



Manchester Library Friends Newsletter
Special Edition: February 22, 2011

Bob Bow - Salmon Bake Patriarch
Passes Away -- 20 Feb 2011

Service Planned This Friday
25 February 2011

St. Gabriel Catholic Church
1150 Mitchell Avenue
Rosary 3:30 pm
Service 4:00 pm
Reception Following

We remember Bob by printing an article in the Kitsap Sun on the 2009 Salmon Bake written by Josh Farley jfarley@kitsapsun.com

"MANCHESTER 21 June 2009

"For generations now, the Bow family has celebrated Father's Day in a plume of smoke over a pit of burning alder logs.

"Part fundraiser for the Manchester branch of the Kitsap Regional Library and part family reunion, Bob Bow first began cooking salmon to raise money for the town's library more than forty years ago.

"Now, he relies on his kids — and grandkids, and perhaps in a few years, his great-grandkids — to labor over the coals to prepare 350 pounds of Alaskan sockeye salmon for guests.

"The Friends of the Library's annual Father's Day salmon bake, once held on the nearby beach — until a misreading of the tides one year led to its chefs "cooking salmon with wet feet," Bow said — has grown into a well-choreographed feast for hundreds.

[In 2009] "Gray skies, thunder and lightening, nor sporadic downpours didn't faze a consistent crowd of salmon devouring library fans from keeping the parking lot full all



afternoon Sunday.

"John Winslow, who [then served] as secretary for the friends of the library group and who helps organize the salmon bake each year, estimates that about one in 10 years results in a bit of a deluge. The only noticeable change, thanks to the rain, was a scattering of umbrellas.

"It's not deterring anyone,' said Kitsap Regional Library Director Jill Jean. 'People are still coming out in droves.'

"For \$12, guests were treated to a meal of cole slaw, beans, garlic bread — and, of course, salmon.

"The salmon recipe's no secret, said Terry Bow, one of Bob Bow's sons. Just garlic, oil, and, of course, the smoky flavoring provided by the bed of alder coals. This year, a chef from Amy's on the Bay helped fillet the fish and provide the marinade.

"A 50-strong cadre of volunteers throughout the day included Kitsap County Sheriff Steve Boyer, Rep. Larry Seaquist, D-Gig Harbor, South Kitsap Deputy Fire Chief Steve Wright and other elected officials.

"Dee D'Haem, Kitsap Regional Library branch manager in Manchester, said the library's partnership with its community is unique, in part because the center functions as a kind of 'city hall,' for the area.

"While Kitsap Regional Library provides the staff, systems and the books, the Friends of the Library owns and operates the building at a cost of around \$24,000 per year, a large portion of which is paid for by the salmon bake.

"Add in the Port of Manchester's lease for the library's land for \$1, and 'what you have here is a real partnership between a library system and community,' she said."