

Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Artifact

If you guessed an egg scale, you are correct! Back in the day, the weight of an egg was important for sales and recipes. This is a genuine Reliable Egg Scale “Built for Speed and Accuracy” by the Reliable Manufacturing Company of Los Angeles in the late 1800s.



Guess the Artifact



The doohicky is a holder for a hot iron. It allows the user to keep a hot iron on the ironing board without burning the ironing board or its cover. Here's a picture of it in action.



Come on by the Museum to see these and other appliances that helped our pioneer families with their household chores.

Guess the Artifact



This issue's artifact is a fascinating “mechanical” musical instrument, a combination of a harmonica and a player piano. Here's some information from a February 25, 2001, article in the Chicago Tribune.

The Rolmonica Player Harmonica was a mouth-blown reed organ that used dry waxed paper “rolls.” The user simply blew into the mouthpiece and turned the roller for a prepared musical tune. The roll would travel over a track bar, like on a player piano, with holes for each note. There were scads of songs available – usually anything that was popular at the time.

The Rolmonica was a popular way to amuse oneself in the era before radio and television. An early version appeared in France in the 1860s. The first available in the United States were produced in Massachusetts around 1869. By 1887, the company was manufacturing more than 50,000 a year.

Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Did you Guess the Artifact?

We told you this was a tricky one. Technically, it's not really an artifact. It's a sternwheeler boat – an example of the historical wooden toys that can be found in the Museum Store. The Museum Store has lots of neat toys and other historical mementos, perfect for Christmas gifts. The Museum Store is open on Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 – 5:00 through October 30.

The Store will then be open during Christmas at the Historic Orr Home, November 19 – 20 (see pages 5 and 11) and Saturdays and Sundays through December 11.



Did You Guess the Artifact?

What is the funny looking object to the right? Here's the view from the side. It's an old ice skate. Unlike today's skates, this straps onto your shoe or boot. Not much ice in Steilacoom, so you probably only see one in a Museum.



Did You Guess the Artifact?

Our artifact on page 4 is a *rug shuttle needle*. It is used to hook yarn when making a rug by hand. This needle was donated by Josephine Pierce and is on display in the Museum (see article, page 8). The exhibit also has a partly finished rug on a loom, (right). You can see how the needle works on this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTNnQgr3XMk>



Guess the Artifact – The Mystery Wheel

This is not a SHMA artifact. We do not own it. But we will tell you the whole truth behind the photo. Last month, member Dave Laxx noticed this large stone wheel in Chambers Creek during low tide. Knowing that Thomas Chambers had a mill nearby, Dave wondered if what he saw was one of the original millstones. He communicated this idea to other SHMA members.



On March 31, an expedition was launched to determine if the mystery wheel was a millstone and, if so, if it was worthy of relocation and preservation by SHMA. The rendezvous time was chosen at very low tide. Expedition members were Dave Laxx, discoverer and expedition photographer, Joan Curtis, Curator, Tony Forsyth, Chair of Buildings & Grounds Committee, Jack Brake, boat and heavy equipment owner, Tim Bull, Chair of the Grounds Subcommittee, and Mari-anne Bull, assistant to the Curator and office manager (you have to have an office representative on every expedition).

Upon close inspection (see photo), it was concluded that (1) the wheel had been under water for some time and (2) part of it was made of concrete. While the team did not have equipment to accurately date the object, it was concluded that it was at least 10 years old.



Historical records do not mention that Thomas Chambers used concrete, so the 150 year old millstone theory was discarded as absurd. Three new, much more likely, theories were proposed:

1. Given the similarity to ancient Aztec stone calendars, it was brought by an Aztec explorer who accidentally dropped it in Puget Sound. Seen as bad luck, the loss was viewed as responsible for the conquest of the Aztec empire by Cortez.
2. Knowing the ancient Romans had concrete, it came from Rome. The author of this one did not describe what the Romans were doing in the area. They probably weren't here very long because they were chased away by the Aztecs.
3. Now, there's always someone with a conspiracy theory, but in the spirit of a full historical report, we have to include the third hypothesis: "It looked to me like a thrust washer from the starboard propulsion port on an Alien landing craft. Wouldn't you know they would land here in the Town of Firsts? They Are Among Us!"

Eventually, the mystery was solved by SHMA member Eric King. Eric worked at Abitibi, one of the mills that succeeded Chambers Mill at this location. He met one of the expedition members late one stormy night at the Topside bar.

After hearing the story and seeing the photos, Eric recognized the grinder wheel that was used in pulp mills to grind wood into pulp for paper up until the mid 1970s. And there was no concrete in them – they were all stone. He had no idea as to what it was doing in the bottom of Chambers Creek. So, we are going to ask the Aztecs and the Aliens to help us solve this new mystery.

Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Artifact: If you guessed the Spring blooming Steilacoom flower, you were right. The following background comes from the Steilacoom Tribe's website:

“A prominent feature on the hills and plains of Steilacoom (in the area of our main village) was a pink flower known as Indian Pink (*Lytho-phragma parviflorum*).... Therefore, among the Puget Sound tribes, the name Steilacoom was taken to mean the people of the Indian Pink area.... Today the Steilacoom Flower is also known as smallflower fringe-cup or small-flowered woodland star.”



For more information, see <http://steilacoomtribe.blogspot.com/2009/01/steilacoom-flower.html>.

Treasured Toys

– Marianne Bull

Author Stephen King wrote “No one ever forgets a toy that made him or her supremely happy as a child, even if that toy is replaced by one like it that is much nicer.”

Why is it that we get rid of most of our outgrown toys but some of them we simply can't part with? Children's personalities, their interests later in life and their view of the world can often be traced back to the toys played with, loved, and, sometimes, lost. Many remain only in our memories but other times we manage to keep them safe for our own pleasure and for future generations.

An idea from member Carole Tinsley and some research on her part resulted in an exhibit focusing on the treasured toys of some of our SHMA members. We have included books in the exhibit, too, as, for many of us, treasured books were just as important in our childhoods as toys.

The exhibition displays have been loaned by members Ann and Bob Edington, Lenore Rogers, Sue Johns, Joan Curtis, Jean Swanson, Donna and Dennis Quackenbush, Tim and Marianne Bull, Gerry Evanson, and Milt Davidson. The items are at least 62 years old, with some going back two generations.

Accompanying each toy is a memory or description by the owner.

Some toys were special because of who made them or gave them to us. Lenore Rogers saved wooden toys made by her father, Hank Leindecker. Hank went to the Art Institute of Chicago but after the war, when art jobs were scarce, he came to Steilacoom to work at McNeil Island. His wooden creations for his only child are indeed art pieces.

Some toys immediately relate the history of the times they were played with, as Milt Davidson's war era toys do. They reflect the world going on around the child with parachutists, machine guns, and uniformed soldiers, allowing Milt to mirror what he heard in the news through his toys.



Ann Edington's Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls

The memories surrounding the toys might have sentimental meaning. Sue Johns spent many hours with her favorite cousin until the older girl left to become a nun. Having her cousin's doll dressed by her grandmother in a novice's habit has been special to Sue.

Ann Edington recalls the two character dolls from the book *Little Women* given to her as a gift. She loved them so much that she babysat to earn money to buy the rest of the characters from her beloved book. They were so special that they weren't really played with, but carefully placed in a place of honor to be admired and then kept. Her husband Robert kept a child sized chair from the late 1800s that was in his grandmother's house in Burns City, Indiana, where both he and his mother were born. Although well used, traces of the original blue milk paint are still visible.

– Continued on next page

Treasured Toys

– Continued from previous page

Donna Quackenbush loved her *Three Little Bunnies* book about a loving bunny family, before realizing that the illustrations were photographs of real bunnies dressed in costumes.

The Ives Train was a precursor to the Lionel brand. Vernon Bull, Tim Bull's father, got his Ives in the 1920s and passed it on to his son who played with it as well. This was a direct connection to the Bull's relatives, who were life long railroad workers in Maryland.

Come see the exhibit on display through October and view a variety of toys, all with personal stories and memories. Write your own toy memory in a book provided, and give your contact information if you want to have your toy considered for a future exhibit. It appears we have just scratched the surface of treasured toys in Steilacoom!



The toy wooden Ferris wheel with military riders belongs to Lenore Rogers. This is the artifact referenced on page 4.

Kids Club

While the Treasured Toys exhibit is for kids and adults, Kids Club is for kids. And their parents.

Kids Club is open to children of all ages, but the activities are oriented to grade school children. Meetings are conducted by SHMA's Education Committee. The next Kids Club meetings are Saturdays August 26 and September 23, 1:00 – 3:00. There is no charge and any kid can come.



June's Kids Club made toys and other items, such as strawberry jam, that were red, white, and/or blue.



August 26's Kids Club will feature pioneer games.

Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Artifact

This edition's artifact is the sewing machine that you see at the top of the stairs in the Orr Home. The Florence Sewing machine was manufactured in Florence, Massachusetts. It was likely purchased by Nathaniel Orr's wife, Emma, around 1870. One reason it lasted so long may be due to servicing. There is an ad in the Puget Sound Express, Oct. 24, 1874 "If there is a Florence Machine within 1000 miles of San Francisco not working well, I will fix it without any expense to the owner. Samuel Hill Agent, San Francisco."



As they say, the machine "came with the house," when the title for the Orr Home was transferred to SHMA in 1974. We haven't had to call Mr. Hill.

New Permanent Exhibit at the Museum

With the help of Chris Erlich, our design consultant, your exhibits team (Joan Curtis and Marianne Bull) assembled a new display for our Museum. "Before the Town" covers the first residents of the area, the first explorations by Europeans, and the first Forts (Nisqually and Steilacoom). We're not going to say anything more about it – you'll have to come to the Museum and read about our early history.

Thanks go to the Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant program which helped fund both our Peter Puget sign (page 6) and the exhibit. Also, thank you Tom, Neely, and Nick May, volunteers who prepared and painted the wall for the exhibit.

The exhibit is in the lower level. Drop in during our open hours (see last page).



Did you guess the artifact on page 3? If you guessed a cannon ball, you were right! It's a 12 pounder from the 1850s that a Steilacoom resident found in his yard, probably meant for a cannon at Fort Steilacoom. You can get a close up view of it at the new exhibit.

Guess the Artifact #2 Answers



Check out the variety of WWI equipment that is on display at the new exhibit. It includes this month's artifact (right). It's a trench periscope, used to view the battlefield without exposing one's head. Note how small the top is. It presents as small a target as possible to the enemy.

Guess the Artifact

This issue's artifact was called a "trench lighter." These were cigarette lighters that protected the flame from wind and, in theory, did not flare up and give away one's position in the dark. One can see videos of some online (and they appear to create a flash of light, so we're not sure if they deserve their reputation). There is also a story that they were made from spent rifle or machine gun cartridges. Apparently there were many copies made in the 1980s, so if you buy one on e-bay, make sure it's one of the original brass cases.

Our trench lighter was loaned by Nancy Hellyer. For more information, visit our World War I exhibit at the Museum. It will be on display through the end of October. The Museum will then be closed for the Winter. When we reopen in April, we will have a new temporary exhibit.



Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Gizmo. This is a Jacob's ladder, a folk toy consisting of blocks of wood held together by strings or ribbons. When the ladder is held at one end, blocks appear to cascade down the strings. The name Jacob's Ladder comes from the biblical ladder to heaven in Genesis 28:12. You can buy a Jacob's ladder for \$7.95 at the Museum's Store (see next page).



Guess the Artifact(s)



These are typical of the objects that were traded by the Native Americans long before Steilacoom was established. They are all on display in our "Before the Town" exhibit. They were also popular items sold from the 1880s to the 1910s.

The large woven basket was made by Nancy Parsons, a woman of Cowlitz/Nisqually ancestry, around 1900. When appraised by a local dealer, he described it as a "treasure."

The small square woven basket and mat are Makah tribe. The "necklaces" are very old trade beads.

All of these artifacts are on loan to the Museum from Milt Davidson, a long-time SHMA member, supporter, and former Trustee.

The Museum will be open again 1:00 – 5:00 on February 3, March 3, and from April 6 on, every Saturday and Sunday through October.



Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Artifact

Well, your old newsletter editor tricked you again. It's not an historical artifact, but it is an item that is kept in the Museum. It's the famous SHMA Golden Ladle. This is the prize that goes to the winner of the popular vote at our annual Chili Cook-off. Next to it is the Chili Pot, the prize that goes to the winner of the Chef's Choice, which is decided by a jury of three local chefs.

The **Chili Cook-off** will be on Saturday, March 23, 5:30 – 8:00, at the Museum. In addition to chili tastings from the contestants, there will be other food, beer, and wine. And it's all FREE!

Here's the kicker – because we serve beer, wine, and homemade food, Public Health rules only let us serve to SHMA members. Therefore, if you haven't renewed your membership, making the Chili Cook-off is an excellent reason to do so now. For the price of a year's membership you get one great evening of eating and drinking.

Got a friend or neighbor who ought to be in SHMA or who would enjoy a chili contest? Invite them to come and join. We'll have Membership Committee members at the door.



Guess the Artifact

If you guessed a telescope, you were correct. But whose telescope? It's SHMA's telescope now and it's part of the new Maritime History exhibit. At one time, though, it belonged to Captain Warren Gove of Steilacoom. Captain Gove was the owner of the *Fairy*, the first steamboat on Puget Sound. Gove Street is named after him. It was donated to SHMA by Captain Gove's great-great-grandnephew, Allie Shelton, III. More about Captain Gove and his contributions to Steilacoom and the area can be found at the exhibit.



Guess the Artifact



Is it the top of a Roman emperor's scepter? A space ship? A new kind of fruit? It's none of the above. It's the beanie hat mentioned in the "Hats Off" article. Labeled a "Deborah Exclusive," its beads and braids make it a great example of the hats of the late 1960s.

You can see the beanie and more hats from history at the Museum. **We're open 1:00 – 5:00 Saturdays and Sundays and 2:00 – 5:00 Wednesdays, through the Summer.**



Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Artifact



SHMA is the proud owner of an Acme Corn Planter. In the really olden days, farmers carried a sack of seeds and used a stick to poke a hole in the ground. Then they dropped the seed in the hole. In the 1850s, seed planters came on the market. Acme was one of the first companies to make planters that allowed hole-poking and seed dropping with one easy movement of the handles. Eventually over 300 companies were in the business.

Our Acme Planter was made in Traverse City, Michigan, and sold in 1915. It still has its original paint and maker's imprint. Its design made hand planting in a straight row easy and it still operates. It was donated to us by Jack and Joann Brake in 2018.

Guess the Artifact

This is a cow's horn scythe sharpening stone and holder from the late 1800s or early 1900s. We have two holders, but only one sharpening stone. The holder enabled the farmer to stay out in the field and sharpen his scythe when necessary. It would hook on his belt with a metal hook grommeted to the horn (as illustrated) or with a piece of wood which was fastened to the horn with wires and hooked into the belt. This is an example of recycling all the parts of a farm's livestock.



Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Artifact

This month's artifact is a grain flail that was donated to us by Jack and Joann Brake in 2018. It is a simple tool for threshing cereal grain, separating the grain berries from the husks. Sheaves of grain are laid on a wooden floor and threshers use the flail to beat the ears of grain and the berries fall to the floor.

Jack noted "It's a knack to keep from hitting oneself with the loose swinging part of the flail. This flail is in two parts but can be hooked together with leather straps which form a hinge from which the heavier shorter wood piece can swing from the longer handle. It is an 19th century tool. This one was purchased in Germany but indicative of this type of hand made tool in America, too. Flail threshing also produced good quality stalks which could be used for a roof."



SHMA Newsletter Contributors

Susanne Bacon	Jack Brake
Marianne Bull	Joan Curtis
Pete Franklin	Emily Molina

Editing/Publishing

French Wetmore	Marianne Bull
----------------	---------------

Circulation: Front Desk

Want to help SHMA? We can use one or more volunteers to set up and run the computer projector during the Library Speaker Series and other presentations. If interested call Director French Wetmore, 253/753-6811.

Guess the Artifact

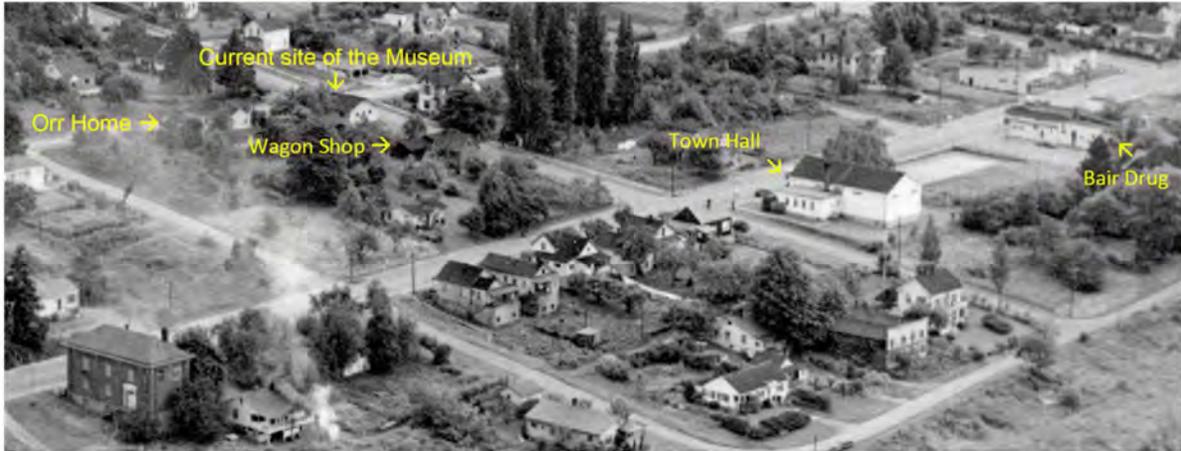
Our "artifact" is a replica of a 19th Century wooden stethoscope. It is one of the items shown by Lane Sample during her talk on Life at Fort Nisqually (page 8). It is a reproduction that allows kids, adults, and anyone else to try out this historic instrument.

While the wooden stethoscope has been replaced in this country by the modern version that has hoses to both ears, it is still effective, inexpensive, and used in other parts of the world. Wikipedia calls it a Pinard horn as it was invented by Dr. Adolphe Pinard, a French obstetrician, during the 19th century. The photo on the right is a US Army Reserve nurse using one in Uganda in 2009 (courtesy of Wikipedia).



Guess the Artifact #2 Answers

Guess the Artifact



Did you guess it's a photo of Steilacoom? If so, you guessed right. This is one of the 5,000 photos on our website (see page 2). It's from "Scenes 035" taken in 1940. Annotations added. There's no crowds, probably because everyone was practicing social distancing back then.
