JOIN US as we celebrate Pierce County’s military heritage in this, the centennial year of the “war to end all wars”, known today as World War I. Camp Lewis, founded in 1917, the same year America entered the war, and today known as Joint Base Lewis-McChord, is the fitting place for such a tribute.

Our “Salute” includes a buffet dinner and dessert dash, no-host bar, music, exhibits from five museums, “Beauty and Duty”: Alice & Steve Miller’s collection of women’s WWI uniforms, plus an opportunity drawing for some terrific prizes.

Your emcee:
Brigadier General (USA Ret.) Doug Richardson, Pierce County Councilmember and past four-term Mayor of City of Lakewood.

Presentations by:

4 PM • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014
AMERICAN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER
8085 NCO BEACH ROAD, JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD
President’s Message

Didn’t we have a great summer this year! Now it is time to settle back into our routines. The kids are back in school, football season has started (Go Hawks!) and baseball playoffs will be starting soon. I’m holding out hope that the Mariners might get the second wild card spot. It sure has been fun watching them this year.

This issue is “chuck full” of great content, thanks in large part to Nancy Covert. Not only has she found the time to submit articles for our newsletter and the Subtimes online newspaper, she is now the author of another book, *American Lake Vignettes*, this one about Lakewood’s history. She has uncovered the history of two communities, Tillicum and Lake City, that have largely been forgotten. See details about the book on page 8 of this issue. Nancy’s book signing is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 11th at the Museum.

By the time you are reading this we will only be a few weeks away from our “really big show”, “Salute Pierce County”. If you haven’t purchased your tickets yet, it is not too late. A whole lot of effort has been put into making it a memorable event you will not want to miss. The food and view are worth the price of the ticket.

Another activity that the Society has been busy with this year is placing more historic markers. We are so fortunate to have received a grant from the Pierce County Historic Preservation Board that will help fund the placement of four more markers. See page 5 of this newsletter to see where the new ones are located. The information is also available at www.lakewoodhistorical.org

Becky Huber

represented Washington’s 6th District, 1977-2013. Served as chair of the Defense Appropriations Committee, ended his tenure in Congress as top-ranking Democratic Member on both the Defense and the House Appropriations Committee. Norm remains a tireless advocate for the military and its veterans. Tacoma Historical Society will present him the Star of Destiny Award.

Featured vocalist:

Vicki Melton, coloratura soprano, performs extensively as recitalist and soloist, including principal roles with Tacoma Opera and appearances with the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra.
There are seven early burial sites in the Lakewood region: Mountain View Cemetery, just off Steilacoom Boulevard, that marks its centennial in 2015, the pioneer cemetery on the grounds of Western State Hospital—a small area where early pioneers, such as Steilacoom’s first mayor (and Idaho’s Territorial Governor) William Wallace and his wife, Lucena, are buried; the Byrd Family Cemetery on the grounds of the South Puget Sound Urban Wildlife Interpretive Center, the Home of Peace Jewish Cemetery on Steilacoom Blvd SW, Western State Hospital’s patient cemetery in Ft. Steilacoom Park, and the Masonic Cemetery located at the intersection of Farwest Dr. SW and 120th St. SW.

The fourth cemetery, parallel to Washington Blvd, known as the Old Settlers Cemetery, has been the location for the latest upkeep efforts. Two Lakewood-area Scouts made the cemetery the focus for their Eagle Scout projects; the latest work was done by Len Castro, who recently created a kiosk containing three steel plates engraved with names of those buried there. Len’s project is a continuation of the fence installation done by his older brother, Leavitt, several years ago.

On July 31, Castro concluded his project. A member of Lakewood B. S. Troop 410, Castro estimated he has about 600 hours of time in the project. His Court of Honor was held on Feb. 14, 2014.

Help with the project was provided by the City of Lakewood, Lowe’s, Home Depot, Gary Reese, and Russell Albright.

“Working on this project has been a wonderful experience for me,” Len said. “I felt happy knowing that I was helping keep the memories of these people alive; building something lasting so their names can actually be seen by all who visit the cemetery and so they can be remembered.

“Some of the information on the steel sheets are from headstones which are now gone, and people now, and in the future, will be able to have this information without having to do their own research. I took approximately five different sets of records, the work of people through the decades, who walked the cemetery and recorded the information from headstones, the first set beginning in the 1960’s.”

“I had to compare and contrast and correct information. I even asked my grandmother, who’s a genealogist, to research some of the discrepancies. I tried to make this as accurate as possible. Hopefully people will be glad to have this in the cemetery.”

While the actual burial count may never be known, since part of the cemetery was paved over during the past century, Castro has listed 250 names on the plaques. Len has been home schooled; plans to go on a mission, and eventually attend college in Utah.

An earlier account, done in 1999 by Cherie Peterson, said that the cemetery is “maintained by the county, and there appears to be no records of old burials, so walking the site is mandatory if looking for a particular stone.”

According to her internet account, the land was donated in 1855 to Pierce County by Steilacoom attorney Frank

See CEMETERY, pg 4
From the Lakewood Library, to the Tacoma Speedway; from the Colonial Center, to the Lakewood Playhouse—lately, it seems as though there’s always some milestone event being celebrated. Well, here’s one more to add to the list—Lakes High School marks its 50th anniversary of the first graduating class in 2014, and one of LHS’s board members has a special connection to that event.

Sue (Washburn) Scott was one of 300 students who graduated in 1964—so big plans were made for a gathering, which was held in September. A copy of Legends, Lakes’ yearbook from that year, is available in the Museum to browse through the next time you’re visiting. And, if you ask her, she might sing the school’s song, “Lakes High We Salute You.”

Sue Scott (second from right) with fellow classmates of ’64

LHS Secretary Sue Scott was one of 300 students who graduated in 1964—so big plans were made for a gathering, which was held in September.

A copy of Legends, Lakes’ yearbook from that year, is available in the Museum to browse through the next time you’re visiting. And, if you ask her, she might sing the school’s song, “Lakes High We Salute You.”

One of 300 Lakes grads from 1964

From the Lakewood Library, to the Tacoma Speedway; from the Colonial Center, to the Lakewood Playhouse—lately, it seems as though there’s always some milestone event being celebrated.

Well, here’s one more to add to the list—Lakes High School marks its 50th anniversary of the first graduating class in 2014, and one of LHS’s board members has a special connection to that event.

Sue (Washburn) Scott was an Army “brat.” Because of her parents’ peripatetic military lifestyle—she attended more than 10 different schools from Massachusetts to Washington and even in Europe (Zweibrucken)—it comes as no surprise that her favorite subject is history. Once the Washburns arrived at Fort Lewis, they lived at the Red Shield Inn temporarily while awaiting assignment to on-post quarters, where they eventually lived for three years. Sue, her sisters and brother first attended classes in the DuPont School District. She began high school in 1961 at Laughbon then finished her sophomore year at Clover Park. Her junior and senior years were at the new Lakes High School.

Architect Donald Burr designed the modern high school (the second high school in the Clover Park School District) that cost approximately two million to build. Burr used a “main street” design for the building, with a central corridor through the middle and four “grade” wings opening off from that.

Today, though, there’s nothing left of old Lakes. The newly renovated/remodeled school opened a few years ago—complete with its state-of-the-art Performing Arts Building.

Classes at Lakes, Sue remembers, began at 8 and ended at 3 p.m. She worked as a cafeteria cashier at lunchtime. Besides her Secretarial Course studies—outstanding skills for future work—she can still “read” shorthand hieroglyphics—Sue also was a member of Spanish club. In 1964, she adds, “The Lakes basketball team had an 8-0 record.”
Never mind that the Summer of 2014’s temperatures were way above the norm. A group of Lakewood historians were standing in the shade when they dedicated two more historical markers in the city in July.

LHS President Becky Huber, Lakewood Mayor Don Anderson, City Manager John Caufield, LHS board members and others gathered in a shady spot to dedicate the latest marker.

The marker is not far from the Garden’s gift shop. Be sure to look for it.

The historical organization has been placing these markers around the city since 2002 to help folks learn about and appreciate the importance of local historical sites such as Visitation Villa (an all-girls school in the 30-50s that formerly occupied the site of Lakewood Towne Center. It’s on the wall of the Safeway store) and the Tacoma Speedway (now the campus of Clover Park Technical College).

Besides the Garden plaque (Lakewold is celebrating its 25th year as a public garden this year), the group also dedicated a plaque at the Water’s Edge Condos (former site of the Ice Arena).

Stop by Lakewood History Museum in the Lakewood Colonial Center, at 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive. S.W. and pick up a map showing marker locations. Museum hours are from noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. www.lakewoodhistorical.org or phone 253-682-3480.
How did Lakewood’s Summerfest—known years earlier as “Lakes Summer Festival” originate? The answer to that question sent this writer in search of old news stories on microfilm at the Lakewood History Museum, and to meetings with folks who “remembered.”

But first: some background about Jeanette Hurlow, the 1969 Lakes Summer Festival’s “Queen Mother.”

There were 17 youngsters in Grades 1-6, at Lakewood’s Little Red Schoolhouse—now Custer Elementary. The students and their teacher, Mabel Justin, posed for a formal class photo on that 24th day of April 1941. Sitting primly in the front row of that photo, on the far left, is Jeanette (Lawrenson) Hurlow, who graduated in 1950 from Clover Park High School. Wearing a prim white skirt and blouse—in the picture, nine-year-old Jeanette sits next to her brother, Richard.

Jeanette remembered the good old days, and her patient teacher, Mabel Justin.

In a photo taken two years later, she’s pictured in the second row; the class size now numbers 27, but the students still learned their lessons in the two-room schoolhouse that still stands on the edge of the property behind present-day Custer Elementary School, just a short distance up the hill from Steilacoom Boulevard.

A rope hung from the bell tower, just inside the front entry, she recalled. Each day some student had the honor of ringing the bell; the teacher would select one of the students. Often, “because he was the tallest,” it was a lad named Phillips. His family bequeathed its name to Phillips Road, so he did the honors.

Because the classroom was blended with students of all ages, often the youngest would receive help from the older students.

Subjects included math, English, penmanship, and art.

There were no discipline issues. Mrs. Justin was soft spoken and never raised her voice when talking to her students. “She was a lady,” Jeanette remembered.

The Lawrenson family lived near the school in an area that was known as the Hawaiian Village. Jeanette and her brother walked to school.

The school had no formal lunchroom so students brought lunches from home. Her Norwegian grandmother, Maren

CONTINUED next page
Hoff, who lived with them, prepared the meals that the children took to school.

There were no buses in those days, although the tracks from the early trolley days were still visible along the roadway. Kids skated on the lake, and enjoyed the ice arena that was built at the lake’s western edge (now location for the Edgewater Condos).

The original Little Red School playground had swings, slide, and “monkey” bars. In 1987 that structure was placed on the National Historic Register of Buildings. Jeanette graduated in 1950 from Clover Park High School.

After marrying Rod Hurlow, Jeanette became active in local celebrations. In 1969 she was the “Queen Mother” for the Lakes Summer Festival, a weeklong summer event that included a parade, a barbeque, carnival rides, and remote controlled boat races on Lake Waughop. She kept a scrapbook chronicling all the events that year, including “vital statistics” from each of the candidates.

Local service club members such as Rotarians, Lions and Kiwanians from Lakewood and Tacoma put on the event, she recalled. A helicopter, sponsored by Villa Plaza, dropped ping pong balls over the area that could be turned in for prizes at the shopping center.

That comprehensive scrapbook, along with other Lakes Festival materials such as the fundraiser button and newspaper stories, can be viewed at the History Museum in the Lakewood Colonial Center, on Mt. Tacoma Drive.

In tracking down the early history of the Lakes Festival—as it was known “back in the day,” Jean Dyer Swanson, a Steilacoom resident, who, with her late brother James, also attended Clover Park High School, recalled those “good old days.” Jean said she thought the Festival originated with the Colonial Days, held at the Lakewood Colonial Center.

The original Festivals included a carnival, and were held there from 1938 on until the late 50s when the business focus of the area shifted to the Villa Plaza (now Lakewood Towne Center). Jeanette’s princesses, “such as Linda Boyle” kept in touch with her for a while afterward.

Besides the Lakes Summer Fest, the town float took part in parades in Orting, Puyallup and Tacoma. In 1970, the young women presented her with a floral bouquet in appreciation for all that she’d done the previous summer.

Microfilm copies of the 1969 Suburban Times and other years are available for viewing at the Lakewood Historical Society, with rolls of film loaned by Marylou Sclair.

The museum also includes bound copies of Lakewood’s first newspaper, The Log.

Taking a few hours to browse these papers—a historical chronicle of what was happening in the area from 1937 onward—is a worthwhile way to spend any afternoon and get to better know this community.

In the meantime, if you’re a long-time resident of this area and have memories about past Lakes Festivals (today, downsized to one day and renamed “Summerfest,”) please contact the Lakewood Historical Society office—at 682-3480. We’d like to hear from you.

Note: This past summer, members from CPHS’s Classes of 49-52 held a reunion at Foley’s Restaurant at Meadow Park, Jeanette said. There were between 131-141 who attended—pretty much taking over the entire golf course grill. Plans already are underway, she added, for the class’s 65th reunion next summer. CPHS’s Class of 1950 photo currently hangs in the Lakewood Historical Museum.

LHS invites you to share YOUR story

If you have a special memory of growing up in Lakewood, consider sharing it with our readers. Submit your story to: Becky Huber, craftyhubers@comcast.net Chuck Mathias, chuck.mathias@gmail.com or Nancy Covert, ncovertoperation@gmail.com
Last April, Sabrina Register visited Lakewood to film an episode of Comcast's Neighborhoods' Series. It was a perfect day to view Mount Rainier and Lakewold Gardens as well as visit Historic Fort Steilacoom—and the Lakewood History Museum! The 11-minute video makes it clear why so many early 20th-Century Tacoma residents were drawn to the Lakes District, first as a playground, then as a beautiful and peaceful suburb where families could flourish away from the hectic and gritty life of the city. It's a trend that continues today—especially among those members of the military who are looking for the perfect place to retire.

The Lakewood episode could be seen only by Comcast's On Demand customers for the first three months after filming, but is now available to anyone with an internet connection. Just search YouTube for "comcast neighborhoods Lakewood WA" and you'll be sure to find it.

Then share it with friends and family—and especially with anyone who's planning a visit to our area.

Author Nancy Covert (who, you may have noticed, is the writing dynamo responsible for about 90% of the articles in this newsletter—ed.) explores the little-known history of American Lake, weaving together stories from lifelong residents. Their tales recall a simpler time, when money earned from paper routes paid for seaplane flight lessons and dancing at the Lakeside Country Club was a favorite pastime.

Lake City and Tillicum began as two communities separated by American Lake. Although they later joined with other surrounding neighborhoods to become part of the City of Lakewood, American Lake remains the treasured focal point of the region.

The largest of twelve lakes in the Lakes District, American Lake was once envisioned by Tacoma developers as an ideal resort location. But their grandiose dreams came to a crashing halt with the Panic of 1893. Join Covert in this vivid look back at life on American Lake.
Dr. Elizabeth Drake: local pioneer in women’s medicine  
By Nancy Covert

“A new century gives freely the blessings of opportunity to the pioneer women who venture to build there a new civilization”

Two blocks west of Gravelly Lake Drive, not far from Lake Steilacoom’s eastern shoreline, stands the former home (right) of a woman who was one of the area’s earliest school physicians.

Born in 1882 in Milbank, SD, Elizabeth Drake, daughter of James Cultes and Bertes Sherman Drake, was, according to county historian W. P. Bonney, “one of the ablest and most highly honored physicians of Tacoma, a woman whose professional career has been marked by a progress that has gained her the respect and confidence of the entire community.

“In the civic affairs also of Tacoma she has been an important factor, supporting all measures for the betterment of the city, and she has well merited the position accorded her as one of Tacoma’s foremost citizens.” Her father, Bonney noted, was a descendant of Sir Francis Drake.

Drake, who died at age 95, is buried in the old Tacoma Cemetery. Dr. Drake, who lived in Washington for about 30 years, was graduated from the Tacoma public school, and then attended Annie Wright Seminary.

Determined to pursue a medical career, with a focus on women’s diseases, she began her pre-medical studies at Stanford University, then transferred to the University of Oregon, graduating in 1907 with her M. D. degree. She continued her studies, first in New York, then at the Women’s Medical College of Philadelphia.

Her studies included classes at Johns Hopkins, as well as at the Mayo’s. In 1926 Elizabeth did post-graduate work in London and in Vienna, specializing in women’s diseases. Between 1911-12, she was a Tacoma school physician, being one of the first to fill that role. Besides working at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Tacoma General, she had her office in the Fidelity Building. She eventually built and operated a clinic on her property in Lakewood.

Mr. Bonney’s account continues: “she did not confine her labors to medical work, but had time and opportunity to enter into other fields of usefulness and activity.”

Elizabeth was active in sports, especially yachting, was a well known horsewoman; member of AMA, Yacht Club, the Zonta Club, and the Wednesday Society.

As a member of the Tacoma Yacht Club, Dr. Drake owned the yacht, “The Martha,” a 40-foot cruiser. In 1924 she and two friends sailed it to Alaska. Shortly thereafter, she sold the vessel.

Karen Wiley, formerly of Lakewood and now a Steilacoom resident, recalled seeing Dr. Drake as she returned one afternoon from Tacoma to Lakewood. Karen said she saw her on the 5:15

See DRAKE, pg 11

LAKES from page 4

Mr. Robert Peterson, who’s active in Lakewood’s Rotary Club, was one of her teachers. Other teachers she remembers were Mr. Micera (who also coached football) and Mr. Green (Driver’s Ed).

Over the years, Sue has been to three of the four milestone reunions, and can now add the 50th to her list. More of her classmates, she observes, attended the 40th and 50th reunions because of social media contact. The Lakes Pep Band, she added, attended the 40th celebration.

Although she has lost track of many classmates (many had parents serving in the military) she was able to recall those who had married, as well as their professions. Many of her former classmates still live in this area. All of her siblings attended Lakes. Sue’s sister became an LPN, her brother served in the Navy and then retired from the Tacoma Police Department, and her youngest sister works in the housing industry. Like many women of that era who were guided to a career either in teaching, nursing, or office work, Sue chose the latter field.

After graduation, Sue continued her education by attending CPTC and later worked for Washington Life Assurance on Bridgeport. After completing her Associates Degree at Pierce College she worked at Fort Lewis, eventually retiring a few years ago.

The 50th reunion was held at the Steilacoom Community Center on Saturday, September 20th. Preceding the reunion was a tour of the “new” Lakes High School on Friday afternoon, followed by a no-host gathering at the Lakewood Ram. Sue opened the Lakewood Historical Society Museum at 11 a.m. on Saturday for those graduates wanting to tour the museum.

Sounds like a great weekend!
Lakewood Historical Society & Museum

2014 Museum Fund Contributors

January thru September

2014 Goal: $25,000 for Operations, Education, Exhibits, Programs and Community Outreach

Actual to date: $16,750 from 110 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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Better Properties Real Estate
Cartridge World Lakewood
Carr’s Restaurant
DuPont Historical Society
Gramor Development WA
Harborstone Credit Union
Humphrey Properties
Interlaaken Realty
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Lakewood Ford
Lakewold Gardens
Lakewood Hardware
LeMay Pierce County Refuse
Les Schwab Tire Center
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Murray Pacific Corp
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John and Becky Huber
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Charles Hyde
William Jackson
Diane M. Johnson
Joann Johnson
Brad Jones
Clyde and Carol Kalahan
Michael and Cheryl Killen
Tharon Kirby
Edward Klopping III
Clyde and Sydna Koontz
Jarnelle Knapp
Col Karl Lorenz
James Manning
Florence March
Tim Marsh
Mayo Marsh
Darlene Matsumoto
David McDonald
Eugene Maun
Genevieve McIntyre

David Meyer
Tom and Karen Mezs
Helga Miller
Sharon and Clark Montgomery in memory of Phyllis Bell
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Harriet Wolverton
Sarah Woodall
David and Barbara Young
LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
January thru August 2014

**Opening Cash on Hand - 01/01/2014**

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**Income**

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**Expenses**

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**Closing Cash on Hand - 08/31/2014**

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**DRAKE from pg 9**

bus coming home from Tacoma. According to her recollections, that day Dr. Drake wore a navy blue dress, trimmed with a white pin-on collar, and a small pillbox hat perched on her head. She wore her hair in pin curls.

“She had a very austere, no-nonsense appearance about her,” Karen said.

Dr. Drake, Karen said, was an icon in the community. She didn’t interact with her fellow passengers on the homeward trip. Her demeanor was one of aloofness, but Karen conceded, “Perhaps she was just tired.”

One Monday afternoon in early August, after leaving the library, the writer visited the current resident of Dr. Drake’s Lakewood home, Nancy Viert. After introductions, she invited this researcher to sit a spell sit and talk to her while she shared information about Dr. Drake who lived in the house. She is the second owner of the property.

After Dr. Drake died, her nurse, Marie Langham, lived there until 1981 when Nancy purchased the property. More information about Dr. Drake, including excerpts from patients’ letters, and photos will be provided later.

Information about Dr. Drake was compiled from Bonney’s History of Pierce County, from the 1928 edition of Women of the West, an assortment of essays edited by Max Binheim and published by Publisher Press of Los Angeles, CA, and from the current resident of the Drake Home in Lakewood.
Fall 2014 Programs & Events

Sat, Oct 11th, 12 noon-4 pm—Debut of New Lakewood Book and Reception for Lakes High School Students’ Art, Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW. Nancy Covert will be available for signing her long-awaited book, “American Lake Vignettes”. Artwork by Lakes High students will be on view throughout October. Free and open to the public.

Sun, Oct 19th, 4-8 pm—”SALUTE PIERCE COUNTY” American Lake Conference Center, 8085 NCO Beach Rd, Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Joint fundraiser sponsored by Lakewood and Tacoma Historical Societies commemorating the Centennial of World War I and celebrating the military heritage of Pierce County. Tickets: $50 per person, $400 for table of 8. Reservation order form available for download at lakewoodhistorical.org, or call (253) 682-3480.

Tues, Nov 18th, 7-9 pm—Society Annual Meeting, St Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Dr SW. LHS annual meeting with year-end reports, election of board members, and presentation of recognition awards. Also a program on Washington’s 125th Anniversary. Refreshments served; free to the public.

Sat, Dec 6th, 12 noon-4 pm—Annual Holiday Open House, Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW. Enjoy holiday decorations and refreshments. Reception for latest artwork display by Shirley Petersen.

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