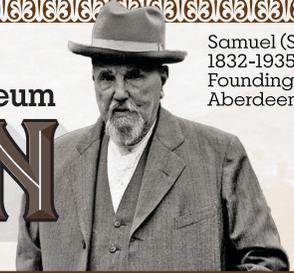


BENN'S BULLETIN

Friends of the Aberdeen Museum

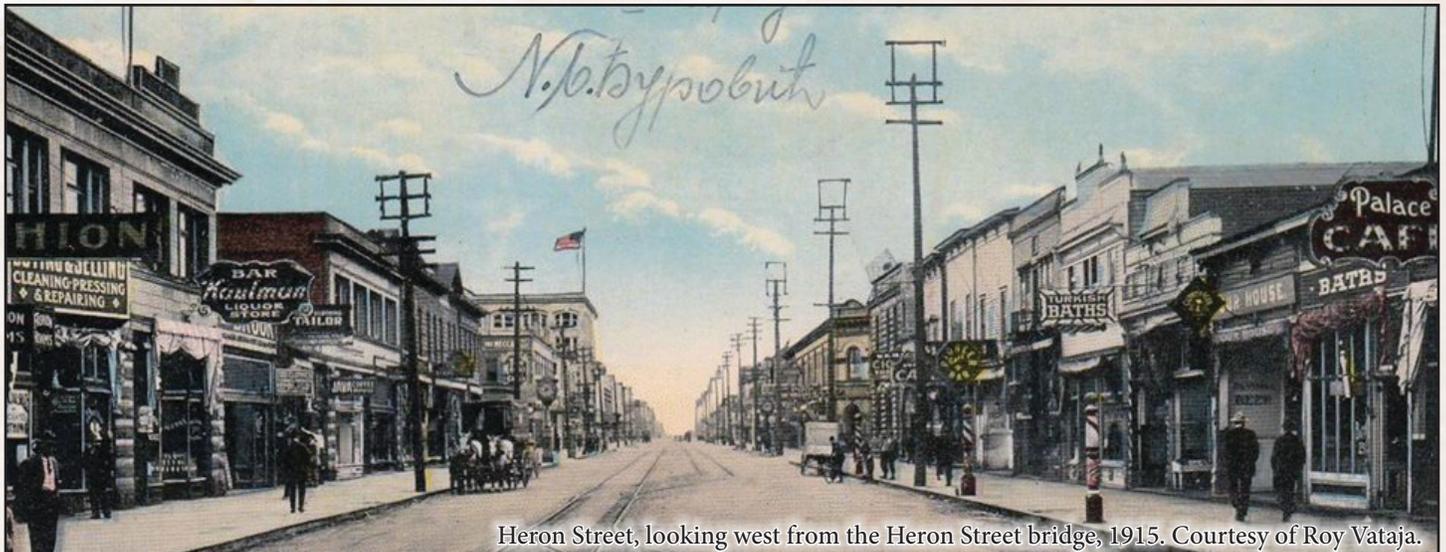


Samuel (Sam) Benn
1832-1935
Founding Father of
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Winter Edition ❄️❄️

AberdeenMuseumFriends.org

December 2023



Heron Street, looking west from the Heron Street bridge, 1915. Courtesy of Roy Vataja.

“Aberdeen Citizenry can be hard on the town—but **the grass has always been greener.**

It seems worth considering whether we are too hard on ourselves. Can we make our commerce healthy by just finding a new attitude? Shop & buy local.

Merchants—give the folks some fun reasons to stay local.

“WELL WORTH THINKING OVER

“Recently we had occasion to go into a store to buy a ‘Think of Me’ perfecto.

“Quite a number of men were talking over our business conditions. After considerable talking a well posted man who has travelled considerably this year and who has just visited all the Pacific Coast cities said, ‘Gentlemen I want to say this, that taking all things into consideration, Aberdeen is the best city on the Coast today; her business is better and her prospects brighter than any other town I have visited; it makes me tired,’ he said, ‘to hear our people go belly-aching around and saying business is dead, when the fact is, it is they who are dead;

there is a lot of business here if they will go after it, but to allow the Mail Order Houses in Tacoma, Seattle, and Portland to flood our city with advertising and to do nothing particular to head them off, and then go around saying there is no business is poppycock and child’s prattle.’ He finally wound up by stating very plainly the ‘the trouble was not that our business was so particularly dead as it was that some of our merchants were not alive as they might be.’ He said a lot of them have quit, wilted, crawled into their holes and pulled the holes in after them, and merchants in other cities were getting business on this account.”

—Aberdeen Herald, Sept. 2, 1915

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1902



NOTICE

how evenly and free the

“Think of Me”

Cigar burns—how firm the ash is—what a delightful fragrance is in the smoke. It’s a great cigar—and it’s winning new admirers every day.

Manufactured by

L. L. MALEY

TEL. 211 Aberdeen, Wash.

And Sold Everywhere.

FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN MUSEUM

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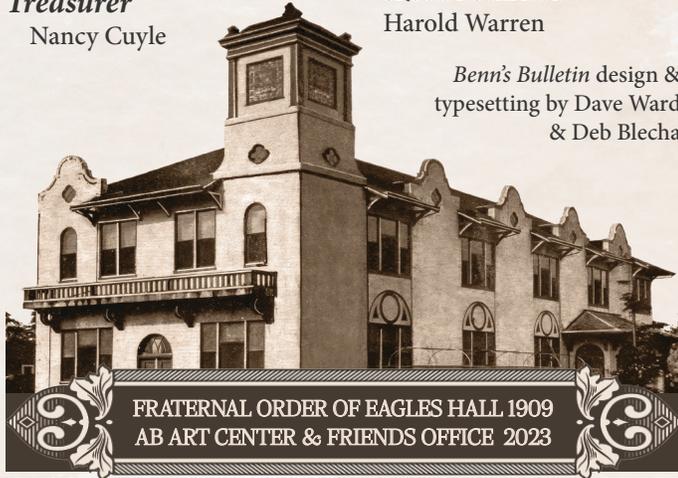
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THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS

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Because
They Are
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Market & K St.
(K St. Entrance)

Volunteers are in the office
Thursday and Friday 1-4 pm
and during Aberdeen First
Fridays from 5-8 pm

MAIL US:

P.O. Box 722
Aberdeen, WA 98520

CALL US:

(360) 533-1976

EMAIL:

friends98520@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

aberdeenmuseumfriends.org

BENN'S BULLETIN:

Quarterly pub released
March; June; Sept.; Dec.

Archived past
editions are
found on our
website.



SUPPORT FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN MUSEUM

Funds go toward preserving and celebrating history in our community

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

MEMBERSHIP:

- Individual - \$25/yr.
- Family - \$50/yr.
- Business - \$100/yr.
- Senior - \$20/yr.
- Youth - \$5/yr.
- Sustaining Individual/Business - \$300/\$500/yr.

Make checks payable to FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN MUSEUM.

Mail to: P.O. Box 722, Aberdeen, WA 98520

I wish to remain anonymous. Do not use my name in any publication or display.

Memorial Donation For: _____

Send Acknowledgment to: _____

Address: _____

Endowment Donation \$ _____ . Friends receive investment earnings only.

VOLUNTEER:

- I would like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities.
- I am interested in the volunteer membership waiver program. I understand that I can earn my membership after 10 volunteer hours.

Rising From
the Ashes Is
What We Do!



A New Museum Rising... At Last!

The Friends have begun planning for a new Aberdeen Museum. We started with collecting some input from the community. That will continue, but we will be adding work on museum display concepts soon after the beginning of the year.

What we have learned so far:

The community valued the old museum as a venue for a wide variety of community events, and it is overwhelmingly apparent they would like to see the new museum have ample space to serve the same role.

There was agreement that their museum should tell the story of the area's past in a coherent, guided way so the museum visitor can experience the founding and development of Aberdeen to the current day and beyond. The area's rich history needs to be told, including the timeline for the indigenous people, logging, mills, international shipping, ship building, the fishing industry, the music industry and the birth of grunge and Nirvana, the bordellos, the churches, famous people and the Walk of the Stars.

Exhibits need to be rotated so the museum is not static, and local



Ryan's Market and the Style Bootery on May 6, 1932—the future home of Sears & Roebuck, The Salvation Army, and—at last—the Aberdeen Museum. (Jones Photo #12745_1)

residents have a reason to come back to see what is new. There needs to be an emphasis on interactive, hands-on exhibits that engage all ages. They want to see a concerted effort to work with educators. They want their museum exhibits and activities tied to curriculum development and educational field trips.

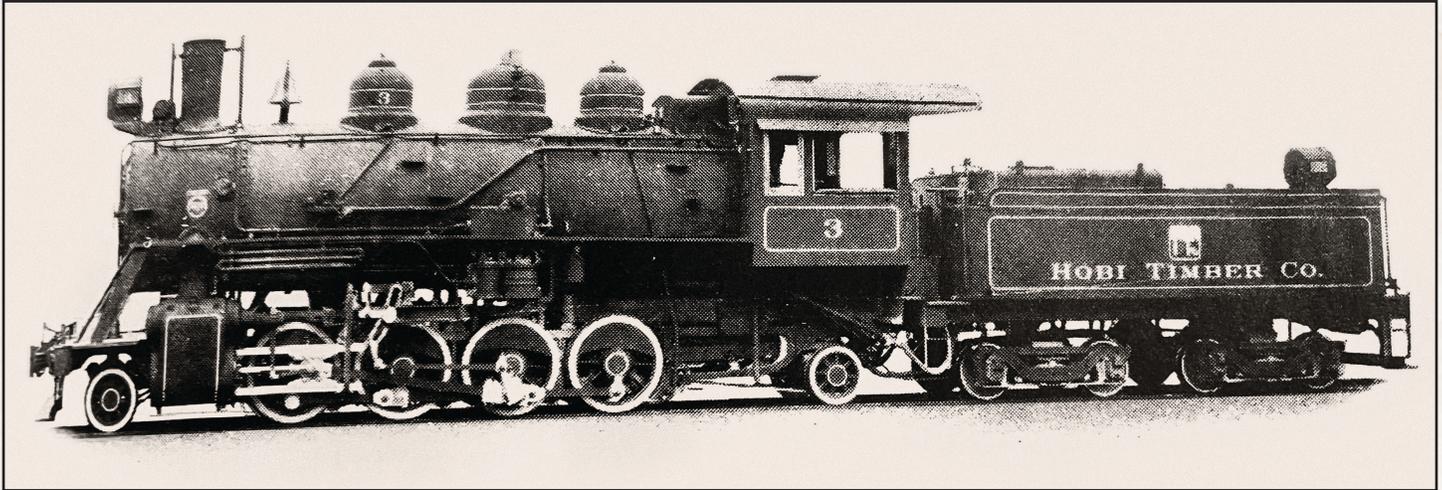
Community members also see the need for a professional director to see that all of these goals come

to fruition.

Where do we go from here?

Since the new location is in the heart of downtown Aberdeen, it is clear it can play a larger part in community life and education, and the Aberdeen citizens place significant value on that role. The Friends are excited to explore these ideas further & look forward to more ideas from the community as the museum takes shape.

The Hobis and Logging Ingenuity



HOBI TIMBER COMPANY'S BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE

A Mikado 2-8-2 type locomotive complete with vital statistics as delivered to the Hobi Timber Company for their railroad logging of the Cook Creek Timber Sale in the Quinault area. This locomotive was on display at the Pacific Logging Congress in Seattle before final delivery to the Hobi operation.

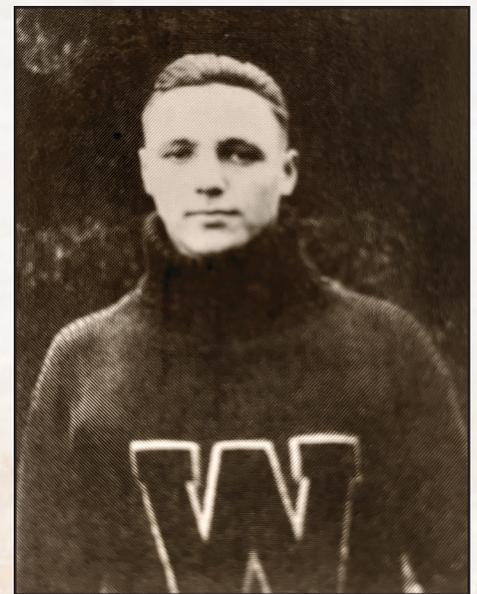
Information from Frank Hobi

By Margaret Elley Felt

The Hobi brothers had started working in the woods at age 13 acting as “whistle punks,” cookhouse flunkies, and later timekeepers. When the family moved from South Bend to Aberdeen the oldest son, Frank, spent his Senior year at Weatherwax and went on to his freshman year at U of W. He was planning on a career in forest engineering when his father died after telling him he was responsible for his family and the Hobi logging interests. Suddenly at 19 Frank found that his mother, 4 siblings and several dozen loggers were depending on him and his business decisions. Frank realized that as young as he was, he would need to get respect for success. He took a

correspondence booking course. He kept time for his logging crews, rolled logs into the ponds, used a pike pole to get logs through the sluice gates. In his spare time he raised and fattened hogs from the leavings of the cookhouse and butchered them for meat. He worked with his crews ten-hour days, 6 days a week.

Frank also was aware that the owners of splash dams faced constant court cases with farmers over loss of land as logs were sluiced down the rivers. So Frank took a different approach. He signed easements with every farmer who had bottom land along North River and agreed to pay \$100 per acre for any land lost due to his sluicing logs. He had the land surveyed and did so again when the log drives were finished. There was little erosion, no



Frank Hobi's Weatherwax High School wrestling team photo

arguments or lawsuits.

The Hobi brothers sold Willipa Logging, formed a new company and bid on a large Quinault Nation

(Cont'd on p. 5)

The Hobis and Logging Ingenuity

(Cont'd from p. 4)

timber sale on Cook Creek. The bids were to be opened at Taholah. There was no road to Taholah so they hiked 15 miles up the beach from Moclips. They outbid the more experienced Polson and Saginaw companies, largely by planning use of new faster, stronger rail and equipment to increase production. Now all they had to do was build 25 miles of rail across the bog swamps, sometimes extending a half mile, to

get to the timber! They had scouted the area and were prepared, sort of. They found that if they jumped up and down the ground would shake for 30 feet in all directions and they could shove a staff into the ground for five feet with no resistance.

They decided to "float" the rail on brush mats. They placed box culverts for the water to flow through, covered that with jack pines and brush to make a mat a foot deep and twenty feet wide. They built the rail on top of that to

carry hand-pushed carts filled with clay. They dumped two feet of clay then tamped 18 inches of gravel into that. Finally they were ready to place railroad ties and steel. The resulting rails were four feet above the surrounding terrain. When the nine ton engine and loaded cars passed over the area they did not sink at all. Later they built a trestle 65 feet high and 1200 feet long over Cook Creek.

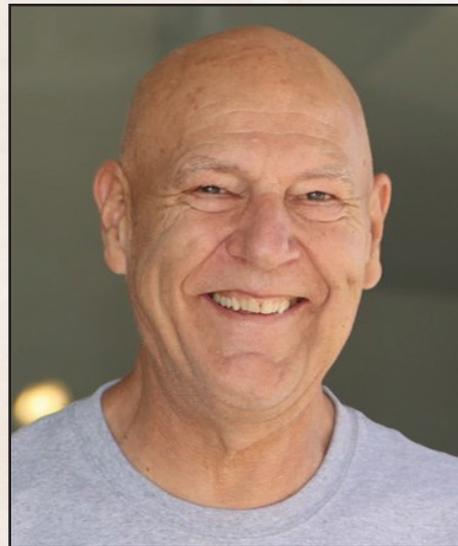
But they brought out 500 million board feet of lumber.

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As many of you know Douglas Orr was a valued member of the City of Aberdeen Museum Board and later the Friends of the Aberdeen Museum Board of Directors. But if his lead holds during recounts, then as the new mayor of Aberdeen he will need to step down and view the expenses and growth of the City without favoritism. We wish him, and the City, well. We will truly miss him, his work and his ideas.

At this point we are looking to evaluate new Board members. We are in need to a Board Secretary as well as a member at large to replace Doug. If you would consider such a position we invite you to attend a Board meeting to learn how we operate and decide if you would like to apply.

Our Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at



Mayor-Elect Doug Orr
Photo courtesy of Rick Moyer

6 p.m. at our office on the K Street side of the Aberdeen Art Center at 200 W. Market. Everyone is welcome. Members can always provide input to the Board. Please join us.

*In Memory of
Becky Carossino*



The Carossino Family
Marcia Follett



Flooding in Aberdeen is far from new. This 1933 photo shows downtown awash. Not sure why there is a little tree. Is it growing there? But the boat makes sense. Can you deduce the location from clues in the photo? Hint: The buildings on the left are still standing today.

Skidroad

A skidroad was a road used to “skid” logs to a river to float out. But the term was also often used to describe the area of town where loggers went to blow off steam—that part of town that catered to their needs. One often hears the unknowing refer to Skid Row—totally in error.

Building a skidroad took a lot of material and hard work. Often two larger poles formed the outer edges to hold the logs onto the road. Smaller poles formed the center of the road. Then a steam donkey was used to pull the logs to a pond or splash dam sometimes as far as a mile.



Skid Road Crew, Camp 5, Polson Logging Co., circa 1907
(Jones Photo Historical Collection #G1319_1)



MEMBERS ARE SPECIAL!

This year we tried something new. A supporter funded purchase of items from the Westport Winery. By state law liquor can only be raffled to an organization's members which worked out fine for us. We wanted to do something special for community members who support the Friends work to preserve local history. We felt we owed supporters something since right now we don't have a museum to share.

We are happy to announce that we have the winners! Congratulations.

ROBERT & HALDIS SHOLES

Wines Winners

BONNIE JOHANNES

Whisky & Vodka Winner

Now we would like to hear from all of you. Is this something you would like us to do again? Are there specific items you would like in the raffle or removed from it? We did find that our membership increased this year, so it seems positive. Please send us feedback. (If we try another raffle we will be looking for a sponsor. We don't spend membership funds you have given to support Friends operations and programs.)

Also in 2024 there will be an event just for members and volunteers. We won't tip our hand quite yet but we think you will enjoy it. Stay tuned! (And of course become a member if you aren't yet.)

KURT COBAIN & NIRVANA EXHIBIT

Our most successful exhibit to date featured Kurt Cobain and his band, Nirvana. The exhibit included photographs, paintings, books, music, figures, shoes, instruments and other memorabilia. We had 31 visitors at our October First Friday and 55 in November. Many of the items on display were loaned by local collectors and fans. We were pleased to be joined by Aaron Burkhard, Nirvana's first

drummer, and Joseph Hulscher, author of *KCGB, The Boy From the Porch, My Dying Mom & Kurt Cobain*. Board Members Phil Slep and Chuck Meskimen were on hand to fill in lots of history, drawn from their Nirvana walking tours. Randy Beerbower of The Shirt House brought in a selection of tees and sweatshirts, along with sets of etched Nirvana glasses and coasters created by Freddie Pentt.

Lecture Series

The Friends have started a monthly lecture series. Topics range widely. In October we had a very popular first of two or maybe three sessions with Phil Slep, one of our new Board members. In first session Phil talked about his career of over 30 years with Disneyland. In January, he will be tying Disney to the Northwest. It's a topic you won't want to miss.



Watch our Facebook page or call our office to find the time and place.

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