



Brairie Gazette

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MARCH-APRIL, 2007



Iva Alice Mann: The Forging of the Clover Park School District

The name Iva Alice Mann is known to many as one of Lakewood's junior high schools, but not so many know the story of the woman the school was named after. Mrs. Mann, who pushed for the creation of Lakewood's first high school by tea-and-cake diplomacy, was also the mother of Elizabeth Poinsett, the featured person of our last newsletter.

At the height of the Second World War fever, two bureaucrats demanded some 45 typewriters from the Clover Park School District.

Mrs. Iva Alice Mann flatly refused.

"They called me unpatriotic, and even threatened me with fines and jail," said Mrs. Mann, who now chuckles about the incident.

Mrs. Mann had reason to stand her ground.

Clover Park's typewriters already were in constant use, even by soldiers who learned to type in the evenings.

"Later, a warehouse full of office equipment for the government's use was discovered. And as a sequel, the two bureaucrats came back after the war to apologize. They said at the time, they were secretly wishing I wouldn't give in," she said.

Such spunk is typical of the woman who has been called the

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TAKEN FROM THE 1977 TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE BOOK "NOTABLE WOMEN" BY MARCIE WHITNEY, THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW ONE FORMIDABLE WOMAN FORGED LAKEWOOD'S SCHOOL DISTRICT.



IVA ALICE MANN RETURNS TO A CLOVER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING IN 1974, HERE SHOWN WITH SUPERINTENDENT OLAI HAGENESS.

Memories of School Days in Lakewood

By Jane Whitney

I was 16 years old in 1958 when my USAF father was transferred to McChord AFB. We stayed in temporary quarters at McChord and like all the other families there, searched for a house to rent. The competition was fierce. When my mother spotted a suitable house, my parents did not contact the realtor to be admitted to the house, fearing someone would snatch it. Instead we all walked around the house, peeking into the windows and Mother said, "This is the one!"

That summer, there was a celebration of the new Villa Plaza shopping center. Hundreds of people gathered in the big parking lot to watch helicopters drop ping-pong balls down into the crowd. Some of these contained gift certificates to the new stores in the Center. I got one with a \$5 certificate to a local florist and thinking it very chic, I chose a 5-gallon brandy snifter, into which I put matchbook

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GARRY OAK
The Garry Oak is the official tree of the City of Lakewood.

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Prairie Gazette

Prairie Gazette is the official publication of the Lakewood Historical Society. The newsletter is published six times a year. Distribution is directly to members and available at the Lakewood History Museum at the address listed below.

The staff of Prairie Gazette actively encourages input from the Society's members as well as the general public regarding story ideas or any other aspects of this newsletter, and the Lakewood Historical Society.

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 our website for information on events and activities.

www.lakewoodhistorical.org

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President's Message

I hope you like the "new look" for the newsletter. Ed and Hayden have worked very hard to include additional information we need to provide you. We welcome feedback so we can continue to improve and make it something you look forward to receiving every other month.

I'm sorry the weather prevented us from having our long anticipated Jan 16th Program on Mt View Funeral Home. I am happy to report that we have rescheduled Cindy Thompson's talk for August 21st, 2007. So be sure to mark you calendar now.

I plan to use this space to report on the LHS Board activities, giving you brief highlights of the Board meetings with Committee Reports. Because our meetings don't allow much time for detailed announcements, I hope you learn to come to this column to keep you updated. I want our members to be well informed about things that affect you. As your President, I intend to be forthright and honest with you, and tell it like it is. You are also welcome to attend our Board meetings on the first Tuesday of the month in City Hall, Conference Room 1E.

The most immediate concern that we have is obtaining sufficient funds to meet our operational expenses. Not only are we obligated to pay the monthly rent for the Museum, we also need to develop more exhibits and stock the Museum store. First I'd like to recognize the members who have already made a donation with their membership renewal. Thank You!

One of the simplest ways for you to help is to renew your membership. Stephanie Walsh, our new Membership Chairman, is sending out a second renewal notice this week. Please respond quickly so you don't lose out on the progress of our Society. Within the next month you will be receiving a letter for our first Annual Fund Campaign. Ideally, I'd love to have 100% participation from our members, as I have already received from the Board. Even though many of you are retired and on fixed incomes, please donate what you can and know that it will be returned to you in abundance.

Becky Huber
President, LHS



Lakewood History Museum

6211 Mount Tahoma Drive SW

253.682.3480

www.lakewoodhistorical.org/

Museum Hours:

October to March:

12 to 4 pm, Friday and Saturday

March to October:

11 to 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday

Group tours arranged by appointment

Program Topics Set for March, April

LHS member Pat Wood tells how to save your history

Genealogy 101: Preserving Your Past for the Future

The March program will cover the basic information you need to get started on doing family history research. Pat Wood, a member of the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society and a regular columnist for the Society's Researcher and Newsletter, will give the presentation. She will share her knowledge that will help "build" your family tree and track down the missing branches by using internet resources. Software programs are now available that can help you personalize your ancestor with photos and family stories. Even if you do not have a computer there are local resources that will help in your search. She will share with you her shortcuts and pitfalls. Doing family history is like eating potato chips; you can't just settle for one or two generations or one or two ancestors, you must keep going until you reach a dead end and then move onto another branch. If you are lucky enough to have a relative who has "done all the work for you" you can quickly expand to earlier generations.

March 20th, 7 PM, Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Dr SW

Groundswells and Glaciers: Our Natural Environment

Most of us realize how fortunate we are to live in a place like Lakewood and Puget Sound with its world famous natural beauty. Have you ever wondered what forces of nature created the lakes and mountains? How long ago did this happen? These are just some of the questions we hope to have answered at our April program. Our speaker will provide a look back in time before man "cluttered" the landscape.

April 17th, 7 PM, Lakewood Library

Board Meeting Highlights

1. The LHS was awarded our 3rd annual City of Lakewood Hotel Tax Grant for \$40,000. This will go a long ways towards meeting some of our financial obligations, however, it cannot be used for rent, exhibit development or all of the Executive Director's income.
2. The Standing Rules were approved by the Board. This document details duties of committees not in the Bylaws. If you would like to see a copy, please ask any Board member.
3. Janda Volkmer, our consultant's contract was renewed for a maximum 2007 annual income of \$30,000, the same as

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:
MARCH 6, 7:00 PM, LAKEWOOD
CITY HALL, ROOM 1D OFF COUN-
CIL CHAMBERS.**

- last year. Her title is now "Executive Director" which reflects her additional duties relating to museum operation and Society activities.
4. Our Hawaii Condo Raffle is going well with over 500 tickets distributed and over \$1800 received from the sales. It is not too late for you to buy your ticket for the drawing on June 23rd, 2007.
 5. Our Photo Contest is being coordinated by Jane Whitney,

- Vice President. Details are available at Robi's Camera Center. The contest ends on March 15th, 2007.
6. There are still some vacancies on committees for members interested in volunteering. The greatest needs are Program Committee and Docents for the Museum. We will be increasing our hours at the Museum to Wed-Sat, 11AM-4 PM so we will need more docents. Please contact Becky for further information on volunteering.
 7. The Program Committee has finalized the 2007 schedule of programs.

IVA MANN, FROM PAGE 1

founding mother of the Clover Park School District.

Mrs Mann modestly scoff at such an honor and rarely visits her namesake, the Mann Junior High School, because "they make such a fuss of me," she said.

She has never sought publicity, yet a record of her doings as administrative assistant and business manager on the Clover Park School Board for 19 year is testimony to her diversified talents.

According to the minutes of the school board meetings, Mrs. Mann "executed contracts... appealed to Olympia for funding... sought opinions from an attorney... purchased linoleum for the junior high school..."

Her administrative skills were acquired without formal training.

Mrs. Mann first became interested in school affairs when her two daughters made long arduous trips from their Lakewood home to Stadium High School, then later to Lincoln High School.

The Mann daughters were fortunate in that they could ride with their father, Julius, who taught electronics at Lincoln High School.

But most of the students had to take a streetcar to the downtown district and then transfer.

"Many waited at the bus station," Mrs. Mann recalled.



"And you know what waits around bus stations."

The inaccessibility of a high school, in addition to the belief that everyone should do civic work, prompted Mrs. Mann to roll up her sleeves.

One obstacle was the rivalry of five elementary schools in the Lakewood area, all with their own boards, staffs and jealousies.

She broke the ice by suggesting the teachers get together for a tea in 1925. Careful not to step on toes, she then approached each school with her no-nonsense plan to pool resources.

"I literally burned a road to Olympia to get funding," she said. "In the end, we formed the Union High School 204 District in 1928, passed a levy and built a junior high school."

Consolidation of the school district was approved in 1940, and the first high school class at Clover Park graduated in 1941.

During those years, every levy passed except one, and that was the year Mrs. Mann did not work on the levy committee.

Mrs. Mann, who is in her 80's, now oil paints and gardens. She is fond of reminiscing and remembers one incident when military officers asked if their men could use school facilities.

It took a Herculean effort on Mrs. Mann's part to get funding and staff, but in the end, some 2,100 soldiers studied high school subjects in 1941.

Mrs. Mann, whose name has become synonymous with Clover Park schools, retired December 1947. She said her motivation all those years, for a pittance of pay, was simple. "Children can't get out to lobby and administer schools. So adults have to look after their interests."

IVA ALICE MANN

When Iva Alice Mann was asked what name should be given to the new high school and school district, she suggested Clover Park, a name that may have been used by pioneers for a camping place filled with clover on the banks of either Clover Creek or Ponce de Leon Springs.

Iva Alice Mann passed away in 1983 at the age of 95. In an editorial following her death, the TNT commented, Mrs. Mann "died with the same dignity with which she lived. We call attention to her passing because thousands of students and former students of Clover Park who never knew her are nonetheless the beneficiaries of her devotion and talent in her chosen field."

A NEW DAY, A NEW EDITOR

Hello and welcome to the Lakewood Historical Society

newsletter. I hope you like the new, revamped look that Ed Kane has come up with. I'm helping put together the newsletter for this year, and this is my second issue, so am still finding my feet. I myself am new to the Lakewood Historical Society, having moved here last year from New Zealand by way of Japan.

Everywhere has its own interesting history and Lakewood is no exception. There are many stories from the past to be found and the LHS does a great job of pulling those stories out of the past and reminding us how important it is to know where our community has come from.

You'll notice the newsletter has a new name, for this issue at least. The 'Prairie Gazette' was one of the names considered for the newspaper that eventually became the 'Lakewood Log', which is now another part of Lakewood's history. Do you have another idea for a name for the newsletter? If so, please send or call it in to the editors – our contact information can be found on the page 2.

You can make our job as editors easier by supplying us with content and ideas. If you know of a good story of Lakewood's history waiting to be told – please put your fingers to the keyboard and send it in. A place, a person, a club or organization that has helped shape Lakewood, or your own personal memories of how things were – anything will be considered! This is your newsletter, after all.



HAYDEN MACKLEY

Hayden Mackley
Co-Editor

MEMORIES, FROM PAGE 1

covers and displayed it later in my college room.

I also got a job at the big Rhodes store over one Christmas vacation, where Nordstrom leased a shoe department before they went into big-time retail. I also baby-sat the children of a glamorous New York model who had rented the Boatman-Ainsworth house.

I had one year left of high school and was enrolled in Clover Park HS, where I had many surprises. I had never heard of a 'hall pass' or a 'study hall'. I had come from a school many surveys identified as the



CLOVER PARK HIGH SCHOOL IN 1946. GRAVELLY LAKE DRIVE RUNS ACROSS THE LOWER PORTION OF THE PHOTO.

best in the country, East High School in Salt Lake City and had made good grades, especially in my favorite subject, English. At Clover Park, when I produced my first essay my teacher accused me of plagiarism, telling me no one so young could have written the essay. Obviously, I lost respect for the school. My mother arranged for me to appear only in the afternoon to take English and Chemistry, the only classes I needed to apply for college. I arrived each day in our second car, an Austin Healy sedan, feeling like a movie star and thus survived the year. We had one event that thrilled the students. Our fire-drill alarm sounded and we all trooped out as we had all our student lives. But it was not just a practice drill – the school really was on fire!

After school, I drove to play practice at Ft. Lewis where the adults smoked cigarettes and drank beer. I ate M&Ms! I also swam in the lake on summer days and boys picked me up for dates in motor boats, a novelty I have always enjoyed thinking about. Later, I got a summer job selling refreshment at Ft. Lewis, where a small store was set up for the summer ROTC college students. At midnight when I was finished with my shift, I drove the wonderful curves on the back road between Ft. Lewis and McChord and went to a hamburger stand in the Lakewood Center, completely safe in the night.

My best teachers at Clover Park were Ralph Lackey and Paul Wagley. They made the school bearable for me and I am very grateful to them. I graduated from Clover Park in 1959 and never looked back. I went on to become a career diplomat and when I retired, I came back to Lakewood because my parents still lived here. I am happy here.

Growing Pains, Growing Gains

TALES FROM THE TRAILS OF TRIALS & TRIUMPHS

Museum Update

Our Lakewood History Museum has been open for a magic twelve Fri.-Sat. weekends now, with three weekend closures for Nov.-Dec. holidays. We are pleased to say we have had 235 registered guests in that time, with an estimated total of 250 visitors to date. Spring hours will begin soon, bringing a need for new docents

Research and writing is underway for an exhibit on Lakewood's natural history – a timeline approach to how the land was formed and changed over the centuries, the impacts on the life forms that followed, and how the region's Indian Tribes survived in harmony with their natural environment.

To add interest, we are seeking loans or donations of artifacts, images, fossils and the like, of local native plant and animal species. We also need Native American items such as basketry, stone or wooden tools, and/or authentic representations of items made from native materials. Volunteers interested in making models might consider making a diorama for display.

We are writing grants now to produce an exhibit and program in the fall on Lakewood's very diversified ethnic populations. We'll have more on this next issue if the grants are awarded.

Recent Donations

We've received several donations of archival materials since October, including organization and business histories, photos, documents, maps and a few items to help furnish existing exhibits for which we are most grateful. Volunteers are needed to inventory and catalogue those items now, with a training session to be announced for mid-March. A full listing those who have donated or loaned items will be included in the next newsletter.

Current Exhibit Needs

There is still a need for more artifacts in existing exhibits, particularly early settlement, schools, and local businesses and industry. Many items thought to be immaterial can make or break an exhibit. Please consider the museum if you're clearing out an attic and/or downsizing. *Your donations are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

Research Library Materials Needed

A Museum Reference Library is in the plans. We will need books, maps, recordings, surveys, documents, news clippings, souvenir programs, yearbooks, oral recordings, video, and similar material and appropriate cases and cabinets in which to house them.

Contact

If you are interested in donating or loaning items, or helping with cataloguing, please call Janda Volkmer at 253/222-7941. Thank you.

Upward & Onward

The following LHS members and supporters made cash donations to the LHS since our last newsletter. Thank you!

- Jack Avril
- Stanley and Beverley Bills
- Edie Brewer
- Michael J. Carrell
- Tom and Fae Crabill
- Joe and Carolyn Ghilarducci
- Cy Happy III
- John and Becky Huber
- Comcast
- Rhona Diehl
- T.D. Imholt
- Mary K. Johnson
- Kris Kauffman
- Maria and Robert Kelly
- Shannon Krueger
- Brad and Liz MacGowan
- Clark and Sharon Montgomery
- Walter Neary
- Dwight Orr Jr
- Cheri Pieterman
- Elizabeth Poinsett
- M. Jean Sienko
- Glen Spieth
- Norman C. Todd
- Thea Vestal
- Janda Volkmer
- Gregg and Stephanie Walsh
- Water Rights Inc
- Jane Whitney

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

- Tom and Fae Crabill
- William and Cathy Fiala
- Carl and Ingrid Fynboe
- Lisa Ikeda
- Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
- John Lynch and Cindy Bess
- Hayden Mackley
- Karl and Stephanie Roth
- Irene Russo
- Carol (Strickland) Seeburger
- Herbert A Stumpf
- Norman C. Todd

Help Wanted!

Lakewood History Museum wants you!

Volunteer Docents

Join us as a Volunteer Docent and help make history in the newest history museum in Pierce County. Docents greet Museum visitors and share the fascinating history of our region, from the era of prehistoric glaciation to the present. Orientation and training will help you discuss local history and current exhibits, as well as knowing about nearby sites of interest and visitor information on the City.

An added benefit will be occasional tours of other museums to learn more about the area. An annual recognition event will honor our volunteers to express our gratitude. Your requested time commitment is 3-5 hours per month; substitutes can be arranged during vacations or extended travel.

Docent Coordinator

The Society is in need of a Volunteer Docent Coordinator to oversee the docent schedule and assist with docent training. This can be a shared Coordinator position.

Volunteer Museum Store Manager Needed

We are seeking volunteer(s) with previous retail experience to help with the setup and management of the Museum Store. Catalogs of known museum suppliers and resources are being ordered. The Society has a small start-up budget for this operation that will serve as a museum funding source and a unique gift shopping experience for the community.

We hope you will join us.

For more information please call Becky Huber at 253/582-8682 or email craftyhubers@comcast.net.

The Newsletter and the Changes

AS WE GROW, SO DO WE CHANGE

by Ed Kane

So much has changed with the Lakewood Historical Society, and it appears all has been for the good. As something of a newcomer I do not pretend to have had anything to do with all the other changes. That was all your doing.

But now I have been asked to pitch in with my recommendations regarding another item that must change: the newsletter must grow along with the rest.

As a life-long practitioner in the graphic arts and journalism I am going to have some pretty firm ideas as far as the look of the newsletter is concerned, but everything is open to a certain amount of input from the board and the membership.

So, this first installment is sort of an introduction to the new staff and new look. That would be your new editor, Hayden Mackley, and myself, designer Ed Kane.

You may have already found Hayden's comments on page 5. This layout is the graphic representation of my comments.

But first, it is important to give proper credit to Barbara Wyatt who has struggled through her time as editor, wondering if she would have too little or too much for the pending issue. It is not an easy responsibility, and it is not always pleasant, especially if the task is

not one that is an extension of your professional life.

Barbara has done an admirable job. I hope she, and the membership, will grow to appreciate the new look.

I like the look of traditional news publications and as a historical society I hope the look that will develop over the next few issues will reflect the society's aesthetic values.

Historical Photography Contest Reminder

The Historical Photograph Contest is still open, but closing soon on March 15th. Take that old photograph down to Robi's Camera Center to enter it, and if it's un-mounted you can get it scanned at 50% off and the digital copy mounted and framed at Robi's. Entry is \$8, with proceeds going to the Lakewood Historical Society. See the last newsletter for further details.

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In Your Future, Out of Your Past

March 20 – Family History & Genealogy

Preserving Your Past for the Future

Presenter: Pat Wood, Tacoma/Pierce County Geneological Society

April 17 – Groundswells & Glaciers: The Land Around Us;

Lakewood's natural environment

Presenters: TBA



Do you have any memories of Lakewood you'd like to share? Then write us a short article and post or email it to the editors (see page 2) for publication in the newsletter. Alternatively, contact us and we will arrange for you to be interviewed and we will do the story write-up.

Help the Lakewood Historical Society with your expertise and experience!

Volunteers needed in the following areas. Please call today: 253.682.6480

Collections: Inventory, accession and catalogue

Educators: Help with children's exhibits and programs

Writers: Write history vignettes, exhibit text, labels, etc.

Technology: Help set up and manage systems

Carpenters: Construct exhibit scenes and display cases

Other: What's your specialty?

Docents: Greet/guide museum guests 1-2 times/month

Researchers: Artifacts; exhibit themes; local history

Program: Help organize/produce programs of interest

Retailers: Help set up and manage the museum store

Electrician: Install track lighting / misc. switches

Lakewood Historical Society

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