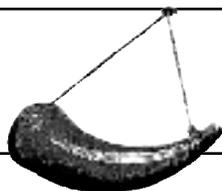
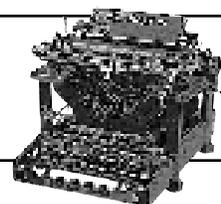

BECAUSE OUR HISTORY MATTERS



Brairie Gazette

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2010



Planned museum at CPTC hangar is delayed

Plans to convert the historic Mueller - Harkins hangar on the Clover Park Technical College campus into a permanent Lakewood Historical Society museum have hit a snag. LHS President Becky Huber said CPTC President John Walstrum has advised her that the college will not be able to make the facility available in the near future due to increased student loads and reduced state funding.

“The college remains committed to the museum concept,” she reported, quoting from a letter received from Walstrum. He explained that student enrollment is at a record high as a result of the economic downturn and related employment

cutbacks. At the same time, he told the historical society leader, the legislature has reduced funding to the college and other institutions of higher learning.

As a result of this situation, Walstrum said the college will not be able to add new buildings or provide additional classroom space, as had been anticipated in a long-range plan. That requires programs currently using the hangar to remain in that space for the foreseeable future.

Huber said the delay, while disappointing, isn't all bad news. “This will allow us to increase our membership to a level that will much more readily support the fundrais-

ing we will need to undertake to convert the Mueller - Harkins hangar into a first class museum for Lakewood.

No timetable has been established by the college or museum. Planning work that has been done by BCRA will still be usable in the future, Huber added. City of Lakewood Motel & Visitor tax funds have funded the preliminary work. “We had not started to raise any funds for the museum development and won't until we have a better time schedule,” she added.

The current museum in the historic Lakewood Colonial Center will remain the society's headquarters for the foreseeable future.

Price, Reames & Saunders join LHS Board

Three new individuals have joined the Society Board of Directors. They include Pat Price, Dave Reames and Larry Saunders. Price and Reames were elected to board terms during the 2009 annual meeting and Saunders was recently selected to replace Gary Hess.

Price is a longtime Lakewood resident who has been active in real estate with her husband Bill. They have owned and operated Northwest Properties for many years.

Reames is also a longtime resident and real estate broker. Reames is active in a number of Lakewood community organizations.

Saunders is the former Lakewood Police

Chief. He is filling out the term of Gary Hess, who has resigned due to business commitments.

Society President Becky Huber said she feels all three members will be a strong addition to the growing historical society and museum.

Hess, manager of the Great American Casino in Lakewood, indicated to Huber that his work schedule at the casino didn't allow him to participate in board meetings and as a result he needed to resign and allow the society to replace him with a person who was able to provide the support that was needed. He said that both he and the casino corporation strongly support the society and museum.



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Bill Harrison * Kris Kauffman *
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Pat Price * Dave Reames
Larry Saunders * Dave Sclair

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Prairie Gazette

Prairie Gazette is the official publication of the Lakewood Historical Society. The newsletter is published four times a year. Distribution is directly to members and available at the Lakewood Historical Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

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.

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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 the website for information on events and activities.

www.lakewoodhistorical.org.

EDITOR

Dave Sclair
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President's Message

Is summer ever going to get here? I'm more than ready for some warm weather. I'm sure we'll be wishing we had bottled some of it in August.

A lot of good things have been happening for the Lakewood Historical Society and History Museum this year. We have added new board members who have a lot of experience with other community organizations. Because our plans for the Mueller-Harkins Hangar have been delayed we have renewed our lease at the Colonial Center for another three years. We have again received outstanding support from the City of Lakewood with the Lodging Tax Grant. We continue to find new venues to showcase our Museum and Society activities.

With additional funding we are now concentrating on museum development. One of the biggest components was hiring Mary Bowlby for the next six months as a part time museum consultant to help us with our collections. She is providing ongoing training for volunteers who are cataloging our collection. Mary has helped us realize that "if we are serious about having a museum we must be serious about our collections." We are very fortunate to have her working with us because she really "knows her stuff." There are a number of steps involved in the process and we welcome anyone who is interested in helping us. Please contact me if you have a few hours a month to volunteer.

Another major museum activity assisted by Mary will be reviewing our exhibits. We are considering a new layout and expanding current exhibits as well as adding new ones. We will plan a special event to celebrate our "new look".

We have had record attendance at our programs and we have some more great topics lined up for the rest of year. See the last page for the dates and times and be sure to mark them on your calendar. Please let me know if you have any ideas for programs for next year.

Our Annual Museum Fund Campaign is well underway and we have already received over 20 new memberships. I'd like to welcome all of our new members who have joined and I look forward to having you visit the Museum and attending our special events and programs.

We are very thankful for the loyal members who continue to support us.

Have a great summer.

Becky Huber

2010 Annual Fund Drive now underway

Operating the Lakewood Historical Society's museum requires more funds than are received from membership and so for the fourth consecutive year the Museum Fund Drive is now underway.

Treasurer Gary Fowler said the goal this year is \$25,000. The funds, combined with money received from the City

of Lakewood through the Motel/Hotel Tax and membership fees, allow the society to rent space in the Historic Lakewood Colonial Center, pay for museum exhibit development, conduct monthly programs and hire a part time consultant to improve the facilities and collection. The campaign is already off to a good start

with \$9,990 already received including board member donations. This represents nearly 40% of the goal.

Fowler reported that museum consultant Mary Bowlby is the only paid staff member. All other Society and museum workers are volunteers

Contributions to the society are tax deductible, according to an IRS ruling approving the LHS as a 501c3 organization.

"Contributions of any and all sizes are welcome," Fowler stated. He said since the society was organized more than 10 years ago and with opening the storefront museum, the vast majority of contributions have been from individuals, rather than businesses or foundations. Some memorial contributions in honor of recently deceased residents have also been received.

Early in June, fundraising letters were mailed to all members as well as others in the community. If you failed to receive the material, you can send your contribution to the museum by check or credit card. Pre-scheduled monthly or quarterly donations through your bank or credit card account can also be arranged by contacting the museum if you did not receive a donation card. Museum phone is 253-682-3480 and email for Fowler is gjfowler@hotmail.com



The Rhodesleigh Estate on Lake Steilacoom was host to more than 50 members and friends of Lakewood Historical Society for a private tour recently. The 13,000 square foot house was built by Henry Rhodes, founder of the Rhodes Department Stores. It is for sale for \$3,395,000 million by Michael Morrison of Sotheby's International Realty. The elegant exterior of the house is matched by the gracious space in the main first floor rooms.



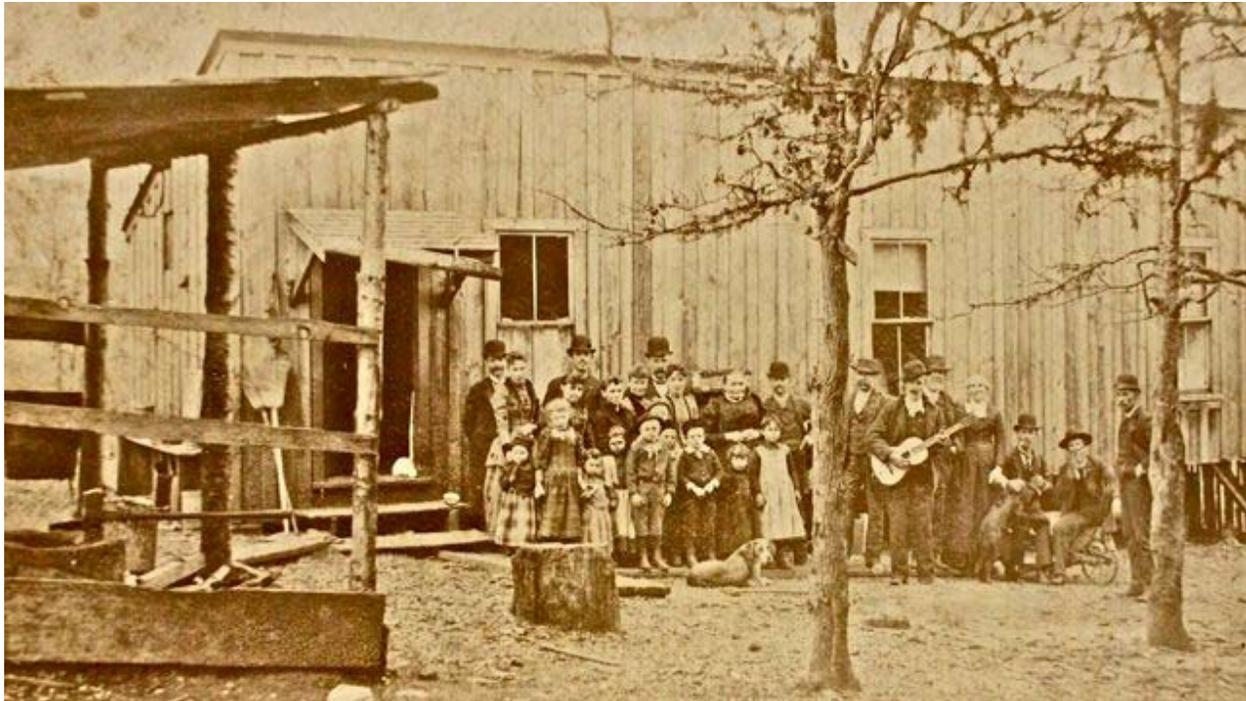


The historic significance of Fort Steilacoom Park is now more readily understandable with the installation of the Discovery Trail in the park. The land has been a hunting and gathering ground, Hudson’s Bay Company farm, military base, hospital farm and now a recreational area. The land is owned by the state and has been leased for public use since 1970.

This is an interpretive series of markers located at special points in the park and describing its significance. The 14 markers, signage and interactive elements were placed in the park recently by the City of Lakewood’s Parks & Recreation Department and recently dedicated. The Discovery Trail is a work in progress. For additional information, go to: discoverfortsteilacoom.com



At the dedication of the Discovery Trail a sign showing the location of the markers and a brief description of them was displayed. Taking part in the ceremonies are (left to right) County Councillman Dick Muri, Lakewood Mayor Doug Richardson, Roger Laybourn, and Walt Neary in his costume attire as -Charles Prosch.



Can you help identify these people and the building?

This photo was made available to the Lakewood History Museum recently. The only identification is that which is written on the back of the picture. The writing says the building is “across from ice arena at Steilacoom Lake at old Hallam home.” Directly identified are (in center of photo) “Mrs. Geehan in white apron (pinafore)” and the man at the far right is identified as Shep Kelley.

The notation also names (but without any order) Bechers, Hallams, Kelleys and Dolmans.

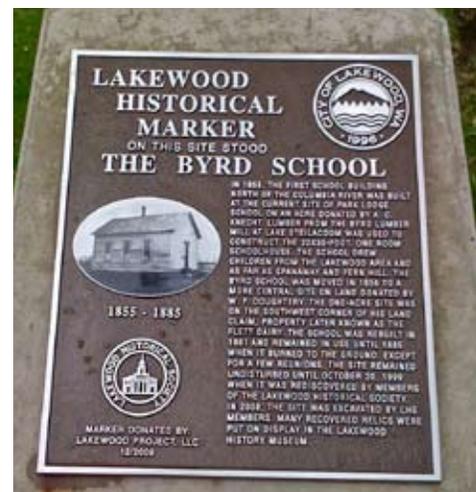
There’s no indication for the photograph’s occasion other than the notation “A happy group.”

Do you recognize the house or any of the people? Please send any information you have to: Becky Huber, president, Lakewood Historical Society at craftyhubers@comcast.net



Markers remembering Byrd School

A pair of markers now pay homage to Byrd School, which in 1855 became the first school building north of the Columbia River. The marker at right was recently placed near the school's original located, now site of the Echelon Apartments at Steilacoom Boulevard and Lakewood Dr. The older marker is on the Clover Park Tech College campus directly across from the apartments main entrance. A formal dedication of the new marker will be held in the near future.



Large crowd hears Curtis tell about 'Bad Boys of McNeil Island'



Lakewood Library was filled for the June program to hear Joan Curtis of Steilacoom tell stories about some of McNeil Island's more notorious prisoners over the years it was a federal prison.



Joan Curtis, longtime Steilacoom historian and author, kept a large crowd attending the monthly Lakewood Historical Society program captivated with her stories of the famous and infamous inmates at the former federal prison.

The speaker said early inmates got to the island by rowing the prison boat under direction of an armed guard. Some prisoners enjoyed considerable privileges from the warden, much to the displeasure of the the regular staff.

Typewriters on exhibit at museum

It may be hard to believe, but as recently as 25 years ago most offices and businesses were using typewriters for preparing documents and letters and other material. Oh, wait a minute, you don't know what a typewriter is?

According to Wikipedia, a “typewriter is a mechanical or electromechanical device with a set of keys that, when pressed, cause characters to be printed on a paper. From their invention before the 1870s, typewriters were indispensable tools for professional offices. By the end of the 1980s, word processors and personal computers replaced the tasks previously accomplished with typewriters in the western world. Typewriters, however, remain in use in various areas of the world.”



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For an office machine that was so widely used, its demise came dramatically with the growth of the personal computer industry. Today, users of typewriters are few and far between and finding the needed ribbons for the machines is a real task.

The Lakewood History Museum is currently showing a collection of typewriters of various kinds and sizes. Some of the machines in the exhibit are simple ones while others have a wide variety of options to perform a variety of tasks. At least one weighs about 25 pounds, an unusually heavy typewriter.

**LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
May 31, 2010**

Cash on Hand

	04/30/2010	12/31/2009
Checking	\$ 2,734.61	\$ 1,907.36
Money Market	\$17,128.00	\$10,807.58
Total	\$19,862.61	\$ 12,714.94

Income **May 2010** **5 Months 2010 YTD**

Grants	\$ 0.00	\$14,467.52
Memberships	\$ 170.00	\$ 3380.00
Donations -Museum Fund		
	\$ 474.15	\$ 4456.15
Sponsorships	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Memorials	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Special Fund Raisers	\$ 1710.00	\$ 4535.00
Bank Interest	\$ 12.98	\$ 45.03
Other	\$ 10.23	\$ 214.55
Total Income	\$ 2377.36	\$27,098.25

Expenses

Operations & Administration		
	\$ 251.28	\$ 2048.32
Web Site	\$ 170.00	\$ 295.00
Contract Services	\$ 0.00	\$ 3087.24
Permanent Museum Study		
	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 1280.00	\$ 1280.00
Museum Lease	\$ 1500.00	\$ 7500.00
Museum Exhibits	\$ 0.00	\$ 48.98
Postage, Copies & Printing		
	\$ 88.45	\$ 789.63
Museum Annual Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Special Events	\$ 210.00	\$ 3275.73
Marketing/Publicity	\$ 1966.92	\$ 4715.27
Total Expenses	\$ 5466.95	\$23,040.17

Closing Cash on Hand 05/31/2010

Checking	\$ 3,023.96	\$ 3,023.96
Money Market	\$ 13,749.06	\$13,749.06
Total	\$ 16,773.02	\$16,773.02

Prepared 06/01/2010

***Dimmer Foundation,
Comcast each give
\$1,000 to Society***

Two \$1,000 contributions have been received recently by the Lakewood Historical Society, according to Treasurer Gary Fowler.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Dimmer Family Foundation has made a general grant of \$1,000 in support of the Museum and Society programs, to be used where the need is the greatest.

Comcast also recently contributed \$1,000 to the Society. The funds help support monthly operations.

LHS Treasurer Gary Fowler said Comcast and Dimmer Family Foundation have been consistent donors to the museum since it opened four years ago.

***Hawaii raffle garners
\$3,000 plus for LHS;
winner to be named***

At press time, the LHS Hawaii fundraising raffle was a few days from being finalized with the winner's name expected to be drawn from among the purchased tickets during the Lakewood Summer Festival, June 26.

No final numbers are available on the raffle ticket sales but in early June nearly \$3,000 in ticket sales had already been reported.

Check the website and Facebook pages in early July for the final tally. Web is www.lakewoodhistorical.org and Facebook is facebook.com/Lakewoodhistory.

Lakewood Historical Society
P.O. Box 98014
Lakewood, WA 98496

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Programs for Summer 2010

*Meetings start at 7 pm in Lakewood Library meeting room
6300 Wildaire Road SW, Lakewood unless otherwise mentioned.*

Tuesday, July 20, 7 pm: Lakeside Clubhouse, Lakewood, WA; History of the Lakeside Club; Sharon Montgomery and Carol Seeberger, LHS members who live in the Lakeside Club community on American Lake, will give a brief overview of the history of the Club. It will include a walking tour of several of the houses. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, August 17, 6:30 pm (note time change): Lakewold Gardens, 12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood, WA; Lakewold Gardens: Lakewood's World Class Gem, Stephanie Walsh, Executive Director of Lakewold Gardens, will give history using excerpts from the remastered DVD, "Where the Blue Poppy Grows," recently viewed on PBS.

Tuesday, September 21, 7 pm: Lakewood Library; History of the Lakewood Industrial Park, presented by Tim Puryear, Northwest Building, LLC, property manager. Using historic photos from the files of the company, the building of the Navy Base Advance Depot and the present day Industrial Park will be viewed.

October 19, 7 pm: Lakewood Library (tentative), Lakewood's Historic Cemeteries; the history and recent developments at the Old Settlers Cemetery, Masonic Cemetery and the Jewish Cemetery, Hope of Peace will be shared.