighborhood in documenting its history.

That is what hooked me. The result of all of this wondering and work culminated in The Magnolia Historical Essay Project I which produced: *Magnolia: Memories & Milestones*; and, The Magnolia History Project II: *Magnolia: Making More Memories* (both granted projects from The Seattle Neighborhood Matching Funds.) The formation of the Magnolia Historical Society 10 years ago and its continuing efforts to collect Magnolia's history in written form and with archival photos were born from pioneers of that first book.

As I enter the 10th anniversary year of the Society, I am amazed at what has been accomplished by so many Magnolians for free, for the cause of Magnolia's history. To name a few: Aleua Frare, with her early homespun, folksy tales of Magnolia history; The Magnolia Community Club members like Heidi Carpine, Les Cowan, and Rob Wilson; Past Society Presidents and Board members like: Bud Nicola, Charlotte Claude, Joan Santucci, Jan Parent, Roxanne Tillman, Christine Carr, Dee St. George, and Jen Ryan; graphic designers who did logos and brochure design, Jeff Smith and Dipa Shah; over 60 writers, editors, photographers, Photoshop experts, who lived or live here now, all Magnolia volunteers who helped make Magnolia history.

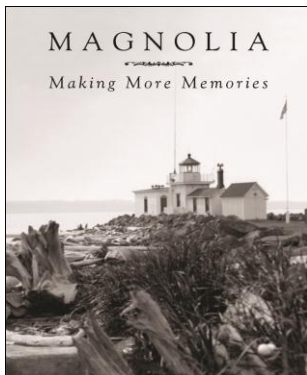
The Magnolia News has been with us all the way from the very first old and yellowed clippings handed to me in 2000 from an article written March 3, 1981 on Henry Smith; the archived issues on microfiche at the UW Periodical room from World War II, that enlightened us on what was happening on Magnolia during the war years; Ken Baxter, photographer for the Magnolia News, his photo collection donated to the Society by his wife Virginia; the historical columns written for the News by the Society; Magnolia News' past editor Shirley Hitchings' scrapbook donated by her son and writer in both Magnolia books, Rob Hitchings; to the coverage of the book creations and the Society's community events. The Magnolia News covering the news for 75 years and also making Magnolia history!



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of
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www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org

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**"The challenge of
history is to
recover the past
and
introduce it
to the present."**

-David Thelen