



# 2019-2020 HISTORY AWARDS

## R. LORRAINE WOJAHN AWARD

### DON MEEKER



The **R. Lorraine Wojahn Award** is given to a person who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the Washington State Historical Society or the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma.

# R. Lorraine Wojahn Award



**The 2019-2020  
R. Lorrain Wojahn Award  
is presented to Don Meeker.**

**Don Meeker** is recognized for his significant contribution to the Washington State Historical Society and the people of the Evergreen State through his work in digitizing oversized material in the Society's collections.

Don has volunteered at the [Washington State Historical Society Research Center](#) since October 2016, and has been a leader both in using and teaching other volunteers to use our complex oversize digitization equipment. The job requires painstaking care, dedication and experience to do well.

During the past four years, Don has reliably dedicated fourteen hours weekly at the Research Center. He has scanned and added to [the WSHS collections database](#) over 6,000 digital images of photographs, negatives, maps, ephemera, and art - materials that were previously hard to access and unavailable for regular viewing. Thanks to Mr. Meeker's work, these images are available through the WSHS website, easily accessible to researchers, students, patrons and the public worldwide.

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Mr. Meeker also created a detailed user manual for the digitization equipment that will enable future volunteers and staff to continue this important work. He has an excellent work ethic, utilizes his time well, is very knowledgeable and always friendly toward other volunteers.

“While developing the tutorials I discovered that no matter how detailed the instructions, there still needs to be a training workshop,” Don shared. “Also, the use of the back scanner is not ‘plug and play.’ A familiarity with instruments is essential to recognizing and solving issues as they arise.”

Through documentation and training, Don has helped numerous other volunteers and staff learn the tools and instruments needed to do the job.

In 2005, Don retired from his career as a materials technician at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California. He has a comfort and familiarity with scientific instruments that has been essential to the Washington State Historical Society’s scanning project. His growing contribution to the collections database is significant to WSHS, the people of our state, and to researchers and history lovers everywhere.

Don has helped enhance the public’s awareness of the historical treasures in our collections, and exemplified the vision of our agency. His skills, knowledge, willingness to help others, and dedication to the Historical Society make him well deserving of the R. Lorraine Wojahn Award.

