



in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Spring 1990, Vol. XIII, No. 2

NOW MORE PLACES IN SEATTLE TO TELL AND HEAR STORIES!

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild will co-sponsor a monthly story session at a downtown restaurant and various special events in an ethnic museum.

An exciting Second Thursday City Story Series will get a four-month trial, starting in April, at the Du Jour restaurant. The series will compliment the regular first and third Friday story nights at the Boiserie.

During the trial run, the series will feature single tellers or pairs of tellers who work together. If the experiment is successful and extended, there are plans to add a modified open mike.

Cathryn Wellner will open the series April 12, followed by Sharon Creeden and Pat Peterson on May 10, Naomi Baltuck on June 14 and Liz Weir, an Irish teller, July 12.

Du Jour owner Gretchen Smyth will schedule evening openings of the

restaurant just for the storytelling. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and patrons will have a chance to select delicious food before the stories start at 7 p.m. There will be a 20-minute intermission, when refreshments and deserts can be obtained. There will be no admission or cover charge for the performances, which will end by 9 p.m..

Du Jour is located at 1919 First Avenue, between Stewart and Virginia, overlooking the Public Market and the Sound. There is good bus service and both street and lot parking are usually available at that time of the evening.

So mark your calendars and tell your friends. We need to make this a success so it can be continued, even expanded.

The Storytellers' Guild also will be co-sponsoring storytelling activities at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard. The Guild will recruit tellers for museum events and the museum will provide facilities for some Guild activities. The museum is located at 3014 N.W. 67th St. in Ballard and has

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A Letter from the President...

Dear Members,

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild is entirely a volunteer organization. Everyone, including board members and concert producers donate their time and energy to keeping the guild running and to bring you quality programs, workshops, and a strong storytelling network.

We must depend upon you, our members for your support. We feel that our members have a right to know how their dollars are being spent. In this issue of IN THE WIND, we have included a financial report for last year. As you can see, our primary sources of income are membership dues, door receipts, workshop fees, sale of resources, and grants.

In keeping with our goals, we have been able to provide two Friday night concerts a month at the Boiserie; "Story 'n' Snack", a monthly opportunity to tell stories in an informal setting; special performances by nationally and internationally known tellers; and workshops for both beginning and advanced storytellers. Our festival was one of last year's highlights, bringing in many new members.

We have considered our non-profit organization a community service and have tried to make all these opportunities as affordable as possible. That has brought new meaning to the phrase "non-profit organization".

Last year, we lost money on several events. We were not able to make back what we spent to bring Bob Barton to Seattle for a performance and a workshop last November. We also lost money on the Second Annual Storytelling Festival in September. Due to the enthusiastic response of S.S.G. members, we still consider both of these events successful.

This coming year, however, we are going to have to take measures to insure that guild does better financially. We have had to start charging an admission fee at the Boiserie. We will also try to make back some of our losses by having a benefit performance for the guild. Again, we will be depending upon your support in more ways than one.

Recruit a new member. Introduce a friend to storytelling. Sign up with our new volunteer coordinator, Joy Anderson. Above all, let us know what we can do for you. Take an active role and come to our annual membership meeting on June 10. Any questions? Feel free to call me at 621-8646. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Naomi Baltuck, President

Seattle Storytellers' Guild 1989 Annual Report

	Expenses	Income
Archive	12.50	0.00
Bois	1000.00	250.00
Festival	4992.90	3419.30
Library	43.38	0.00
Mailing/Postage	238.41	0.00
Membership	65.32	2901.00
Miscellaneous	321.79	291.14
Newsletter	1196.19	0.00
Petty Cash	159.85	20.00
Resources	1070.66	454.00
(Shirts/Dir./Tapes)		
Story 'N' Snack	6.48	0.00
Workshops	1291.47	1328.00
Total:	\$10,398.95	\$8,663.44
Net:	\$1,735.51	

Bank Balance	January 1, 1989	\$5,702.14
Bank Balance	December 31, 1989	\$3,966.63
Net Income	<Loss>	<\$1,735.51>

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner Sunday, May 20, 1990 2:00 P.M.

All SSG members are cordially invited to our annual meeting and celebration. Bring a potluck dish. Guild business includes the election of officers. 1947 - 14th Ave. E. (North Capital Hill). Call Cathryn Wellner, 328-1328 for instructions.

Tape Reviews - A Process Set in Motion

Last year people were encouraged to send tapes for review to *In the Wind*. A committee was formed to review the tapes received. Because of changes on the board and my own procrastination, all tapes, except one, are in my possession. We have gathered some guidelines to aid in the reviewing process. That material, with the tapes, is being sent to committee members. My sincere apology and a promise that the Summer 1990 newsletter will include at least one review. *Your editor.*



Richard Beyer: Another Kind of Storyteller

by Cathryn Wellner
Copyright 1989

Follow the Columbia River to Pateros and you'll find the studio of a storyteller whose media are both oral and physical. Richard Beyer is a recent transplant to the Methow Valley, after thirty years in Seattle, but he knows the area through years of frequent retreats and the fruits of his restless curiosity and gregarious nature. Seattleites know him as the creator of their favorite sculpture, "Waiting for the Interurban." His wife Margaret would never hesitate to call him a storyteller, but Beyer himself is careful with the term, understanding profoundly the circling we do in telling a story, trying one thing and another, never quite reaching the core of truth, never quite being able to convey it.

Though I've loved "Waiting for the Interurban" for years, it was seeing "The Storyteller" in Kirkland that made me want to meet the artist. He clearly understood something essential about storytelling. He knew about delight and wonder, about the mystery created between teller and listener.

If Beyer were content with purely representational sculptures, his design might be on Seattle's waterfront today. But he pictured Columbus as an old man, sitting around telling his stories. The design found little favor among judges for the competition but a lot of favor with the developers of the old Houghton Hotel site in Kirkland. One of them had fallen under the spell of Beyer's stories while they were on a camping trip. So Columbus evolved into a storyteller who tells his tales by a different body of water.

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When my photograph of "The Storyteller" appeared on the cover of the Winter 1989 of THE NATIONAL STORYTELLING JOURNAL, I sent him a copy of the magazine. That led to an exchange of letters and to Margaret's sending me Marie Hanak's photographs of the "Storyteller" sculpture he had done for Portland's Washington Park Zoo.

A chance to meet him came when the Spotted Chicken Reunion (another story) brought me to their side of the mountains. After two days in the company of chicken-compatible folk, my husband and I stopped in Pateros to meet the Beyers and learn the story behind the Portland "Storyteller."

When the zoo commissioned Beyer to create a sculpture as part of its radical renovation, he did the same kind of creative circling that a storyteller does in trying to decide how to tell a story. For Beyer had a story to tell, a story about the nature of animals. As he thought and planned the figure of the ancient mariner came to mind, "the guy who holds you with his glittering eye" so that you stay and listen to his strange tale. In the sculpture, the old man is far seeing, consumed with a need to communicate what he knows and what other people choose to ignore.

The child is caught by the old man's intensity, by the tale he is telling of the natural world, of the magnificence of

the countryside before humans began trampling it. But she is also more directly in touch with that world, gently holding the cougar's soft ear. A pup looks one, while the rest of the wolf family stand nearby.

Leaning over the old man's shoulder, hooting both in benediction and derision, is the Sasquatch. She is the nature spirit. Not the degraded image of Bigfoot but the direct descendent of the monkey who became a Buddhist and married a woman. In the sculpture she hoots at the old man, telling him, "Your stories are all lies. You blow yourself up."

Beyer says that her expression can be found on masks used in potlatches. The one dressed as Sasquatch would stumble around the fire, grabbing food, and annoying everyone until they were angry with her. At the end of the ceremony, the potlatch chief would remove the mask, blessing all of the congregated people. The Sasquatch's hooting then became a benediction on the potlatch.

Beyer's two Storyteller sculptures would find a special place in any storyteller's heart because of their clear association with tale telling, but all of may even have a little coyote blood running in his veins. He knows Coyote his sculptures have stories to tell. In one of a bear holding a salmon with horns, Coyote is a sly, invisible presence. Beyer understands Coyote,

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• *Wellner, continued...*

didn't disappear into myth, becoming just another creature of story. Coyote is still out there, stepping into new stories all the time. Coyote might not appear to an art critic examining the bear sculpture, but Beyer sees him. He is the one who took the horns off the salmon so that humans could eat the fish.

Having heard some of Beyer's stories, I see him in the Portland storyteller, eyes burning with the uneasy cynicism of the artist who is firmly committed to social change while wondering if it is possible, who tries in his work to make a difference and wrestles with doubts as to whether he ever comes close to his ideals. And I see him in the Kirkland storyteller, full of mischief and laughter, relishing the give and take of good conversation, reveling in being slightly outrageous as he tells one story after another.

Storytelling At the University Congregational Church

Starting in October, the University Congregational Church will sponsor a storytelling program every second Friday. An open mike will be offered from 7 to 8 P.M. followed by the featured teller from 8 to 9 P.M. A social hour follows. Admission fee is \$3.00 with profits benefiting the church. People who are interested in telling stories should call Rod Winget, at 789-0294.

theme?

Howl-In Storytellers and Singers Needed

Wolf Haven America needs entertainers for the 52 Howl-Ins starting May 4, every Friday and Saturday evening through September. Audiences range from 100 to 300 people. We ask that the entertainers perform at least one song or story about wolves as they truly are and others may be about other animals or environmental issues. Indian and Eskimo folklore and legends are gladly welcome. Wolf Haven can supply the entertainers with appropriate material if needed. Please contact Linda for more information at (206) 264-HOWL. Wolf Haven is a non-profit organization and welcome any donated services, but intends to pay \$35. for individual entertainers with duos and trios fees negotiable.

3rd Annual NW Storytelling Festival

Mark your calendars now!
September 22 is the date for our next annual festival. The Summer issue of In the Wind will provide more information and details.

**Seattle Storytellers' Guild
Call Us For Answers
621-8646**

Calendar of Events Spring 1990

April 6 **Keith Jefferson**, renowned storyteller, will be telling **African-American stories**. Friday at 7 P.M. at the Burke Museum coffeehouse on the UW campus. \$3. donation requested. Open mike to follow. For more information call 621-8646.

April 7 **Eva S. Nixon** tells **original fables** for our time at the University Book Store from 1 to 2 P.M. For more information, call 634-3400.

April 12 **Seattle Storytellers' Guild's Second Thursday Series at Du Jour Restaurant**, 1919 First Ave., starts with an evening of **urban tales, songs and poetry** by **Cathryn Wellner**. Dinner at 6:30 P.M., program at 7. Children 10 and older welcome. For information, call the restaurant at 441-3354 or Ken Jackson, 324-0071.

April 19 **Seattle Storytellers' Guild Board Meeting**, 7 P.M.

April 20 **Cathryn Wellner** presents "**Slow-Time People**" in Port Townsend. 8 P.M. For information, call Elgah Rand, 385-2331.

April 20 **Steve Old Coyote** will be telling stories from several **Native American** traditions. Friday at 7 P.M., Burke Museum coffeehouse. \$3.00

donation requested. Open mike to follow. For more information, call 621-8646.

April 21 **Nordic Wolf Exhibit**, **Nordic Heritage Museum** featuring **Grey Eagle** (Ken Jackson) telling Native American and Sami stories about wolves. **Birthe Kaarsholm** and **Selah Martha** will present a **wolf story-play workshop** at 10 a.m. For further information, call Ken Jackson, 789-5707.

April 22 **Cathryn Wellner** presents tales and tunes for the young at **Imagination Celebration**, Seattle Center, 12 - 1:30 P.M.

April 26 **Story 'n' Snack**, Potluck dessert and story swap. 7:30 - 10 P.M. at 5725 - 58th NE, Seattle. Call Cherie Trebon, 525-0382.

April 28 **Children's Peace Festival** on Bainbridge Island will feature storytelling from noon to 6 P.M. For more information, call Liz Madison at 842-4051.

May 4 **Canadian storyteller Mary Love May** will come down from Vancouver, to tell "**Rock-a-Me-Bye**" stories from a Southern back porch. Friday at 7 P.M. at the Burke Museum coffeehouse on the UW campus. \$3. donation requested. Open mike to follow. For more information, call 621-8646.

May 10 **Du Jour Restaurant** features storytellers **Pat Peterson and Sharon Creedon**. Dinner at 6:30, program at 7 P.M., 1919 First Ave. For more information call Ken Jackson, 324-0071 or Du Jour Restaurant, 441-3354.

May 17 **Scandinavian Stories at the Nordic Heritage Museum** from 1 to 4 P.M. Tellers include Ken Jackson, Kirstin Quickstad and others. Free to Guild and Museum members, \$2.50 to non members.

May 17 **Seattle Storytellers' Guild** board meeting, 7 P.M.

May 18 **Jill Golden, Australian storyteller** will be telling **aboriginal myths and legends from Australia**. Friday at 7 P.M. at the Burke Museum coffeehouse on the UW campus. \$3. donation requested. Open mike to follow. For more information, call 621-8646.

May 20 **Seattle Storytellers' Guild's Annual Meeting and Potluck dinner**. 2 p.m. 1947 - 14th Ave. E. (North Capital Hill). Call Cathryn Wellner, 328-1328, for directions.

May 31 **Story 'n'Snack**, Potluck dessert and story swap. 7:30 - 10 P.M. at 5725 - 58th NE, Seattle. Call Cherie Trebon, 525-0382.

June 1 **Betty Kopit**, actress, singer, storyteller, will tell stories and sing songs. Friday at 7 P.M. at the Burke Museum coffeehouse on the UW campus. \$3. donation requested. Open mike to follow. For more information, call 621-8646.

June 14 **Du Jour Restaurant** features **Naomi Baltuck** telling "**Tales of the Wet Apple**". Dinner at 6:30, program at 7 P.M. For information call the restaurant at 441-3354 or Ken Jackson, 324-0071.

June 15 **Susie Bear Yanes**, descended from the Mountain Maidu' people of California, will be telling stories she learned from her grandmother and other tribal elders. Location to be announced as the Bois will not be available this evening. Call 621-8646 for location.

June 21 **Seattle Storytellers' Guild** board meeting. 7 P.M.

June 28 **Story 'n' Snack** Potluck dessert and story swap. 7:30 - 10 P.M. at 5725 - 58th N.E., Seattle. Call Cherie Trebon, 525-0382.

July 12 **Du Jour Restaurant** features **Liz Weir, an Irish storyteller**. Dinner at 6:30, program at 7 P.M. For more information, call Ken Jackson at 324-0071 or the restaurant at 441-3354.

Workshops and Conferences

March 29 - May 31 **Storytelling with Margaret Read MacDonald**. Ten week course offered through Seattle Pacific University, (education course #4518/5518) 3 credits. For more information, call Dr. MacDonald at 827-6430.

April 9 - April 30 **Storytelling for Everyone, taught by Cathryn Wellner**. From telling friends what happened last night to making polished presentations to exploring stories that are metaphors for our lives, we all tell stories every day, no two of us in the same way. In this course you will expand your storytelling skills in a safe atmosphere. Exercises to lessen inhibitions and stir creative energy will be combined with insight into how to prepare and tell stories. UW Experimental College course # 4441. April 9 - 30, 7 - 9:30 P.M. Capital Hill location. General public/35; UW student/25. For more information, call 543-4375

April 16 **Speaking Effectively: Your Best Voice and You, taught by Linda E. Eblen, M.A., CCC, University of Washington Extension class**, downtown location at Fourth and Union. For more information or to register, call 543-2300. Private lessons available, call 361-4811.

April 21 **A Monster For A Pet, taught by Cathryn Wellner**. A workshop designed

to free the storyteller from blocks to being truly present in performance. Exercised for lessening inhibitions, crawling inside a story, telling with pleasure, turning fear into excitement. Dress comfortably. Bring sack lunch, paper (notebooks, journals, or plain) and writing and drawing instruments (pencils, pens, crayons, or markers). Taught in Port Townsend, April 21, 9:30 - 4:30. For more information, call Elgah Rand, 385-2331.

April 28 **The Humor Connection with Carl Grant**. Remember how "tuned in" you were the last time someone was really funny? Learn to use humor to aid in making sales presentations, giving speeches, or just being funny in social situations. Instructor is a former coach, teacher, and presently a professional comedian and seminar leader. Credits include host of Cable TV's "Not So Idle Chatter," and featured performer on Showtime and National Public Radio. On UW campus. Experimental College course # 3411. Course fee: \$17/general public, UW student/14. On April 28, 10 a.m. - 4 P.M. For more information, call 543-4375.

May 4 & 5 The University of Washington, Graduate School of Library and Information Science presents the **Thirteenth Annual Storytelling Workshop featuring Myra Cohn Livingston**, distinguished poet, anthologist and lecturer. This year's

theme, "Sharing Stories and Poetry in a Technological Age" will focus upon the importance of maintaining an equitable balance between the sphere of information science and the humanities and the arts. Participants will have opportunities to explore the use of storytelling and poetry for all age and interest groups and to demonstrate the use of the oral tradition and poetry in diverse settings. Schedule of fees: master class only: \$20.; storytelling workshop: \$50.; storytelling workshop and master class: \$70.; storytelling workshop, master class, and one credit option: \$131. Contact Judith Nyman-Schaaf, GSLIS, (206)542-1794.

May 5 Nordic Heritage Museum presents Spring Playshops with Nordic storytellers, Birthe Kaarsholm and Selah Martha. The playshops are for parents to attend with their children or children alone. Different forms of movement and dramatic play are used to explore the character and moods of the folk tale. You can experience the history and power of the folk tale first-hand and have fun at the same time. For children ages 5 to 12. From 10:00 a.m. to noon. Admission \$5.00. For more information, call 789-5707.

May 25 - June 3 **Awakening the Story**, a three part Council at the Ojai Foundation with Laura Simms, Goia Timpanelli, Brian Swimme, Naomi Newman, Stephen Clorfeine, Ephat

Mujuru, Terry Tempest Williams, Francis Harwood and Jack Zimmerman Part 1: May 25 - 27 Storytelling Presentation \$175. Part 2: May 28 - June 1 Exploration of the Story \$350. Part 3: June 2 & 3 Reflection of Work in Progress and Storytelling Celebration with the Council Faculty \$135. For whole council, \$550. Includes all meals and land use. For further information contact The Ojai Foundation, Box 1620, Ojai, CA 93023, (805) 646-8343.

June 4 - 8 **A Gathering of Stories**, Logan, Utah. This year's Fife Conference at Utah State University will inaugurate a new policy of focusing each year on a particular topic or theme. The 1990 conference focuses on narrative and storytelling. A mixture of folklorists and storytellers will discuss the importance of narratives in our culture and in our lives. Faculty members include Barre Toeklen, Director of the Folklore Program at USU and an authority on Navajo culture; William A. Wilson, Mormon folklorist; Patrick Mullen, author of a collection of stories of Lake Erie fishermen; Carol Birch, well known Connecticut storyteller; Cathryn Wellner, storyteller and workshop leader from Seattle; Kay Stone, Canadian folklorist and storyteller; Jan H. Brunvand, well-known writer and speaker about contemporary legends; Meg Brady, who has worked with Mormon women's narratives and Navajo

children's narratives; **Ona Siporin**, who specializes in storytelling and narrative theatre; **Art Smith**, who has worked with projects on storytelling and local history; **Robert McCarl**, who will focus on occupational narratives, especially those of firefighters; and **Joanne Mulcahey**, who has worked in Alaska with stories and oral histories of native midwives. The Fife Honor Lecturer will be **Simon J. Ortiz**, storyteller, poet and fiction writer. Credit/non-credit registration is available. For registration information contact the Utah State Conferences & Institutes Division, USU, Logan, Utah 84322-5005. For further information call the USU Folklore Program, (801) 750-3493. For a brochure, contact Cathryn Wellner, 328-1328.

June 13 - 17 **Alternating Currents**, Minneapolis. This year's **National Storytelling Congress** will focus on the problems and promises of translating storytelling onto electronic media. Northwesterners **Merna Hecht** and **Yvonne Young** will be among presenters debating the issues raised by the pervasiveness of persuasiveness of media. In addition to content issues, the Congress provides the most important yearly opportunity for storytellers from around the country, and beyond, to meet in a supportive atmosphere. If you need more reasons for taking part, call

Cathryn Wellner, 328-1328. For brochures and registration, contact NAPPS, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659.

June 30 & July 21 **Storytelling Weekends On Guemes Island with Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald**. Two courses will be offered: Folklore in the Classroom on June 30 and August 4 and Introduction to Storytelling on July 21 and August 4. One credit available through Seattle Pacific University. For more information, call Dr. MacDonald at (206) 827-6430.

July 11 - 25 **Storytelling Art and Technique with Gene Friese**. 3 credit course (Library # 471). For more information call the Continuing Education department, University of Washington or Gene Friese, at 284-9469.

July 20 - 22 **Sierra Storytelling Festival**. Myths, legends, fairy tales, fables, tall tales and true stories all told in a forested paradise which will delight young and old. Featuring: **Martha Holloway (M.C.)**, **Brenda Wong Aoki**, **Susan Klein**, **David Novak**, **Maggi Peirce**, **Kim Stafford** and **Jan Van Schuyver**. **Bob Jenkins** and **Steve Sanfield** will conduct the Critique Session. For further information write or call: North Columbia Schoolhouse, 17894 Tyler-Foote Road, Nevada City, CA 95959, (916) 265-2826.

August 9 - 14 **Wilden Workshop**. A five-day storytelling retreat with Milbre Burch in the mountains of North Carolina. The workshop is limited to five seasoned storytellers, plus hostess, Betsy Peacock. Fee is \$350. Food and lodging are extra. To apply send a letter describing your background and interest to Milbre Burch, c/o Kind Crone Productions, 582 Eldora Road, Pasadena, CA 91104 and send a non-refundable \$85. deposit to Betsy Peacock, 1422 Stovall St., Augusta, GA 30904.

October 12 - 21 **STORYFIESTA '90 - Tell Me An Opera**. Storytellers International invites you to join Indian, Hispanic and Inuit storytellers, composers, librettists and musicians to create an opera for public performance on October 20, during Storyfiesta. Other Storyfiesta events: ghost stories October 12, workshops October 19 - 21. For more information contact Ellien Carroll, care of Storytellers International, 4703 Club House Lane N.W., Suite H-5, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87114, (505) 897-0713.

Storytelling On KBCS 91.3 FM

April

- 3 Rebecca Chamberlain
- 10 Cherie Trebon
- 17 Rod Winget
- 24 Tom Galt

May

- 1 Cathryn Wellner
- 8 Scott Allen
- 15 Rod Winget
- 22 Tom Galt
- 29 Open

June

- 5 James Thiel
- 12 Open
- 19 Open
- 26 Open

KBCS offers a unique opportunity to storytellers wanting to expand their experience. Call Rod Winget at 789-0294 for more information.

Lying Enough To Be Interesting

by Martha J. Eshelman-Smith

"I only lie enough to keep myself happy," says Davy Crockett after bagging geese, two deer, a rattlesnake and several fish in a single shot (hear Ed Begley reading Adrien Stoutenburg's **American Tall Tales**). Indirectly he defines the tall tale - a fictional story told as personal narrative "which challenges the listener's credulity with comic outlandishness" (see Carolyn S. Brown's **The Tall Tale**). The outlandishness may be improbable, impossible, or illogical; the comedy arises from discrepancy between the insistence that the tale is literally true and the outlandish material.

"It's hardly worth talkin' if you're goin' to tell the truth," says Sparky in

Lying, *continued* . . .

Ted Stone's **Hailstorms & Hoop Snakes:** **Tall Tales from the General Store.**

Mark Twain laments in his autobiography: "When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it happened or not; but my faculties are decaying now, and soon I shall be so I cannot remember any but the things that never happened."

American tall tales, primarily of white male origin, have more inclusive sources. For example, Julius Lester's **Black Folktales** includes "High John the Conqueror": "... the white folks was so mean, that the rattlesnakes wouldn't even bite 'em. 'Fraid they'd poison themselves." and "Stagolee": "Stagolee was so bad that the flies wouldn't even fly around his head in the summertime, and snow wouldn't fall on his house in the winter."

Story elements move readily between tales whether as personal anecdotes or folk hero biography e.g. John Henry, Davy Crockett, Pecos Bill, Mike Fink, or Paul Bunyan. Pecos Bill rode a mountain lion he's tamed; Davy rode Death Hug, the bear that rescued him. In the story of Pete, Pete's owner mistook a wild bear for Pete, gave him a thrashing for being uppity and rode the wild bear home (Alvin Schwartz's **Fat Man in a Fur Coat**).

Story elements exaggerate the fertility of the land, "Pumpkin vines grew so fast that the pumpkins were worn out from being dragged across the land"

(Stoutenburg's "Davy Crockett"), the extremity of the weather, "so hot that the corn popped in the fields, and the cows, thinking it was snow froze to death" (Brown), feats of strength "...it appeared to be a Kraken ... I tied a different kind of sailor knot in each of his ten tentacles" ("Stormalong" in Walter Blair's **Tall Tale America**), etc.

Stories associated with a rough and rugged occupations use occupational lingo to establish veracity. Cowboys, for example, give us: "He once crossed a skunk with a porky-pine and got him a prickly varmint with the stripes goin' crostwise and smellin' like a poor grade of sheep dip" (E.J. Bird's **Chuck Wagon Stew**) or "Yuh mighta heard of a cayuse ... He goes by the name of Pegasus" ("The Flyin' Outlaw" by Curley Fletcher in Hal Cannon's **Cowboy Poetry**).

Narrative poetry can tell a tall tale e.g. Robert Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee" or Henry Herbert Knibbs' "Boomer Johnson" (recited by Swede Miller at the festival). American literature uses the tall tale e.g. Robert Frost's "Paul Bunyan's Wife", Mark Twain's "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" or William Faulkner's "Spotted Horses". Tall tales are not uniquely American, witness the German Raspe's **Adventures of Baron Munchausen**, but collections of American tall tales should give ample material to create your own interesting lies.

Continued from front page...

free, off-street parking.

"I think this is an exciting way to enrich ethnic and folklife activities in the city," said Marianne Forssblad, museum director. "Scandinavia has a rich tradition of storytelling so Guild tellers should feel at home."

As part of a Nordic Wolf Exhibit, Birthe Kaarsholm and Selah Martha will present a wolf story-play workshop, April 21, 10 a.m.. Grey Eagle (Ken Jackson) will tell Native American and Sami stories about wolves, April 21, 10 a.m.. Other tellers of wolf tales are sought during the exhibit. Contact Ken Jackson, 324-0071 for more information about telling at the museum. Check our calendar of events for other storytelling activities at the Nordic Heritage Museum.

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Board Members

Naomi Baltuck, President 776-1175
Gene Friese, Secretary 284-9469
Ken Jackson, Youth Activities 324-0071
Margaret Read MacDonald, V.P. 827-6430
Martha Smith, Grants Writer 522-8788
Cherie Trebon, Treasurer 525-0382
Debra Harris-Branham, Membership 228-7851
Joy Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Membership:

____ Individual, \$10. ____ Family, \$15

____ New ____ Institutional, \$20. ____ Donor, \$25

____ Renewal ____ Liar, \$49.95

____ Fairy Godmother, \$100.

____ Muse (Be creative & generous), \$

____ I am interested in volunteering. Please call me
to discuss how I may help.

____ Please include my name on mailing lists for
related events.

In the Wind is the newsletter of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, a non-profit organization and is published quarterly (January, April, July and October). Membership in the Guild includes a year's subscription. Please check the expiration date on your label.

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS
JUNE 10. ARTICLES, QUERIES, MEMBERSHIP
FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TO SSG, P.O. BOX
45532. SEATTLE, 98145-0532.

Seattle Storytellers' Guild
P.O. Box 45532
Seattle, Washington 98145-0532

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