



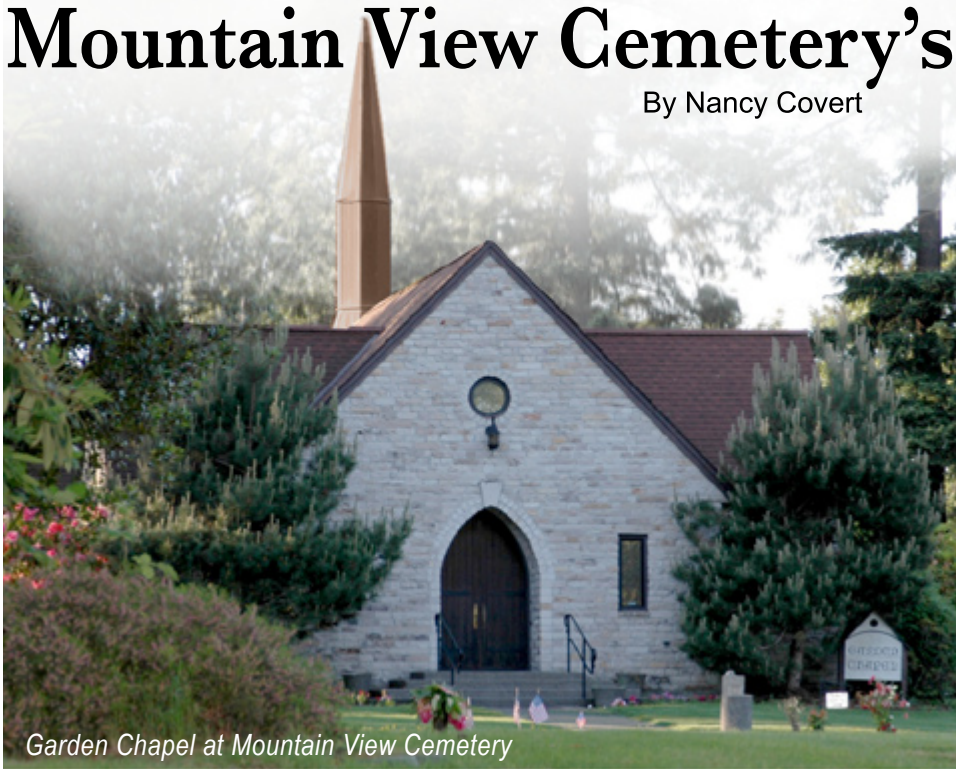
Prairie Gazette

The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

Winter 2015

Mountain View Cemetery's First Century

By Nancy Covert



Garden Chapel at Mountain View Cemetery

There are five major cemeteries in the Lakewood area: **Old Settler's Cemetery**, on Washington Blvd; the **Masonic Cemetery**, off Masonic Road; the **Home of Peace Jewish Cemetery**, off Steilacoom Blvd; the **Western State Hospital** patient cemetery in Fort Steilacoom Park and **Mountain View Memorial Park**.

Next December, Mountain View Memorial Park will commemorate 100 years of serving the community. Founded in 1915 by **James R. Thompson, Al Gamer** and **Mr. Williamson**, original investors at Mountain View first wanted to keep their options open for the site's use. The land they selected could have become

a quarry, a mine, a railroad line—or any other commercial venture. Instead it became a cemetery. The first burial on the original 80-acre site was of a 54-year-old man, followed by that of a two-year-old infant. In the following year of 1916, 52 burials were made.

In 1942, Mountain View became the first cemetery in the Northwest and the second in the nation to open a funeral home inside the park's boundaries. During the decades the Memorial Park's services have expanded to meet clients' needs.

Today the site occupies 160 acres, of which 110 acres are dedicated to cemetery use. According to the Park's website, 1,000 people per year are buried there, while 1,400 funeral services are held annually. More than 100,000 individuals are buried at the Memorial Park along Steilacoom Boulevard, across from Clover Park Technical College.

Although older cemeteries contain prominent upright monuments, early in Mountain View's existence a decision was made to place monument markers flush with the ground, creating a park-like appearance. In keeping with this theme, Mountain View contains 181 varieties of trees, 575 rhododendrons, and has a prize-winning rose garden, in addition to assorted wildlife.



James R. Thompson

See MOUNTAIN VIEW, pg 10

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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:

2 www.LakewoodHistorical.org

President's Message

What a year the Society has had! We had a lot of fun activities, great programs and our really special event, "Salute Pierce County" in October, which generated over \$10,000 that will allow us to meet our new goals in 2015. See photos from the event, and the lists of our volunteers and donors who made it so successful, on pages 5 through 8.

However, we are not resting on our laurels. We must keep generating interest in the Museum and adding new members by continuing to do outreach like the **City of Lakewood's Farmers Market and SummerFEST**; providing program topics that are of interest to a wide range of people and creating exhibits that are unique to Lakewood's history.

The Program Committee has been hard at work planning for 2015. We are going to return to one of our favorites—another **visit to Silcox Island** in the Summer. It has been 6 years since we were hosted by the islanders. We will again celebrate **Women's History Month** in March and **National Historic Preservation Month** in May.

During our membership renewal drive in January, we are asking you to complete a short survey. It will help us plan programs, activities and events that you would like to have offered. We are also evaluating better ways to communicate with you. Do you prefer **snail mail** or **e-mails** in receiving announcements?

We have also determined we need more volunteers. Not only to docent at the Museum but to fill vacancies on our committees. We welcome any inquiries and you only need to devote as little as 4 hours a month. Call **Becky** at **253-370-6676** for more information.

We are excited about our future and we want you to be a part of it.

Becky Huber

Lois Brown's Lemon Cookies

1/2 cup softened butter

1/4 cup white sugar

1 egg, beaten

1 Tablespoon lemon zest

2 teaspoons lemon juice

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon baking soda

1 2/3 cups flour (pack it down in the cup when you measure it)

1/2 cup milk

Topping

1/4 cup lemon juice

Oven 350 degrees F

Rack in the middle position

Beat the butter and the sugar together until they are light and fluffy. Add the beaten egg, lemon zest, and lemon juice. Mix it all together. Stir in the baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Mix well. Add half of the flour and half of the milk. Stir everything together then add the remaining flour and milk. Mix well. Drop by teaspoons onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Make these cookies small, about the size of a cherry. If you make them too large, they'll spread out on the cookie sheet and crumble when you remove them.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for 12 to 14 minutes.

Parchment is recommended for ease of removal. I used coated cookie sheets. While the first pan of cookies is baking, mix up the topping. Heat the lemon juice and add the sugar. Stir well. Brush the topping onto the hot cookies with a pastry brush. I just spooned it over the cookies.

3/4 cup white sugar

Lakewood's 1920's Lamppost: things you didn't know about street lights.

By Nancy Covert

There's an acorn-shaped glass bulb perched atop a light post in Lakewood. It's located on Gravelly Lake Drive, a short distance from where Washington Boulevard's left turn lane merges onto the roadway.

What's its story?

An e-mail inquiry to Tacoma Public Library's Northwest Room guru **Brian Kamens** revealed that the lamp was on lakeside property originally owned by **William Laird McCormick**. "Briarhurst", built in 1914, was described as "Southern Colonial".

Mr. McCormick was born in 1876 in Waseca, Minnesota. His father owned the North Wisconsin Lumber Co. William Laird attended Yale Law School, followed by the University of Wisconsin Law School. He became a lawyer, also serving in the Wisconsin state House of Representatives.

McCormick came to Tacoma about 1903, where he became involved in the new city, serving as president of the Pacific National Bank, as well as president of the First National Life Insurance Company. He was president of the Ferry Museum (State Historical Society). He served on the Republican National Committee, and was a member of the Fraternal Order of Masons. McCormick also was a member of the Tacoma Golf & Country Club. He started with Weyerhaeuser in 1910, where he was company secretary about 1918 before being named vice-president. He died on March 26, 1953

Frank S. Baker, former *Tacoma News Tribune* owner, bought "Briarhurst" in the 1920s. (In the early 1900s, Baker was one of the men who worked with Tacoma Mayor **Angelo Fawcett** to promote the sale of property near American Lake to the US Government—property that became Camp Lewis).

According to **Will Ernst**, who lives in one of the residences on the property, there were two lights along the property driveway, but the remaining one was moved to its Gravelly Lake Drive site.

There are at least three kinds of



street lampposts that were first installed during the middle to late 1920s. The most common type is a concrete standard with a fluted post and an acorn-shaped light fixture.

Streetlights were introduced in the U.S. by inventor **Benjamin Franklin**, the postmaster of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For this reason, many regard that city as the birthplace of street lighting in America.

The colonial-era streetlights were lit by candles placed inside a glass

vessel, which kept the candle from being blown out by wind. Franklin's design was four-sided, with four separate panes of glass, so that if one pane of glass was broken, the lamp did not need to be entirely replaced, and might not even blow out.

After the invention of gas light by **William Murdoch** in 1792, cities in Britain began to light their streets using gas. The United States followed suit shortly afterward with the introduction of gas lighting to the streets of Baltimore in 1816.

Throughout the 19th century, the use of gas lighting increased. Some locations in the US still use gas lights.

After **Thomas Edison** pioneered electric use, light bulbs were developed for streetlights as well. The first city to use electric streetlights was Wabash, Indiana.

Charles F. Brush of Cleveland, Ohio wanted to publicly test his new invention, the "Brush Light" and needed a city to do so. The Wabash City Council agreed to test the lights, and on March 31, 1880, Wabash became the "First Electrically Lighted City in the World" as a flood of light engulfed the town from four Brush Lights mounted atop the courthouse. One of the original Brush Lights is on display at the Wabash County Courthouse.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the number of flame-based streetlights was dwindling as developers searched for safer and more effective ways to illuminate their streets. Fluorescent and incandescent lights became popular during the 1930s and 1940s, when auto travel began to flourish.

A street with lights was referred to as a "white way" during the early 20th century. Part of New York City's Broadway was nicknamed the Great White Way because of the massive number of electric lights used on theater marquees lining each side of the street.

While street lights make streets safer, not everyone, particularly astronomers, appreciates the loss of "dark skies."

HOOSIER CABINET ON DISPLAY AT MUSEUM

By Nancy Covert

There's a new addition to Lakewood History Museum's "cabin". The cabin's kitchen features an early piece of equipment known as a "Hoosier Cabinet". It's a gift of **Beth and Jerry Julian** from the Flett Farmhouse in Lakewood.

Houses of the late 19th century often didn't include built-in cabinetry, and the lack of kitchen storage space became acute. The Hoosier Manufacturing Company adapted an existing furniture piece, the baker's cabinet, which had a similar structure of a tabletop with some cabinets above it and, frequently, flour bins beneath. By rearranging the parts and taking advantage of then-modern metalworking, they were able to produce a well-organized, compact cabinet that answered the home cook's needs for storage and working space.

These compact cabinets remained popular into the 1920s, but by that time houses were being built with more modern kitchens featuring built-in cabinets and other fixtures. Thus supplanted, the Hoosier largely disappeared. They remain common on the antique market, however, and are still used as supplemental cabinets.

The typical Hoosier cabinet consists of three parts. The base section usually has one large compartment with a slide-out shelf, and several drawers to one side. Generally the cabinet sat on small casters. The top portion is shallower and has several smaller compartments with doors, with one of the larger lower compartments having a roll-top or tambour. The top and the bottom are joined by a pair of metal channels that serve as the guide for a sliding countertop, which usually has a pair of shallow drawers affixed to its underside. The whole assembly, with the counter retracted, is fairly shallow, about two feet deep; the width and height are generally about four to six feet respectively.



The new acquisition, looking right at home in our "prairie kitchen".

A distinctive feature of the cabinet is its accessories. As originally supplied, cabinets were equipped with various racks and other hardware to hold and organize spices and various staples. One particularly distinctive item is the combination flour-bin/sifter, a tin hopper that could be used without having to remove it from the cabinet. A similar sugar bin was also common.

Special glass jars were manufactured to fit the cabinet and its racks. A major manufacturer of the glassware was Sneath Glass Company.

Original sets of Hoosier glassware consisted of coffee and tea canisters, a saltbox, and four to eight spice jars. Some manufacturers also included a cracker jar. One distinctive form was a cylindrical jar with a ring molded around its center, allowing it to rest in the holes of a metal hanging rack.

On the inside of the doors, it was common to have cards with such information as measurement conversions, sample menus, and other household tips.

The Hoosier Manufacturing Co. of Albany, Indiana, was incorporated in 1899 with **John M. Maring** as its president. After the factory burned in 1900, the company relocated to New Castle, Indiana. At the height of its production years, the Hoosier Co. was making nearly 700 cabinets a day.

Although most of these Indiana-built cabinets are called 'Hoosier Cabinets,' there were many makers of kitchen cabinets including: Sellers, McDougall, Boone, Wilson, Napanee, Kitchen Maid, Diamond, Landau, and Hopper. At the height of the kitchen cabinet-making years, there were more than 30 companies making "Hoosier-style" kitchen cabinets.

According to an internet site, Hoosier cabinets now range in price from \$1,400 to \$2,400; or you can buy plans to make your own—price? \$21.95.

Thanks, Beth and Jerry!



DROP BY FOR A VISIT.

Open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 4 pm.
Lakewood Colonial Center, 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive SW
Tours available: 253-682-3480 • lakewoodhistorical.org

SALUTE... TO OUR DONORS!



The **Salute Pierce County** event would not have been successful without the tireless efforts, time and energy donated by the following:

Lakewood Historical Society:

Bob and Sylvia Allen
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Kim Korsgren (also worked with LHS)
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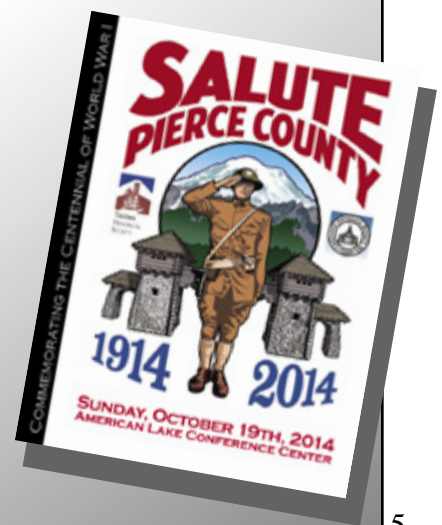
Displays:

Jackie Jones Hook, Buffalo Soldiers Museum
Miles Grant, Synthia Santos and Alan Archambault, Lewis Army Museum
Alice and Steve Miller, "Beauty and Duty" collection
John Roten, WWI collection
Jeremiah Aljeandro, Josh Evans and Julian Wheeler, military from JBLM, display set-up

Participants in Program:

56th Army Band members
Members of American Legion Post #138
Mike Batnick, Lew Foster, Bob Swartz, Jeff Graeff, posting the colors
JROTC Cadets from Clover Park, Lakes, Spanaway Lake and Wilson High Schools,
Pledge of Allegiance
Doug Richardson, Pierce County Councilman, Emcee
Vicki Melton, vocalist
Miles Grant, Director of Lewis Army Museum, speaker
MG(R) James Collins,
Founder and President of Hire America's Heroes, speaker
UK Consul General Robin Twyman, speaker
Lakewood Mayor Don Anderson, presenter
Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland, presenter
Andie Gernon, speaker
LTG(R) Bill Harrison and Karen George, presenters
The Honorable Denny Heck,
US House of Representatives from 10th District, speaker
Columbia Bank: Rene Turner and Angela Martin, cashiers
Rabbit Haven: Melissa and Diane McGill, cashiers
Tod Wolf and Myron Thompson, photographers

Extra copies of the Salute Pierce County program are available in the Lakewood History Museum.





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SALUTE PIERCE COUNTY

October 19, 2014. American Lake Conference Center, JBLM. Our joint fundraiser with the Tacoma Historical Society, celebrating our county's military heritage and commemorating the centennial of World War I. Colorful and informative displays, speakers, entertainment, food and fun all made for a memorable evening.



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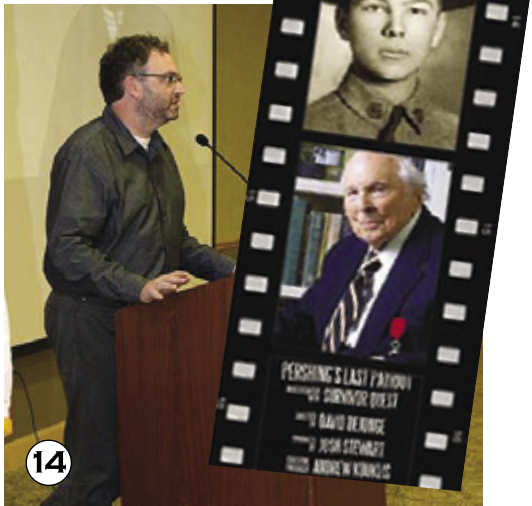
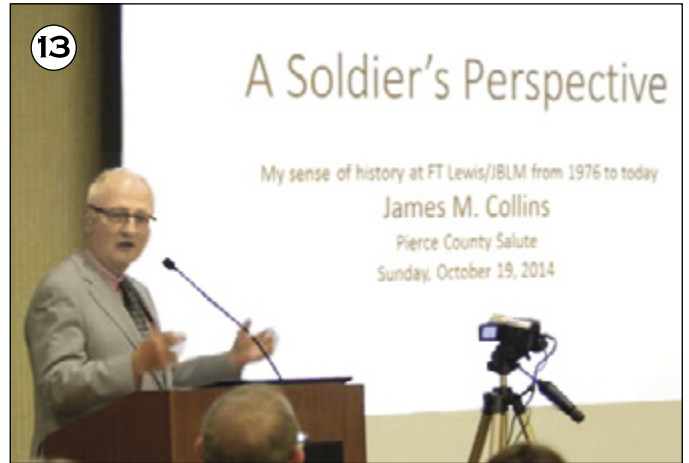
1. Past and future side by side: JROTC members join forces with the Doughboy Memorial Color Guard from American Legion Post #138. 2. Alice Miller brought selections from her unique collection of WW I uniforms. 3. Music provided by The 56th Army Band. 4. Jackie Jones-Hook, Executive Director of Tacoma's Buffalo Soldiers Museum. 5. Two of our invaluable volunteers: Kim Korsgren and Kristin Davis. 6. LHS President Becky Huber with Maj Gen (ret) Edward Trobaugh and wife Pam. 7. The Philippine Scouts comprised a special unit of the US Army from 1901 until the end of World War II. They were well-represented at the event, by re-enactors... 7. And by the real thing: Sgt (ret) Dan Figuracion, 26th Cavalry.

6 Our thanks to **Tod Wolf** and **Myron Thompson** for these photos of the event.



9. LHS's Barbara Scott did a heroic job on the centerpieces. 10. Vicki Melton, introduced by our superb emcee, Doug Richardson, sang "America the Beautiful" to open the program, and "God Bless America" at its close. 11. UK Consul Gen.

Robin Twyman made a few warmly received remarks. 12. Myles Grant, Director of Lewis Army Museum, provided a historical overview. 13. Keynote speaker Maj. Gen. (ret) James Collins. 14. David De Jonge, director of the documentary, "Pershing's Last Patriot". 15. THS Pres. Bill Baarsma (left) and the Hon. Norm Dicks with Norm's "Star of Destiny" award. 16. Claudia Thomas with Lt. Gen. (ret) Bill Harrison. The LHS award given to Claudia bears Bill's name. 17. One of many tables loaded with goodies for the dessert dash. 18. Retiring the colors at program's end.



Thank you to our sponsors, donors and all those who attended!

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outside Tacoma that were
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to Lakewood Historical Society.*

Little Free Libraries In Lakewood

By Nancy Covert



Sylvia Allen and promotional materials.

Most Lakewood residents know about the Lakewood Public Library on Wildaire Drive. It's been there for more than half a century. But few are familiar with a trio of other area free libraries: one in Oakbrook, one in Lake City, and one just off Interlaaken Drive. The latter "opened" this past August.

Motorists driving (or pedestrians walking) along Interlaaken Drive have to be very alert to spot the small library that stands atop a post at the intersection of 104th SW.

This local book repository is "owned" by **Bonnie and John Magnusson**, and the mini-library's "story" is a unique tale. Built earlier this past summer as a 40th anniversary gift, it is number 16,986 in the annals of the Little Library Organization. It cost \$25 to register their library.

The Magnusson's library consists of a door and a tiny room in which to store the literary inventory: kids' books, novels, cookbooks, etc. In keeping with the library's scale, it's located atop a slab of a downed fir tree (Lakewood's library has a large slab on display). Magnusson's library features a door, a tin roof that's large enough to hang over the door, and storage space, and it's made from recycled materials.

Creation of this personal library, said Bonnie, was inspired after learning about the Wisconsin-based Little Free Library project, founded in 2009 by **Todd Bol**. "The best part was making the house," she continued.

"It had to be water tight," Bonnie

added. "All seams were caulked." Recent November rains have been a good test of that aspect.

From the small Wisconsin community, the little free lending library concept has spread worldwide, Bonnie said, displaying bookmarkers that depict little libraries in Slovakia, India, Germany and the Netherlands.

Sylvia Allen, who lives in Oakbrook, operates Little Free Library #1105. It was created in 2013 after the Allens spotted one while visiting Alexandria, VA. It's been a big hit in their Oakbrook neighborhood where walk-about patrons were borrowing books even before it had



*Opening the door to a world of great literature.
No charge for admission.*

officially "opened." Their home is known in the area as the "house with the library in front."

It's been a big success, Sylvia says, adding that she plans to make more little free libraries—chalet-style and school-house style.

According to the library's website, www.littlefreelibrary.org, Bol built a model of a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother, a former teacher who loved reading. The schoolhouse replica was filled with books, and included a sign reading "free books," encouraging passers-by to take a book, and either return the book or add another book. Thus far, the book-lending ritual is work-

ing. The website provides lots of tips for building little libraries.

The idea was patterned on the Carnegie Free Library organization. **Andrew Carnegie**, a late 19th century philanthropist, (1883-1926), the "Bill Gates" of his era, began a free library system in his home town of Dunfermline, Scotland, and then his adopted home of Allegheny, PA. Eventually, there were 2,506 Carnegie Libraries around the U.S.

Tacoma's public library on Tacoma Ave began as a Carnegie Library, and its Pacific Northwest Room is housed in the former Carnegie space. Eventually the research area took over the entire second floor. The new part of the Library was added in 1952. The Northwest Room was officially created in 1973. The Carnegie Building was remodeled/restored in 1990.

Thank you, Mr. Carnegie!



Tacoma Public Library's popular Northwest Room was first housed in a small area on the first floor of the original Carnegie Library.

Eventually the Research area took over the entire second floor. The new part of the library was added in 1952. The Northwest Room was officially created in 1973.

The Carnegie Building was remodeled and restored in 1990.



Its landmark "Garden Chapel," built in 1933, was patterned after Grace Church in London, England. Although the original chapel was destroyed by fire in 1992, it was rebuilt and enlarged. The Valley Chapel was built in 1962. Both chapels are dedicated religious buildings, and while used primarily for funerals, weddings are also held there.

Mountain View has particularly close ties to the military. There is a special section dedicated to the internment of veterans. A recent burial was for Air Force Captain **Douglas Ferguson**, MIA since 1969, whose remains were discovered in 2013 in Laos, returned and buried in May, 2014.

In 1934 Mountain View provided full military honors for a German sailor who died of food poisoning while aboard his ship docked in Tacoma. In November 2009 they provided all of the funeral arrangements for honoring the four fallen Lakewood Police officers.

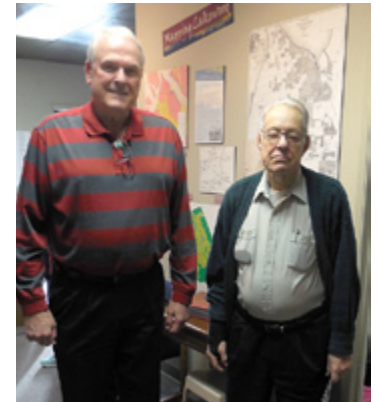
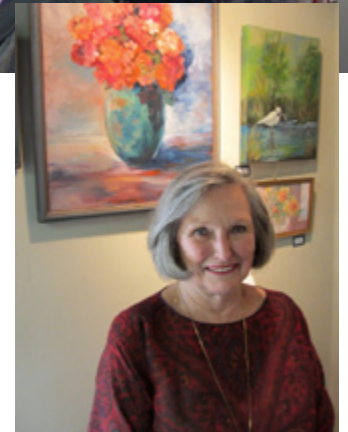
Each year Mountain View Memorial Park hosts a Memorial Day Service, a Veteran's/Remembrance Day Service, as well as Easter Sunrise Services. In past years a larger-than-life sized Nativity set was displayed. (The *Lakewood Log* published an ad from the Park featuring this holiday display). This past November it commemorated not only Remembrance Day, but also the State's 125th anniversary.

To learn more about Mountain View and its range of service offerings such as grief counseling, and after care, provided at no cost, phone 253-584-0252 or visit the website at mountainviewtacoma.com

Holiday Open House at Museum Well Attended

On the afternoon of December 6th the Lakewood Historical Society hosted its annual Open House at the Museum. By the end of the afternoon over 50 people had dropped by to view the exhibits, artwork and sample the refreshments.

Thanks to Historical Phil for use of his photos.



The interior of the museum was decked out for the holidays with garlands, blue lights, vintage glass ornaments loaned by **Barbara Scott** and **Chuck Mathias**, and a collection of miniature buildings from the collection of **Becky Huber**. See *OPEN HOUSE*, pg 11

OPEN HOUSE page 10

An abundant supply of holiday refreshments was laid out for the guests, including cookies donated by **Kristin Davis** and cheesecake made by our Dessert Queen, **Carol Moreno**. Barbara Scott ensured a fresh supply of drinks were available on the festively decorated table.

A number of activities were planned for the afternoon. Not only was it a chance for people to stop by for goodies but also to do some Christmas shopping. Two new Lakewood history books released this year, "Legendary Locals of Lakewood", by **Steve Dunkelberger** and **Walter Neary**, and "American Lake Vignettes" by **Nancy Covert**, were available for purchase for the history buff that "had everything".

This was also the reception for **Shirley Petersen**, a member of the Pacific Gallery Artists, whose work was on display in the Museum's Artist's Corner. Many of her friends dropped by to view her latest creations.

However, most of the people were coming in order to purchase the most recently released book, "Catch the Christmas Spirit", from local media personality, journalist and author, **Dorothy Wilhelm**.



Near the end of the afternoon, Dorothy remarked, "I'm going to have to order more books." She had a number of engagements already scheduled and had not anticipated its popularity at her first signing.

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

November YTD 2014

Opening Cash on Hand - 01/01/2014

Checking	\$ 1,629.90
Money Market	\$12,269.25
Total	\$13,899.15

Income - 11 Months 2014 YTD

Grants	\$44,855.99
Memberships	\$ 6,435.00
Donations – Museum Fund	\$10,206.20
Sponsorships	\$ 0.00
Memorials	\$ 800.00
Special Fund Raisers	\$21,087.03
Bank Interest	\$ 40.75
Other	\$ 286.71
Total Income	\$83,593.68

Expenses - 11 Months YTD

Operations & Administration	\$ 5,399.76
Museum Lease	\$17,400.00
Equipment/Software/Furnishings	\$ 886.98
Professional Develop/Recognition	\$ 733.88
Contract Services & Support	\$ 6,058.17
Insurance	\$ 1,783.00
Museum Fund Raising	\$ 2,700.66
Special Events	\$ 8,430.09
Marketing/Publications/Advertising	\$15,427.45
Newsletter printing/ mailing	\$ 4,204.80
Graphic Design Services	\$ 8,235.00
Web Site Hosting/Maintenance	\$ 349.23
Educational Programs/Events	\$ 200.00
Museum Exhibits/Displays	\$ 334.56
Acquisitions/Collections	\$ 537.08
Historical Markers	\$ 4,598.00
Total Expenses	\$77,278.72

Closing Cash on Hand - 11/30/2014

Checking	\$ 6,230.61
Money Market	\$13,984.50
Total	\$20,214.11



**Lakewood
Historical
Society**

P.O. Box 98014
Lakewood, WA 98496

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Winter 2015 Programs & Events

Tues, Jan 20, 7-9 pm- “Calendar Lore”, presented by Nancy Covert. Have you ever wondered how our current keeping track of time and dates got started? Learn many interesting facts about the history of time keeping. Free and open to the public; refreshments served. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, Lakewood.

Sat, Feb 7, 2-4 pm- Book signing by Joan Brown, wife of MG (R) Don Brown, who wrote about her life experiences as a military spouse. “Move: Another Four Letter Word”, written in 2009 will be available for purchase. Also artist’s reception for artist whose work is on display in the Museum. Free and open to the public; refreshments served.

Tues, Feb 17, 7-9 pm – “The Life and Times of a Military Spouse”, speaker TBA. Much attention and honor is given to the active duty and retired service member, but the families who have “kept the home fires burning” deserve our respect and admiration as well. Joan Brown’s book, “Move” will be available for sale. Free and open to the public; refreshments served. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, Lakewood.

Tues, March 17, 7-9 pm - “Beauty and Duty: Fashion in Uniform” Celebrate Women’s History Month with a fashion show and stories of the military uniforms collected by Alice and Steve Miller. Free and open to the public; refreshments served. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, Lakewood.

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