



Newsletter April 2009

Calendar 2008-09

April 14: Richard Engeman. Note location change below.
May 12: Monthly Meeting at Duwamish Longhouse

APRIL MEETING

Richard Engeman, who the Guild has long wanted to invite back, has agreed to talk at our April meeting. He is a former president of the organization and the author of two new books: *The Oregon Companion: An Historical Gazetteer of the Useful, the Curious, and the Arcane* (Timber Press) and the forthcoming *Eating It Up in Eden: the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Cookbook* (White House Grocery Press). Both books will be published this year. Richard is well-remembered in Seattle.

He wants to talk about what is happening in Portland at the Oregon Historical Society's esteemed record collection. Because the Society's actions threaten many individuals, he has titled his talk: "Cast Adrift: the Story of a Marooned Historian"

What can you do when your profession casts you aside to drift on the turbulent waves of economic recession and disciplinary marginalization? What do you do when your publisher goes up in smoke, when your research library closes, when your neighbors say, "You can't eat history," and your legislators must aim their concern at health care, school closures, construction jobs, and tax reform? Well, you have to look ahead, even as you keep history in mind.

Richard is an archivist and historian—and still a current Guild member--who left Seattle and the UW Libraries in 1998 for seemingly greener pastures at the Oregon Historical Society. There he held three positions under four supervisors, sat in five offices, and was discharged in 2006, when his position as public historian was abolished.

PLEASE NOTE-- IMPORTANT CHANGE

The location has been changed. The April meeting (April only) will be at the Montlake Library. This is a branch of the Seattle Public Library located at 2401 24th Ave. E, about five block south of the Montlake interchange with the SR520 Bridge. The time will be, as usual, 5:30pm. We apologize for the move, but no matter how early we book with a library room we can be displaced by their own programs or book clubs.

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The closing of the OHS archives is a matter that should be viewed as very serious. Its records were used, as Trish Nicola points, by several speakers to prepare talks for the Guild's recent conference on the AYP Exposition. Though the AYP took place outside Oregon, the exposition created records that end up in archives near and far. Member Jackie Williams and others have brought this to the Guild's attention. Closing down the OHS's research function will have consequence for people, not only in Portland, but throughout the region. For a longer discussion see: <http://crosscut.com/2009/03/19/oregon/18914/> More articles can be found on the web including efforts to reverse the OHS's decision.

Coll Thrush's Talk

The Guild had originally planned for Coll Thrush to speak in April, but at his request the talk will be postponed to a later date. We will probably be able to announce a new date when next season's bookings are confirmed in the fall.

March Conference

Anyone of the 150 plus people who attended the March conference or the nearly 100 at the reception knows what a great event it was. The Guild thanks you for your spirit of enthusiasm that made it such a success. We also owe debts to those who prepared new and lively lectures and the chairs who did a fine job of organizing sessions. The turnout March 6 and 7 exceeded the expectations of even those planning the event.

May Meeting in a Longhouse

The Guild will ramble to south Seattle for the May meeting to the Duwamish Longhouse and a talk by James Rasmussen. Please note that we will meet at 6pm (not 5:30) in order to allow extra time to get there and we will spend some time outside looking over the building and the site.

Seattle Meetings of OAH

The March meetings of the Organization of American Historians included talks by several members of the Guild. Lorraine McConaghy (MOHA historian) spoke about the industrialization of Lake Union. Paul Spitzer (Guild president) and David Dilgard (Everett

Library) spoke to a session about labor radicalism on the subjects of the Seattle General Strike and the Everett Massacre respectively.

THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON HISTORIANS

The annual fall meeting of the Association of Washington Historians will take place in the Student Union Building at Shoreline Community College, in the Student Union Building, on Saturday, April 18, 2009. It will gather at 10 a.m. At noon there will be a luncheon (price \$20.00). The speaker will be Dr. James Gregory of the UW on "From Dust and Delta: How the Great Migrations of Black and White Southerners Reshaped the Pacific Northwest." Adjournment by 2 p.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Richard S. Williams at 509-335-4705 or sarek@wsu.edu.

Heritage Center Legacy Project

The Washington State Heritage Center began publishing oral interviews with prominent citizens in February. The material may be found at www.secstate.wa.gov/legacyproject.