

Prairie Gazette

The Official Publication of the  Lakewood Historical Society

WINTER 2013

Veterans Hospital Celebrates 90 Years of Service

Information compiled from a 30-page history of the American Lake VA Hospital, by Gary Reese and Frank Jackson, in the Tacoma Public Library's Northwest Room archives.

By Nancy Covert

Seventy-five years after Capt. Charles Wilkes led his marines in a celebration of the first American Fourth of July on the plains of American Lake, known then by its Native American name of *Spotsith*, a group of 150 Tacoma businessmen presented a petition to the Board of Pierce County Commissioners asking them to call a special election to

purchased. Snow-clad Mt. Rainier guarded its eastern horizon, and American Lake bounded it on the west.

A revocable license from the War Department, signed by the Secretary of the Army and dated January 3, 1923, leased 377 acres of the army's 87,000-acre Camp Lewis (later Fort Lewis; today Joint Base Lewis McChord) for the Veterans Hospital at American Lake, said to have the most beautiful physical setting of all the Veterans Administration hospitals.

The 377 acres includes approximately 91 acres in lawns, 25 acres in general farming, five acres in berries, and approximately 60 acres in a nine-hole

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs website, the United States has the most comprehensive system for veterans of any nation in the world. This system traces its roots back to 1636 when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony were at war with the Pequot Indians. The Pilgrims passed a law stating that

“I spent the first eleven years of my life in a mental hospital. Before you gasp and say, ‘Well, she certainly seems OK to me,’ let me explain that my father, Dr. Norman Mace, was a psychiatrist at the Veterans Hospital on American Lake near Tacoma, Washington.”

—Peggy Mace Bal



American Lake Veterans Hospital, Lakewood, Washington

authorize the issuance of \$2 million in bonds for purchasing the American Lake site for a Cantonment.

The Commissioners agreed, and the election was set for January 6, 1917. Authorization passed, and the American Lake site was

golf course, all surrounded by an additional 1,120 acres of wooded lands. The soil is filled with rock fragments characteristic of glacial drift. The buildings, of Spanish-American type architecture, are nestled along a beautiful shoreline of 1.8 miles.

disabled soldiers would be supported by the colony.

The Continental Congress of 1776 encouraged enlistments during the Revolutionary War by providing pensions for disabled soldiers. In the early days of the Republic, individual States and communities provided direct medical care.

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PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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The staff of Prairie Gazette actively encourages input from the Society's members as well as the general public regarding story ideas of 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 us on Facebook or our website for information on events and activities:

www.LakewoodHistorical.org

President's Message

There are several comments that I wanted to make regarding the past year's accomplishments. Foremost, is recognizing the generosity of our members and friends who have made donations to the Annual Museum Fund. We exceeded last year's total with contributions from nearly 200 people. This ensures the continued operation of the History Museum that has become a vital tourist attraction in the Lakewood community. We again had over 1,100 people visit the Museum and over 1,200 attended our events, programs and activities.

The Society received the Institutional Achievement Award from the Heritage League of Pierce County at their annual meeting in recognition of the special edition of the "Prairie Gazette" celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Seattle World's Fair and the April program presented by the authors of "The Future Remembered". See the rest of the story under AWARDS on page 11.

In early February the Society Board had a half day retreat to discuss, review and plan the goals for the next year with emphasis on fund raising and marketing. We realized we are setting big goals that will need more volunteers to assist us in the planning and executing of them. We will be asking for you to consider joining an ongoing committee or involve yourself in short term projects. See the details under NEED HELP on page 8.

This year we will be doing more outreach in the community. One of the new activities will be participating in the Lakewood Farmers' Market in partnership with other heritage organizations. The City's pilot project was a huge success last year. This year it will be weekly on

Tuesdays from 11 am-3 pm starting June 4th through September 17th. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Another popular activity will be pursuing the installation of several new historic markers. Plaques for four sites have been fabricated: the Old Settlers Cemetery, the Heath Farm, the Lakewood Ice Arena and Thornewood Castle. We plan dedications but they are awaiting the "perfect" rocks to mount them on. If you happen to know where boulders can be located, please contact Glen Spieth at 253-584-3930.

We have some exciting programs planned this year. Several of them will showcase local businesses. The first was presented on Feb. 19th featuring Harold LeMay, founder of LeMay Enterprises. His fame as a car collector exceeded even his success in business but the story behind the man and his business is just as fascinating, as you'll see on page 6.

In March we will be celebrating Women's History Month by showcasing *Women in Aviation: Then and Now*. The WASPS (Women's Airforce Service Pilots) and current women pilots assigned to McChord Field will be honored.

If you have a topic you would like presented as a program don't hesitate to inform any of the board members so we can put it on the schedule later this year or next year for sure.

As always, we thank you for your continued interest and support,

Becky Huber



Society Sponsoring Raffle for Hawaiian Condo

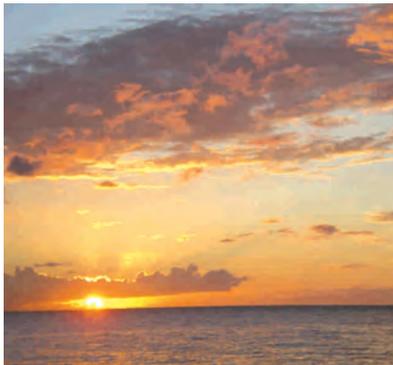
Thanks to the generosity of Society member Gerrie Zaratsky, the Society is sponsoring a raffle for one week's stay in a beachfront condo on Maui, Hawaii in September, 2013.

The ticket price is only \$5 and the lucky winner also receives \$500 towards travel expenses. Because the total number of tickets is limited to 1000 the odds are very good. The drawing will be held on Saturday, July 13th, 2013 at the annual City of Lakewood's SummerFEST at Fort Steilacoom Park.

The ground floor, two bedroom, two bath condominium, located in Kihei, Maui, has a stunning ocean view and is just steps from the beach. It is fully furnished with an all electric kitchen and can accommodate four people, no children please.



Buy your tickets now by visiting the Lakewood History Museum at 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW, during regular museum hours, Wed-Sat, 12 noon to 4 pm. For more information call Barbara Lord Nelson at 253-582-2330 or Becky Huber at 253-582-8682.



Dr. Klopping's Dental Center at Lakewood

By Nancy Covert

In the early 1930s, Norton Clapp began developing plans for the Lakewood Colonial Center with the idea of building a complete service center for the community that was then part of the Lakes District. The Center was to include a medical doctor, dentist, barber, beauty shop, drugstore, grocery store, theatre, hardware store and general store.

passed the exams. Dr. Edward Klopping was one of three out of 32 who succeeded in passing, having graduated Cum Laude from Creighton Dental School in Omaha, NE. Klopping also was in the Dental ROTC program. Immediately after his June 2, 1937 graduation, he and his wife, Kathleen, moved to Auburn where his wife's relatives lived.

arranged a meeting with Clapp. "At this time I knew I would not be able to afford to equip the office property and in keeping with the rest of the Lakewood Center," Dr. Klopping recalled for a story in the 50th Anniversary Press edition. "I explained to Mr. Clapp my position and what a wonderful opportunity it would be for me. He agreed to buy the equipment for me, and I would

Mr. Clapp and Dr. Taylor scouted the Dental Board to see who recently

Once he heard about the opportunity, he looked the site over, and then

LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY—2012 DONORS

2012 Goal: \$25,000 for Operations, Education, Exhibits, Programs and Community Outreach

Actual: \$23,165 from 193 generous donors

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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Bill Harrison and Bob Brunke
In honor of their Community work by Robert Warfield

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Patricia A. Ducolon
Burton and Doris Johnson
Ron Karabaich
Edward C. Klopping III
Andrea Litton
Leona W. Long
Dottie (Dorothy) Rider
Dr. Marvin and Melissa Tommervik
Marylu and Peter Wallerich

Thank You, Museum Fund Donors and Sponsors!

**LAKESWOOD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Cash on Hand, 12/31/2011

Checking \$ 1,402.56
Money Market \$21,029.77

Total \$22,432.33

Income

Grants \$ 45,500.00
Memberships \$ 5,620.00
Donations – Museum Fund \$ 14,690.42
Sponsorships \$ 500.00
Memorials \$ 1,485.00
Special Fund Raisers \$ 5,493.00
Bank Interest \$ 70.57
Other \$ 379.52
Total Income \$ 73,738.51

Expenses

Operations & Administration \$ 8,086.31
Web Site \$ 5,062.50
Contract Services \$ 8,025.36
Insurance \$ 1,780.00
Museum Lease \$ 18,000.00
Museum Exhibits \$ 600.63
Historical Markers \$ 5,010.00
Postage, Copies & Printing \$ 2,374.85
Museum Annual Fund \$ 1,638.12
Special Events/ Fund Raisers \$ 12,106.67
Marketing/Publicity \$ 21,948.24
Total Expenses \$ 65,912.43

Cash on Hand - 12/31/2012

Checking \$ 1,974.35
Money Market \$ 9,563.81
Total \$ 11,538.16

Lakewood's First Shopping Center

By Nancy Covert

"Lakewood Community Center was designed and built for the people of the Lakes and Prairie districts of Pierce County by residents of the district. The success or failure depends upon the use by you and your family and not whether the builders make or lose money. While every effort has been made to make the Lakewood Community Center a lovely place with the finest furnishings and equipment, there will be no premium prices for using the center. Every effort is being made to feature city prices in all departments, and though they are commercial, the thought being that it render a service to the community. As time passes and the various uses of the Center become available such as the Rifle Range and the Recreation Hall, it is hoped that you and your friends will spend many happy hours here, using the Center to the fullest advantage."

What do you most remember about Lakewood Colonial Center? The movie theatre? The Terrace Restaurant? Dr. Klopping's Dental Office? This all-in-one place-shopping concept was constructed on the edge of Lakewood in the mid-1930s and marked its Diamond (75th) Anniversary this past year. A formal celebration, however, is scheduled for this year (Watch for details.)

Gradually, the Colonial-inspired architecture expanded, and its movie theatre became a big draw for area residents, especially the younger crowd who flocked to the Matinees.

Credit for this shopping complex has long gone to Norton Clapp, one of the men responsible for the famous Seattle World's Fair landmark, the Space Needle. Other information, however, asserts that Mr. Clapp's first wife was the moving force behind this project. While the jury's still out on the answer, most folks will agree that having the Center had made a big difference to the city.

Join the Lakewood Historic Society on April 6th for the Grand Opening of the exhibit on the Community Center and Villa Plaza.



Your doorway to Lakewood's Past.

The Lakewood History Museum.

*Wednesday-Saturday
Noon to 4:00 pm*

**Lakewood Colonial Center
6211 Mt Tacoma Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98499**

Update on 472nd Signal Company

by Becky Huber



The 472nd Signal Company in Afghanistan

Captain Nicole Protz, commander of the 472nd Signal Company, has had regular communication with the Society since their deployment in late October, 2012. It has been a huge challenge for her because her 50 personnel are scattered in 8 different locations, some with only a few people. Here are the actual locations if you can even find them on a map?? Masum Ghar, Kandahar Airfield, Zangabad, Edgerton, Panjwa'l, Daman, Sperwan Ghar and Shoja.

She and her command team have made every effort to help keep the morale up by celebrating birthdays, holidays, promotions and reenlistments on a regular basis. They also have opportunities to work outside of their normal routine by participating in other unit's activities.

Here are comments from Nicole about her soldiers. "Not a day goes by that they don't do something to simply amaze 1SG and me.

Whether it's going out of their way to assist other units in the Brigade, digging a trench to ensure that the shower water run-off doesn't flood

the tents, inventorying all of our property, or just waking up with a smile on their faces, your soldiers are ready and willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish the mission to the best of their abilities."

Please keep the care package donations coming. Our goal is to have a box of Girl Scout cookies for **each** soldier, so we need 53 boxes! Drop them off at the



Celebrating a birthday far from home.

Museum or at any of our programs or events. We appreciate monetary donations for postage. Call Sue Scott if you have any questions at 253-588-6354.

For you Facebook fans, follow the unit at this address: 472nd-Signal-Company-4th-SBCT-2-ID.

Monthly Program Recalls Harold LeMay

by Nancy Covert & Chuck Mathias

Patrol cars, U.S. mail delivery vans, bright red fire engines...all familiar sights to Lakewood residents. Oh, and don't forget the bulky Lakewood Refuse trucks. Anyone with a hankering to see them again—and literally thousands of other vehicles of every type—need only pay a visit to the former home of one of the most remarkable characters ever to come out of Pierce County.

Charlie Maxwell, long-time General Manager of LeMay Enterprises refuse and recycling, recapped the history of this



Charlie Maxwell told fascinating stories of his friend and employer, the late Harold LeMay.

essential business and his 40-year friendship with the late entrepreneur Harold LeMay, the man whose name is associated with many enterprises, especially his fabulous automobile collection—the largest private car collection in the world, according to no less an authority than the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Mr. Maxwell's presentation, attended by a large number of LHS members and friends, included snapshots of LeMay's history, some of his famous cars, a recap about the LeMay's annual end-of-August car show, and the history of Marymount Academy in



Lakewood Historical Society President Becky Huber introduces Charlie Maxwell.

Spanaway that is now the Marymount Event Center—and also the setting this past July for Lakewood Historical Society’s “Tacoma Speedway Centennial,” program, as well as humorous anecdotes about Harold’s famous car collecting expeditions.

Just one of many examples: in response to the question of how Harold could afford to add to his immense collection in the days before he hit it big in the recycling business, Mr. Maxwell replied in a single word: “Frugality.”

He went on to explain that, born (to a single mother in 1919) with literally nothing, Harold throughout his life remained a man who, if he had only two left-handed work gloves, would turn one of them inside out to wear on his right hand rather than throw both away and buy a new pair.

He carried this philosophy over to the way in which he transported newly-purchased cars for his collection, finding creative, thrifty (and possibly questionable, at least as far as the authorities were concerned) ways to load three on a one-car trailer: one in the middle, one hanging over the end—and

one riding on the tongue between truck and trailer!

He even had a custom motor home built with a special compartment

PA—and Harold finally tired of arriving to find Charlie already seated at the dinner table (evidence, by the way, of Harold’s insistence that if you were an employee, you were also family).

The next time they set off with Harold’s latest purchases in tow, Charlie went only a few miles before his wildly-bouncing trailer forced him to the side of the road. As Charlie inspected his load, Harold pulled alongside, rolled down his window and, with touching concern, asked what the problem might be?

Charlie replied that someone had loaded the third car backwards, with its engine hanging over the end of the trailer. The weight distribution was all wrong, and it would probably take hours for he and Harold to reload it properly.

“Oh.” Harold replied. “See ya!” A



Mr. Maxwell relates the story of the LeMay family to a near-capacity audience .

big enough to hold a car in case he and his beloved wife Nancy stumbled across a “must-have” for the collection while on vacation.

Harold and Charlie would compete to see who would get their prize-laden trailers home to Spanaway first—from as far away as Hershey,

friendly wave, and Maxwell was left standing in the gravel at the side of the road.

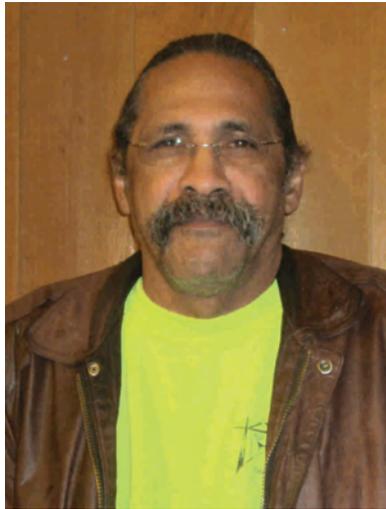
And for once a famished Charlie got to watch a grinning Harold, seated at the head of the table, finish up the remains of a sumptuous dinner. **Page 7**

New Artist Display Installed in Museum

On February 20th, George Zantua, the newest member of the Rainier League of Artists, installed his artwork in the very popular Artist's Corner in the Lakewood History Museum. An evening reception is planned for Thursday, March 7th from 5:30 to 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.

He began doing art for fun in high school and even considered getting a Fine Arts degree. However, his desire to help others led him to the University of Washington for an education in social work. His art took a "back burner" except for selling some for additional income or donating it to fund raisers for community organizations.

After attaining a graduate degree in guidance counseling, he worked at various jobs, including vocational school counselor in Seattle, investigator for the Washington State Human Rights Commission, counseling supervisor for employment programs in Hawaii and counseling supervisor for homeless programs at the Metropolitan Development Council.



George Zantua

After ending a 30 year career in counseling, he found the opportunity to continue helping others in a way that incorporated his artistic talent. For the last four years he has worked part time at the Nativity House in Tacoma, a daytime facility for the homeless that serves over 150 clients daily. He coordinates the activities for the Art Room on the second floor of the facility.

Many clients who have difficulty in socializing in groups gravitate to the Art Room. George provides a quiet, restful environment for budding artists to explore the world of art. When asked if he taught them art classes, he replied, "No, I just coach." A number of his students have

produced wonderful compositions that are on display at the Museum.

He has had artwork displayed in the Tacoma/Gig Harbor/Puyallup area and participated in shows at the Tacoma Art Museum, the Native Quest Cultural Center and in Puyallup at the Fred Oldfield Western Heritage Center.

We Need Your Help!

The Board has realized that we no longer can accomplish all of the goals and manage all of the activities ourselves. We need your help if the Society and Museum are to continue to grow.

Each of you has unique talents and abilities that could be used effectively for activities and projects that the Society is supporting. Depending on your other time commitments, there is something for everyone.

Listed below are the areas you may consider: a permanent **committee** that meets monthly, short term **special projects** for periodic events; or **individual tasks** done on an as needed basis on your own schedule.

Committees:

1. Program Committee: Assist in organizing and producing the monthly programs.

2. Membership Committee: Recruit new members, maintain membership database, coordinate periodic mailings, make follow up calls/e-mails.
3. Finance Committee: Assist treasurer in the financial management of the Society and Museum, make recommendations to board; maintaining documents and records.
4. Fund raising: Annual fund drive, special events, signature event.

Special Projects:

1. Exhibits: Assist in coordinating temporary displays in the museum to include the Artist's Corner, every 2-3 months.
2. Outreach: Help staff booth/space at annual events such as SummerFEST, Sister City International Festival, Senior Center Open House; seasonal community events such as Farmers' Market (new

endeavor); make presentations to a variety of community groups.

3. Historic Markers: Plan and promote periodic installations and dedications of markers, assist in producing map with sites listed.

Individual Tasks:

1. Docent in museum: Greet/guide visitors, assist in tours, minimum 4 hours/month.
2. Administrative Assistance: Provide clerical support and assist in record keeping; add contacts to databases. Must be "computer literate" and knowledgeable of current software such as Excel.
3. Researchers: Compile reference book for docents; research and write stories of people, places and events in the Lakewood area for quarterly newsletter.

Authors Seek Photos for Second Lakewood History Book

By Walter Neary

There's going to be a second Lakewood history book. And the authors are eagerly looking for photographs that represent the people who made and make Lakewood, Washington a great place to live and work.

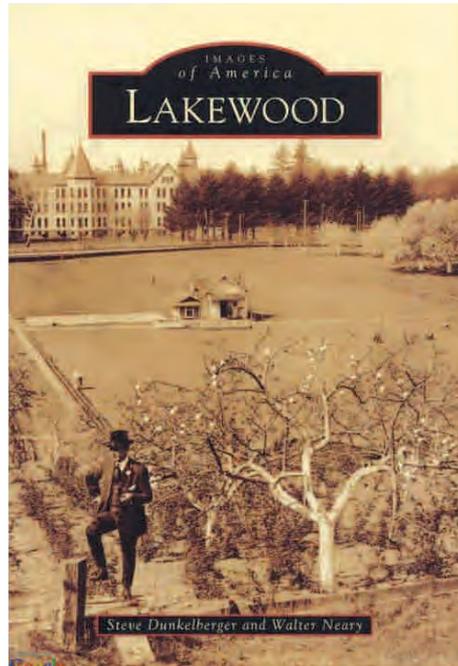
Steve Dunkelberger and Walter Neary, authors of the 2005 book *Images of America: Lakewood* are now working with the same publisher on a new book. Arcadia Publishing Company, responsible for hundreds of those sepia-colored *Images of America* books, has a new series that focuses on people, and so the book will be called *Legendary Locals of Lakewood*.

Dunkelberger and Neary are embarking on a seven-month effort to find dynamic pictures of interesting people from Lakewood's past and present.

"We're very excited to focus on people and highlight the great individuals who built Lakewood into what it is today, and are working to make it what it will be in the future," Dunkelberger said. "The area that is now the City of Lakewood sat front and center to the formation of the region in ways many people don't realize. We want to tell that story through the people who made it happen since history is not a matter of dates and places. History is about people. People of all types created Lakewood."

This book is meant to work as not only a companion to their first book, but also as a stand-alone narrative of the evolution of the land from open prairie to the Lakes District to suburban city on the rise.

"A couple of remarkable things happened after the first book, one wonderful, one not, that really belong in any comprehensive history of our community. We will be proud to highlight Claudia Thomas as the first African-American mayor in Washington. And of course, Steve and I just had to agree to do this book when Arcadia approached us because of the events of Nov. 29, 2009. The deaths in the coffee shop



Dunkelberger and Neary's 2005 *Images of America: Lakewood*

belong in any real history book about Lakewood. If anyone in Lakewood is a legend, it's the four police officers who the whole world saw were willing to give their lives for our community," Neary said.

Here's how you can get involved in the book:

► If you know of a picture of someone significant to Lakewood's history, even if it's in a nontraditional way, the authors would love to know. You can let them know by filling out the *Legendary Locals of Lakewood* suggestion form. It's possible the authors may already have the name on their list; you can check by looking at their working list at <http://>

lakewoodhistory.tumblr.com/post/37866874604/current-list

- If you know of a great picture of someone already on the list, the authors would love to hear from you.
- If you represent an organization in Lakewood (service club, church, etc) that has been around at least 20 years, the authors would like to consider including a representative person from your organization in the book. We really need your help here, because we know there are a lot of great organizations in Lakewood. The person could be a founding member, or a significant member of the group (a board member, a pastor, someone somehow who brought the group to excellence, a very longtime member, etc). The more dynamic the photograph, the better the odds that it can be included. The authors will have to rely in part on the visual interest of the picture: they will need to provide the publisher with pictures of people doing things and showing expressions, and not just staring into a camera.

► Finally, if you know of a person who really should be in the book, but you don't know of a picture, the authors would like the idea anyway! Feel free to make your suggestion.

Steve Dunkelberger, a former reporter and editor of the now-defunct *Lakewood Journal*, helped found the Lakewood Historical Society, is a journalism and media professor at Pierce College and the online editor of the *Tacoma Weekly* as well as a freelance writer for various publications around the region. He is also the chairman of Lakewood's Landmark and Heritage Advisory Board and a former board member of the Historic Fort Steilacoom Museum

AUTHORS *Continued from page 9*
Association. He is also a school board member and parishioner at St. Mary's Episcopal Church and School.

Neary, also a former editor of the *Lakewood Journal*, served on the Lakewood City Council from 2004 to 2011. Neary is communications director for Comcast in Washington and a member of the Lakewood Landmarks and Heritage Advisory Board and the board of the Washington Coalition for Open Government. He was a co-founder of the Lakewood Historical Society's museum. Neary writes about local government issues at electing2blog.com

Images of America: Lakewood remains on sale at such locations as the Lakewood Barnes & Noble and is available at the Historic Fort Steilacoom Association and Lakewood Historical Society.

Veterans Hospital

Continued from page 1

After the Civil War, many State veterans homes were established. A new system of veterans services was instituted when the United States entered World War I.



Original entrance to hospital grounds

The Veterans Administration came into being in 1930 when Congress authorized the President to consolidate and coordinate government

activities for war veterans.

A pair of plain wrought-iron lanterns sit atop opposite cobblestone columns that mark the entry to the Veterans Hospital in Lake City. Occupational therapy patients early on in the hospital's history crafted the lanterns, according to a history archived in Tacoma Public Library's Northwest Room. A researcher encounters numerous examples of work done by occupational therapy patients throughout the years.

The solid-looking facility, constructed in the second decade of the 20th century, is approached by a meandering two-lane road that begins south of the hospital in Lakewood, just off Gravelly Lake Drive. One side parallels the lake; the other parallels the golf course, while the boundary of Joint Base Lewis McChord seems to embrace the entire site.

A row of flagpoles lines the left side of the hospital's approach—fitting for a military medical treatment facility.

The history of the medical facility located in Lake City at the western end of the road known as "Veterans Drive" began in 1923, five years after the Armistice was signed to end the "Great War."

The American Lake facility was the 54th hospital to be built by the War Department for the care of World War I veterans. The Hurley-Mason Company was awarded the contract for the construction of the facility. Many of the stucco and terra cotta buildings are listed on the

National Register of Historic Places and are still enjoyed by patients and staff for their esthetic beauty.



No. 81, primary hospital building. Tiled roofs, "adobe" walls show Spanish-American influence.

The medical center was dedicated in 1924 and chartered with a single mission: neuropsychiatric treatment. On March 15, 1924, the first 50 patients were admitted to the hospital by transfer from Western State Hospital at Fort Steilacoom.

During the years, the hospital has grown from its initial mission to that of a multi-care facility. In the 60's and 70's Ambulatory Surgical Services, a 76-bed Nursing Home Unit, Blind Rehabilitation Services, a Substance Abuse Treatment Program and a 60-bed homeless domiciliary were added to the scope of care to veterans.

Additional special programs were added in the 80s and 90s, such as Vocational Rehabilitation, a Residential Care Program and a Post Traumatic Stress Treatment Program.

Building 81 was renovated in 1998 and an addition built that allowed for relocation and expansion of Primary Care and a Women's Health clinic.

Ongoing remodeling, upgrading and expansion of the facilities will doubtless continue, while every effort is made to preserve the historic character of this campus.

Lakewood Historians Receive Awards

By Phil Raschke

The Heritage League of Pierce County recently presented their Third Annual Recognition Awards at the Washington State History Museum. Karen Hass, President and Master of Ceremonies made the awards following recommendations from the League's awards committee.

Woman's Gulch", "The Cushman Indian School and Hospital", "Spanaway, How a Unique City Got Its Unique Name" and "Early Steilacoom Pioneer Laura Belle Downey Bartlett". Raschke is one of the original members of the Lakewood Arts Commission and a Board member of the Lakewood Playhouse.



Phil Raschke, Becky Huber and Steve Dunkelberger

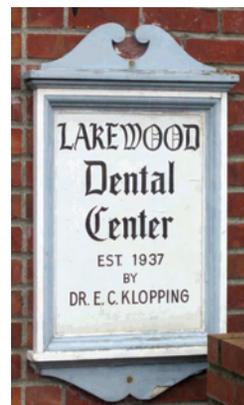
The Lakewood Historical Society received the Heritage League 2012 Institutional Achievement Award for their acclaimed "The Future Remembered" program which highlighted the 50th Anniversary of the Seattle World's Fair and related events in the Lakewood area. The program included a special 12 page edition of the Society's "Prairie Gazette" newsletter. Becky Huber, President of the Lakewood Historical Society accepted the award.

Lakewood resident Phil Raschke received the League's "Community Connections" award for his "Historical Phil" radio series which airs daily at 9:30 a.m. on KLAY Radio, 1180 AM. The "Historical Phil" show provides Pierce County listeners with a daily historical look at interesting people and events in the Pierce County area. Cited programs included "Tacoma's Old

Local journalist and historian Steve Dunkelberger received the League's "Heritage Advocate Award" for his books, numerous feature writings, lectures and his untiring efforts to preserve the local history of the area. Along with Walter Neary, he co-authored the "Images of America" book on the history of Lakewood. The book is currently available at the Lakewood History Museum. (See page 9 for more about Steve—and how you can help with an upcoming book)

The Heritage League of Pierce County helps give voice and exposure to over 44 historical organizations located within Pierce County. Guest speaker for the event was Bennish Brown, President and CEO of the Tacoma Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau.

KLOPPING *Continued from page 3*



pay it back as I was able, which was only two and a half years."

Dr. Klopping meanwhile had always held a foothold in the Active Army Reserve at Ft. Lewis during

WW II, where he was honored with the Legion of Merit for this service.

During the War, Clapp and the dentist struck up another deal.

"I made a deal with him to leave my office just as it was and I would return as soon as possible to resume my dentistry.

"We kept the deal."

After the War the office reopened with one chair; it now has 12 chairs (1987), with three associates and two dental hygienists.

While in the Active Army Reserve Dr. Klopping commanded the 6255th Dental Service Detachment and retired after 15 years of duty as a Colonel. While in the Service, he attended all ten in a series of one-week courses at Walter Reed General Hospital and Research Center at Bethesda, MD.

In April 1987, the Pierce County Dental Society honored Dr. Klopping for 50 years of service and membership in the society.

At that time Dr. Klopping and Mr. Clapp had maintained their long friendship. During a Chamber of Commerce luncheon that summer, Dr. Klopping reminded Mr. Clapp about their long-ago bicycle race, challenging him to repeat the feat. Clapp, 82 at the time, declined, later commenting that he received his first and last heat stroke at that 1937 event.



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Programs and Activities for Winter 2013

Thurs, March 7th, 5:30-7 pm- Reception for new artist, George Zantua, Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma, DR SW, refreshments served.

Tues, March 19th, 7 pm-*History of Women in Aviation: Then and Now*; celebrating Women's History Month, the WASPS (Women's Airforce Service Pilots) of WW II and women pilots from McChord Field will be honored.

Thurs, March 21st, 7 am-*Grave Concerns Association: No Longer Anonymous: Restoring Identity with Dignity*, Lakewood United program, Burs Restaurant, 6151 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood.

SAVE THE DATE! New Exhibit opens Sat, April 6th, Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW, Ribbon Cutting at 1 PM, refreshments served.

Tues, April 16th, 7 pm- *Lakewood's Pioneer Commercial Development*, history of Lakewood Colonial Center, opened in 1937 and Villa Plaza, opened in 1957; the planned shopping centers that provided the Lakes District residents with all of the services and products within their own community.

*Monthly programs are held in the Parish Hall
at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW,
next to the Lakewood Library.*

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