

## Susan Connole Volunteer Coin Nomination

Susan is a rare volunteer whose love of history and the Hiram. M. Chittenden Locks inspired her and placed her at the forefront of developing our Friends of the Ballard Locks historical group. Her tasks included managing, organizing, cataloging, locating, identifying and scanning some 10,000 pictures and drawings, locating historic Locks artifacts and their identification, development and operation of a web page, Face Book and a blog.

Under her direction, The Friends of the Ballard Locks endeavors to identify, preserve, and make available records and papers, images, film and artifacts of enduring historical value concerning the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, Carl S. English, Jr. Botanical Garden, and the Lake Washington Ship Canal <http://www.friendsoftheballardlocks.org/> The Friends perform this mission as individual volunteers for the Seattle District of the US Army Corps of Engineers with the common bonds of a desire to document the history of these sites and serve the local community and around the world.

Documents and artifacts once lost in closets, corners and drawers have been cataloged, scanned and many are out for public display. Those documents, drawings and photos are now being used by the Natural Resource Park Rangers, Public Affairs Office, and historians to educate the public and inform and celebrate our strong history as we move into our 100th year of operation.

The Chief of Maintenance, Project Manager and District Office are using 100-year-old construction drawings to rediscover how the site buildings and locks were actually constructed. This saves time and money by giving us an actual picture or drawing to locate valves, electrical and plumbing pathways and locations and structural components hidden by time.

One such newly scanned drawing showed how it was possible to actually free flow water through the large lock to prevent toping over of our dam during flood conditions and prevent damage to the dam structure and prevent flooding upstream.

Susan has helped organize area events like; the Lowering of Lake Washington and Making the Cut. Both were events that occurred prior to The Hiram. M. Chittenden Locks actually opening to maritime traffic. These events are helping to educate people about our upcoming centennial.

All of this historical knowledge has been brought to light and the quality of our visitor's interpretive expertise has greatly increased in depth and breadth. We are now able to show visitors the tools, original drawings, news clippings, and wonderful historic photos.

None of this would have happened had Susan Connole not had the ambition and fortitude to stick to her plan to preserve and bring all of the history of The Hiram. M. Chittenden Locks back into the light and share it with the world before it was lost forever!

