



# San Juan Historical Museum

WINTER 2007

## The San Juan Historical Museum

PO Box 441  
405 Price Street  
Friday Harbor, WA  
98250  
360.378.3949  
www.sjmuseum.org

### Museum Hours:

*June thru September:*  
Tues., Weds., Thurs.,  
Sat., Sun.  
12 Noon — 3 P.M.

*October, April, May:*  
Saturdays, Noon-3 P.M.

*November through March:*  
by appointment only

### Museum Staff

Jen Fleming  
Curator

Sue Madden  
Volunteer & Research  
Coordinator

Dolly Salazar  
Development/  
Operations Manager

It's been over twelve years since Mona Meeker first jumped headlong into the sea of history from which sprang San Juan Island. What began as a newcomer's fascination with the lore of her adopted home morphed into two years of hard slog, hours of intensive training, millions of words transcribed: The Oral History Project at the San Juan Historical Museum.

After attending a talk given by the late Beryl Wade, Mona, a retired school librarian, found her curiosity piqued. Knowing little about capturing personal histories, Mona nevertheless approached this museum's board with the idea of coordinating an oral history project for the museum. Lucky for us all, they agreed.

Mona and her crew of 11 volunteer interviewers (all of whom attended training workshops and lectures) produced an extraordinary collection of 32 personal histories of members of some of the island's pioneer families, all recorded on audio-tape, some on video as well, with photographs, family lineages, charts, and summary indices included. It is quite a handsome feather in the Museum's cap — a beautiful tapestry of island life — and is used frequently by islanders and off-islanders to research their own family stories. A great gift borne of one lady's affection for our past.

So, that's it, right? Work complete, project over? Of course not. This new millennium is nothing if not a digital dawn. And, being a historical museum, we *are* in the habit of preserving things.

Enter Vikky Daucinus.

A recent escapee from corporate America, Vikky now devotes herself to her true passion: preserving people's stories. As a member of the Association of Personal Historians and founder of Vikkyd Productions in Friday Harbor, she produces video tributes, scrapbooks and memoirs of family histories and experiences. "Every life is a story worth telling, and is part of a history worthy of reflection," she says.

Well, as luck would have it, fortune smiled, the stars aligned, and Destry rode again: Mona and Vikky were introduced at the Museum's Autumn Auction last fall. And boy, did they have a lot to talk about. Let's just call it "great minds thinking alike."

Already familiar with the Museum through her friendships with Museum staff, and now with Mona as her point person, Vikky has taken on the awesome task of digitizing our oral history collection. Each history will be preserved on CD, and in a format that can be loaded to digital media players (including iPods and MP3 players) — making the stories readily accessible to fresh generations for years to come.

*Contact the Museum for more information about our Oral History Collection. Our warmest thanks Mona Meeker for her great support of the Museum these many years, and especially for all her hard work during her just-ended term as a member of our Board of Trustees. Your enthusiasm is contagious, dear!*

A Story  
Worth  
Telling:  
Oral  
Histories  
of San  
Juan  
Island