



# Prairie Gazette

Winter 2017 The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

Knowledge is golden...so is this anniversary!

## Pierce College commemorates its 50<sup>th</sup>

by Nancy Covert

The quest for higher education has long been a hallmark of Pierce County. In 2017, **Pierce College**—originally established as **Fort Steilacoom Community College**—marks its 50th anniversary.

A full slate of special events focusing on that milestone are scheduled. If you've not visited the Lakewood-area campus, located on the hillside above Ft. Steilacoom Park, (accessible via Far West Drive), or its sister campus on Puyallup's South Hill, consider doing so this year.

Beginning in the late 1890s the county became the setting for Methodist and Lutheran educational institutions: The College of Puget Sound (now the University of Puget Sound, whose mascot is the Logger) and Pacific Lutheran College (now Pacific Lutheran University, with its "Lute"). Thus began a rivalry that continues today—mostly through various athletic events.

Clover Park Vocational School, now Clover Park Technical College, was another addition,



*Rising above a sea of portables, Cascade Hall takes shape, circa 1970..*

beginning in 1941. Bates Technical College was established in 1940. Tacoma's Community College was established in 1965; Fort Steilacoom Community College (first called Clover Park CC) in 1967. In the early 1990s, another college was added to the South Sound's landscape: the satellite campus of the University of Washington.

With the advent of computers and other technology—higher education has been transformed, but the goal is still the same: to stay qualified for the changing growing work market.

**Inside: A few milestones from Pierce College's half century of history.**

*See PC50 page 4*

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### PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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The staff of Prairie Gazette actively encourages input from the Society's members as well as the general public regarding story ideas of any other aspects of this newsletter, and the Lakewood Historical Society.

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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

Welcome to 2017. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

So my first order of business is to thank **Becky Huber** for all her good work and support of the Lakewood Historical Society for the past several years. Fortunately for me, Becky will still be working on our monthly programs—and she has some great ones already lined up.

Looking for a volunteer position? The Lakewood Historical Society is looking for a few good Board members, and we can always use docents to help us keep the doors open. Let me know if you are interested.

Thanks so much for your continued support.



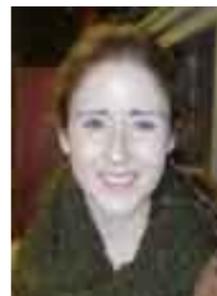
Sue Scott

## Manager's Musings

Hello! I wanted to take the time to introduce myself to all of our lovely readers. My name is Emma Pierce and I am the new Museum Manager for the Lakewood Historical Society. I recently graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a degree in History and minors in both Music and Holocaust & Genocide Studies. I am beyond excited and grateful for this opportunity to work and gain experience with LHS.

During my first two months with the society I dove headfirst into the collections, keeping our mission "to identify, preserve and perpetuate Lakewood's History," as my guiding force. Under the supervision of **Mary Bowlby** for the first few weeks I gained a good sense of what we have at our fingertips and have begun the tedious (but fascinating!) task of organizing the rather vast collection and making sure every artifact has the proper documentation and is correctly inventoried.

Please stay tuned for our new upcoming exhibit this Spring!



Emma Pierce

## Lakewood's AA Meats Serving Customers since early 50's

By Nancy Covert

In 1955 a small neighborhood butcher shop opened for business in what today is now a booming business at 111th St. S.W., just off Bridgeport Way.

"The area in those days was mostly prairie," says **Tammy Faelnar**, current owner of **AA Meats**

Originally owned by **Tex Baker**, then by **Fae and Tom Crabill**, and now by Faelnar, the local retail meat business attracts customers from around the state.

Tex and partner **Luke Caraway** began selling meat in 1955. At that time they focused on southern-style cuts of meat. In 1981 the Crabills took over, retiring in 2007. They added the smokehouse in 1982, said Tom. Tammy has worked at AA Meats for 17 years and bought the business after the Crabills retired.

return after they've been away from the area because they like our products."

Strictly a retail business, AA's customers come from Marysville, Aberdeen, as well as from Tacoma and Lakewood, of course.

Step inside the red and yellow brick building that's just off Bridgeport Way, and you'll be amazed at the merchandise: besides the store-length-long



Owner Tammy Faelnar invites you to look around.

glassed meat counter, filled with trays of fresh cuts of pork, beef, chicken—there's also assorted flavors of jerky—such as Season Jerky—"our top seller," and the sweet-flavored Maui Jerky.

The name, "AA Meats," was chosen, Faelnar says, "so it would be the first listing in the phone book!"

But there's more.

Surrounding shelves are stocked with biscuit and scone mixes, Southern favorites such as Hush Puppy Mix, Gumbo and Jambalaya mixes,

sauses, and seasonings—including local "Johnny's" seasoning salts.

Sometimes, though, the palate gets a hankering for the ad-



venture and taste of something "different." Just take a look at the reader board behind the

counter. Choices include cuts of camel, elk, venison, veal, rabbits, frog legs, pheasants, buffalo, ostrich, alligator and goat. For the very brave, there's even python.

"I've cooked most of the exotics," Tammy admits, explaining that she usually cooks a lot of 'Island' foods—but "not camel or python." Maybe—

one of these days.

Besides the chilled meat that's in the counter cases, patrons may select from a variety of "locker packs" in quantities from 25-100 pounds of assorted cuts such as chops and spare ribs to roasts, steaks and fryers.

True, at the time of this writing, it's only late September, but AA's reader board message reminds its patrons to place their order now for their Thanksgiving turkey. AA Meats has been smoking turkeys to ensure plenty in stock for the end-of-November feasts.

With 11 employees—including Tammy—AA Meats is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and also from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the first two Sundays of each month.

PC50 from page 1



1968: With Waughop Lake in the distance, Dr. Marion Oppelt (left), first president of FSCC, consults on plans for the permanent campus.

**1965:** Ft. Steilacoom is authorized by the Washington State Legislature. Two aspects of the college were authorized: a planning office in the Clover Park School District in 1966, and an intended instructional start date of Sept. 25, 1967.

College classes began in an abandoned grocery store—informally known as “Albertson U”—as well as settings on Ft. Lewis and McChord AFB, and also in a variety of high schools around the county. Early classes were held, between 4-10 p.m. that Fall in the north building of Clover Park High School. Five temporary classrooms also were located in the Lakewood Albertson’s, just off Bridgeport, next to the abandoned Montgomery Ward store. In 2016 this site was occupied by Goodwill.

The college’s first board of directors was appointed that year. Classrooms in that “grocery store campus” had high ceilings, low partitions, and “privacy” was non-existent, according to **Brian Benedetti**, Pierce College’s

Director of Marketing and Communications. “But the spirits were unstoppable,” he said.

Most of the faculty were military veterans, who earned their Degrees courtesy of the G. I. Bill. They came with a sense of camaraderie and “can-do” attitude that only the military can create. Philosophically they were as diverse as one might expect from the military: some were conservative; others were progressive.

“But they shared a sense of mission, determination and accomplishment. They knew that no great project could



be accomplished alone,” Benedetti added.

About 1,500 students were enrolled that first year, and in 1968 seven students had earned Associate Degrees from CPCC. The local campus was named **Fort Steilacoom Community College**, to reflect the identity of the 135 acre site overlooking Lake Waughop

### More Pierce College facts:

**1967** Clover Park Community College opens in an abandoned Albertsons building, nicknamed “Albertsons U”.

**1967-1977 Marion Oppelt**, Ph.D is named the college’s first president.

**1968** CPCC changed its name to Fort Steilacoom Community College (FSCC) to reflect the identity of it’s soon-to-be permanent campus on 135 acres near historic Fort Steilacoom.

**1976** An extension site is established at Rainier School in Buckley.

**1977-1983 Robert Stauffer**, Ph.D., serves as president.

**1978** Extension campus opens at Western State Hospital.

Students of today may wonder, “Where are their monitors?” Early 70’s typing class, below.



**1980** Extension center for literacy education for inmates at Cedar Creek Corrections Center is opened near Olympia.

**1981** McNeil Island Education and an annex site are established at McNeil Island Correction Center to offer literacy programs for inmates.

**1985-1989 Dr. Brent Knight** becomes president.

**1986** FSCC changes its name to Pierce College.

**1989-1993 Dr. Frank B. Brouillet**, former superinten-

dent of public instruction for Washington State, serves first as interim president, then as president of Pierce College.

**1993-1999 George Delaney**, Ph.D., is the new president.

**1999** Pierce College Puyallup is designated as the 34th community college in Washington.

**1999-2005 Steve Wall** serves as president and later as chancellor for the district

**2004 Michele L. Johnson**, Ph.D., becomes president of Pierce College Fort Steilacoom

and in 2005 becomes chancellor of the district.

**2005** The Pierce College Library is selected as the number one outstanding community college library in the United States.

**2005-2010 Tana Hasart**, Ed.D., becomes president of Pierce College Puyallup.

**2006 Denise Yochum** becomes president of Pierce College Fort Steilacoom.

**2013 Marty Cavalluzzi**, Ph.D., becomes president of Pierce College Puyallup.

**2013** The Science Dome opens at the Pierce College Fort Steilacoom campus.

**2016** Pierce College is selected by *CNN Money* as Washington State’s Most Successful Community College.

**2016** Pierce College is selected by the *Military Times* as the Best Community College for Veterans.

Visit [pierce.ctc.edu](http://pierce.ctc.edu) for more information about the college.



From the look of this, did students lend a hand building the early campus?



1

# 10th Anniversary Celebration

**October 22, 2016**—A festive crowd helps the Lakewood Historical Society celebrate the ten years it's been since the museum first opened its doors in the Lakewood Colonial Center.

1. LHS Board Member **Sue Scott** prepares a table of treats for our guests. Many thanks to **House of Donuts** for their (as always) yummy donut-ation! 2. Brilliant sunshine (in October? A special occasion indeed!) spills into the museum's rapidly filling lobby. 3. Lakewood city council member **Mary Moss** signs our guest book. 4. Guests meet the newest member of the LHS family, Museum Manager **Emma Pierce**. 5. An hour or so into the festivities, and it's standing room only.



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6. The celebration moves outdoors so visitors may attend the dedication of LHS's newest historical marker. Located near the intersection of Gravelly Lake Drive and Bridgeport Way, the marker commemorates the founding in 1937 of the Lakewood Colonial Center—the first shopping center of its kind west of the Mississippi. 7. Lakewood Mayor **Don Anderson** delivers a few appropriate remarks. 8. Two beautiful bouquets arrive from well-wishers—this one in thanks to outgoing President **Becky Huber** for her years of dedicated service to our Society.



7



8

# Boulevard of Remembrance revisited

By Nancy Covert

In 1928—a few years shy of 88 years ago—Tacoma's Garden Club established a plan to honor those who served in World War I. Many organizations and individuals in the county funded placement of 500 trees.

On March 16, 1928, the stretch of U.S. 99 along which the trees were planted was dedicated as the **Boulevard of Remembrance**.

During the following decades, though, a large portion of those trees were removed to accommodate the enlarging roadway and I-5 construction, until today, there are only about 66 trees remaining.

In the 1980s a group of local preservationists, including Tacoma Historical Society member **Charlotte Medlock**, waged a successful campaign to have those trees saved. In 1989 Pierce County council



*Polly Medlock, advocate of Remembrance:*

First Memorial Tree Planted at Fort



*Top: Anna H. Weyerhaeuser breaks ground for the planting of Gen. Greene's tree as dignitaries look on.*

signed a resolution to recognize the importance of preserving that section of roadway as a visible tribute to the sacrifices borne by many in the nation's defense.

With more widening along the I-5 corridor scheduled, though, and other trees slated to be removed, placement of a commemorative marker is planned and that section of the road, from Milepost 116-to MP 125 to be named "**The Remembrance Corridor.**" The area originally extended from the Nisqually River to the Tacoma City Limits.

The original dedication ceremony in 1928 took place, according to **Dr. Duane C. Denfeld's** HeritageLink essay of 2010, at Ft. Lewis where a tree was planted by **Anna H. Weyerhaeuser** to honor **Major General Henry Green**, the first commander of Camp Lewis and the 91st Division.

Supporters purchased trees for \$6 each. A stone and copper plaque recording the honored person or organization was placed next to the tree. **Jonathan Haley** of Brown and Haley Co. and the Tacoma Rotary Club were early tree sponsors.

The idea for the Boulevard was proposed at the end of World War I by the American Forestry Association, and these Roads of Remembrance were established in Washington communities and across the nation. Despite grand plans after the stock market crash in 1929 and the Great Depression that followed, attention was diverted from the remembrance. The final tree was planted at Country Club Road and honored **Bishop Frederick W. Keator**. About 500 trees were planted along six miles of the Pacific Highway, but in the years that followed the boulevard did not receive much attention.

After World War II, Pacific Highway became a Blue Star Memorial Highway, and the Capital District Garden Club placed a monument on the Boulevard of Remembrance. (During WW II blue stars were displayed in the

*See BOULEVARD, page 10*

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**THANK YOU!**

windows of homes having a son or daughter in the service.)

In the intervening years, for various reasons, most of the trees were removed (potential safety hazards, road widening, etc.) The Department of Transportation made an effort to preserve the oaks. Today the surviving trees are best viewed

in the Tillicum area.

According to Dr. Denfeld, there are no known existing lists of the dedications or the plaques. A World War I Monument, the 91st division monument on Joint Base Lewis McChord, survives to honor the division's fallen.

At 2 p.m. on Nov. 11, 2016 at Lakewood City Hall, a special re-dedication of a marker stone

was held.

*Footnote: Polly Medlock shared her files, petitions and related historic materials for this interview. A founding member of the Tacoma Historical Society, Mrs. Medlock strongly believes this corridor should be re-marked.*

## More than a one hundred foot journey

By Nancy Covert



The popular 2014 film, "The Hundred Foot Journey" focused on the international rivalry between a long-established French Michelin-starred eatery and its across-the-road Indian competitor.

From the front door of Lakewood History Museum to the entrance of **Great Cuisine of India** is approximately 175 steps (unscientific footsteps, at that!). Michelin stars or not, the Great Cuisine offerings are noteworthy. Presently it's the only restaurant in the Lakewood Colonial Center—and worth the walk. Patrons can also park their cars right in front by taking the Center's north entrance driveway.

Inside its doors customers may order from the extensive variety of traditional dishes

such as Tikka Masala, Vindaloo, Assorted Naan, Curries, Chai and Daal. Great Cuisine has been open since 2001 and is family owned.

Open daily for lunch and dinner, Great Cuisine is located at 9518 Gravelly Lake Drive. A daily lunch buffet is available, and there are carryout menu selections as well. Visit its website at [www.greatcuisineofindia.com](http://www.greatcuisineofindia.com) for details. Phone **253-581-1333**.



Great Cuisine of India is owned and operated by Mr. **Gurdeep S. Kohli** (pictured at right).



### Our far-flung correspondents

Maybe the *News Tribune* thinks it's the only major publication around here whose readers are willing to pose with a copy in some exotic location? Well, if that's the case, they've got another think coming!

Here, long-time friend and member of LHS **Phil Raschke** pauses during his stroll along China's Great Wall to display the Winter 2016 edition of *Prairie Gazette* (our newsletter, as you probably know, given that you're reading it now).

We also note that world-traveller Phil is the recipient of LHS's highest honor, the **Cyrus Happy III Historian Award**, given at our Annual General Meeting on November 22nd in recognition of his daily "**Historical**

10 **Phil**" program on KLAY-AM. Way to go, Phil, and keep those fascinating radio spots coming!

# Lakewood Historical Society & Museum FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## 12 Months YTD thru December 2016

The Society maintained a balanced budget throughout the year by managing expenses within available funds.

**\$34,459.05** – Beginning Cash on Hand – January 1, 2016

### Income:

- \$47,500** – Grants from Public Organizations and Private Foundations
- \$ 7,080** – Memberships and Business Sponsorships
- \$16,485** – Special Events and Annual Fund Drive

### Expenses:

- \$29,878** – Administration, Operations, Museum lease, Insurance & Maintenance
- \$21,495** – Marketing, Publicity, Advertising, Web Site and Newsletter
- \$ 2,005** – Museum Displays and Exhibits
- \$12,383** – Professional Museum Management and Marketing Services
- \$ 565** – Special Events and Fund Raisers
- \$14,522** – Historical Markers

**\$24,397.00** – Ending Cash on Hand – December 28, 2016

## So...what's old, neighbor?

*Those pesky Brits still hanging around DuPont? Any chance the U.S. Army might camp out around there someday, y'suppose? And how 'bout that melting glacier? Did it leave as many rocks in your yard as it did in mine?*

For the answers to these and other burning questions, drop by the Museum and pick up your copy of **Old News is Good News**, a special anniversary collection of some of the best articles to appear in *Prairie Gazette*, the LHS newsletter. **24 illustrated pages. \$5.00.**





**Lakewood  
Historical  
Society**

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## Winter 2017 Programs & Activities

**Sat, January 14th**, 10 am-12 noon- City of Lakewood's Martin Luther King Jr Celebration, at McGavick Conference Center, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW. The City's 14th annual event commemorating MLK Jr. The program includes performances by youth groups, special music and a message from a noted speaker.

**Tues, January 24th**, 7-9 pm- Pierce College Commemorates its 50th, at St Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW. In 50 years the college went from the "grocery store" campus to become an institution recognized as Washington State's Best Community College.

**Tues, February 28th**, 7-9 pm-The Fateful Fourth: The Story of America's Worst Trolley Disaster. at St Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW. Author Russell Holter, will discuss his new book about this tragedy, some of the victims were from Lakewood.

**Sat, March 11th**, 8-10 am- Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's, 10407 Gravelly Lake Dr SW in the Lakewood Towne Center. Come join the Lakewood Historical Society for Super FUNdraiser! Lots of fabulous prizes and enjoy a great breakfast. Tickets are only \$10 and must be purchased in advance.

**Tues, March 28th**, 7-9 pm- The Life and Times of Dr. Elizabeth Drake, Lakewood City Hall Council Chambers, 6000 Main St SW. To commemorate Women's History Month, Living Historian, Karen Haas, will portray Dr. Elizabeth Drake, a pioneer physician for women's health and resident of the Lakes District.

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