

# Eastside Heritage Center

NOVEMBER 2005 • VOLUME V • ISSUE IV

## Vision

To be a destination heritage museum and research facility that enhances community identity through the preservation and stewardship of the Eastside's history.

## Mission

To steward Eastside history by actively collecting, preserving and interpreting documents and artifacts, and by promoting public involvement in and appreciation of this heritage through educational programming and community outreach.

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# Historic Houses

## THE JOHN H. MCDOWELL HOUSE

The years between the two great World Wars that included the Depression saw a slowing in growth and new construction in the Northwest. In 1918, east of Seattle in Bellevue, the Wilburton Hill one-room schoolhouse closed and the Wilburton cedar lumber mill would soon cease operations.

Nevertheless, that same year on Wilburton Hill, John H. and Ella McDowell built an impressive Craftsman-style home that survives intact into the twenty-first century. After the McDowells, several families enjoyed it, and its last private owner, Thomas E. Paxton, lived there from 1964 until he sold it in 1988 to the City of Bellevue. Maintained by the City of Bellevue Parks Department, the historic house appropriately became home for the Eastside Heritage Center's administrative offices in 2003.

Approaching the house, the visitor pictures easily how commandingly it graced its property when the McDowells built it, when its surroundings were less urban and the grounds were planted in fruit trees, berries and grapes. It sits looking out above a low bluff, and to the west towards the city, and even today seems sheltered from the bustle of the busy roads and railway below it. The boxy shape of the house with dormers signals its Craftsman influences. The massive gray river



The Historic John H. McDowell House

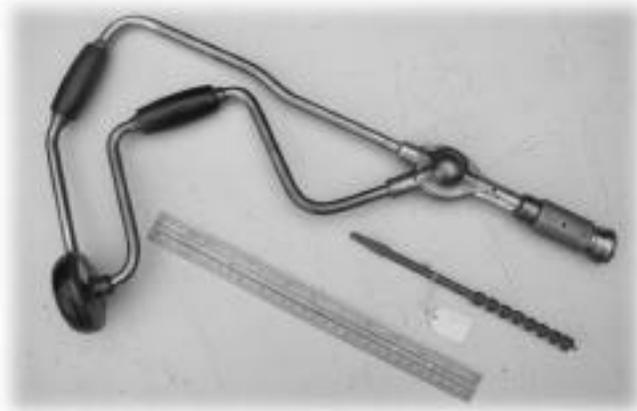
rock chimney, recessed porch extending the length of the western side of the house, overhanging eaves, multi-paned windows and cedar wood siding typify its architectural style. The main door to the house, decorated with six small windows and wood embellishments, and many of the windows apparently are original. The interior features handcrafted effects to the ceilings and other woodwork. The City of Bellevue removed a barn and garage that had been on the property. The grounds were beautifully re-landscaped in 2003 and are open to the public for enjoyment.

A number of other Craftsman-style homes can still be seen in the area. For example, in the Beaux-Arts community and on Yarrow Point where "farmhouses" were built, often by using "pattern books" since in the second decade of the twentieth century it was rare for a builder to hire an architect. *EHC*

~ Suzann Knauss

# Curator's Box

## ODD LOOKING BRACE HAS ITS PLACE



#2000.025.006 John S. Fray Corner Brace

Anyone who uses one of the popular battery-powered electric drills for home projects owes a debt of gratitude to the early developers of hand tools. These developers tried and discarded many different designs in the long evolutionary process of getting us to the modern drills that we reach for so often today.

One of the interesting design variations is shown in this photo of a tool from our collection, which carries accession #2000.025.006, and is clearly imprinted with the legend: "John S. Fray & Co Bridgeport Ct." Known popularly as a corner brace, it was

used to drill holes in close quarters. An example would be drilling holes in a stud adjacent to a wall. The angled design lets you turn full revolutions on the crank, despite the presence of the wall. In practice, you would insert an auger bit of the proper size into the chuck of the brace, place the bit point

at the desired hole location, and then drill away with joyous abandon.

John Fray started manufacturing braces in 1859, in partnership with a gentleman named Horace Pigg. He developed numerous different designs, which he protected with patents, and he built a solid reputation for his tools. In 1906, the Fray Company was sold to the Stanley Company. Another fine toolmaker was absorbed by a bigger company, a pattern we see repeated even today. *EMC*

~ By Mike Intlekofer & Ralph Pinkerton

### BLANK GREETING CARDS FEATURING ARTWORK OF LOCAL SETTINGS \$4<sup>00</sup>

Reproductions of American Primitive-style paintings of Eastside settings ~ such as the historic McDowell House, Winters House, the Windmill at Marymoor and the Clise Mansion ~ by local artist, Patti Simpson Ward. These blank cards feature landmarks and well-known settings from several Eastside communities including Medina, Bellevue, Redmond, Woodinville, Sammamish and Issaquah.

To order greeting cards, leave a message with Lyn Balint of EHC at 425.450.1049.



"Makin' Shortcake at the McDowell House"  
Patti Simpson Ward ©2005

# Good-bye BETH ZEITLIN

All of us at the Eastside Heritage Center would like to extend a big thank you to Beth Zeitlin, former Curator of Collections for EHC. In mid-August of this year, Beth resigned from her position in order to attend to family matters. Her professional approach, energy, gutsy personality, creativity, computer skills and patience to educate us in the ways of proper curatorial procedures made Beth an invaluable and missed member of the EHC team.

She began her work with EHC in October of 2002 as an intern at Marymoor Museum. Beth's job was to help move the large collection at Marymoor to a new location. By December, she was hired by EHC to coordinate the move. This took many months of detailed planning, packing, finding appropriate storage space for the collection and preserving it during the move. She did a fantastic job and has left EHC with workable systems in place.

Thank you, Beth! We wish you all the best in your new endeavors. *EMC*

~ Barb Williams,  
EHC Education Coordinator

# Executive Director

## NOVEMBER MESSAGE

What an exciting time to be joining the Eastside Heritage Center as Executive Director! The organization is buzzing with activity ~ Fraser Cabin Saturdays at Kelsey Creek Park, "Mini-Museums" at the Bellevue Farmers Market, new Treasure Box developments, community presentations, slide shows and displays, a Seattle Area Archivists



Executive Director, Heather Trescases

meeting at the Winters House and a partnership with the Bellevue Arts Museum for a tribute to LaMar Harrington.

Recently, the EHC was notified of a generous bequest from the Estate of Mr. C. Keith Birkenfeld, who passed away on September 7, 2005. Mr. Birkenfeld, a Charter / Founding member, left EHC \$50,000.00 to be used for a capital project in his name. We are very grateful to Mr. Birkenfeld for this gift and the Board is currently developing a plan for the funds.

In October, the EHC held its first annual "Corn Picking Extravaganza." Did you ever wonder where we get all the corn for our historic shelling and grinding activity, used at the Strawberry Festival and other events throughout the year? It comes from Mike Intlekofer's farm in the Renton Highlands, where he also has a marvelous personal collection of historic agricultural equipment and other artifacts. On October 23rd, approximately 25 enthusiastic EHC volunteers and their families gathered in the pouring rain to pick and shuck corn. But the weather in no way dampened the fun! Beyond the corn fields, the children discovered an old-fashioned water-pump and an apple corer & peeler, to name but a few of Mike's treasures. After a tractor-pull hay-ride, pizza and cookies, everyone returned home with smiles on their faces and cars full of pumpkins, squash, gourds ~ and, of course, baskets of corn to dry out over the winter! *EHC*

# Recent

## EHC ACCESSIONS

### KAREN CRENSHAW of Kirkland

Japanese garden art mold ~ A mold for a Japanese hexagonal garden lantern in the traditional style. Original versions in Japan were carved from stone. This more modern mold would be used to cast them from concrete. The Japanese garden in the Bellevue Botanical Gardens has a very similar lantern.

### MCDONALD FAMILY

Personal resource files of the late Richard K. McDonald ~ Three file cabinets of a 40-year collection of information on Washington State that includes newspaper clippings, maps and ephemera.

### NORWOOD VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

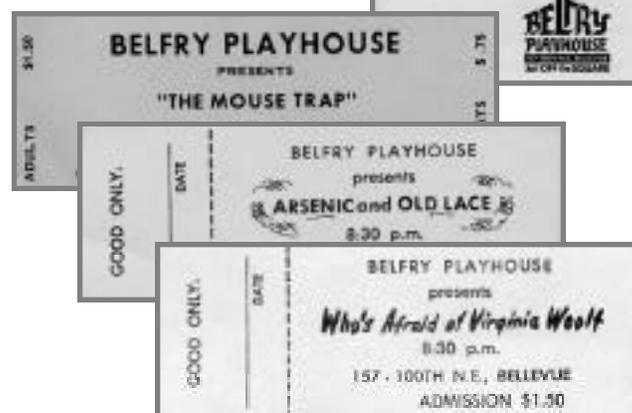
Minutes, ledgers, scrapbooks, correspondence, brochures, photos and ephemera.

### YVONNE HAGER AND CLAUDIA EBERLY DONATED IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HAGER

Belfry Playhouse History ~ The Belfry Playhouse was located in the First Baptist Church building on 100th during the '60s and '70s. Collection has photos, newspapers and clippings, playbills, tickets, programs, flyers and other ephemera.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.)



# Colman Diaries

The Eastside Heritage Center has had the fortunate privilege of receiving the Colman Diaries from the Fawcett Family. Clarissa (Denison) Colman started the diaries on January 15, 1886 when her husband James Manning Colman was murdered along with Wilbur Patten on Mercer Island and Clarissa continued writing in the journals until her death in 1910. After that, her daughter-in-law Margaret (Mitchell) Colman and granddaughter Clarissa (Colman) Fawcett wrote in them for a few more years. The journals cover the four murder trials of the accused murderer George Miller of Beaux Arts, as well as many wonderful facts of daily life on the Eastside. The Colman family lived on May Creek in Kennydale and along Lake Washington.

If anyone knows any of the George Miller family or has photos of them, please contact Diana Schafer Ford at 425.450.1049.

The diaries, which consist of 1,100 pages, are currently being copied at the Washington State Archives in Olympia. Our next newsletter will feature guest writer Sherry Grindeland who will write about the wealth of educational information in the diaries.

Entry from Jan 15, 1886 ~ "I am going to write in this book all the events I can remember in the past year. What transpired in this month I cannot fix the dates. I know some time near the middle or maybe a little past, that Clara went to town with her father, that the wind blew very strong from the north when they



Colman Diaries

*were coming home, so much so that they could not come by the way of Burrows as father had intended. It was his intention to come that way and pay Mr. Burrows for his work on the house. And that Mr. Knight came that same day and got his pay for hay that had been bought of him. That he stayed and got his dinner and had his horse fed. Niles left shortly after. That was the last time her father ever went to Seattle."*  
EHC

## RECENT EHC ACCESSIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE.)



Diana Schafer Ford  
Miss Universe Pageant Official Photo

### JIM AND SHIRLEY STONE

- Program from the second Bellevue Arts and Crafts Fair (1948)
- Eastside War Memorial Stadium official souvenir program (1948)

### DIANA SCHAFFER FORD

- Gown worn as Miss Washington '57 in the Miss USA / Universe Pageant
- Ball gown
- Overlake Service League Cookbook
- Family photos
- Reel to Reel tape recorder
- Typewriter

### JACKIE, CRAIG, KRISTINA, CODY MORRIS

- Children's clothing
- Microsoft memorabilia (e.g. T-shirt, baseball cap, key ring, mouse pad and puzzle.)

## Wish List WANTED!

### HP OFFICEJET PRO K850DN COLOR PRINTER

This printer will copy from post card size up to 13 x 19" sheets of paper. It will help cut printing costs greatly, by enabling us to print many of our exhibit and display items in-house.

### DIGITAL PROJECTOR

In today's world of Power Point presentations and movies on DVDs, we find ourselves in need of a digital projector. This will help us accommodate speakers at our monthly meetings who always have wonderful presentations to share, and will also enable us to develop our own digital presentations, showcasing photographs and artifacts in our collection.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.)

# Holiday Programs

## AT THE HISTORIC WINTERS HOUSE

### DECK THE HALLS AT THE WINTERS HOUSE

- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005 FROM 1:00 TO 3:00 P.M.
- WINTERS HOUSE AT 2102 BELLEVUE WAY SE

Join us for some holiday cheer as we decorate the Winters House for the season! There will be cookies, candy and refreshments for all participants to enjoy. Please note the new date and time for this annual EHC tradition.



The Beautiful, Historic Winter's House on Bellevue Way

### FIRESIDE STORYTELLING MAGIC SEASON EVENT

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.
- WINTERS HOUSE AT 2102 BELLEVUE WAY SE

The holiday season in Bellevue is enriched by the Magic Season events that happen all around town from late November to early January each year. Join the EHC volunteers and staff, in partnership with Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department, for some holiday cheer, toy-making, refreshments and winter stories told in front of the Myan-style fireplace. *EHC*

## Wish List

### WANTED FOR THE COLLECTION

#### WORLD WAR I & II PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of those on the Eastside that served in World War I or World War II. Portraits or pictures taken during the war years at family gatherings, the Red Cross, Air Raid Drills, VFW or Houghton Shipyard. Japanese families on their farms and those sent to Internment Camps during the war. Celebrations when the war was over. Soldiers off to war by way of train.

#### MILITARY UNIFORMS

Do you have military uniforms or memorabilia that is hidden away in your attic that you would like to donate to be preserved and exhibited in a display?

#### HOLIDAY SEASON PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of the Holiday Season on the Eastside, such as company parties, family gatherings and celebrations, visits with Santa at the mall, stores, streets and homes decorated for the season and winter scenes.

Call EHC at 425.450.1049.

### OUTREACH EXPERIMENT A SUCCESS

The Eastside Heritage Center embarked on a new outreach program this summer as we made four appearances at the Bellevue Farmer's Market. Our exhibits appeared July through October, and included displays of antique farming tools, logging equipment, log cabin models, our popular Treasure Boxes, history books, and photo panels. We also featured a new display about Lucille McDonald, which included some artifacts from our extensive collection. Some of our exhibitors wore period costumes, which always draws attention.

Our presentations were well received, and we had the pleasure of educating and entertaining visitors of all ages. We distributed membership

forms, and had many stimulating conversations with our guests about history and the early days on the Eastside.

The Farmer's Market appearances were part of an experiment to try alternate methods of reaching the public and further fulfilling our mission. We are comparing this and other means of teaching history and displaying our collection, and we will use our findings to plan the exhibit schedule for next year.

If you have any suggestions about where or when we should appear, please send them to Heather Trescases, our Executive Director. *EHC*

# Making Connections

EXPLORING HISTORY IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

## EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

#### PRESIDENT

Stu Vander Hoek

#### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Iris Tocher

#### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Ross McIvor

#### TREASURER

Michael Luis

#### SECRETARY

L. Lee Maxwell

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Terry Claypool

Reagan Dunn

Ray Higgins

Michael Intlekofer

Tim Johnson

J.P. Perugini

Lynn Sherk

Anne Taylor

Libby Walgamott

### ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heather Trescases

#### EDUCATION

#### COORDINATORS

Jane Morton

Barb Williams



Learning about local Eastside history can be fun ~ just look at this face!

Last spring, Eastside Heritage Center partnered with the Bellevue School District (BSD) to work on a King County 4Culture Education Grant entitled "Making Connections: Exploring History In Our Own Backyard."

Our partner school was Cherry Crest Elementary. The goals of the grant were to align with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade Washington State Social Studies curriculum standards, to promote a partnership with the Bellevue School District, and to continue to promote awareness of Bellevue's heritage.

Three existing treasure boxes were enhanced: Local Salish Life and Eastside Coal Mining for 4th grade, and Eastside Schools for 2nd grade. A new treasure box, Agricultural Lifestyles: Larsen Lake and Mercer Slough, was developed to align with 3rd grade standards. EHC Education staff helped introduce each treasure box in the classrooms and facilitated field trips to enhance the learning of local history.

In June, all of the students, their parents, and teachers were invited to a celebration at the Winters House to culminate the project. Comments on the final evaluations were very positive with the field trips being especially well liked. *EHC*

~ Jane Morton

*EHC Education*

#### ENDORSERS

Bob Burke  
Nan Campbell  
Dick Chapin  
Doris Cooper  
Mike Creighton  
Jean Floten  
Kemper Freeman  
Stacy Graven  
Ken Johnsen  
Leslie Lloyd  
Doreen Marchione  
Dan McDonald  
Louise Miller  
Rose Nohara  
Bob Nuber  
Bill Ptacek  
Colin Radford  
Dave Russell  
Daphne Schneider  
David Schooler  
Ron Sher  
Lee Springgate  
Karl Thunemann  
John Valaas  
Janice and D.P. Van Blaricom  
Dr. Roy P. Wahle  
Bob Wallace  
Rosalie Whyel

#### CHARTER / FOUNDING MEMBERS

Brad Best  
John W. Betzoff  
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Eloise Hennig  
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Phil Maxeiner  
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Louise Miller  
Alex Modelski  
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Bob & Chris Neir  
Phil and Shelley Noble  
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Sally Polk  
Connie Reed  
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Robert & Patricia Sandbo  
Victor B. Scheffer  
Daphne Schneider  
Dick & Susan Schwasnick  
Barbara J. Sharpe  
Patti Simpson Ward  
Nancy Slotte  
Virginia & William Thompson  
Karl Thunemann  
Iris Tocher  
D.P. & Janice L. Van Blaricom  
Stu & Karen Vander Hoek  
Libby Walgamott  
John H. Walker M.D.  
James R. & Gwen D. Warren  
Robert & Barbara Welsh  
Rosalie A. & George L. Whyel  
Marcie Williams

#### NEW EHC MEMBERS

Connie Grant (July)  
Sue Burrus (August)  
Barb & Mike Bacon (September)  
Stevenson Elementary School (Septembe  
Tim Johnson (October)

# Volunteer of the Year

MARY ELLEN PIRO

Mary Ellen began attending meetings of the Bellevue Historical Society in 1992. She quickly became very involved and was soon planning the opening of the Winters House. Her friendly manner, winning smile and willingness to step in and do whatever was necessary, endeared her to everyone and soon her school teaching tools were put to work organizing photos, helping with research requests, planning meetings and endlessly increasing her knowledge of local history. As President, her easy-going manner drew many more individuals into the organization and many were eager to donate their precious family artifacts to her care at the WH. She organized the archive room, kept records of research requests, and worked on oral histories. She was always the first one to come to a meeting, usually the last one to leave, all the time chatting with folks and creating goodwill.



Congratulations, Mary Ellen Piro!

Since the organization merger, Mary Ellen has continued be our primary resource person. She remembers every family name, every event, knows where everything is ~ and is totally indispensable to the EHC. *EHC*

~ Karen Klett

EHC Volunteer Coordinator

# Membership INFORMATION

## ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- Newsletter
- Notice of exhibits and programs

## CATEGORIES:

- STUDENT / SENIOR (Age 62) \$15
- INDIVIDUAL \$25
- FAMILY \$40 (Two adults and children living in the same household)
- FRIEND / ORGANIZATION \$100
- STEWARD \$250

Members also receive an invitation to Curator's Tour of the collection

- SPONSOR \$500

~ Same as "Steward"

Members also receive one complimentary business card ad in the newsletter

- BENEFACTOR \$1,000

~ Same as "Sponsor"

Members also receive invitations to special events

Join us in preserving, supporting and interpreting the heritage of the Eastside for those who come after us.



Please cut out this form and mail it with your check to Eastside Heritage Center • PO Box 40535 • Bellevue, WA 98015

## MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Please check the appropriate circles:

- Student / Senior ~ \$15
- Individual ~ \$25
- Family ~ \$40
- Friend / Organization ~ \$100
- Steward ~ \$250
- Sponsor ~ \$500
- Benefactor ~ \$1,000
- New Member
- Membership Renewal
- I'd like to volunteer 2 hours per month!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICES**

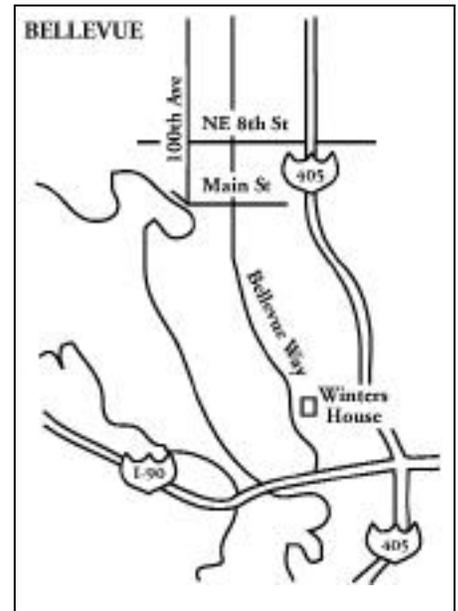
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 40535, Bellevue, WA 98015  
**Tel:** 425.450.1049  
**Fax:** 425.450.1050  
**E-Mail:** [director@eastsideheritagecenter.org](mailto:director@eastsideheritagecenter.org)

**WINTERS HOUSE**

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 40535, Bellevue, WA 98015  
**Visiting Address:** 2102 Bellevue Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98015  
**Tel:** 425.450.1046 (Research inquiries)  
**E-Mail:** [director@eastsideheritagecenter.org](mailto:director@eastsideheritagecenter.org)

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**

**EHC Research Svs:** Tuesday ~ 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment  
**Visiting Hours:** Monday to Wednesday ~ 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday to Saturday ~ 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



**DIRECTIONS ~ WINTERS HOUSE :**

From I-90, either direction, take the Bellevue Way exit. Merge onto Bellevue Way SE and drive .6 miles to the Winters House which will be on the right.

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER NEWS ~ Editor in Chief: Lynn Sherk with Graphic Design / Layout: Patti Simpson Ward  
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