



## HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

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MEDIA RELEASE  
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### HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM RECEIVES SUTT BASKET COLLECTION

#### 90 Native Baskets Bring New Depth and Breadth to Museum Collection

**Gig Harbor, WA** – Klickitat, Tlingit, Wasco, Makah, Nisqually and many more native basket makers are represented in the new basket collection recently received by bequest to the Harbor History Museum from the estate of Glenn Sutt. Sutt was an avid collector and re-enactor with an eye for important Northwest works.

Back in 2008, 43 baskets from Sutt's collection were featured in the Harbor History Museum's stunning exhibit "Woven Stories," curated by Victoria Blackwell. The collection recently received from Sutt's estate numbers 90 baskets in all, including those shown in "Woven Stories," and is an amazing spectrum of styles and materials.

"From Makah hats with intricate whale scenes to finely woven lidded baskets and Northeastern birch bark baskets embellished with porcupine quills — this collection is truly stunning in its diversity and style," says Stephanie Lile, Director and Curator at the Harbor History Museum.

While the Harbor History Museum has several native baskets in its collection, many of which are on view in our permanent exhibition, the Sutt Collection provides a new depth and breadth to the museum's collection. One of the smallest baskets is a tiny trinket basket made in the style of a Wasco bag; while one of the largest is a Klickitat berry basket. Perhaps one of the most interesting pieces representative of the crossover between native and Euro-American cultures is a basketry-covered liquor bottle dated between 1890-1910. In addition to baskets, Sutt collected native beadwork and carvings, as well as Fur Trade-era guns. He was very active at [Fort Nisqually](#), both as a volunteer and foundation board member. "We are incredibly indebted to Sutt," says Lile, "and are working toward making more information about the collection available online."

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**About Harbor History Museum** Harbor History Museum creates opportunities to experience the heritage of the greater Gig Harbor communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing the rich history of the area. Our vision is to be the cornerstone that provides a gathering place and a sense of identity for our community. The Museum re-opened to the public on September 18, 2010. The facility includes: a 1893 fully restored one-room school house; a 65 foot fishing vessel currently under restoration; 7,000 square feet of exhibition space; and a 900-square foot library, research and meeting room. The Museum provides a variety of public education programs. Our core educational program is the Pioneer School Experience (PSE), which serves over 1,500 students every year. Led by a trained “School Marm,” the children experience a pioneer school classroom complete with lessons, recitations, music, recess, and lunch. Our permanent exhibit features professionally designed exhibitions, larger than life experiences, and opportunities for hands on exploration of our region’s rich history and unique heritage. Artifacts, video kiosks, hands on exhibits, computer interactives, and a small theatre bring Peninsula history to life in our permanent galleries. In addition, the Museum provides 3-5 special exhibits throughout the year so there is always something new to see and experience for our members and visitors.

**HOURS** – Tuesdays–Sundays 10 am–5 pm, Sundays 12 pm–5 pm.

**ADMISSION** – Adult \$7, Student/Military/Senior (65+) \$6, Youth (6-17) \$5. Children 5 and under free. Members always free.

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