As promised at the February 18th Society program, Tim Tweten, restaurant owner, celebrated Burs 62nd birthday on March 21st, serving cake and 62¢ coffee all day.

The staff and patrons alike are anxious to see the results of the remodeling of the restaurant planned later this year, including the kitchen, main dining area and meeting room. It’s all part of Tim’s plans to upgrade his six-restaurant business.

Jeanne McGinnis Emmons, the original owner of The Lakewood Coffee Shop that morphed into Burs in the 1970s, explained how she and her late husband, Al, wanted to provide a place for the “working man” to have a place of his own.

Although many residents patronized The Terrace at the Colonial Center, The Lakewood Coffee Shop was the spot that appealed to many patrons who wanted something not quite as upscale as the Terrace.

The two restaurants were, briefly, the only ones in the area. During the intervening years Burs remains a local favorite—some patrons have their own spot at the counter—one designed with a special “curve” to accommodate one patron’s “girth”.

Today the banquet room, just off the main dining area, is the setting for Lakewood United and Lakewood Chamber of Commerce gatherings. Take time to note the replica of the DeHavilland Seaplane that hangs from the ceiling. That’s another Lakewood story.

Burs, on Steilacoom Boulevard, is one of half a dozen long-time area restaurants that Tweten owns, and the one in Lakewood is especially popular with his patrons. Beginning with The Harvester in the

See RESTAURANTS, page 8
President’s Message

I’m surprised I haven’t started growing moss on my back—it has just about everywhere else. This spring has sure been WET. But we can’t complain too loud. Those poor folks back East are wondering if they will ever see another spring. It is winters like this that reinforces why I chose to live in the Pacific Northwest instead of Chicago, Kansas City or Indianapolis—places I could have easily ended up.

The Society Board has not let any moss grow under its feet. Be sure to visit page 12 with the details of our programs, events, and outreach opportunities in the next three months. We are finalizing our plans for the May 3rd Grand Opening of our new exhibit celebrating our Military Neighbors. See the full article on page 8.

Be sure to bring in the photos of your military veterans by April 25th so they can be a part of the special display—see page 11 for details.

I am especially excited that Steve Dunkelberger and Walter Neary will be on hand at the Grand Opening to sign their new book, “Legendary Locals of Lakewood”, from 12 noon to 2:00 pm. Books will be available for sale in the Museum, and at our programs and events after the Opening.

Even though it is not a Society-sponsored event, please be sure to visit the Little Church on the Prairie, 6310 Motor Ave SW, on Saturday, May 17th from 1:00-4:00 pm for an Open House celebrating its 75th Anniversary. It will include self-guided tours of the campus, special music in the Sanctuary from 2:00-3:00 pm and refreshments in Prairie Hall.

We will again participate in the City of Lakewood’s Farmers’ Market. The Market starts on Tuesday, June 3rd. We will be there every second Tuesday from 10:00 am-3:00 pm, June 10th through September 9th. There’ll be a special drawing for those who answer a Trivia Quiz correctly.

Don’t forget to visit our website, www.lakewoodhistorical.org or our Facebook page, Lakewood-Historical-Society-Washington-State and “Like” us. We welcome your input on how to improve our sites. Contact Chuck Mathias at chuck.mathias@gmail.com.

Becky Huber

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
By Nancy Covert

Spokane’s famous Davenport Hotel, the Spokane Chronicle Building, even a modest home in Metaline Falls that now is used as a community theatre, are just a few examples of the many early 20th century buildings designed by an Ohioan who came west to follow his career.

Once Kirtland Cutter began his practice in Spokane in the late nineteenth century, he branched out to designing homes in the Lakewood area for about thirty years. He concluded his career in 1939 in California.

One of Cutter’s most distinctive works, a stone and timber structure near the main gate of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, is visible from I-5 as motorists travel on that main route. Strictly ornamental today, it was for many years the actual main gate for Camp Lewis, as the base was known in 1917, the year the gate was constructed.

In his book about Cutter’s architectural career, Henry C. Matthews, Washington State University professor of architecture, wrote that Chester Thorne was instrumental in having the military camp located on the site near American Lake and “may have helped to secure the commission for Cutter.”

The gateway to the military establishment, built of rough hewn stone and logs, took its inspiration from the design of forts in the early years of Washington Territory. Two “fortified” blockhouses, similar to those that existed at Fort Nisqually (near present-day DuPont) supported a canopy made of whole tree trunks spanning the roadway. Archways allowed the passage of pedestrians on either side.

In the Lakewood area, Cutter designed Thornwood Castle, Villa Carman, the Dolge House and the Jones House.

Heather Hill, Ernest Dolge’s home near Lake Steilacoom, is not as ornate as some of Cutter’s other designs, but quality was not skimped on the home of this lumber baron.

Dolge was so proud of the work that went into his mansion that it’s said he offered any visitor $100 if the visitor could find any knotholes in the beams of the attic. It’s also said that no one ever collected on Dolge’s offer.

In 2012 Lakewood Historical Society members had the opportunity to tour Villa Carman for its summer fundraiser. It is hoped that someday it can host tours to these other sites as well.

Kirtland Kelsey Cutter was born August 20, 1860, in the Village of East Rockport, near Cleveland, Ohio, spending his first 17 years at the home of his mother’s grandfather, Jared Kirtland, a distinguished physician and naturalist. After his father’s death, Cutter went to Europe, where he studied in the early 1880s. In October 1886, encouraged by his relatives, he made the long train journey on the Northern Pacific to Spokane Falls, Washington Territory.

The City by the Falls was ripe for development, but before Cutter launched his own architectural firm, he painted scenery for an amateur production of The Mikado at Joy’s Opera House. The cast included some of his future clients.

His earliest structures followed the Queen Anne design; over the next several decades, however, Cutter incorporated a variety of styles in the distinctive homes he built, including Swiss.

See ARCHITECT, page 11
he cover design for the 2014 edition of Klahowya—Clover Park High School’s annual yearbook—is still a mystery.

The final design, according to CPHS’s Yearbook Advisor, Jeff Hurdis, won’t be revealed until May. In the meantime, there’s a display window just outside his classroom that showcases past yearbook covers, along with photos and cameras, for those who are interested.

There’s also a comprehensive display of past Klahowya yearbooks in the Lakewood History Museum, dating back to 1940.

Jim Dyer, a former CPHS student from Steilacoom, who was yearbook editor in 1942, suggested the name for the publication—a Chinook word meaning “Greetings,” as in “Klahowya, Tillicum”—Greetings, Friend!

While current yearbook production has advanced from the days of paste-up layouts and darkroom work, and lots of hands-on work, Hurdis, who’s been teaching at the high school for the past 11 years, makes sure his students understand and know about those now obsolete techniques so they better appreciate the process of what goes into making that final product.

The school only produces fewer than 200 copies of the yearbook—down from around 400-500 copies produced years ago.

The Yearbook production staff—about 30-35 students, working at all levels of production—works primarily with computers to design the final product.

Students who work on the yearbook quickly learn how much it costs to produce a book—upward of $25,000 for a “run” of say, about 1,000 books, Hurdis explains. However, he now focuses on self-publishing to keep costs affordable: less than $50 per book.

Book costs are further made more affordable through ad sales, and the advantage of early book sales. Students can save money by ordering their book in advance; those who wait until the end of a school year, of course, will pay more for their copy.

Despite advances in technology, thus far his students have not opted for CD versions of their annual. The first CD yearbook, however, was produced in 1990 by students of South Eugene High School.

Yearbook production is prominent in America, England and Australia, primarily among elementary, middle and high schools. The US Navy also produces yearbooks as a way to record its yearly cruises.

Stop by the Museum to view the collection.

The tradition of producing a formal yearbook began in the late 19th century when Boston photographer George Warren used a different type of technology after daguerreotypes went out of style. He capitalized on the ability of using a single negative to produce multiple images.

Museum patrons checking out those wacky student hairdos of 50 years ago.
Timmy’s faithful dog, Lassie, the yellow school bus, the little brown church in the wildwood, and the little red schoolhouse are all iconic images—conjuring up images of days long past.

In Lakewood, there is a Little Red Schoolhouse. It was built in 1932 on the site of an earlier one-room red structure. In 1987 that iconic early 20th century structure was placed on the National Historic Register of Buildings. In 1953 the current school, Custer Elementary, was built.

There is even a contemporary Little Red Schoolhouse; this one is a childcare center not far from the site of the original red schoolhouse.

As motorists drive along Steilacoom Boulevard, stretching from South Tacoma Way through Lakewood, and winding past the north end of Lake Steilacoom, past Fort Steilacoom Park, Western State Hospital with remnants of the earliest local American military post (Historic Ft Steilacoom), and then into Steilacoom itself, few are aware of how the area developed or know much about the history of this area.

Not surprisingly, in the mid-19th century soldiers were mapping and creating military roads that went to Walla Walla, Bellingham, and Fort Vancouver.

(Maps of those early roads can be viewed in the Map Room at the Town Hall in Steilacoom). Steilacoom Boulevard began as one of those early military roads.

Heading east (Custer Road winds around, becoming first 74th and then 72nd, eventually terminating in Puyallup) one crosses Chambers Creek, then passes a small area that began its existence in 1890 as the Town of Custer.

According to a citation in W. P. Bonney’s History of Pierce County,

“Frederick Meyer filed the townsite of Custer on Sept. 28, 1889. It is beautifully situated at the north end of Steilacoom Lake, with an excellent water power site. It was there that Andrew F. Byrd built his pioneer sawmill in 1853, and four years later he and his associates erected a gristmill in connection with the sawmill.

“Custer is a favorite summer resort. It is named for Lesour Custer—not Gen. George A. Custer—who claimed land in the area about 1890. Mr. Custer had a store, and there were several other business establishments. The townsite is shown in an 1889 atlas of Pierce County.”

According to another citation in Volume II of Bonney’s history, the town was about seven miles...
Go “Wild” for the 2014 Pierce County READS book

Go “Wild” this spring with Pierce County Library’s seventh annual one book program: Pierce County Reads. Now through April 25, thousands of people will come together as a community and read the New York Times best-seller and award-winning “Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail” by Northwest author Cheryl Strayed.

Strayed begins her memoir when she thought she had lost everything. With no experience or training, she decided to hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington. Told with suspense and style, “Wild” powerfully captures the terrors and adventures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened and ultimately healed her.

Learn something new with hands-on events

Pierce County Library and local organizations and businesses teamed up to offer 56 free events tailored around the book. Learn to plan and take outdoor adventures, pick up tips for hiking and backpacking, discover birds and wildlife, hear stories from local authors, and create through book art, photography and memoir writing.

Meet ‘Wild’ author Cheryl Strayed

Author Cheryl Strayed will speak and sign books during a free event at 7 p.m. on April 25 at the McGavick Conference Center at Clover Park Technical College, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499.

Flash Fiction (Or Not) Writing Contest

Fancy yourself a writer? New for Pierce County READS this year is the Flash Fiction (Or Not) Writing Contest, which runs now through April 2. In 750 words or less, write about travel, nature, hiking or a personal journey. The prize is two free tickets to Pierce County Library Foundation’s donor reception with the author (a $250 value).

The Lakewood Historical Society, along with 23 other organizations and businesses, is again a proud sponsor of this county-wide event. Brochures on the program are available at the Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW, Lakewood.

Speaking of good reads...

Local author/historians Walter Neary and Steve Dunkelberger follow up “Lakewood,” their 2005 entry in the “Images of America” series with “Legendary Locals of Lakewood,” a fascinating look at some of the outsized personalities who have called the Lakes District home, from the first settlers to the movers and shakers of the present day.

Men who became famous in the Civil War, such as George Pickett, served at Fort Steilacoom. Native American leader Leschi, the victim of “judicial lynching” by civilians, spent his last moments in the Oakbrook neighborhood. When Lakewood became a retreat for Puget Sound’s rich and famous, names such as Carman and Alexander—as famous in their day as the name Weyerhaeuser is today—settled here. They’re just a few of the remarkable characters in this entertaining volume.

Drop by the Museum between noon and 2 pm on May 3rd to have Walter and Steve sign your copy!
The Society held its Annual Meeting in November 2013 with the election of board members, a program on the Buffalo Soldiers and a sharing of the year’s accomplishments. But the highlight of the meeting was honoring several Society members for their contributions to the 15-year-old organization.

**LTG (Ret) Bill Harrison**, who retired from the board after five years of service, was honored with the naming of the Society’s first Leadership Award. He was further recognized and “promoted” to director emeritus status in recognition of his years of service to the Lakewood community and the Society. LHS’s treasurer **Gary Fowler** was honored to receive the award.

Society co-founder, first president and director emeritus **Cyrus Happy III** was honored with the naming of the Society’s Historian Award. Former Lakewood Journal editor/retired Society board member **Walter Neary** was tapped as the 2013 recipient for that honor.

The Journalism Award was named for the late **Dave Sclair** who was the newsletter editor and marketing specialist for the Society. It was presented to his widow **Mary Lou Sclair** and son, **Ben**.

**Carol Moreno**, a Lake City resident, was honored as the Society’s Volunteer of the Year. Carol has devoted countless hours in managing the database of the Museum collections.

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**Collections Chronicle**

By Barbara G. Scott
Chairman, Collections Committee

Hello Again. When last we met I introduced you to the museum’s Collections Committee and the role of the committee, a vital part in managing the Lakewood History Museum.

Once your gift has been approved by the committee and adopted by the Society Board of Directors, it becomes an official accession to the Museum’s collections. Your gift is then entrusted to the committee to be officially processed and stored.

A well-established system using best museum practices is utilized. The detailed numbering system is necessary in order to track and retrieve the item for an upcoming display or exhibit. The first step is to give the item an official accession number... much like the Dewey Decimal Number that libraries assign to any book that becomes a part of their collection. The accession number consists of three parts. The first part is the year we receive the gift—i.e. 2014. The second part of the accession number is determined by whether this gift is the first, second, fifth, etc. we have received and accepted in the calendar year—2014.005. And if the gift consists of more than one item from the same donor, we identify each part of the gift by assigning it a letter—a, b, c, etc.—creating the accession number: 2014.005a; 2014.005b; 2014.005c.

Today I won’t detail the rest of the descriptive cataloging of the item, but know that your gift is described according to established nomenclature. Thus the exhibits staff and volunteers know whether they have a particular piece of furniture, clothing, cooking vessel, sports equipment, etc. to enrich an exhibit.

Back to the accession number—once the number is assigned it is then carefully recorded on the item in a place where it will not detract from your gift.

*See COLLECTIONS*, page 9
RESTAURANTS from page one

Stadium District, where Tim and his brothers began their restaurant career (his brother Keith operates The Harvester II in Gig Harbor), the South Sound Group grew to include The Poodle Dog at Fife, Knapp’s in the Proctor District, The Hob Nob near Wright Park and The Powerhouse in Puyallup, the most recent addition to the collection. All great eateries—with a local flavor.

Tweten’s “favorite” things to eat? He likes everything—such as the dish of scallops and rice he enjoyed earlier that day.

He says that he “eats out” so much, at day’s end he likes to go home and fix a “peanut butter and jam sandwich.”

Be sure to stop by Burs for the anniversary—or any time.

Above: Will and Verna Burslem, who bought Jeanne’s coffee shop. By dropping the last letters from their name, they gave their “joint” the short, catchy name it’s known by today.

Right: Tim Tweten and Jeanne McGinnis Emmons with a framed copy of the Lakewood Log from March 21, 1952. The entire front page was given over to the opening of her Lakewood Coffee Shop

Hangout History 101: LHS Pres. Becky Huber kicks off the proceedings with a slide show featuring a few of Pierce County’s most celebrated joints.

Museum Celebrates the Military in New Exhibit

The Lakewood Historical Society will debut the Museum’s new exhibit, “Home of the Free Because of the Brave: Lakewood’s Military Neighbors” on Saturday, May 3rd with a Ribbon Cutting at 1:00 pm.

The American military arrived in the Lakewood area in 1849 and, except for a 48-year gap between the closing of Ft. Steilacoom in 1869 and the opening of Camp Lewis in 1917, has been a major presence in the region. The exhibit will highlight both the early days and the more recent partnership of Joint Base Lewis McChord with the City of Lakewood.
from Tacoma’s courthouse. Mail was processed in Tacoma, R. F. D. No. 1; the voting place was in Lakeview.

Information gleaned from the school’s 1987 nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, compiled by Caroline Gallacci, states that:

“Frederick Meyer, who settled in the Custer area in 1849, reputedly raised the first flag over the U. S. Army’s Fort Steilacoom.

“Early settlers established farms around the crossroads of Custer, grew wheat and had it milled at Byrd’s gristmill. Grazing later replaced wheat as the main agricultural activity, and in 1903, the Flett Dairy was established. Meyer, motivated by the extension of the railroad and streetcar lines into this part of the county, filed a plat for Custer, a community named for Lesour Custer, who had a store at the northern end of Steilacoom Lake.”

The town never materialized, however, and the area retained its rural character until 1937, when Norton Clapp financed the construction of Lakewood Center. That complex helped lead to the gradual development of the county’s first shopping center. The complex helped lead to the gradual development of suburban housing after the end of World War II.

Today the area once known as Custer includes commercial businesses such as KFC Chicken, Subway Sandwich Shop, Precision Tune-up and others.

Sadly, the boarded-up Little Red Schoolhouse looks forlorn as it sits at the edge of the school property. It is hoped that some civic-minded citizens might form a committee and restore this historic structure. Several class photos from the Little Red School are on display at Custer Elementary.

COLLECTIONS from page 7

when we have it on display.
Sometimes we have to place the number on a small tag which is then attached to the gift.

Once the accession number and cataloging is completed, we must then officially acknowledge receipt of the gift and thank the donor for his/her gift(s) to the museum. In that thank you letter, we ask you, our donors, to complete an enclosed Deed of Gift and Accession Record Form and return it to us in the envelope we provide.

This step is critical for you and for the Museum because you are officially transferring ownership of your gift to the Lake-wood History Museum.

Because we have such a limited space for displays, most items are put in storage for use at a later date. When you visit the museum after you have made a donation, do not be disappoint-ed if you do not see it on display.

In the next Collections Chronicle I will talk about the different ways we store your precious gifts.
Lakewood Historical
Society & Museum
2013 Museum Fund
Contributors
January 1st thru December 31st

2013 Goal: $25,000 for Operations, Education, Exhibits, Programs & Community Outreach

Actual: $22,232 from 186 generous donors and sponsors

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

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Thanks to ALL Our Generous Donors!
German, and ultimately Mediterranean and Spanish. Especially noteworthy designs include the Davenport Hotel, the Idaho House designed for the 1893 Columbian Exposition, Lake McDonald Lodge at Glacier National Park in Montana, the Rainier Club in Seattle, and the Interior Rooms at the Tacoma Hotel.

Spring 2014 Programs & Events

**Tues, April 15th, 7 pm-The Lakewood Water District.** General Manager Randall Black will present the history of this vital local utility. He will also share the 50-year plan that has been established to replace the District’s infrastructure. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lk Dr SW, Lakewood. Free and open to the public.

**Sat, April 26th, 11 am to 5 pm-Lakewood Sister Cities International Festival and ArtsFest.** Visit our booth on the second day of this major cultural event. Pierce College Fort Steilacoom, Cascade Building, 9401 Farwest Drive SW, Lakewood. For more information on ArtsFest, visit artsfestlakewood.us. Free and open to the public.


**Tues, May 20th, 7 pm-Visit to Lakewold Gardens,** 12317 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW. Celebrate the Friends of the Gardens 25th Anniversary and National Historic Preservation Month. Learn more about the families who lived in this historic estate home. Visit Lakewold Gardens website for more special events in May: lakewoldgardens.org. Free and open to the public.

**Tues, June 17th, Time TBA -Tour Historic Lakewood Home, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ONLY EVENT.** Address and directions will be provided later. Free to members; suggested donation of $5 for guests and friends.

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