Without voluntary pledges, library facilities in Pierce County, Lakewood and University Place will cease to exist. We deserve adequate facilities.

“It is library friends who volunteer to see that we have these facilities and that they are maintained,”

—Early Suburban Times Library Week editorial.

Every week, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. most weekdays, and from 1-5 p.m. on Sundays, Lakewood Library circulates thousands of books. Lakewood residents like to read!

This coming September Lakewood Library, a branch of the Pierce County Library System (there are more than a dozen branches of PCL) celebrates its golden anniversary.

The Library at the corner of Wildaire and Gravelly Lake Drive marks 50 years at its current location in September this year. Lakewood Library history formally began in 1947 when area residents established a community library in the hobby shop, located on the second floor of the Clover Park Shopping Center. The collection next moved to the Sunshine Gift Shop on Steilacoom Blvd. where it remained until 1955. Clover Park School District provided space for the library’s next location in the basement of Park Lodge School until it needed the room for another classroom.

During this time the Lakewood District Improvement Club and Friends of Lakewood Library (the latter formally organized in 1960) continued to raise funds for a formal library building in the area. In 1961 the LDIC received a pledge from the Tenzler Foundation for funds to build on a site at Gravelly Lake Drive and Wildaire Drive according to a report prepared by Library Supervisor Marion Cromwell.

Flora B. Tenzler bequeathed $6.5 million of her estate for charitable, religious, scientific, and recreational uses. Mrs. Tenzler’s husband, Herman Tenzler, was former owner of the Northwest Door Company of Tacoma.

The library’s award-winning design is complemented by numerous artworks:

The Library, designed by Architect Russell Garrison of Lakewood, was formally dedicated and opened on Sept. 15, 1963. A bronze dedicatory plaque, placed near the library’s original Gravelly Lake entrance, read: “This Library is a gift to the Lakewood Community from the Tenzler Foundation.”

What’s Inside:

- President’s Message
- Meet the “Mole Patrol”
- The “Big One” (log, that is)
- Save Those Treasures!
- William Hipkins
- Mysterious Meteor
- Picnic & Other Events
- New Artists at Museum
- Donors & Contributors
- Financial Statement
- Programs & Events
President’s Message

I do believe that summer is finally here. I’m enjoying all the flowers in bloom, finding fresh produce in the farmers’ markets and being able to leave my bedroom window open at night.

I have just returned from a fantastic heritage conference that was held in Ellensburg, WA. What a charming town of 18,000. It has a lot of great restaurants and shops and there is also a lively vibe in the community because it is the home of Central Washington University. It is famous for its rodeo that is held over Labor Day weekend. I have come back with lots of inspiration on how the Society and Museum can better serve the Lakewood area.

The Society has done two new things this past month. We participated in the Lakewood Farmer’s Market which debuted last summer. It was such a resounding success that a full season was planned for this year. Over 40 vendors are participating with a broad range of produce, baked goods, beautiful cut flowers, crafts and local businesses and nonprofit organizations. It provides a great opportunity for the community to learn more about the Society and Museum. Our next day is August 13th. Be sure to come by and see us.

We also had a lot of fun having a picnic in Ft Steelacoom Park. A lot of interesting history has occurred on the park site over the last 175 years. Much of it was related by Kathleen Benoun, Chair of the Hospital Historical Society. See the article about the picnic elsewhere in the newsletter.

It is with great sadness to hear of the recent passing of Lakewood resident State Senator Mike Carroll. His contributions to historic preservation in Lakewood are immeasurable. Mike leaves a legacy that will be enjoyed by countless local citizens and tourists alike. He was primarily responsible for ensuring the survival of the historic buildings at Ft Steelacoom, some of the earliest wooden structures still standing in the State of Washington that are located on the campus of Western State Hospital.

He also was the main supporter of the change in the state law in 2004 that allowed the names of patients from Western State Hospital buried in the cemetery at Ft Steelacoom Park to be made public. Grave Concerns Association, headed by Laurel Lemeke and founded in 2001, along with numerous volunteers, have been installing named markers over the last nine years.

I have just learned details about the huge “Welcome Home” being planned on September 15th for our military partner, the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Division. It will include a real parade of the troops and a festival with lots of special activities in Ft Steelacoom Park. As you may remember, we have been sending care packages to one of the units, the 472nd Signal Company. All of them will return by the end of July. I know their families will be glad to see them home.

I’m sure you have a busy summer planned but do take time to attend one of the Society’s outreach activities or programs.

We appreciate your continued interest and support.

Becky Huber

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YTD thru May 31, 2013

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<th>Description</th>
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New Members Since the First of the Year

Paul Bocchi
Dan Development LLC
DuPont Historical Society
Harborstone Credit Union
Interlaaken Realty
Lakewood Ford
Lakewood Galley and Framing
Lakewood Hardware and Paint
Tanya Lewis
Chuck and Betsy Mathias
Mac McDonald
Phil Raschke (KLAY Radio)
James and Margaret Ray
Mandarin Gallery
( Florence Welborn)
Lora Wilfong
Elaine Winter
Paul J. Wood

TREASURES
From page 9

Everyone has seen at least a few of them. Matthew Brady, who is credited with orchestrating the effort to document the war with the new technology of photography, went bankrupt after the war. Who wanted the gruesome images he and his team captured? In 1868 the federal government rejected his proposal to archive the images. He and other photographers had to sell thousands of those images, not for what they represented in our national history, but for use in green houses. The images were scraped off, and the glass recycled. One can only wonder what our nation lost by a short-sighted public more than 150 years ago. The surviving photographs are now treasured for their research value of a time that challenged our nation’s foundation.

Let’s not let local shortsightedness now affect what could be historical treasures to our children and their children. Share what history you have, or support your local historical associations.
Meet the “Mole Patrol”

Moles in the library?

No traps are necessary, though—there’s just the nickname for a group of about 27 really low-profile volunteers who sort, catalog, stock and distribute usable reading material—on any topic—that helps pay for a variety of extras for library patrons.

During the Friends’ first sale on Oct. 4, 1975, Lakewood’s Friends of the Library earned a $401.94 profit. They’ve since raised thousands of dollars more annually since then. Thus far this month they’ve raised another $554.

Those are just a few of the records that Leslie Mcintosh has in her small library basement office. Mrs. M is unofficial “chief” of the Mole Patrol! These volunteers also are known as “book worms”!

They’re called “moles,” Leslie says, because they seldom see the light of day—but during these warm days, it’s definitely a plus to work in the much cooler basement!

Dedicated “mole” Milie Hamilton prices a batch of children’s books.

Assisted by 21 women and seven men (strong backs! Leslie says), the volunteers contribute between 2-4 hours more each week, beginning Mondays at 8 a.m., and especially on Thursdays, and longer during the twice-a-year sales, using the proceeds in the library for items from new carpeting to new equipment.

Between Oct. 2012 and May 2013, the bright blue-apron-wearing “moles” have contributed 4,429 hours, Mrs. M continues.

Each of the moles, such as 93-year-old Millie Hamilton, has his/her own area in which to work...and no one dares to venture into another mole’s space...unless invited.

In spite of that guideline, however, the underground work atmosphere is one of the friendliest ones around. A sampling of one recent morning’s conversation (overheard while researching library history) included a discussion about the “Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet”—an excellent “read”; to a comment about one book entitled, “The Thin Bitch”!

“Didn’t think you were talking about me!” laughed one plump mole.

See MOLES, page 4

More than books on display

Adding to the sense of the Lakewood Library as community center, local organizations are encouraged to share their history and interests through use of its handsome display cases.

At right, late spring 2013: The case by the library’s front door features a collection of printed pieces used to promote recent programs and exhibits sponsored by your Lakewood Historical Society.
The Big One
The story behind Lakewood Library’s Giant Tree

By Hayden Mackley
Reprinted from Prairie Gazette
Winter 2009

“The Big One” is on display behind glass at the Lakewood Library

Somewhere out in the forest near Packwood, there remains the stump of the largest Douglas fir tree ever logged. In the hot summer of 1946, three men worked for the better part of two days to fell the 12-foot-wide giant, with not much more than a standard 8-foot-power saw. They had to notch in 3 feet on four sides with their axes before they could move in with their saw. The loggers named the tree simply “The Big One.”

The massive cut stump of the tree quickly became a minor celebrity in the area, as it was trucked to the Northwest Door Company plant at 1203 East D Street in Tacoma. The company’s president, Herman E. Tenzler, decided that something of the tree should be on display to the public, and so a cross-section was cut. With great fanfare, it was unveiled with great fanfare, and was quickly surrounded by visitors, who were able to see the life of the tree as they walked through it. The tree was eventually cut down, with the stump remaining to become a tourist attraction. The stump remains to this day, a reminder of the history of logging in the Pacific Northwest.

Lakewood, the town where the tree was cut down, has a long history of community involvement and support for the arts. The Lakewood Friends of the Library, a group of local residents, have worked hard to ensure that the Tree remains a part of the community's cultural heritage.

New Artists Displaying Work in Museum

Cheryl Bush and Trudy Orzio are two new Rainier League artists who have installed their artwork to be on display in the Artist's Corner of the Lakewood History Museum until July 31st. An afternoon reception is planned for Saturday, June 29th from 2-4 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet the artists and view their work. Artwork is for sale and the artists make a generous donation to the Society from the proceeds. Refreshments will be served.

Cheryl Bush

Cheryl enjoys working with a variety of mediums and strives to depict the beauty of God's creation in flowers, landscapes, and portraits. A number of her works are in private collections in Washington State.

Trudy Orzio

Trudy Orzio grew up in Lakewood and always loved art but never pursued it. She preferred to sing and dance, taking ballet lessons for seven years. She met her husband. He played “Teyve”, the butcher and she played “Hodel”, the second daughter, in the Fort Lewis production of the musical “Fiddler on the Roof”.

Being a stay-at-home mother, Trudy used her creativity in art to teach and entertain their four daughters but never took her artwork seriously. When she turned fifty her grown children gave her paints and brushes for her birthday. Her passion came alive as she played with the water colors. She painted every day for a month starting on poster board and then on canvas.

Trudy joined the Tacoma art list which gave her art challenges and opportunities. One of these opportunities was to create a mural for a vacant storefront on Martin Luther King Jr Way in Tacoma. This 6x8 foot mural graces the exterior of the old Gas Grill Restaurant.

She joined the Rainier League of Arts which not only gave her art education and an artist community but many opportunities to show her work. She was able to show and sell at Lakewood Gardens, the Bronze Art Gallery and the Gibson House.

She also joined Tacoma Art Place where she learned to sculpt and do collage work. After TAP closed she applied at Freight House Square Gallery and was accepted. Later she displayed her work at 253 Art Collective.

As an emerging artist, Trudy continues to enjoy painting abstracts in watercolor, acrylic and mixed media, as well as collage and sculpting.
A Colorful Ending to LHS's Picnic

By Nancy Covert

After-picnic speaker Kathleen Benoun, Western State Hospital Library Associate, presented a capsulated version of the park’s colorful history, from Hudson Bay Company’s Puget Sound Agricultural Company, to Historic Ft. Steilacoom, to Western State, to present-day Ft. Steilacoom Park.

Just as things were winding down, big raindrops began splashing the ground as people dashed for their cars. Then the sun broke through, casting a huge rainbow over the scene—sort of like a mythical rainbow bridge from some super-epic blockbuster summer movie. Oz, maybe? Where’s the Lion, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man?

Save Those Treasures

By Steve Dunkelberger
Reprinted from Lakewood Journal January 14, 1999

The search for local history never follows a straight line. The trail to find and research history often takes me through dusty books, computer screens and even back yard garages. Many homes around Lakewood, Steilacoom and DuPont have crates of family histories just waiting for someone to tell. And time is running out.

See, the first big pioneering wave came to the area shortly before the turn of the century. Those settlers had children between 1900 and the 1920s. They are all gone. Their children have either died as well or moved to warmer climates to live out their twilight years. The family connections to this area are breaking, leaving an area without history.

That may seem odd considering the early pioneering history we have that dates back to the mid 1850’s. Houses and sites from the days of “firsts” dot the landscape. What we have after that, however, was largely fulfilled … Because of (forest management) provisions, I leave my forest friends with no regrets. Under the guiding hand of man, there will be many others to take my place. It is my destiny that I go into a new and varied service. I am about to be fashioned into a thousand useful items.”

A perfect example of this idea on a national scale is the once massive collection of Civil War photographs taken in the 1860’s. See TREASURES, page 11
A Road to Many is a Relative to One

By Steve Dunkelberger
Reprinted from the Lakewood Journal
Jan 14, 1999

One of Lakewood’s oldest and most used roads has a history that’s unknown to most commuters who use it every day. William Stephen Hipkins homesteaded part of Lakewood after serving two tours in the Union Army during the Civil War. His diaries of those years detail the daily life of an infantry soldier of the 1860’s. He lived an exciting life until his death shortly after the turn of the century. Hipkin’s war-time diaries were donated to the Washington State Historical Society’s special collection room decades ago.

Lakewood resident Helen Peterson is the daughter of Hipkin’s only son. She recently donated a drawing of her grandfather in Union uniform and three of his service medals to the Historial Ft Steilacoom Association. His portrait is on display at the museum and will eventually go to the newly formed Lakewood Historical Society because of Hipkin’s role in shaping Lakewood’s history.

Hipkins was born in August 1843 in England. He and his family moved to the United States. The young Hipkins found himself a private in the Union Army during the Civil War and decided to start a diary to record his war-time adventures. He started his war-time diary with his hat and shoe type photograph, which was popular during the war.

Family lore held that the medals were: the forerunner of the Purple Heart, a medal of Valor and a service medal. A search of historical medal designs concludes the medals are from a long-vanished veteran’s organization called the Grand Army of the Republic.

Updated Information on William Hipkins
By Becky Huber
Obtained from Records on Ancestry.com

William Herbert Hipkins was born on August 8, 1843 in Staffordshire, England to Stephen and Eliza Brown Hipkins. The family immigrated to America, arriving in New York, New York on the ship the Ivanhoe, on March 12, 1849 from Liverpool, England. William was the third youngest of seven children. Three more children were born in the United States.

Hipkins shuttled around the nation following the war, first to Ohio, then Kansas. He headed west and settled in the Lakewood area in 1867. The United States bought Alaska from Russia for pennies an acre the same year. He had received a land claim just west of Steilacoom Lake, which was better known as Byrd’s Lake at that time.

Hipkins worked as a carpenter and built several houses around Lakewood.

Hipkins worked as a carpenter and built several houses around Lakewood.

He and his wife raised four daughters and a son at the family farm at what is now Hipkins Road and 95th Street. Hipkins donated land for the prairie road which was dedicated in 1898.

Hipkins died of peritonitis, an inflammation of the intestines commonly caused by a ruptured appendix, in 1901. He was 57. The homestead burned down around 1908.

Peterson knows little about her grandfather besides what he wrote about himself in his diary. The family didn’t talk about him very much. She also doesn’t know much about the history of the Civil War, nor the portrait of him. Historians say the portrait was probably based on an early tin-type photograph, which was popular during the war.

According to the news article’s sub-headline, the pieces are “conclusive proof of heavenly visitor’s real round to 1 and shown by pieces picked up on the golf course.” And furthermore, a “City Commission figures the mass hit within 20 miles of the area.”

Regardless of the true details, William Hipkins’ service to his country is recognized and has been permanently etched in Lakewood’s history.

The next time you travel on Hipkins Road, remember the man for whom it was named.

William Hipkins, Union soldier.
A Road to Many is a Relative to One

By Steve Dunkelberger
Reprinted from the Lakewood Journal
Jan 14, 1999

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The young Hipkins found himself a private in the Union Army during the Civil War and decided to start a diary to record his war-time adventures. He started his war-time diaries during the Civil War and decided to help his wife make do without a whopping amount in those days, which was one of those soldiers and documented the daily looting and pillaging.

Another entry details how Hipkins’ legs froze during the march through snow. He spent several weeks in the hospital and received a war medal for his injuries. Yet another entry tells how Hipkins sent home $1.50, a whopping amount in those days, to help his wife make do without him during the war years. He left the army after the war ended, leaving with the rank of corporal.

Hipkins shuttled around the nation following the war, first to Ohio, then Kansas. He headed west and settled in the Lakewood area in 1867. The United States bought Alaska from Russia for pennies an acre the same year. He had received a land claim just west of Stellacoarn Lake, which was better known as Byrd’s Lake at that time.

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At the age of 19, William enlisted in the Union Army as a private with Company A, 43rd Regiment, Ohio Infantry on December 19, 1861. He was promoted to Corporal on June 1, 1865 and mustered out on July 13, 1865 at Louisville, KY.

According to the July 17, 1928 edition of the Tacoma Daily Ledger, fragments of a meteor were found on the grounds of the Tacoma Country and Golf Course, questionable evidence that late on the previous evening, around midnight, a blazing ball of fire streaked across Puget Sound’s newly established area. According to the July 17, 1928 edition of the Tacoma Daily Ledger, fragments of a meteor were found on the grounds of the Tacoma Country and Golf Course, questionable evidence that late on the previous evening, around midnight, a blazing ball of fire streaked across Puget Sound’s newly established area.

An accompanying item on the front-page reports about a meteor seen streaking across the state, near Aberdeen.

Supposedly those fragments were stored at UPS, but recent efforts to track down the cache left behind by this mysterious meteor were unsuccessful. Indeed current UPS Geology Professor Jeff Terp said he’d never heard about the collection. So this strange meteor remains a mystery to this day.

A Bainbridge Island historian/researcher, Gerry Elphendahl, who tipped this writer off about the meteor, and whose story Northwest Room curator Brian Kamens confirmed when he found the Tacoma Daily Ledger article, claims there’s a “lot more to the story.”

Stay tuned for further developments. What exciting topic are you researching this summer?
A Colorful Ending to LHS’s Picnic

By Nancy Covert

BIG ONE from Page 4

In the early 1960’s the Tenzler, through the Tenzler Foundation, became the principal donor for a new building for the Lakewood Library, which had previously existed in temporary shop-spaces and basements. In 1963, the Flora B. Tenzler Memorial Library, named in memory of Tenzler’s late wife, opened on the corner of Wildale Road and Gravelly Lake Drive. The Northwest Door Company also donated its tree cross-section to the library, which was installed beside the library’s doors in July 1985.

The log continues to impress library-goers to this day, standing as a testament to the history of the area. The rings of the trunk tell the tree’s life story, recording bitter winters, summer droughts, fires and lightning strikes. Close inspection of the tree’s rings reveal that it was 586 years old when lightning brought it down. The area’s forest floor as a seedling in the year 1359. It was already a large tree in the early 16th century when a forest fire ravaged the woods. The scars show that the tree was injured but lived on when a neighboring tree collapsed against it, presumably during the fire.

Over the next 70 years the tree compensated for its leaning by growing tenaciously by adding fat rings to one side of its trunk and narrowing ones to the other. In this manner, the tree straightened and grew vertically once more.

After several hundred years more, the Douglas fir had outgrown all of its neighbors. Such height provided abundant sunlight, but also made the tree vulnerable to lightning. It was struck by a bolt when it was 420 years old, the same time as the Revolutionary War was being waged on the East Coast. A large top section, at least 40 feet, broke off as a result of the lightning strike and the massive electrical charge burned through the inside of the trunk to the ground. The tree grew no taller after that, but continued to live and widen its base for another century and a half before it was logged.

According to news reports of the tree’s logging at the time, it was harvested because it was damaged and already beginning to rot. While the logging of old growth forests nowadays is a more controversial issue than in 1946, the Northwest Door Company used the display outside its plant to promote “wise forest management” and published a leaflet to tell the tree’s story in the first person. The company went to great lengths to assure the public that this is how the tree would have wanted to go.

“In my 586th year... as the song of the saw and the shouts of the logging crew grew closer, I know my destiny was to be fulfilled... Because of (forest management) provisions, I leave my forest friends with no regrets. Under the guiding hand of man, there will be many others to take my place. It is my destiny that I go into a grand and varied service. I am about to be fashioned into a thousand useful items.”

Save Those Treasures

By Steve Dunkelberger

Reprinted from Lakewood Journal
January 14, 1999

The search for local history never follows a straight line. The trail to find and research history often takes me through dusty books, computer screens and even back yard garages. Many homes around Lakewood, Steilacoom and DuPont have crates of family histories just waiting for someone to record their pioneer stories. Every little photo, property record and journal has at least one tale to tell. And time is running out.

See, the first big pioneering wave came to the area shortly before the turn of the century. Those settlers had children between 1900 and the 1920s. They are all gone. Their children have either died as well or moved to warmer climates to live out their twilight years. The family connections to this area are breaking, leaving an area without history.

That may seem odd considering the early pioneering history we have that dates back to the mid 1850’s. Houses and sites from the days of “firsts” dot the landscape. What we have after that, however, was largely replaced with newer buildings under the name of progress.

That’s the funny part about history. Items are not largely considered important at the time. They must survive progress before we appreciate them for what they once were.

A perfect example of this idea on a national scale is the once massive collection of Civil War photographs taken in the 1860’s. See TREASURES, page 11

Where would we be without our wonderful volunteers?

Summer is a busy time of year for an organization like ours. Many, many thanks to our volunteers for pitching in at two recent public outreach events.

Near right: Sue Scott & Barbara Lord Nelson at our table during Senior Activity Center Open House.

Far right: Heritage Volunteers greeted the public at the Lakewood Farmers Market on June 18.
The Big One
The story behind Lakewood Library’s Giant Tree
By Hayden Mackley
Reprinted from Prairie Gazette
Winter 2009

“The Big One” is on display behind glass at the Lakewood Library

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The massive cut stump of the tree quickly became a minor celebrity in the area, as it was trucked to the Northwest Door Company plant at 1203 East D Street in Tacoma. The company’s president, Herman E. Tenzler, decided that something of the tree should be on display to the public, and so a cross-section was cut. With great fanfare, it was unveiled with great fanfare, and a cross-section was cut. With great fanfare, it was unveiled to the public, complete with signs showing the age of the tree and famous events during its lifetime.

See BIG ONE, page 5

New Artists Displaying Work in Museum

Cheryl Bush and Trudy Orizio are two new Rainier League artists who have installed their artwork to be on display in the Artist’s Corner of the Lakewood History Museum until July 31st.

Cheryl Bush was born and raised in Washington State and graduated from Seattle Pacific University. Recently retired from an extensive career in education, she has been pursuing a lifelong hobby and interest in the arts.

Being a stay-at-home mother, Trudy Orizio grew up in Lakewood and always loved art but never pursued it. She preferred to sing and dance, taking ballet lessons for seven years. She performed in college where she met her husband. He played “Teyve”, the butcher and she played “Hodel”, the second daughter, in the Puyallup Fair’s production of “Fiddler on the Roof”.

Showing her artwork to her sister in a nursing home she made her first sale to one of the nurses who saw one of her canvases and fell in love with her painting. After more sales of her paintings, Trudy joined the Tacoma art list which gave her art challenges and opportunities. One of these opportunities was to create a mural for a vacant storefront on Martin Luther King Jr Way in Tacoma. This 6x8 foot mural graces the exterior of the old Gas Grill Restaurant.

Cheryl enjoys working with a variety of mediums and strives to depict the beauty of God’s creation in flowers, landscapes, and portraits. A number of her works are in private collections in Washington State.

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Lakewood Historical Society and Museum

2013 Museum Fund Contributors

January 1st thru June 15th

Thank You, Museum Fund Donors and Sponsors

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

Actual to date: $15,336 from 106 generous donors and sponsors

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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LIBRARY

From page 1

Tenzler Foundation. Flora B. Tenzler, 1963."

During its first year of operation, 24,763 books were borrowed, and the library was honored with a design award.

About a decade later 23,000 sq. feet were added, and the library continues to serve the growing needs of its patrons.

A collection of scrapbooks containing copies of newspaper clippings from the past 50 years is stored in the library’s archives. The book contains articles about the library’s grand opening, community programs, and articles from early newspapers encouraging residents to support the library.

Support continues today through the efforts of the Friends of the Library who host major book sales twice a year, as well as smaller, on-going book sales throughout the week. The basement is the repository for materials that are featured at its twice-a-year book sale. (See related Mole Patrol article.)

Among the artifacts filed in one scrapbook is a photo of Lake-wood historian emeritus Cyrus Happy, who also was former Friends of the Library Vice President and Public Relations Officer for National Bank of Washington.

Meet the “Mole Patrol”

Moles in the library?

No traps are necessary, though —that’s just the nickname for a group of about 27 really low-profile volunteers who sort, catalog, stock and distribute usable reading material — on any topic — that helps pay for a variety of extras for library patrons.

During the Friends’ first sale on Oct. 4, 1975, Lakewood’s Friends of the Library earned a $401.94 profit. They’ve since raised thousands of dollars more annually since then. Thus far this month they’ve raised another $554.

Those are just a few of the records that Leslie McIntosh has in her small library basement office. Mrs. M is unofficial "chief" of the Mole Patrol! These volunteers also are known as “book worms”.

They’re called “moles,” Leslie says, because they seldom see the light of day — but during these warm days, it’s definitely a plus to work in the much cooler basement!

More than books on display

Adding to the sense of the Lakewood Library as community center, local organizations are encouraged to share their history and interests through use of its handsome display cases.

At right, late spring 2013: The case by the library’s front door features a collection of printed pieces used to promote recent programs and exhibits sponsored by your Lakewood Historical Society.

Dedicated "mole" Millie Hamilton prices a batch of childrens’ books.

Between Oct. 2012 and May 2013, the bright blue-apron-wearing “moles” have contributed 4,429 hours, Mrs. M continues.

Each of the moles, such as 93-year-old Millie Hamilton, has his/her own area in which to work… and no one dares to venture into another mole’s space… unless invited.

In spite of that guideline, however, the underground work atmosphere is one of the friendliest ones around. A sampling of one recent morning’s conversation (overheard while researching library history) included a discussion about the “Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet” — an excellent “read” to a comment about one book entitled, “The Thin Bitch!”

“Didn’t think you were talking about me!” laughed one plump mole.
New Members Since the First of the Year

Paul Bocchi
Daniel Development LLC
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Mandarin Gallery
( Florence Welsborn)
Lora Wiltfong
Elaine Winter
Paul J. Wood

TREASURES
From page 9

Everyone has seen at least a few of them. Matthew Brady, who is credited with orchestrating the effort to document the war with the new technology of photography, went bankrupt after the war. Who wanted the gruesome images he and his team amassed? The federal government rejected his proposal to archive the images. He and other photographers had to sell thousands of those images, not for what they represented in our national history, but for use in greenhouses.

Several photographers, not just Brady, had to sell their work for a fraction of the cost of the expenses they incurred. In 2013, the National Park Service decided to buy Brady’s negatives as part of the Brady family’s efforts to preserve these historical images.

PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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Presidents’s Message

I do believe that summer is finally here. I'm enjoying all the flowers in bloom, finding fresh produce in the farmers' markets and being able to leave my bedroom window open at night.

I have just returned from a fantastic heritage conference that was held in Ellensburg, WA. What a charming town of 18,000. It has a lot of great restaurants and shops and there is also a lively vibe in the community because it is the home of Central Washington University. It is famous for its rodeo that is held over Labor Day weekend. I have come back with lots of inspiration on how the Society and Museum can better serve the Lakewood area.

The Society has done two new things this past month. We participated in the Lakewood Farmer’s Market which debuted last summer. It was such a resounding success that a full season was planned for this year. Over 40 vendors are participating with a broad range of produce, baked goods, beautiful cut flowers, crafts and local businesses and nonprofit organizations. It provides a great opportunity for everyone in the community to learn more about the Society and Museum. Our next day is August 13th. Be sure to come by and see us.

We also had a lot of fun having a picnic in Ft Steelacom Park. A lot of interesting history has occurred on the park site over the last 175 years. Much of it was related by Kathleen Benou, Chair of the Hospital Historical Society. See the article about the picnic elsewhere in the newsletter.

It is with great sadness to hear of the recent passing of Lakewood resident State Senator Mike Carroll. His contributions to historic preservation in Lakewood are immeasurable. Mike leaves a legacy that will be enjoyed by countless local citizens and tourists alike. He was primarily responsible for ensuring the survival of the historic buildings of Ft Steilacoom, some of the earliest wooden structures still standing in the State of Washington that are located on the campus of Western State Hospital.

He also was the main supporter of the change in the state law in 2004 that allowed the names of patients from Western State Hospital buried in the cemetery in Ft Steilacoom Park to be made public. Grave Concerns Association, headed by Laurel Lembre and founded in 2001, along with numerous volunteers, have been installing named markers over the last nine years.

I have just learned details about the huge "Welcome Home" being planned on September 15th for our military partner, the 4th Striker Brigade, 2nd Division. It will include a real parade of the troops and a festival with lots of special activities in Ft Steilacoom Park. As you may remember, we have been sending care packages to one of the units, the 472nd Signal Company. All of them will return by the end of July. I know their families will be glad to see them home.

I'm sure you have a busy summer planned but do take time to attend one of the Society's outreach activities or programs.

We appreciate your continued interest and support.

Becky Huber
Without voluntary pledges, library facilities in Pierce County, Lakewood and University Place will cease to exist. We deserve adequate facilities.

“It is library friends who volunteer to see that we have these facilities and that they are maintained,”

—Early Suburban Times Library Week editorial.

Every week, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. most weekdays, and from 1-5 p.m. on Sundays, Lakewood Library circulates thousands of books. Lakewood residents like to read!

This coming September Lakewood Library, a branch of the Pierce County Library System (there are more than a dozen branches of PCL) celebrates its golden anniversary.

The Library at the corner of Wildaire and Gravelly Lake Drive marks 50 years at its current location in September this year. Lakewood Library history formally began in 1947 when area residents established a community library in the hobby shop, located on the second floor of the Clover Park Shopping Center.

The collection next moved to the Sunshine Gift Shop on Steilacoom Blvd, where it remained until 1955. Clover Park School District provided space for the library’s next location in the basement of Park Lodge School until it needed the room for another classroom.

During this time the Lakewood District Improvement Club and Friends of Lakewood Library (the latter formally organized in 1960) continued to raise funds for a formal library building in the area. In 1961 the LDIC received a pledge from the Tenzler Foundation for funds to build on a site at Gravelly Lake Drive and Wildaire Drive according to a report prepared by Library Supervisor Marion Cromwell.

Flora B. Tenzler bequeathed $6.5 million of her estate for charitable, religious, scientific, and recreational uses. Mrs. Tenzler’s husband, Herman Tenzler, was former owner of the Northwest Door Company of Tacoma.

The library’s award-winning design is complemented by numerous artworks. The Library, designed by Architect Russell Garrison of Lakewood, was formally dedicated and opened on Sept. 15, 1963. A bronze dedicatory plaque, placed near the library’s original Gravelly Lake entrance, read: “This Library is a gift to the Lakewood Community from the Tenzler Foundation.”

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

Lakewood Historical Society
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