

Prairie Gazette

The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

Spring 2015

The “Grand Old Lady” on the Prairie

By Shirlee H. Smith

The first golf course west of the Mississippi started from humble beginnings as a 280 acre “cow pasture” near the community of Edison in 1894. The property of a **Mr. Eisenbies** was leased for five years for the incredible rent of \$1 per year to the members of the newly formed Tacoma Golf Club. A small group of transplanted Scotsmen, led by **Alexander Baillie**, employed by Balfour Guthrie & Co., a banking and trading firm, decided to import the royal and ancient game of golf to Tacoma.



Before the club moved to its present location in Lakewood, these modest structures (in what was then Edison; today, South Tacoma) served as its clubhouse

The property already had four small adjoining buildings that served the Club well. One was used for Mr. Eisenbies as caretaker and Mrs. Eisenbies who served lunches to the members for 25 cents. The other three buildings were used as a Club Room, a men’s locker room and eventually a women’s locker room. The initiation fee was \$2.50 and dues were 25¢ per month.



The original “Grand Old Lady”—built 1910; lost to fire, 1961.

Baillie sent away to Scotland for thirty sets of golf clubs, handmade by Forgan, the famous club maker, and 25 dozen balls made from the dried gum of the Malaysian Sapadilla tree. When the shipment arrived at the Port of Tacoma, puzzled customs agents who had never seen such equipment scratched their heads. After examining one of the clubs, the customs agent remarked that they looked like farm tools, and so they were entered in the records as farm equipment, which lowered the duty on them considerably—a coup for the wily Scotsmen, who were now ready to pursue golf in this, their adopted land. In a subsequent golf club order, two ladies’ sets were

procured, so that in the future the “flutter of petticoats” would invariably be seen on the links. (Ladies were finally granted full membership in 1913.)

Under the leadership of Mr. Baillie as President with 12 charter members, the club quickly grew to 62 resident members, 38 honorary (as the ladies were listed) and 8 non-residents by 1896. The interest in the game of golf was coming into its own, as evident in the quote from the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* on Feb 23rd, “The links at South Tacoma presented a most animated scene, and golf balls were whizzing in all directions from

See GRAND OLD LADY, pg 4

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PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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MEETINGS

The Lakewood Historical Society formed in 1998 to preserve and share Lakewood's rich history through programs, displays and publications. The Society offers frequent programs on topics of historical interest. Most programs are free and open to the public. Visit us on Facebook or our website for information on events and activities:

www.LakewoodHistorical.org

President's Message

Are you ready for summer yet? I know the folks back East have had enough winter to last five years and are anxious to see the green of spring arrive.

This issue is celebrating the history of golf in the Lakewood area. Not only does Lakewood have four great courses, there are an unbelievable 26 other courses within 20 miles of Lakewood, most of them accessible to the general public.

Of course, our pride and joy is the **Tacoma Country & Golf Club** and we have devoted much of this newsletter to its fascinating history. We are going to be at the Clubhouse for our Thursday, May 21st program. (**Note:** this is a different date than usual.) It will also be featured in our new exhibit, "Playgrounds of the Lakes District".

I am really excited to introduce **Kim Korsgren** as our Business Membership Coordinator. Learn more about her in the article below. I have been overwhelmed by the response from our business community in supporting the Society—we now have 35 members. Several of our recent business sponsors are highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter. Be sure to stop by at any of our business members listed on Page 10, and tell them how much you appreciate their support.

Hope to see you at our programs, events and activities listed on page 12.

Becky Huber

Historical Society Business Membership Coordinator



Kim Korsgren

The *Prairie Gazette* has a new feature section, ***In the Spotlight***. In this section, we will introduce Lakewood Historical Society's business members to you and tell you a little bit about what they do in our community. We encourage you to stop in and patronize the businesses that support the society's efforts. After all what makes a business special, are the people who run it.

There's also a new face at the museum to introduce to you—Business Membership Coordinator, **Kim Korsgren**. You may have already met Kim, since she began volunteering last summer, but recently Kim has come on board to establish connections with local business leaders and to explain the many benefits of membership in the society and museum. Kim serves on the marketing and program committees and is a contributor to the *Prairie Gazette*.

"The thing I like most about what I do is that I meet and talk with fellow Lakewoodites and get to hear about their experiences here," she says. "Their memories are like a painted picture of our city." Kim is always keen to meet new faces and chat with old friends. If you see her, please say hello. She would enjoy meeting you.

General Greene's Amusement Park

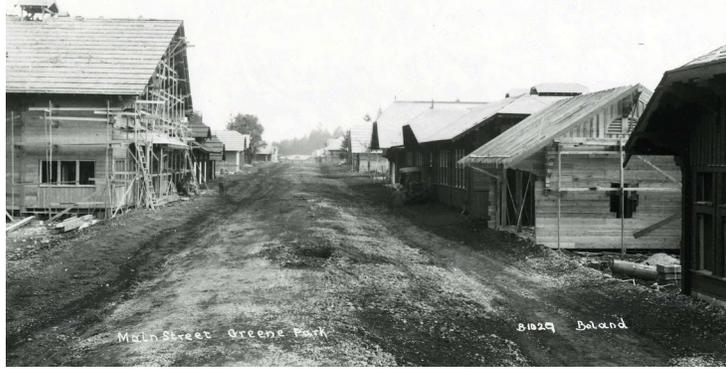
By Nancy Covert

Shortly after the City of Lakewood was established some of its residents proposed that, as a commercial operation, the city erect an amusement park—talk about déjà vu. After Camp Lewis opened in 1917, its first Commanding General, **Henry Greene**, proposed creating an amusement park adjacent to the post.

The distinctive three-story, white frame structure that stands along the north side of I-5, across the highway from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, first known as the Red Shield Inn and now known as the **Lewis Army Museum**, is the only building that remains from a time about a century ago when Camp Lewis' commanding general devised a plan to occupy the recreational time of its recruits.

The plan came to be known as "**Greene's Park**". Its objective was to divert soldiers from urban vice areas of Tacoma and Seattle. Seattle, in particular, was put "off-limits" in late 1917 to encourage that city to rid itself of prostitution and gambling.

Two hundred buildings were expected to occupy this 100-acre site, the result of Greene's efforts to work with community leaders in following the Progressive Movement's beliefs that the war offered an opportunity to improve men's morals and educate them. Thus, the "no vice" guidelines that were put in place for the Park. That October, business leaders



General Greene's vision under construction, 1917.



The "Victory" Theater.



The original caption refers to this as "The Hut".

from Seattle and Tacoma formed the **Camp Lewis Amusement Company**. Stock was sold and bank loans were obtained to construct buildings to house restaurants, stores and amusements. The park's total cost was \$900,000.

Work began in December, but construction was delayed because of an insufficient number of builders—most of them had enlisted to fight the Great War. The Proctor

Company of Tacoma functioned as the park's leasing company. Instead of the 200 anticipated buildings, however, only 60 were built.

In February the first concession opened. The next month, a dedication was held, with eight businesses in operation, among them Andrew's Billiard and Pool Hall, with 50 pool tables. There also was Prince's Cigar Stand.

The Benson Hotel group of Seattle started construction on a 560-room hotel to accommodate visiting families and officer's housing since there was none available yet at the camp. Many of the officers found housing in neighboring Olympia and Tacoma, and some lived in hastily constructed cabins around nearby American Lake.

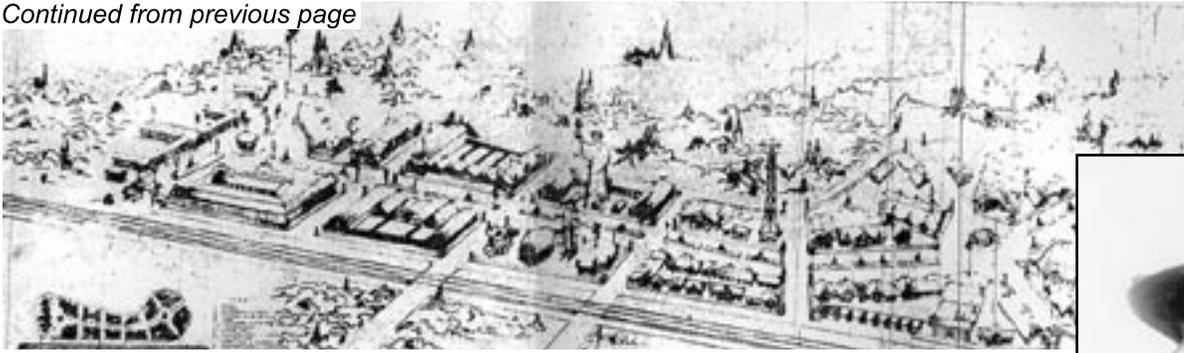
While the Benson Hotel project languished, the Salvation Army built a hotel that was dedicated in July 1918. Washington governor **Ernest Lister** and other dignitaries attended the dedication. Because this hotel was

too small to meet demands, a second hotel was built: the 155-room **Red Shield Inn**, which opened on December 1, 1919.

Two large theaters, the **Victory** and the **Orpheus**, both in the Swiss style, were built. Silent films were shown at the Victory, while the Orpheus hosted vaudeville shows. Each had 1,400 seats.

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The Camp Lewis Amusement Co's original plans apparently included a huge replica of the Statue of Liberty (look closely in the middle of this illustration). Sadly, it was never built.

In 1925 a new Greene Park theater was built at the intersection of Main and C Street. It operated until 1932 when it was replaced by a new theater on the main post.

Population at the post declined after World War I, and many of the businesses closed. In 1927, with the renaming of Ft. Lewis, the Army took over the surviving Greene Park buildings. With the exception

of the Red Shield Inn, the buildings were demolished and eventually replaced with barracks, mess halls and a chapel. In the 1990s they, too, were demolished.

A Western white pine, on the site of Greene's Masonic Temple, remains as a memorial to General Greene.

Material compiled and condensed from www.HistoryLink.org



Major General Henry Alexander Greene

GRAND OLD LADY from pg 1

morning till night. The popularity of the game increases daily, and with the finest possible golfing weather here all the year round, there is no doubt Tacoma will become the Mecca for Golf in America before long."

As Tacoma grew in population, it became apparent the Club had to relocate as the surrounding property was being subdivided for homes. In 1904 it was decided to purchase the **R.B. Lehman** farm on the eastern shore of American Lake. The Lehman property included seven acres with the homestead, a cottage, dairy and stables. An additional 160 acres surrounding it was secured as well as 120 acres belonging to the Tacoma Land and Improvement Company, a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, making the total of 287 acres for \$7,000.

The next step was to finance this venture. Each founding member subscribed \$250 each and recruited charter members for \$250. In order to gain new members quickly, it was suggested and

approved that a Country Club, a summer vacation tent colony on American Lake, merge with the Golf Club. The Edison site had been following the traditional winter schedule according to Scottish tradition, but now the course could be played year round at the new site.

Early in 1905 the Addison and Hill architectural firm was hired to design and build a new clubhouse at the cost of \$3,500. The style was rustic in keeping with the surroundings, built of logs with a wide veranda, large entrance hall, a central reception room dominated by a huge stone fireplace and furnished in rugged Mission style furniture.

The first golf course layout was primitive at best with the natural trees and terrain offering a challenge to any golfer. To finance the improvements needed on the course, 25 foot lots along the lakefront were offered for \$600 with an impartial drawing for ownership, and hence Country Club Drive was born.

The only means of transportation to the Club in the beginning were

with horse and buggies, street-cars and bicycles. The new-fangled horseless carriages were introduced in Tacoma in 1904 but most members considered them to be an unhealthy risk. In 1906, the Tacoma Railway and Power Co. expanded a spur onto the Club grounds instead of stopping at Ponders Corner. The Northern Pacific Railroad built a small station to accommodate the golfers.

In 1909 the Club's future never looked better with the property valued at \$85,000 and an active membership of 213. On June 22nd disaster struck with the outbreak of a fire in the second floor sleeping quarters that resulted in a complete loss of the building and most of the contents. A large circus tent was erected in the parking lot to provide a dining facility and the play on the links went on as usual.

The Founding Fathers immediately mustered the members by assessing each member for \$250 to begin immediate construction of a new clubhouse. It was also decided to sell bonds valued at \$1,000 to the members and a

Continued next page.

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mortgage placed on the property to guarantee the investment.

The Russell (A.J. Russell, father to Admiral James Russell) & Babcock architecture firm was commissioned to design the new structure at the cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The description in the Tacoma Daily Ledger on Oct 8, 1910 reported, "The rooms which were spacious and fitted with every comfort and convenience, are charmingly decorated, white enamel wood work, polished floors and graceful simple outlines making them especially artistic. In charming harmony are the flowered hangings, the rare Oriental rugs which strewed the floor and the substantial mahogany furniture, giving an air of elegance and comfort to the ensemble."

A spiral staircase dominated the broad entrance hall which led to a card room and the ladies locker room on the second floor. A spacious drawing room and small cocktail lounge completed the first floor plan. At the left of the main stairway was another flight leading down to the men's lockers and smoking room. The exterior of the building was colonial with a wide veranda overlooking the lake. Wisteria grew over the main portico.

The "Grand Old Lady" served the club for fifty years before it also succumbed to a fire on Dec 21st,

1961, started when embers from the fireplace ignited furnishings. The loss was estimated at \$250,000 covered by insurance. Although not a total loss, contents were salvaged and temporary headquarters were established at the Pro Shop. Again, the membership immediately began making plans to rebuild a new clubhouse.

The firm of Lea, Pearson & Richards was engaged in 1962 to design it with a budget of \$900,000 to cover the fees and the cost of the building, landscaping and furnishings. It was financed with a mortgage of \$350,000 as well as an assessment of \$1,100 for resident members.

December 2, 1964 a new era in the long and illustrious history of the Tacoma Country and Golf Club was culminated with the official opening of a new home three years after flames destroyed an unforgettable landmark.

As a part of the Club's celebration of its Centennial in 1994, a book about its history was compiled by **Shirlee H. Smith**. The above narrative has been taken from that book.

Since 1996, the Club and its history has been a part of the City of Lakewood. We are proud to have such a facility in our city limits that has flourished under the current management of **Josh Bridge** and Golf Course Superintendent, **Joel Kachmarek**.

Lakewood's Premiere Gardens: *Tour one of the newest with us on June 27*

By Nancy Covert

Lakewood is fortunate to be filled with many fine gardens, both formal and informal. When the hundreds of rhododendron species bloom each May (or earlier, depending on the weather), it feels as though one lives in a personal Paradise.

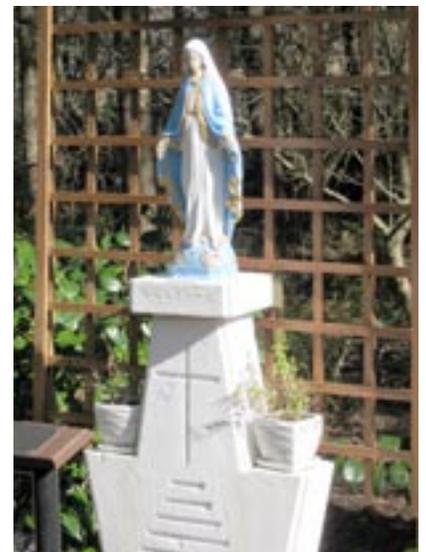
At one time, the formal gardens at **Thornewood Castle**, at Tillicum, were considered to be the finest gardens in the country. After the castle was built in 1911, **Chester Thorne** commissioned a landscape architect to transform thirty-seven acres of the estate's one hundred acres into formal English gardens. It required 28 full-time gardeners to tend the grounds, while another full-time staff of 40 servants tended to the Thornes' needs.

Lakewood's 10-acre estate garden, established by **Eulalie Wagner**, with the help of landscape architect **Thomas Church**, has, for the past 25 years been a public garden.



Although the **Meditation Garden** at St. John Bosco Church, 10508 112th St. SW, occupies only 1.3 acres, since it was dedicated in 1996 it has provided visitors with a rustic, quiet, serene native wooded environment in which to enjoy private or group meditation. 109 man-made features define SJB's Meditation Garden, including wheelchair accessible trails, benches, 15 Stations of the Cross, five shrines, three memorials including the 2014 Gateway to Heaven, a grotto with altar and seating for more than 100 people, a work shed, a community garden, and a Christmas tree farm.

On June 27, **Jim Senko**, the creator of the garden, will lead guests on a tour. Please see our list of upcoming events on page 12 for more information.

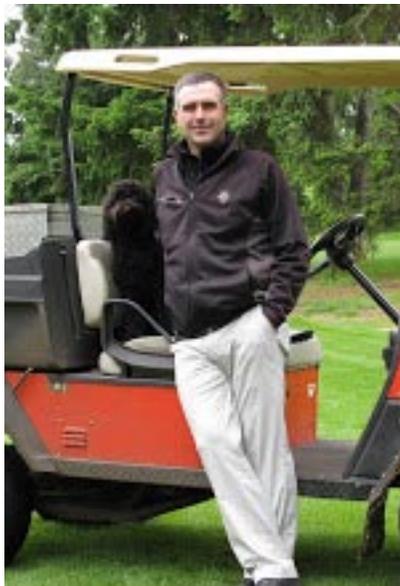


Joel Kachmarek and the Golf Course Renovations at Tacoma Country & Golf Club

By Nancy Covert

When you want to know about golf course turf, **Joel Kachmarek** at Tacoma Country and Golf Club is the man to ask. Not only has Joel, a graduate of Oregon State University, specialized in turf management, but is also interested in the history of this course.

He worked as Assistant Superintendent for a few years, then left briefly to work at another course. He returned in 1999 and realized that a major change was needed. With a course as old as Tacoma's, he didn't think the grounds looked as good as they should. The bunkers were more than 25 years old, the sand was dirty and didn't drain well and the grounds crewmen were tired of making band-aid repairs. Although they



Joel Kachmarek

hadn't been designed by any of the renowned architects of the past, Joel felt that at least they should "look that way."

"Golf Course turf is not the same as a normal lawn," he explained. A golfer himself, he has played on many courses



The successor to the "Grand Old Lady" (see page one), built in 1964.

around the country. Having an understanding of the game helps in managing the course, he continued.

Of all the spots on the American Lake course, his personal favorite is the 6th Tee because of its history. That's one of the original spots on the course. It was here, **John Harbottle III**, a long-time TC&GC resident and son of Pacific Northwest Hall of Fame golfers, **John and Pat Harbottle**, sat while designing the course renovations. He turned his early love for playing into a career developing and renovating over 60 world class golf courses.

After sitting down with the Board, Harbottle's renovation proposal was approved. The 6th, 11th and 16th holes were rebuilt to give

members an idea of what was to come. Everyone loved them, and plans moved forward for a multi-phase, multi-year



Tacoma Country and Golf Club from the air, 1994.

project. With Harbottle's unexpected death, on May 24, 2012 at age 53, the project came to a halt. **Nick Schaan** was hired with strict instructions to complete the renovations following Harbottle's plans. Instead of following the earlier recommendations, they wanted the entire job to be finished as quickly



as possible. It was re-started in October 2012 and fifty-one bunkers were completed by April 2013. The staff assumed much of the hard labor to reduce the costs and to maintain control of the project. "It's not a new course," Joel stressed, "but an old course re-born."

Joel's most recent endeavors have been to return the landscaping of the course to replicate the original prairie. Re-educating members about the necessity of removing trees is Joel's on-going goal. Many of the fast-growing firs had

Sometimes the club's original (and aging) Garry Oaks need a little help standing upright.

to be removed, while the **Garry Oaks**, the original trees found on the landscape, are being retained. "You can't shoot through a Douglas Fir," he says.

The Club was honored in 2014 as the Best Golf Course Renovation of the Year Under \$1 Million. Joel was honored as one of 10 finalists for the Superintendent of the Year Award.

Like many area golfers, Joel is eager to see what the 115th USGA US Open, coming for the first time to the Pacific Northwest to Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place, Washington, will bring to the surrounding community. Many in-coming visitors have booked tee times at TC&GC. He says it "will require a little bit of patience on the part of residents dealing with traffic."

Joel writes a blog. It's www.tacomaturf.net for those who want to read his course updates and other golf-related news. You can also reach Joel via e-mail at joelturfie@gmail.com.

Celebrate
***National Historic
Preservation Month***
at
**Tacoma Country &
Golf Club**

13204 Country Club Drive Southwest
Lakewood, WA

Thursday, May 21st, 2015

- Tour Clubhouse at 6:15 pm
- Program at 7 pm in main dining room on ground floor
- Refreshments provided
- Open to the public

RSVP by May 15th
Call **253-582-8682**



Joel's grounds crew in action.



In the
Spotlight

Long Time Lakewood Flower Shop Blossoming in New Location

By Kim Korsgren

Special occasions call for cheery flowers. Whether it is a special holiday like Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, or a wedding, funeral, high school prom, birthday or something to cheer up a friend, **Bed of Roses** is a proud local business ready to serve you.

You probably recognize the name of this well-known business because Bed of Roses has long been a successful floral shop in Lakewood—since 1990. They were located first at Bridgeport & 112th, then for many years at Avondale & Gravelly Lake Drive, across from Safeway. In June, they took over a more spacious location, the former Lakewood Florist building on Bridgeport & 59th Street.

During a recent visit to the shop, **Keith Bishop**, the energetic and warm owner, and **Tauscha Smith**, budding floral designer and dependable delivery person, were cheerful and competent. The shop is a feast for the eyes and nose! The sweet aroma of fresh roses and assorted bouquets meets you upon entering. An expansive display case along one wall contains arrangements in all shapes, colors and sizes. There are abundant healthy and vibrant green plants in cute wooden animal-shaped planter boxes, handmade by Keith's retired carpenter dad, a must see if you like frogs, dogs or swans. Keith's dad will custom make planter boxes to customer specifications.



Keith Bishop & Tauscha Smith welcome you to Bed of Roses.

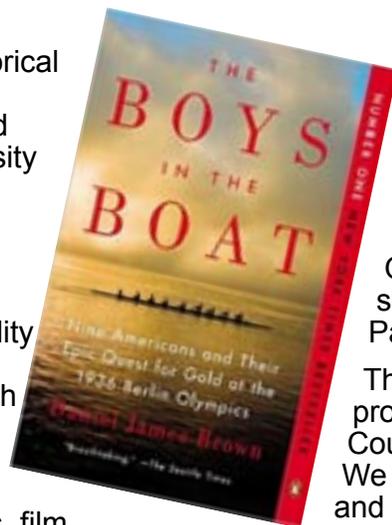
At this new and larger location, there is a wedding consultation room and a counter where clever balloon bouquets can be created in a jiff. Ask Keith about the single rose he continues to deliver each week to a local widow. All of the high quality flowers, cards and gift items and the outstanding customer service you will receive at Bed of Roses, are a breath of fresh air.

“The Boys in the Boat”: Pierce County Reads selection for 2015

By Rosemary Ponnekanti

“The Boys in the Boat,” a 2013 historical non-fiction book by **Daniel James Brown** about the 1936 Olympic gold medal rowing team from the University of Washington, is Pierce County Library's book for the **8th Annual Pierce County Reads program**.

The Pierce County Reads program chooses its books for their adaptability to both events and community discussion. Events throughout March and April at county libraries and other venues include jazz concerts, genealogy and boat-building information sessions, historical talks, film screenings (including vintage Nazi propagandist films). On April 18, the Puyallup Historical Society will give a presentation on rower **George “Shorty”**



Hunt, Jr., a Puyallup boy who was part of the gold-winning crew. Hunt's daughter **Kristin Cheney** will attend, and on April 12 library director **Georgia Lomax** will interview crew member **Joe Rantz's** daughter **Judy Willman**.

On April 24, author Brown will speak and sign books at the closing event at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood.

The Lakewood Historical Society is proud to be a sponsor of the 2015 Pierce County Reads program for the fifth year. We encourage everyone to read the book and attend one of the 63 scheduled events relating to the book.

Be sure to read about Lakewood's connection to the UPS and PLU rowing teams in an article by Nancy Covert on page 11.

Puppets come to Lakewood Museum

By Nancy Covert

Lakewood Historical Society board member **Jim Curley** has been busy assembling a stage in preparation for the Lakewood History Museum's next exhibit. The 6 foot stage is red and blue and has red velvet curtains.

This stage—it's even lighted—once was the showcase for **Jeanne Charlton's** puppets. Those who may have seen Charlton's puppet shows in the 1960's-80's as



Our distinguished puppet selection committee, l to r: Nancy Covert, Dorothy Wilhelm, Jim Curley, Dick Meier.

children will remember those entertaining performances featuring well known characters such as Merlin the Magician or Raggedy Ann and Andy, or more fanciful ones such as the Hollywood Trolls. Over 250,000 school children were entertained over the 30 years that Jeanne and her troupe of puppeteers performed.



Merlin, Master of Magic!

The Lakewood Historical Society has been honored to be the repository of the puppets donated by Jeanne's husband, Bill. Jim Curley has been coordinating the acquisition with **Bill Charlton** and Jeanne's dear friend, **Dorothy Wilhelm**.

Beginning on Sat, May 9, the Lakewood History Museum will open an exhibit with a dozen of these wonderful puppets from her 200 piece collection. The celebration wouldn't be complete without refreshments from our Dessert Queen, **Carol Moreno**.

Everyone is welcome to stop by the Museum to view the collection through the month of May. For more information, please call **253-682-3480** or visit the Society's website at www.lakewoodhistorical.org.

Roots Run Deep for Lakewood Hardware & Paint

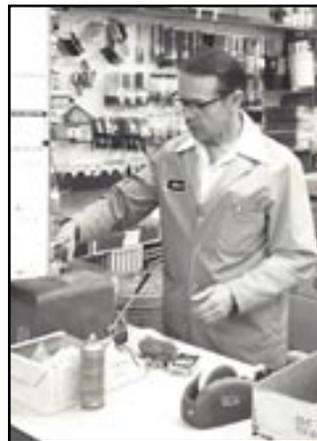
By Kim Korsgren



It was 1948. Harry S. Truman was President, a loaf of bread would cost you a nickel, and a modest little hardware store opened its doors on

Gravelly Lake Drive. That first location was tiny in comparison to the store today and it occupied a small corner of the Lakewood Shops, near Ardessons Shoe Repair & Shoes Shop, another long-respected Lakewood business. Since the early 1950's when **Bruce Tyler** bought the place from **Russell Fry**, **Lakewood Hardware & Paint** has been, not only a family business here, but they have been part of our collective Lakewood family.

Owner **Donn Tyler** began working in the store at age 13 and continued helping throughout his schooling at Clover Park High School, then TCC, eventually taking over from his dad. From a very early age, Donn has known the successful formula for business—treat your customers well, with the promise of a good product and service, and at a fair price. He says the best part of his job is the opportunity to get to know and help his customers, turning their problems into solutions. Another aspect he enjoys is being able to work around his talented and trusted staff that he is selective about bringing on board. Employees are loyal to Donn, no doubt because he is as generous as he is humble.



Bruce Tyler, father of current owner Donn.

His love of Lakewood can be seen in the projects he involves himself in fully; Lakewood Rotary (especially the playground structure at Ft. Steilacoom Park), Lakewood Historical Society and the Eagle Scouts, among others. In his free time, you will find Donn fishing on Lake Louise, a quiet pastime he deserves after logging up to 20,000 steps a day in his store. He is sharing what he has learned over the years —about paint, and plants,

and plumbing and thingamajigs—to son, **Skip**, who will one day be a third generation Lakewood business owner. However, retirement won't happen anytime soon for Donn; he is fit and has energy to spare. Lakewood Hardware & Paint has won many civic and industry awards, some recently, and their slogan is "Friends since 1948." Everyone is invited to attend their popular Customer Appreciation Breakfast in the store at 9020 Lakewood Dr. S.W., on May 8th from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. held annually to give folks a tour around the store and to thank their many happy customers.

Lakewood History Museum

Thank You, Museum Fund Donors and Sponsors

City of Lakewood Lodging Tax Funds help support and promote the Lakewood History Society and Museum operations, educational programs, events, historical markers, community outreach programs, and Museum displays/exhibits.

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John Mounts
L. T. Murray
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Alice Peebles
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The Raney Family Fund /
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Janet Rich
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Don Russell
Sylvia Sass
John Schreiber
Louise Schumock
Barbara Scott
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Joan Shalikashvili
Colleen Smart
Jim and Kathy Spencer
Glen and Marline Spieth
Ruth Stevick and Lynn Gracey
Dugald and Norita Stewart
Patricia Stolp
Darrel Stutesman
Ray and Margie Swalley
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The Vogt Foundation
Ella Washburn
West Pierce Fire Fighters
Ted and Carole Wier
Larry and Darlene Wilder
Billy Willis
Bonnie Wilson
Harriet Wolverton
Sarah Woodall
David and Barbara Young
Gift in Memory of Sandra Glasse
By Barbara Carrell
Gift in Honor of Robert R. Brunke
By Bob Warfield



CORRECTION

*Our apologies to
Bonnie Magnusson,
who we mis-identified as Sylvia Allen
in the "Little Free Libraries in Lakewood"
article in our Winter 2015 newsletter.*

American Lake Regatta

By Nancy Covert

Ever since the first canoes traveled American Lake's length, hundreds of years before the British arrived, countless fishing boats, Sea-Do's and seaplanes have plied the lake's waters. Beginning in 1964, the lake became the setting for a collegiate competition. The regatta between the two local private colleges is the oldest annual dual regatta on the West Coast of the United States.

On April 13, 2013, four sleek racing hulls, powered by athletic young rowers from **Pacific Lutheran University** and the **University of Puget Sound**, flew over the waters from the Lake's North End to Harry Todd Park as these two local universities met to determine the latest winner of a fifty-year-old tradition known as the Meyer-Lamberth Cup. Early on that blustery, soggy April morning, rowers and fans arrived at Harry Todd Park on Tillicum's east side and staked out their places to watch the fiftieth annual "rowing" of the **Meyer-Lamberth**



The Husky Clipper today, hanging from the rafters of Conibear Shell House, U of W.

Cup. Dozens of vehicles filled the park's lot, with auto overflow lining the road outside the park.

Cheers and chants ("UPS! UPS!" "Go Lutes!") rippled

across the water from spectators, including a tall logger mascot, standing on the park's hillside, accompanying the rowers in their gray-and-crimson or black-and-gold uniforms as they hoisted their shells and marched their crafts to the dock. In unison, the rowers stepped from the dock into position and maneuvered their vessels into the middle of the lake before rowing to the north end for the race's start. Although the first rowers were out of sight around the corner of the lake for the first portion of the two-thousand-meter event, once the first shell rounded the corner, spectators began cheering. The UPS fans' cheers grew even louder when UPS's boat crossed the finish line first.

Once all six races were completed, winners gathered at the boathouse to accept their trophies: cups for the Meyer and Lamberth races, as well as the **Little Lamberth** and **Mini-Meyer**. Trophies also were awarded for the **Neil's Cup** and **Johnson's Cup**.

During the race's half century of competition, the record up to 2013 was: PLU, 29; UPS, 21 (with UPS winning the last twelve regattas, including the 2013 event).

The Regatta has tenuous "ties" to the Pierce County Reads 2015. This year's book selection is "The Boys in the Boat"; the incredible story about the University of Washington Husky Rowing Team that, in 1936, won the Olympic Race held in Berlin.

In the mid-60s, PLU's crew borrowed The Husky Clipper. It was returned in 1967 and today hangs in the Conibear Shell House on the University's Seattle campus.

LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Opening Cash on Hand - 01/01/2015 | \$ 22,660.10 |
| Income - 3 Months 2015 YTD | |
| Grants and Donations | \$ 10,703.88 |
| Memberships, Sponsorships & Memorial Gifts | \$ 5,495.80 |
| Total Income | \$ 16,199.68 |
| Expenses - 3 Months 2015 YTD | |
| Operations, Administration & Support Services | \$ 3,545.41 |
| Museum Lease | \$ 4,950.00 |
| Marketing/Publications/ Advertising | \$ 4,255.97 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 12,751.38 |
| Closing Cash on Hand - 03/31/2015 | \$ 26,108.40 |



**Lakewood
Historical
Society**

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Lakewood, WA 98496

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Spring 2015 Lakewood Historical Society's Programs and Events

Tues, April 21, 7-9 pm-The "Woods" of Lakewood, presented by Kris Kauffman. St Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lk Dr SW. Learn the fascinating history of the trees that are now part of Lakewood's landscape.

Fri, April 24th, 4 pm-Dedication of Old Settlers Cemetery Historic Marker, 8105 Washington Blvd SW. Parking along 83rd Avenue SW.

Sat, May 9th, 2-4 pm- Reception for Lakewood Puppets, at Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW. Come celebrate the acquisition of puppets designed and created by Jeanne Charlton who entertained over 250,000 children for 30 years.

Thurs, May 21, 7-9 pm- History of Tacoma Country and Golf Club, 13204 Country Club Dr SW, presented by Josh Bridge, Club manager and Joel Kachmarek, Golf Course Superintendent. The Society provides a unique opportunity to visit this Club, the first established west of the Mississippi in 1894. Light refreshments provided by the Club. **Please RSVP to Becky at 253-582-8682 by May 15th.**

Sat, May 30th, 2-4 pm- Historic Ft Steilacoom Tour, meet at Quarters 2 at the Fort on the grounds of Western State Hospital, 9601 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood. Tour the buildings and learn about the major restoration efforts made since the 1970's.

Sat, June 6, 1-4 pm- Open House and Reception for new exhibit, "Playgrounds of the Lakes District," Ribbon Cutting at 1 pm. The "playgrounds" include the Tacoma Country and Golf Club and the Tacoma Speedway in the early 20th century and the more recent include the Lakewood Ice Arena and Fort Steilacoom Park.

Tues, June 9, 10 am-3 pm-Lakewood Farmer's Market, Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW. Be sure to stop by the Society booth to participate in the trivia contest and drawing.

Sat, June 27th, 1-4 pm- Tour of Meditation Garden at St John Bosco, 10508 112th St SW. Jim Senko, the creator of the 1.3 acre garden will lead guests through the garden, pointing out its many features to include a food bank vegetable garden.

All programs and events are **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** unless otherwise noted. Refreshments served.

*Find us on Facebook (Lakewood-Historical-Society-Washington-State)
or check our website for more information and current events: www.LakewoodHistorical.org*