

Summer 2016 The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

Sisters of Visitation: their role in local history



Grounds of the Dumas Bay Retreat Center

Tmagine that the entrance to Lakewood Towne Center once was marked by a large "potato stone-style" fence, similar to the one marking the entrance to Western State Hospital, along Steilacoom Boulevard.

The Gravelly Lake Drive entrance was the entry to the **Visitation School for Girls**, a private school operated by the **Sisters of Visitation**. Today nothing remains of that popular school except for a bronze commemorative plague, fastened

to the front entry way to the Lakewood Safeway store.

Why did the Visitation Nuns select this area?

Between 1891 to 1924, fifteen Visitation Sisters and one postulant left Paris for Tacoma at the request of **Bishop Peter Hylebos**. During the next two-plus decades they operated a small school at the south end of American Lake, living in what was originally Bell Mar Villa, the home of **Stephen Nolan**.



This magnificent marble altar, originally installed at Visitation Villa, now resides in St. Martin of Tours Church in Fife.

Between 1924-56, the Sisters operated the Visitation School, located on a 200-acre site, originally part of the Richardson Donation Claim. Now it is the site for Lakewood Towne Center. During the Visitation years,



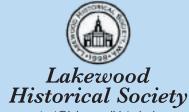
Former nuns Julie Horschel (I) and Carol Tight were our gracious guides on a recent tour of St. Martin of Tours.

some of the property was sold to the Clover Park School District for the construction of the high school. Some land was purchased for the Lakewood Clinic, and some for St. Francis Cabrini Parish. The remainder was sold to the Villa Plaza Developers, and the Sisters moved to Federal Way. There they operated a Retreat Center from 1956 until 1993, when the property was sold to the City.

See VILLA, pg 4

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PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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MEETINGS

The Lakewood Historical Society formed in 1998 to preserve and share Lakewood's rich history through programs, displays and publications. The Society offers frequent programs on topics of historical interest. Most programs are free and open to the public. Visit us on Facebook or our website for information on events and activities:

www.LakewoodHistorical.org

President's Message

This message is being written over the Memorial Day weekend, an especially meaningful holiday for our country, a day in which we honor our fallen. In every cemetery throughout our nation, American flags have been lovingly placed on their graves by Boy Scouts and active duty soldiers alike. As people visit this weekend they are reminded that here lies a hero, someone who gave his last full measure of devotion to his country.

The South Puget Sound is fortunate to have the military in our backyard. We have daily reminders of their presence when our windows rattle from artillery shells, view planes flying overhead or get stuck in traffic by JBLM. But many parts of the country don't have a relationship with a military neighbor. For you see, less than 1% of the U.S. population is now serving in the military. Many families don't know a loved one who has served in the more recent wars.

As you read this, think of the veterans you know. Next time you see them, don't just thank them for their service, but ask them to recount some of their experiences. It may be difficult for them to get started, but once the memories flood back, they will share harrowing experiences of survival and close relationships developed for comrades killed in action. For it is, we the living, who have the solemn duty to carry on the mission for freedom.

God Bless America.

Donors since our last issue—Thank You!

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MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gift in memory of Marlo Sass by Sylvia B Sass Gift in memory of Barbara Lord Nelson by John and Rebecca Huber

The Lieutenant and the Ram

By Nancy Covert

Garrison Spring is the name given to the spring and creek that flows from Western State Hospital into Puget Sound by Chambers Creek. The springs provided water for the United States Military Garrison at Ft. Steilacoom. Details about the building of a water ram to pipe the water from the canyon floor to the plain above are recorded in the 1857 diary of Ft. Steilacoom's Quartermaster, Lt. August Kautz.

Information is taken from Tacoma Public Librarian Gary F. Reese's 1989 Origins of Pierce County Place Names and "Nothing Worthy of Note Transpired Today", The Northwest Journals of August V. Kautz, edited by Reese, Tacoma Public Library, August 1978. Thanks, too, to Carol Neufeld-Stout, Historic Fort Steilacoom President/historian.

June 27th, 1857

...I closed the beef contract with Mr. Hurd. I was busy all morning until evening attending to various matters. I witnessed Mr. Ayers hydraulic ram at Olympia. He is to order one for the post to supply us with water.

July 12th, 1857

Mr. Ayers came down today and I put the entire force that I could commenced to put up the hydraulic ram. I was quite busy attending to the workmen and keeping them employed...Mr. Ayers thinks I shall have no difficulty supplying the garrison with water.

July 13th, 1857

...Busy all day with the ram. We got the thing to operate, but it was late when we started. There will be considerable work on it tomorrow. It does not furnish as much water as I expected. The Captain (Maloney) is quite jealous of the ram. He is joking about every other portion of the O. M. Department, but he has not gone near the ram. He would be much pleased if it did not work, I think.

July 14th, 1857

The ram does not work yet. I shall be obliged to send for Mr. Ayers again. I am inclined to

think a portion of the pipe is the cause of it not working. We shall probably be compelled to resort to some convenience. It will perhaps be necessary

to elevate a reservoir and require the water to free itself.

AUGUST V. KAUTZ

July 15th, 1857

The hydraulic is out of operation yet.

I made some arrangements for fixing up the ram by rolling the lead pipe in and binding it with cord, and pitching the whole when put over.

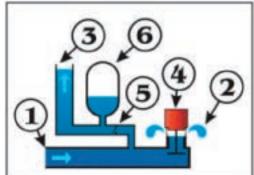
The hydraulic ram is working much better than it did before.

Hugust 9th, 1857

The iron pipe has arrived for the hydraulic ram...

What is a hydraulic ram, and how does it work?

A hydraulic ram, or hydram, is a cyclic water pump powered by hydropower. It takes in water at one "hydraulic head" (pressure) and flow rate,



- 1. Inlet drive pipe
- 2. Free flow at waste valve
- 3. Outlet delivery pipe
- 4. Waste valve
- 5. Delivery check valve
- 6. Pressure vessel

and outputs water at a higher hydraulic head and lower flow rate. The device uses the water hammer effect to develop pressure that allows a portion of the input water that powers the pump to be lifted to a point higher than where the water originally started. RAM, from pg 3

The hydraulic ram is sometimes used in remote

areas, where there is both a source of lowhead hydropower and a need for pumping water to a destination higher in elevation than the source. In this situation, the ram is often useful. since it requires no outside source of power other than the kinetic energy of flowing water.



Kris Kaufman on the grounds of historic Fort Steilacoom with Lt. Kautz's original hydraulic ram (close-up, right)

In 1772, John Whitehurst of Cheshire, United Kingdom, invented a manually controlled precursor of the hydraulic ram called the "pulsation engine" and installed the first one at Oulton, Cheshire to raise water to a height of 4.9 metres (16 ft). In 1783, he installed another in Ireland. He did not patent it, and details are obscure, but it is known to have had an air vessel.

The first self-acting ram pump was invented by the Frenchman Joseph Michel Montgolfier (best known as a co-inventor of the hot air balloon) in

1796 for raising water in his paper mill at Voiron. His friend Matthew Boulton took out a British patent on his behalf in 1797. The sons of Montgolfier obtained a British patent for an improved version in 1816, and this was acquired, together with Whitehurst's design, in 1820 by Josiah Easton, a Somerset-born engineer who had just

moved to London. (Wikipedia)

According to Kris Kaufman, Lake-wood Historical Society Board member, water in Garrison Spring is part of the Clover Creek drainage system. The area is an aquifer, saturated with ground water in the top thousand feet.

Unfortunately, the springs' water is undrinkable. The reason, according to Kaufman—

"It does not come from Mt. Rainier."

VILLA, from pg 1

The remaining sisters relocated to other monasteries around the country.

For nearly 40 years, the Dumas Bay Center was operated as a convent and women's retreat center by the Visitation Sisters. The site was secluded, had a natural beauty, and it provided an ideal setting for the contemplative lifestyle. In 1993, the Sisters closed the center and relocated to other monasteries around the country. It's possible to stay at the **Dumas Bay Retreat Center** in Federal Way where the rooms are maintained in a lowkey manner: no phones, TVs or internet service. The idea here 4 is "contemplation."



View of Visitation Villa as it appears on historical marker outside Lakewood Safeway store.

The marble altar, once used at the Visitation Villa School, now serves as the Altar at **Saint Martin of Tours Church** in Fife.

Lakewood History Museum

has a small display of photos and news articles about the school. The school exhibit is located across the hallway from the "Lakewood Log" exhibit.

More about the Order:

The Order of the Visitation was founded in 1610 by Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Jane Frances de Chantal in Annecy, Haute-Savoie, France. At first the founder had not a religious order in mind; he wished to form a congregation without external vows, where the cloister should be observed only during the year of novitiate, after

which the sisters should be free to go out by turns to visit the sick and poor.

See VILLA, pg 11.









Are you a "gate-crasher"?

That's a term that originated in 1926, meaning an "uninvited party guest." A year earlier the term was used to describe a motorist who ran the railway gates. It's hoped you're

not a gate-crasher either way. The word originated in the Old English "geat," meaning a door, opening, passage, as well as a hinged framework barrier. The most impressive "gates" in medieval days, likely were the huge, sharp, spiked Portcullises that dropped from the top of an archway, cutting off any escape from or entrance into the castle.

Interestingly, the word "gated community" didn't come into usage until 1989, when it was used to described the community at Emerald Bay in Laguna Beach, California.

When it comes to "gates" around Lakewood, there are about a dozen major ones, including the fancy entry "gates" placed on major roads leading to last year's big golfing event, the US Open in—what? It's only been a year?

Aside from the really famous "Gates" of Bellevue—as in "Bill" Gates—there are many world-famous "Gates"—from the ones that guard the entry to Buckingham Palace, to the Brandenburg Gates of Germany, to the Gates of Cairo. More Gate stuff—there's San Francisco's renowned Golden Gate, and this writer's hometown, Pittsburgh, often is portrayed as the "Gateway City to the West."

This spring Lakewood Historical Society explored the City to photograph a few of the most noteworthy gates including Lakewold Gardens gates, Thornewood Castle's gates, and the VA Hospital gates. **How many gates do you recognize? Where are they?** (Answers, next issue.)

Happy "gate keeping." Share your "gate" finds with Lakewood Historical Society—you're never a "gate-crasher" with us! *Enjoy the journey*—











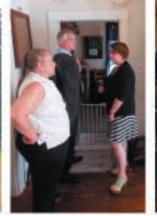




Marjorie Candau (left), owner of Boatman-Ainsworth House, attends the dedication of its marker, along with (I to r) LHS President Becky Huber, LHS Board Member Kris Kauffman, Lakewood Councilwoman Marie Barth, Mayor Don Anderson and LHS Board Member Dick Major











Boatman-Ainsworth House

Above: With a little time before the ceremony begins, Mayor Anderson and Councilwoman Barth are treated by owner Candau to a private tour of the oldest structure still standing in Lakewood.

Left: A few words from the mayor makes the dedication official. For more about the history of this historic dwelling, see the Fall 2015 edition of this newsletter.





The Heath Farm

Before Western State Hospital, even before Fort Steilacoom, the large tract of land to the north and south of present-day Steilacoom Boulevard belonged to **Joseph Heath**, an Englishman employed by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company to oversee the Hudson Bay



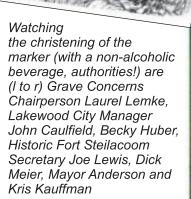
Company's operations on Puget Sound.

It was no walk in the park (even though a park, Lakewood's largest, now occupies much of his original claim)—a fact Kris Kauffman made clear by reading excerpts from Heath's diary during the dedication ceremony.

An illustration (left) from Kris's copy shows

just one of the many hazards Farmer Heath confronted on a daily basis as he struggled to make a go of it in a place that must have seemed like the end of the world in the 1840's!







ocal Firm Creates Church Organs in the Style of the Masters

by Nancy Covert

In a culture where mass production is often more highly valued than items that require a lot of time to make, it's possible to encounter craftsmen who create products designed to last for centuries.

A suburban Pierce County shop—Paul Fritts & Co. Organ Builders—is one such place. Inside the lofty halls of a frame building that resembles a 19th century schoolhouse, custommade Baroque-style church organs have been crafted for more than a quarter of a century. The local company is one of 10 major organ builders of this kind in the U.S.

Orders for these elaborate wind instruments has been steady during that time. Here a group of craftsmen, seven full-time, two part-time, each possessing decades of experience in fields from woodworking to metalworking, contribute considerable talents to all aspects of the final product.

Entering through the shop's front door, one's gaze is drawn to a blueprint fastened to the wall. It's a detailed drawing of a pipe organ installed in 2007 at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio. For those who have seen the organ at Pacific Lutheran University's Lagerquist Hall, this one is 125% larger.

Moving from the sketch showing the organ's skeleton to the final product to be assembled in the hall, the mind takes a leap of faith, 'hearing' the soul-lifting sounds that will one day resonate from the assorted wood and metal pipes, that resemble a "bunch of giant and

small whistles," owner **Paul Fritts** explains.

During the past several decades this group of craftsmen have perfected the secrets of master organ builders and added their own touches. They don't ignore modern technology, though: using computers for producing detailed blueprints and the highest quality wood saws, are found in this contemporary; yet very medieval setting.

Upstairs a long, unfinished wooden pipe, looking like a patient on life support, lies braced on a pair of sawhorses.

One end is attached to a black tube that's connected to a keyboard.

"The longer the flue the deeper the sound," instructs Paul. who studied music, focusing on the violin, at the University of Puget Sound. He'd been a "faculty kid" and didn't want to at-

tend Pacific Lutheran University where his father, **Dr. R. Byard Fritts**, was professor of music.

Because he'd been raised around music and woodworking, though, Paul said he knew by the time he was in 8th grade that he wanted to build organs. R. Byard resigned from teaching in 1969 and began building small organs. Paul worked with

his father for several years and then bought out the business.

Paul presses a key and a deep, mournful sound resonates from the unfinished flue—much like a note that **Johann Sebastian Bach**, the most prolific and renowned composer of organ music—would have coaxed from a similar keyboard in his time (think *Toccata and Fugue*).

Unfinished pipes of various lengths and diameters (affecting tone) are stored downstairs. Eventually they will be assembled into groupings or ranks that surround the

control panel:
the keydesk
with multiple
keyboards and
"stops" that
activates the
air flow to each
pipe. The end
result will be
a melodious
blending of
dozens of voices.

Mike Phelan, who's been working there for 20 years, says he considers himself "fortunate to be using the woodworking skills" he learned. He takes pride

He takes pride in showing the organ's innards, explaining terms such as 'pedal chests' that contain 'sliders': strips of wood that open and close holes that control each pipe's pitch.

Pipemaker **Erik McLeod** is soldering "ears" onto a pipe (to modify its voice), while **Greg Bahnsen**—"his gray hair and trimmed beard, make him look



J. S. Bach on keyboards, circa 1730

like an old-world craftsman,"
Paul teases—checks a pipe's
length. **Judy Fritts**, Paul's sister
and talented artist, often carves
figures for the finished product.

A long-standing Baroque tradition is to paint the organ case, usually red or white. Paul decided red would look best in this particular cathedral. Four carved figures were added as a finishing touch.

Why would a church invest in something that's obviously not inexpensive? (In the seven digit range) This kind of organ, Paul explains, "is an important piece of church art and architecture; a focal point for the service, and particularly appropriate for a congregation that values music."

Unlike an electronic organ, a custom-built instrument, such as this, is made to last.

"If we've done our work well," he says, "the organ lends itself to the (worship) experience."



Fritts organ in St.Joseph's Cathedral.

Lakewood Historical Society and Museum

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May (5 months YTD) 2016

OPENING CASH ON HAND – January 1, 2016

OPENING CASH ON HAND - January 1, 2010	
Checking Money Market	\$ 6,621 \$27,838
Total	\$34,459
INCOME	
Grants Individual & Family Memberships Business Memberships Business Sponsorships Donations–Museum Fund Memorial Gifts Bank Interest Other	\$ 5,000 \$ 3,605 \$ 100 \$ 850 \$ 6,222 \$ 520 \$ 40 \$ 230
Total Income	\$16,567
EXPENSES	
Operations & Administration Museum Lease Equipment/Software/Furnishings Professional Develop/Recognition Contract Services & Support Insurance Marketing/Publications/Advertising Newsletter Printing/Mailing Graphic Design Services Website Hosting/Maintenance Educational Programs/Events Museum Exhbits/Displays Historical Markers	\$ 2,251 \$ 8,000 \$ 328 \$ 168 \$ 900 \$ 1,280 \$ 6,583 \$ 1,783 \$ 2,617 \$ 262 \$ 90 \$ 2,005 \$10,496
Total Expenses	\$37,053
CLOSING CASH ON HAND – May 31, 2016	
Checking Money Market	\$ 5,230 \$ 8,742
Total Ending Cash	\$13,972

Do you belong to a Book Club? Are **you** a "bluestocking"*?

One Internet article about the topic of Book Clubs asks the question, Why do we love them so much? Is it the zucchini gardening members always try to unload on their fellows—or what?

There are more than five million people in the U.S. who belong to one or more book clubs! They read everything from Science Fiction and Fantasy to Mysteries, Best Sellers, the Bible, books by local authors, and everything in between.

Book Clubs are BIG news!

This year in Lakewood, the **Friday Book Club** celebrates its 75th anniversary, established in 1941 "in the unincorporated village of Lakewood, WA," according to the group's handbook.

Here's the local "bluestockings" story:

"World War II was raging, and we were experiencing rationing of many items needed for the war effort. Gas and tires for the cars were severely rationed, and the women of Lakewood found it impossible to drive to the downtown Tacoma library. (This was about 20 years before the Tenzler library opened).

"Several Lakewood women devised a solution to the problem. They met, drew up a set of bylaws and established the Friday book Club that is still going strong 75 years later. There have only been three revisions of its by-laws (1980, 1993, and 2006).

"This speaks to the wisdom of the women who came up with the plan for the club's formation."

Membership is limited to 18, divided into sets of partners. Nowadays, each woman chooses a book to read, and each member has two weeks in which to read the book before exchanging it with her partner. During the club's nine-month "season," each woman has access to 18 books, such as Angels Flying out of Hell, It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War, and Leaving Before the Rains Come. (Thanks to Friday Book Club member Virginia Cummings, who provided this brief club history.)

Statistics aside, the basic question is: what is it about the idea of joining a

reading group that draws in such a broad American cross-section? According to the article's author: book clubbing gives off a fructuous scent of aspiration. It has done so from the start!

Early clubs served largely as a domestic and populist alternative to higher education, at that time comparatively hard to come by. Eventually, though, the balance shifted and clubs started to pull toward the middle of the cultural spectrum—fleeing both the tight walls of scholarship and the low ceiling of mainstream entertainment. What began as a portal of cultural incursion is, today, a place for cultural retreat.

Here's a short timeline of America's book clubs:

1826—First American Lyceum established.

1840—First bookstore-sponsored book clubs

1858—First public library in Washington Territory established in Steilacoom (It's possible to view the collection of early books purchased in San Francisco and brought to Steilacoom aboard one of Capt. Lafayette Balch's ships).

1895—Men's reading groups become popular

1900—Women's literary societies are established

1926—Book of the Month Clubs become popular

1952—First book club for children established

1984—And Ladies of the Club by Helen Hooven Santmyer, a novel about book clubs, inspires more book clubs to be created

1986—Oprah Winfrey establishes her book club

2009—Social network book clubs are established

2015—Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg makes it his 2015 New Year's resolution to read a book every two weeks and discuss it on Facebook with friends.

Here are a few more stats compiled by Book-Browse.com, a site that in 2014 interviewed 2,650 women, aged 25+ who read at least one book a month:

95% are in a book club—37% are in one book club, 19% are in two or more clubs.

By age: 43% of women 25 to 34 are in a book club; 67% of women 75+ years are in a club.

89% belong to a club that meets in person; 17% belong to a club that meets on line.

For clubs that meet in person, 35% are comprised of 8-10 members; 52% of online clubs have 40+ members.

6% read fewer than 6 books; 19% read 6-8 books, while 67% read 9-12 books, and 8% read 13+ books.

When it comes time to plan ahead: 31% plan 2-3 months ahead; another 17% plans 4-6 months' at a time.

As for having a "reading guide," 50% of book clubbers prefer it; while 28% say it's "not a factor."

Overall, book clubs show a 3% increase in membership between 2011 to 2012.

This past March, Clover Park School District students from the high schools and middle schools competed in the **2016 Battle of the Books**. Perhaps one day they'll form their own long-term book clubs.

*The term "blue-stocking" was given to women who attended these early literary sessions, named, it is said, for one popular guest's signature hosiery. By 1863—across the pond—the New American Cyclopaedia was using the term as a catchall description for "pedantic or ridiculously literary ladies."



VILLA, from pg 4

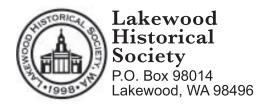
The order was given the name of The Visitation of Holy Mary with the intention that the Sisters would follow the example of Virgin Mary and her joyful visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth, (known as "The Visitation" in the Roman Catholic Church).

De Sales invited Jane de Chantal to join him in establishing a new type of religious life, one open to older women and those of delicate constitution, that would stress the hidden, inner virtues of humility, obedience, poverty, even-tempered charity, and patience, and founded on the example of Mary in her journey of mercy to her cousin Elizabeth. The order was established to welcome those not able to practice austerities required in other orders. Instead of chanting the canonical office in the middle of the night, the sisters recited the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin at half-past eight in the evening. There was no perpetual abstinence nor prolonged fast. The Order of the Visitation of Mary was canonically erected in 1618 by Paul V who granted it all the privileges enjoyed by the other orders. In 1626, it was officially established.

A foundation was established in Lyons in 1615, followed by Moulines (1616), Grenoble (1618), Bourges (1618), and Paris (1619). When Saint Francis de Sales died (1622) there were 13 convents established; at the death of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal in 1641 there were 86. The Order spread from France throughout Europe and to North America.

The Convent of the Visitation in Mobile, Ala. was founded in 1833 by Bishop Michael Portier, first bishop of Mobile. Aware of the lack of schools in his diocese, he remembered the fine work of the Visitation nuns throughout his native France. Five nuns from the convent in Georgetown, Washington, D. C. boarded a sailing ship in November, 1832 and arrived in Mobile a month later. In March, 1840, a tornado leveled the buildings.

In the 1950s the school was converted to a retreat house. The monastery also serves as a distribution center for communion breads used by churches throughout the Mobile Archdiocese and for many churches in surrounding states, a service extended to a number of non-Catholic churches as well. In 1866 Visitation Sisters from Baltimore, MD came to Richmond, VA at the request of Bishop John McGill. In 1987 the Visitation Sisters relocated to Rockville, VA,where baking altar breads is their main source of income.



Summer 2016 Programs & Activities

Sat, July 9, 10 am-7 pm- SummerFEST, Ft Steilacoom Park, Visit Society's booth, enjoy lots of activities for families and kids, food and crafts. Visit this link to learn more: cityoflakewood.us/parks-and-recreation/special-events/summerfest

Tues, July 12, 10 am- 3 pm- Lakewood Farmer's Market, Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW. Be sure to stop by the Society booth to participate in the trivia contest and drawing.

Tues, August 9, 10 am-3 pm- Lakewood Farmer's Market, Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW. Be sure to stop by the Society booth to participate in the trivia contest and drawing.

Tues, August 23, 4-6 pm, Picnic in the Park, Harry Todd Park in Tillicum, come join the Society for a potluck, come enjoy great food and fellowship, learn more about the history of the Tillicum community.

Tues, September 13, 10 am-3 pm, Lakewood Farmer's Market, Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW. Be sure to stop by the Society booth to participate in the trivia contest and drawing.

Tues, September 27, 7 pm, Billy Franks Jr.: Nisqually Tribal Leader, St Mary's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 10630 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, Learn about the legacy of a notable Nisqually Tribal Leader from elders of the tribe.