Historical markers scattered all over Lakewood

There are numerous historical markers positioned in Lakewood. Some are quite old and others have been erected since Lakewood incorporated.

In this issue we’ve included photos of several of the markers including the one commemorating Chief Leschi.

Look for more next issue.

In earlier days, the property today known as Clover Park Technical College was home to both an airport and one of the country’s first auto race tracks. The marker (below left), was erected to note the aviation activities and is on the hangar. The other one is near the main door to Building 3 and notes the race track history.

This monument, situated in what is today known as Thunderbird Shopping Center on Steilacoom Boulevard, is located on a small strip of grass just north of the Dollar Store and west of Key Bank. It reads: LESCHI Chief of the Nisquallis - martyr to the vengeance of the unforgiving white man was hanged 300 yards SE from here Feb. 19, 1858. Erected 1963 by Pierce County Pioneer and Historical Assn.
President’s Message

As your Society begins its 12th year, I reflect on the year’s accomplishments. 2009 was definitely a watershed year for us in which we faced serious challenges. If we had failed to keep the museum open we would have lost the momentum we had gained. The feelings of uncertainty were replaced with feelings of hope when generous donors, landlord and the city stepped up support.

Our increased museum visitors and program attendance reflect the results in marketing and promoting our activities. I’d especially like to thank our board member and newsletter editor, Dave Sclair, for all the efforts he has put forth in this endeavor. Included in this newsletter is our 2009 Annual Report. Please take the time to read of our accomplishments. All of us can be justifiably proud in the part each of us played in our success.

I am especially proud of our partnership with the school district and the development of an educational program that will bring students and their families into the museum. Board member Marion Ball has taken on this task and has laid the groundwork to accomplish this goal. After all, the children are our future members and community leaders and it is vital that they learn from an early age the part our history plays in the development of our city.

The most integral part of our continued success is our membership. Your support is essential. If you have not yet renewed, please do so. Also, consider a gift membership to friends and family with Lakewood ties. This will ensure you will keep abreast of our activities and can participate in our “members only” events. Our tour of Silcox Island in August was the highlight of the year.

Fund raising will continue to be emphasized in 2010 and several special events have been planned. We will again be requesting your support in the Museum Fund Campaign in March, a Command Performance at the Lakewood Playhouse in April and our first music concert in May. Please support all of our activities to the best of your ability.

Thank you for your dedication.

Becky Huber
Framed copies of the newspaper story and ad at the opening of the Lakewood Coffee Shop in 1952 (now Bur’s Restaurant) were presented to the Lakewood History Museum on Dec. 31, 2009 by longtime area resident Jeanne McGinnis Riegelman and her great grandson, Andrew Ecklund of Irvine, CA. The Lakewood Log story noted that it was just the second cafe in the area. It had been planned, built and operated by its owners, Al and Jeanne McGinnis. It featured “comfortable booth and counter seating and an all electric kitchen with stainless steel equipment.” The menu showcased homemade pies and pastries made by Jeanne. Continuously operated since the March 21, 1952 opening, it is still located at 6151 Steilacoom Blvd.

LHS receives $5,000 grant for operations, displays

The Lakewood Historical Society has received a $5,000 gift from a local donor to help finance the operations of the Society and its museum, located at 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive in the historic Lakewood Colonial Center. The donor prefers to remain anonymous.

The contribution, one of the largest ever received by the Society, will be utilized for day-to-day operations required to keep the museum operating, creation of new displays as well as organize and catalogue the historical collection that continues to grow, according to President Becky Huber.

The Society opened the Lakewood History Museum in 2006 and is working on developing a larger, permanent museum in the former Mue- ler-Harkins Hangar building on the Clover Park Technical College campus on Steilacoom Boulevard in Lakewood. In the early 1920s, the college site housed an auto racetrack. More recently the property held an airport, flight school and subsequently a US Navy supply depot.

In addition to operating the museum, the Lakewood Historical Society produces monthly programs featuring a variety of historical subjects. The next program will take place at the Lakewood Library on Tuesday, January 19 at 7 pm. Dick Blumenthal will do a presentation about an 1838-1842 US exploration expedition of the Puget Sound area led by Navy Lt. Charles Wilkes. In February, Steilacoom historian, Nancy Covert will speak about the history of early area newspapers, including the Lakewood Log and the Suburban Times.

The monthly programs are open to the public and free, according to Huber, although donations are gratefully accepted. The museum is open 12-4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday.

For more information: www.lakewoodhistorical.org
Hawaii vacation LHS fundraising raffle prize

You can win a September Hawaiian vacation and at the same time help support the Lakewood Historical Society for as little as $5!

The Lakewood Historical Society is conducting a raffle offering a Maui 2-bedroom condominium plus airfare for two (up to $1,000) as a fundraiser for the society and the museum in the Lakewood Colonial Center.

The drawing will be held at 4 pm June 19, 2010 during Lakewood’s annual SummerFest at Ft. Steilacoom Park.

Tickets can be purchased during the monthly programs or at the museum, located at 6211 Mt. Tacoma Dr. SW. The museum is open Wednesday thru Saturday from noon to 4 pm.

The ground floor, 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo, located in Kihei, Maui, has a stunning ocean view and is just steps from the beach. Gerrie Zeratsky has donated the condo’s use to the society as a fundraiser.

Additional information can be obtained from Kris Kauffman, 253-581-9752 or Becky Huber, 253-582-8682.

Museum gets experienced staff member

Mary Bowlby has been selected by the Lakewood Historical Society board of directors to manage several projects. A Tacoma resident, Bowlby had been managing the Tacoma Historical Society museum until it recently closed.

Becky Huber, society president, said the board of directors was excited when it learned Bowlby would be available and agreed to hire her on an independent contractor basis for three months with an option to extend. Bowlby will work primarily on managing the museum’s collection and training docents as well as assessing exhibits.

She has more than seven years experience in all phases of museum administration and has been recognized for exceptional ability in management, fundraising, grant writing, and special events. Bowlby’s practical experience includes almost two years as director of the Tacoma organization, a year as curatorial assistant at the Bremerton Naval Museum and a couple stints at the Working Waterfront Maritime Museum in Tacoma as museum administrator.

Lakewood Playhouse ‘Pinafore’ April 17 to benefit LHS

A Command Performance of Gilbert & Sullivan’s HMS Pinafore will be presented by the Lakewood Playhouse April 17 at 2 pm as a fundraising benefit for the Lakewood Historical Society.

A lady loves a sailor, the Captain loves a lower class maiden - but who is really who? Come watch the classic tale unfold in this fun and enchanting comic operetta!

Tickets are available through the Lakewood Historical Society for only $20 each, a discount from regular prices. Proceeds will benefit the Society, it’s programs and museum. Tickets can be purchased at the January, February and March Society programs, held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Lakewood Library on Gravelly Lake Drive.

Command performance tickets and information can also obtained by calling Society members John Huber, 253-582-8682, Shannon Krueger, 253-579-3249 or by visiting the Lakewood History Museum at 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive SW, Lakewood, phone 253-862-3480.

The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 4 pm.
Thank You, Museum Fund Donors and Sponsors

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

Actual: $23,630 from 148 donors

City of Lakewood Lodging Tax helps support history museum promotions, displays & exhibits.

SPONSORS
BCRA Design
The Boeing Company
Comcast
Dimmer Family Foundation
Gramor Development WA
Harborstone Credit Union
Paktek Inc
Puget Sound Energy
Sound Transit
The Suburban Times
Water Rights Inc.

PREMIER - $1,000 or more
Comcast
Rebecca and John Huber
Helga P. Miller
The Helen and John Vogt Foundation

PATRON - $500 to $999
Dimmer Family Foundation
Carol Else
Samuel G. Hewston
Mac and Bette Kirk
Puget Sound Energy
Sound Transit

ASSOCIATE - $100 to $199
B&B Glass
BCRA Design
Comcast
Dimmer Family Foundation
Harborstone Credit Union
Lakewood Chamber
Lakewold Gardens
LeMay Enterprises
Merit Construction Northwest
Patriot’s Landing
Pierce County Council, Dick Muri
Puget Sound Energy
Stone Maritime
Sound Transit
Helen & John Vogt Foundation
Water Rights Inc.

Memorials in Honor of:
LTC Darwin C. Miller by Helga P. Miller
Sam Brown by Ray and Janice Graves
Maria “Babita” Griffin by Ray and Janice Graves
Wayne Pieper by John & Becky Huber
Wayne Pieper by Edie Brewer

BUSINESS & ASSOCIATION
B&B Glass
BCRA Design
Comcast
Dimmer Family Foundation
Harborstone Credit Union
Lakewood Chamber
Lakewold Gardens
LeMay Enterprises
Merit Construction Northwest
Patriot’s Landing
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Stone Maritime
Sound Transit

Continued on Page 6

Page 5
In December Lakes High School senior and lifetime Lakewood resident, Grant Erickson, chose the Lakewood History Museum to perform his required 20 hours of service learning. He assisted Becky Huber, President of the Lakewood Historical Society, in researching a permanent exhibit on Navy Lt Charles Wilkes, the captain of the four year mission of the U.S. Exploring Expedition. The exploration of Puget Sound culminated in the celebration of the 4th of July in 1841 on what is now North Fort Lewis.
LAKEWOOD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM
2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Prepared 12/31/2009

Cash on Hand - 12/31/2008
Checking $ 1556.72
Money Market $ 6614.35
Certificate of Deposit $ 0.00
Total $ 8171.07

Income - 2009
Grants $38,817.57
Memberships $ 6730.00
Donations - Museum Fund $15,930.00
Sponsorships $ 1300.00
Memorials $ 1400.00
Special Fund Raisers $ 1190.00
Bank Interest $ 91.11
Other $ 976.61
Total Income $66,435.29

Expenses - 2009
Operations & Administration $ 3146.65
Web site $ 465.00
Contract Services $ 6255.00
Permanent Museum Study $14,835.09
Insurance $ 1780.00
Museum lease $21,000.00
Museum exhibits $ 695.68
Postage, copies & printing $ 2356.77
Museum Annual Fund $ 184.48
Special Events $ 1997.84
Marketing/Publicity $ 9174.91
Total Expenses $61,891.42

Cash on Hand 12/31/2009
Checking $ 1907.36
Money Market $10,807.58
Total $12,714.94

Old Newspaper files now available at museum on film

A community newspaper is often compared with a well-kept personal diary – it includes the good and bad, positive and negative about the area it covers.

Now, historians and others just interested in learning more about Lakewood and neighboring communities can read stories published about them in local newspapers dating back to 1937 when the Lakewood Log was founded by the late Charley Mann.

Mary Lou and Dave Sclair, publishers of The Suburban Times from 1975 through 1980, had copies of the Lakewood Log and Suburban Times microfilmed to make sure the history of the area was preserved. Now, their micro-film library, together with a film reader, has been loaned to the Lakewood History Museum so community members can have access to this living history.

Becky Huber, president of the Lakewood Historical Society, said the library of microfilm includes all issues of the Lakewood Log from its inception and the succeeding Suburban Times. The filming ended in 1980 when the Sclairs’ sold the publication.

The film can be accessed whenever the museum is open.
Programs for Winter 2010
Meetings start at 7 pm in Lakewood Library meeting room
6300 Wildaire Road SW, Lakewood unless otherwise mentioned.

Tuesday, Jan. 19 - LT Charles Wilkes’ 1840’s Exploration of Puget Sound
Dick Blumenthal will discuss details of this early US Navy expedition into the area.

Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Black and White and Re(a)d all Over.
Nancy Covert, Steilacoom historian, will present the history of early area newspapers, including the Lakewood Log and the Suburban Times.

Tuesday, Mar. 23 - A Journey of Thousands of Steps.
Bart Smith, “The Trail Guy”, has hiked the 11 National Scenic Trails over 17 years, covering 16,500 miles of hiking. His presentation includes a slide show from his vast file of photographs taken during his years of hiking the scenic mountain trails.

Other dates to remember:
Sat, April 17, 2 pm - HMS Pinafore Command Performance at Lakewood Playhouse
Sat, May 1, 2 pm - A Vaudeville Variety Show at new Lakes High School Performing Arts Center - Our first major fundraiser