



Prairie Gazette

The Official Publication of the  Lakewood Historical Society

FALL 2012

Clover Park Technical College Celebrates 70 Years

By Tawny M. Dotson
Director of College Relations
Clover Park Technical College

Clover Park Technical College is celebrating its 70-year anniversary in 2012. The college arose from war-effort training provided by Clover Park School District during World War II.

In December 1941, school districts located near large military bases were asked to provide technical training for the citizens of the area, to qualify them to repair and maintain ordnance and military equipment needed for the war effort. With shop buildings available at Clover Park High School, a program called War Production Training was started in 1942. During the war years, 500 people were trained as auto mechanics for the Mount Rainier Ordnance Depot and many aircraft mechanics were trained at McChord Field. Additionally, 2,500 people were trained for the Tacoma shipyards in ship fitting, blueprint reading and welding. Thus began the



From its beginnings, the school transitioned through post-war economic growth into Clover Park Vocational School, to Clover Park Vocational Technical Institute and now to Clover Park Technical College. In 1951, the federal government was phasing out the Navy Supply Depot, and the Clover Park School District was granted approximately 130 acres. Although the school district occupied most of the seven concrete block buildings, the school district soon moved to other locations in Lakewood. The vision for CPTC was coming together.

In 1954, the school moved into the first warehouse to be used exclusively for vocational training, mostly aviation trades. And in the late 1950s the school began operations of its first student-operated TV and radio stations.

The 60s was a decade of turbulence, growth and change, and the school was not immune. By 1961 all of the original buildings of the old Navy base were completely occupied, and there was a great need for new buildings, remodeled buildings, and portables.

Training programs were being created at a steady pace.

Turbulence engulfed the state's

vocational-technical institutes and community colleges, as a movement emerged in 1967 to form a separate state system for post-secondary institutions. The bill that was adopted allowed the boards of directors of local school districts to release their VTIs to the newly formed community college system, if they so desired.



Seaplane on American Lake. 1953.

Clover Park School District retained Clover Park Vocational-Technical Institute, and it was kept separate from the plans for the Clover Park Community College (which later became Ft. Steilacoom Community College, and then Pierce College).

By 1970, there were 90 full-time faculty members, and CPTC continued to experience growing pains with the new start-ups. The 80s was the decade of the

(Continued on page 10)



Aerial view of the "old Navy base", now home to Lakewood Industrial Park and, in bottom third of photo, campus of what is today Clover Park Technical College. 1971.

history of Clover Park Technical College, and 70 years of staff and faculty excellence.

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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

Fall is here. Kids are back in school and we are in the home stretch of another presidential election. This is my favorite time of year when the days are still bright and sunny and the nights are cool and refreshing. Now if it would only rain to bring our lawns back to life.

This is also a change of seasons for the Society. We are back to having monthly programs after a summer break and we have some great ones lined up. See the back page for details through December. We will be sending out a questionnaire to solicit ideas for programs next year. Connie Coleman-Lacadie has joined the Program Committee and we are anxious to get your input.

We had another fantastic fund raising event in July. We celebrated the Centennial of the Tacoma Speedway at the LeMay Marymount Event Center. It was an ideal setting for our event and the staff and volunteers were so helpful. Even though fewer people attended than last year, all who did had a very special experience. A full story and photos are in the "center-fold" of the newsletter.

We have some new faces on our leadership team. We are fortunate to add Barbara Scott, the current Chair of the Collections Committee and retired managing librarian for the Tacoma Public Library; and Sue Boguszewski, who has lived in Lakewood for over 24 years and has a wealth of experience in the banking industry. Others have volunteered to be docents

and serve on committees. We still have a lot of needs and welcome anyone who can work a few hours a month to help fill a vital role. Call me to see how you can help.

I know you want us to maintain our progress and momentum we have had in the last three years. There are several ways you can help us keep the "train on the track". Foremost, renew your membership. Notices are being sent out quarterly. Please renew promptly.

Second, you can share your interest in our history with your friends and neighbors. It is this personal appeal from someone they know that encourages people to attend our events and join the Society. We are happy to supply you with brochures that you can distribute.

Finally, please consider donating a little more this year. I know the economy doesn't seem to have improved for most of you. We have made it easy for you to donate by using your credit/debit card or you can pledge a smaller amount over several months.

We are grateful for all that you have done for us in the past.

Yours Sincerely,

Becky Huber

“Beachcombing” History

by Nancy Covert

“A journalist is a beachcomber on the shores of someone else’s experience.” -- Bill Moyers, 1988

Some folks build model ships, some collect seashells, and some collect stories.

When Nancy Covert retired from school district media work in 2010, this Northwest journalist briefly wondered what came next. Because much of her career had been spent documenting contemporary history, it seemed logical to hone her “beachcombing” skills.

Although she’s a new Lake City resident, when she moved to the area this past November she asked Lakewood Historical Society president, Becky Huber, where she could find information about her new home.



Nancy Covert

This summer she’s managed to squeeze in time for research on the Lake City project and spends lots of time in the Tacoma Public Library’s Northwest Room. Tillicum historian David Anderson is providing materials from that side of the lake.

The working title of the book is *Reflections of American Lake*. Tentative contents include information about American Lake’s formation, the VA Hospital (which marks its 90th anniversary in 2013), the Lake City Community Church, Camp Murray and Ft. Lewis, Galloping Gertie’s and Silcox Island, Thornewood Castle and

more.

Residents who have stories to share are invited to contact Nancy Covert at **253-582-0253** or covertoperations@earthlink.net.

Attention all Lakewood High School Grads!

One of the groups of visitors who regularly come into the Lakewood History Museum are alumni from Clover Park and Lakes High

Schools. Many of them are attending their reunions and have enjoyed finding we have their yearbook. We’d like you to help us complete our year book collection.



We need these years from Clover Park: 1942-1950, 1986-1989, 1992-2011.



We need these years from Lakes: 1974-75, 1978-2011.

Call the Museum at **253-682-3480** to arrange a time to bring in your donation.

Thanks for your interest and support.



Holt Chapel-Lake City Community Church

“There isn’t any formal book,” Huber told her. “You’ll have to write it yourself!”

Nancy currently has seven books to her credit, including the Steilacoom School District No. 1 History that she co-authored with Carol Neufeld-Stout, a children’s history about “Mrs. Orr’s Pear Tree,” co-authored with Jim Dyer; numerous magazine articles, three anthologies and a novel, plus articles for the Lakewood Historical Society as well as writing for the Suburban Times.

Your doorway into Lakewood’s Past.

The Lakewood History Museum is now open Wednesday-Saturday Noon to 4:00 pm

Lakewood Colonial Center
6211 Mt Tacoma Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

An advertisement for the Lakewood History Museum. It features a photograph of a white door with a sign that says '6211'. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*Thank You, Museum Fund Donors
and Sponsors*

2012 Goal: \$25,000

for Operations, Education, Exhibits,
Programs and Community Outreach

Actual to date: \$17,180

from 110 generous donors

City of Lakewood Lodging Tax helps
support the Lakewood History
Museum displays and exhibits as well
as Society community outreach,
promotions and educational programs.

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Florence March
Mayo E. Marsh
Tim Marsh
Walter Neary
Jeanne Nickerl
Mary Lou and Dave Peterson
Joan E. Shalikashvili
Sookie Schuyler
Barbara G. Scott
Cynthia Spieth
Glen and Marlene Spieth
Jim Taylor
Paul Webb
Larry and Darlene Wilder

Contributors

Robert and Sylvia Allen
Sandra Anderson
Richard and Helen Bednarczyk
Michael and HaeYon Brandstetter
Mathew Clapp Jr
Jeff Conner
Dave and Florence Covey
James and Linda Curley
Rhona Diehl
Katherine F. Desberg
Jim and Lila Early
Linda Forkenbrock
Anita Fries
Scott Gamas
Joe and Carolyn Ghilarducci
Sandra and Clarence Glasse
Margaret Glover
Debbie Harris
John Hewston
Donald Hirte
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Thomas and Bonnie Wilson
Stephen Whitlock and
Virginia Castro Smith
Carole and Ted Wier
Georgiana Wilson-Battle
John and Dede Winters
Harriet R. Wolverton
Paul and Rebecca Wolfestieg

Memorial gifts in Honor of:

Bob Barlow
by Joe and Bernie Piscatella
Edie Brewer
by John and Rebecca Huber
Brian C. Davis
by Kristin E. Davis
Sandra Glasse
by Steve and Diane Styskal
by Barbara Carrell
LTC Darwin C. Miller USA (Ret)
by Helga P. Miller

Honorary contributions:

Bill Harrison and Bob Brunke
In honor of their Community
work by Robert Warfield

**NEW MEMBERS SINCE
LAST REPORT**

Alice and Charlie Berg
Patricia M. Dice
Matt Hayes
John Hough
C. E. Jorgenson
Michael W. Killen
Paul W. Kinsey
Lee McDonald
John Mounts
June Ogawa
James and Shirley Petersen
H. Dale Piercy
Vivian J. Short
Sharon Taylor
Stephen Whitlock
and Virginia Castro Smith

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cash on Hand, 12/31/2011

Checking	\$ 1,402.56
Money Market	\$21,029.77
Total	\$22,432.33

Income –

9 Months 2012 YTD

Grants	\$ 39,877.47
Memberships	\$ 4,845.00
Donations – Museum Fund	\$ 6,564.37
Sponsorships	\$ 500.00
Memorials	\$ 1,385.00
Special Fund Raisers	\$ 5,098.00
Bank Interest	\$ 57.43
Other	\$ 265.00
Total Income	\$ 58,592.27

Expenses –

9 Months 2012 YTD

Operations & Administration	\$ 4,437.64
Web Site	\$ 4,287.50
Contract Services	\$ 4,949.75
Insurance	\$ 1,780.00
Museum Lease	\$13,500.00
Museum Exhibits	\$ 565.36
Historical Markers	\$ 4,660.00
Postage, Copies & Printing	\$ 1,284.91
Museum Annual Fund	\$ 1,638.12
Special Events/Fund Raisers	\$11,663.47
Marketing/Publicity	\$17,145.68
Total Expenses	\$65,912.43

Cash on Hand –

09/30/2012

Checking	\$ 1,351.50
Money Market	\$ 13,760.67
Total	\$ 15,112.17

THE COLUMBUS DAY WINDSTORM OF '62

by Chuck Mathias

2012 has been a big year for Golden Anniversaries, some fun (the Seattle World's Fair, the Beatles' first hit record), others... well, not so much (the Cuban Missile Crisis, the death of Marilyn Monroe).

October 12th saw the arrival of one that was both enjoyable *and* terrifying, depending on how you experienced the original event: the Columbus Day Windstorm of 1962.

Fun for a kid like me, watching from a reasonably safe place, as clouds whipped across the face of the moon at unbelievable speed and exploding transformers lit up the sky.

But deeply traumatic for the thousands who lost property—or even loved ones—that night.

Either way, it was a defining experience in the lives of all who survived it. And with good reason. According to Northwest weather guru Cliff Mass, the Columbus Day Storm still holds the record as the strongest non-tropical windstorm ever to hit the US!

Although Oregon took much the worse hit (according to Mass, not a single barn built prior to 1962 still stands between Salem and Eugene, every last one blown to flinders on that fateful night. Fatalities? Nine in Washington, *thirty-nine* in Oregon). But our state by no means escaped unscathed.

In Seattle, the brand-new Space Needle, barely visible due to a black-out affecting 95% of the city, was evacuated when it was seen (and felt!) to be twisting back and forth in the wind like a giant corkscrew.

A hiker in the Cascades the next summer was astonished, looking across a valley, to see thousands of trees with their

tops cut off cleanly at the exact height of the low-lying ridges on either side, resembling nothing so much as one of the flat-top haircuts popular at the time.

Closer to home—here in Lakewood—my dad, pulling into our driveway after the power



One of the trees that tried to whack my dad did manage to hit our garage

went out at his workplace, just missed getting crushed by not one, not two, but THREE massive fir trees falling in quick succession behind him.

In the aftermath, I remember my usually imperturbable mother swearing mightily at a cranky camp stove she'd been cooking our meals on since the power went out a week earlier. Crews had been overwhelmed by the sheer number of power poles that had snapped with exasperating consistency just below the cross bars.

One such tangled crown of wooden beams, insulators, and the attached wires that had caught the wind like a sail dangled precariously from its pole just outside our driveway.

But we were the lucky ones. We lost seven trees, but suffered no major damage in a storm that blew down over a billion board feet of timber. Enough wood, it was later estimated, to rebuild every home in Washington State!

Tacoma Speedway Centennial Celebration



Nancy LeMay and guests arriving at the event.



*The Auction Team—
Fae and Tom Crabil and John Huber*



Richard Beatty, LeMay photographer

That large red “shoe” car may not be a perfect “fit” for wearing to work, but, as part of the larger display of automotive memorabilia at Marymount Event Center, the unusual “shoe” car on display at the Lakewood Historical Society’s 2012



Nancy Covert, trying the Shoe Car on for size

fundraiser, commemorating the Centennial of the Tacoma Speedway, was “just right.” The July 22 evening event was “a success,” said LHS president Becky Huber, where more than 100 people attended the late afternoon-early evening event at the Spanaway location.

In keeping with the automotive theme, Carr’s Restaurant of Lakewood provided lots of “fuel”



for the event. Carrying the car theme with the menu, they served items such as Studebaker

Strawberries, Barney Oldfield Brownies and Fiat Franks with Marymount Mustard.

“It was a success,” said Huber, “because it was important that people enjoyed themselves”. No doubt about it, those who attended indeed enjoyed



themselves, meandering past the Route 66 car display, through the room filled with well-maintained “horseless carriages,” and more.

The opportunity to view a representative sampling of Dr. Wayne Herstad’s outstanding, extensive collection of Tacoma Speedway (1912-1922) memorabilia, including photos, race day pennants, trophies and anecdotes about the exhibit, was without a doubt, a major highlight



Wayne Herstad, Tacoma Speedway histo

of the event. He was interviewed for the July 19th front page article in the News Tribune that covered many aspects of the history of the Speedway.

Seated at tables decorated in red, white and black racing colors, the automotive-themed location

...ted at Marymount Event Center by Nancy Covert



Gloria Hill and Gennie McIntyre selling memorabilia

was the “ideal spot” for this year’s event, Huber explained. “I could



Soldiers from the 472nd Signal Company



Becky Huber presenting plaque to Doug LeMay and Trudy Cofchin



Lining up for the buffet from Cars Restaurant



Barbara Lord Nelson with Nancy LeMay

not thank the staff at Marymount Event Center enough for all they did to ensure the success of this year’s event,” Huber added.

The Home of the LeMay Family Collection in Spanaway still has a large number of Harold LeMay’s collection even after donating over 500 cars to the new LeMay America’s Car Museum in downtown Tacoma that opened in June. Visit the Marymount Event Center website, lemaymarymount.org for more information about the museum and events.

Besides a strong corps of volunteers, including members of Lakewood’s 472nd Signal Company from JBLM and Society

members “who made it happen”, the celebration was a “unique experience” and a perfect venue in which to recall these early 20th century car races in Tacoma.

For those who were unable to attend the event, commemorative coins, Speedway posters, and etched commemorative wine glasses are still available for sale at the Lakewood History Museum while supplies last.



Cpts Ben Schneller and Nicole Protz with Nancy LeMay



New Artists Will Display Their Work in the Artist's Corner at Museum

Joann Dorsey-Hayden and Peggy Peterson will be the next artists to display their art in the Lakewood History Museum's Artist's Corner until the end of November. There will be a reception at the Museum on Saturday, October 20th, 2-4 pm. Refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public.



JoAnn Dorsey-Hayden has been painting since a young woman when she took occasional adult education class. She began painting oils while residing in New York state

and her home state of Wisconsin. She took a hiatus while pursuing a career in nursing and raising a family. During this time she took up photography and various crafts.

She moved to Tacoma, WA in 1968. The past few years she has begun working in watercolors, taking classes locally. She uses a wide variety of subjects but prefers those that relate to nature. Many are the result of photos she has taken during her travels and activities. She has become a member of the Pacific Gallery Artists as well as the Rainier League of Arts. Her most recent projects have been murals on McKinley Ave and the Southside Baptist Church in Tacoma.



Peggy Peterson has been painting for many years and exhibits widely in the area. She works in several media, including watercolors, oils and acrylics and

has studied under prominent local artists.

She enjoys seascapes and landscapes as well as still life and floral. She has won many awards in juried shows. She is a member of Pacific Gallery Artists, University Place Artists and the Rainier League of Arts.



We Need Your Stories for Next Exhibit

How many of you sneaked up to the balcony of the Lakewood Theatre when the usher turned his back? Who enjoyed a soda at the counter of Ludwig's Drug Store after school? Do you remember finding that special Christmas present for your Mom at the Country Store that took you six months to save up to purchase?

These are the stories we want to hear about for our next exhibit. This is your opportunity to share your fond memories of visiting the Lakewood Community Center that opened in 1937 and expanded in 1951 and 1955. It had all of the services and stores that made it a very special place to visit by people from all over the Pierce County. It was *the* place to shop and visit during the Christmas holiday season with its blue lights and Nativity Set.

Our next major exhibit scheduled to open in March, 2013, will be on the commercial development of Lakewood focusing on the Lakewood Community now Colonial Center. If you have any information or anecdotes about this historic area of our city, we would like to hear from you.

472nd Signal Company Readies for another Deployment

invaluable assistance in our major fund raising events for the last two years. Several members of the unit also visited the History

Protz, native of Elgin, IL. The traditional ceremony of casing the unit flags will occur on Thursday, Oct 18th at 11 am on Watkins Field on JBLM.



Captain Protz accepting 472nd Signal Company unit flag

The Lakewood Historical Society will again be supporting its Adopt-a-Company, the 472nd Signal Company, as they get ready to leave again as part of the 4th Stryker Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis McChord that will be deploying for a nine month tour in Afghanistan later this month.

The Society has kept up the community partnership after their return from their last deployment with representatives attending several events to include the Winter Ball in December 2011 at the Tacoma Convention Center and the Change of Command of the Unit in August 2012.

The Unit has made significant contributions to the Historical Society by offering their

Museum for a personal tour and attended one of our monthly programs.

As they get ready to leave they will be under the command of their new leader, Cpt. Nicole



Becky Huber with Cptn Protz and her parents

One of the major activities after the Unit deploys is sending them care packages. Sue Scott, Society Secretary, will coordinate gathering donations from members. You may contact her at **253-588-6350** or e-mail her at nonniesue@live.com if you have questions about the program. We plan to do our first mailing by Christmas. A list of recommended items will be available soon. You can bring the items to our programs and activities or drop them off at the Museum. The soldiers really look forward to receiving goodies from the home front. They are especially appreciated by the single soldiers.

Below: Barbara Lord Nelson with soldiers at Villa Madera





Aviation Department outside Clover Park High School. 1948.

building boom. In 1991, Clover Park Vocational Technical Institute became Clover Park Technical College and began to offer degree and transferable programs, so today's students could prepare for great jobs and great futures. The school has two campuses; one in Lakewood and a second in Puyallup, WA, where the aviation training programs are held.

Today we persevered through an unprecedented economic downturn. But we remained

are just a few of the milestones that many of us have witnessed,



Aviation Building, completed in 1971

and have worked hard to accomplish.

more than 50 programs in business, computer technology, allied health, manufacturing, media, communications, and more.

To learn more about CPTC visit www.cptc.edu

Historical information courtesy of "History of Clover Park Vocational Technical Institute", written by Wilbur M. Snyder, Jr. in 1988.



Administration Headquarters Building, 1979.

strong, and committed to excellence. New buildings, new programs, new ideas. Accreditation. Local, national, and international partnerships. These

Today the school remains committed to providing students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to succeed in the workforce of today and tomorrow. The college offers



Radio and TV center. Tower erected in 1960

Korean Community Shares Culture, Stories of Striving and Success in Lakewood

Lakewood is fortunate to have a vibrant, well-established Korean community, one that is willing to share its heritage and centuries-old culture with its neighbors. And if the size of the audience at the Lakewood Historical Society's September Monthly Program is any indication, a lot of those neighbors are equally willing to listen, share—and participate—in that culture.

Tuesday evening, September 18 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Gravelly Lake Drive, over 85 attendees of the Society's program, **The Influence of the Korean Community on Lakewood's History**, roamed through Parish Hall.

They sampled delicacies, including Korean-style sushi (one defining characteristic: all fish is *cooked*, this correspondent was particularly happy to learn), had their names rendered in Korean by well-known artist and calligrapher Patsy Suhr O'Connell, and learned to fold cranes and other paper objects d'art from origami instructor Dongsu Litchfield.

These activities and more were thanks in large part to the generous participation of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) and its Executive Director, Lua Pritchard.

Earlier, the evening had begun with a dramatic flourish: traditional Korean drumming as performed by Savannah Kwok of the Northwest Korean Dance Academy.

Several speakers followed, introduced by Becky Huber, President of the Lakewood Historical Society:

Jae Han, owner of Boo Han Market, one of the largest



Korean-style sushi, sweet honey-sesame buns, other delicacies await lucky attendees.

businesses in the International District on South Tacoma Way, told of his father's whole-hearted pursuit of the opportunities he found in America.

Boo Han established the first Korean grocery in Pierce County soon after his arrival from South Korea in 1973; now plans are afoot for an entire Korean shopping mall behind the current market. The market is visited regularly by customers from as far away as Eastern Washington and Idaho.

Patsy Suhr O'Connell, President and Founder of APCC, spoke of her early life in Korea and subsequent experiences in the US, and the motivation behind her founding of the Center.

Eunice Jung, President of the Korean Women's Association, shared the KWA's purpose and history since its founding, 40 years ago this year.

Connie Coleman-Lacadie, Chairperson of City of Lakewood's Sister Cities Association, spoke of Gimhae, the South Korean Friendship City for Lakewood. She also displayed traditional musical instruments, artworks and other Korean cultural artifacts.

All in all, the evening was a grand introduction to the influence of a vital community (over 500 businesses in Pierce County alone!) for some, a hearty reaffirmation of a mutually beneficial relationship for others.



Jae Han, Boo Han's son



Eunice Jung



Patsy Suhr O'Connell



Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Tacoma, WA
Permit #356

Lakewood Historical Society
P.O. Box 98014
Lakewood, WA 98496

Programs and Activities

Fall 2012

Tues, October 16th, 7 pm

History of Medical Care in the Lakewood Area, presented by representatives from St Clare Hospital, American Lake VA Hospital and Madigan Army Medical Center.

Sat, October 20th, 2-4 pm

Reception for New Artists, Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW

Tues, November 13th, 7 pm

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors, Special program to honor Veterans Day, ***The Tuskegee Airmen***, presented by Col (Ret) Alphonso Knight Jr.

Sat, December 8th, 2-4 pm

Holiday Open House at the Lakewood History Museum, vintage ornaments on display, reception for new artist, refreshments served

*Monthly programs are held in the Parish Hall
at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW,
next to the Lakewood Library.*

Look for us on Facebook, or check our website for more information and current events:
www.LakewoodHistorical.org