

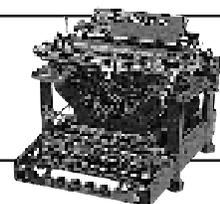
BECAUSE OUR HISTORY MATTERS



Brairie Gazette

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2009



Lakewood Historical Society Adopts Fort Lewis' 472nd Signal Company



The Lakewood Historical Society and Kris Kauffman, owner of Water Rights, Inc, have joined forces in adopting a unit from Ft Lewis' 4th Stryker Brigade of the 2nd Infantry prior to their third deployment to Iraq in September. The 4th Brigade, with 4,000 soldiers and 300 Stryker vehicles and commanded by Col. John Norris, is the fourth unit to be deployed this summer from Ft. Lewis. Their deployment was accelerated 10 months to replace the 5th Brigade that departed in June for Afghanistan.

The "Adopt a Company" Program, spearheaded by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, was a natural

progression from the partnership that was already established with the City of Lakewood as the Community Connector to the Brigade. This is thought to be the first of its kind program developed with a military base and its adjoining community. Over 40 area businesses and organizations have adopted the 30 units that comprise the 4th Brigade.

The Society was assigned to the 472nd Signal Company attached to the Manchu Battalion, a unit with 78 soldiers commanded by Cpt. Kelly Sanders. The unit's primary responsibility is providing the communications of the Brigade Combat Team.

Prior to their deployment Becky Huber, President of the Society, and Kauffman attended several events hosted by the Brigade including the Colors Casing Ceremony, held at Watkins Field on Ft Lewis on August 25 and a Brigade Ball on August 27. Cpt. Sanders visited the Lakewood History Museum and Mrs. Huber attended the unit BBQ.

Each sponsor is asked to exchange letters and photos with the soldiers and organize fun activities for the families left behind. It is up to each business and organization what they provide. The Lakewood Historical Society is planning

Unit adopted by LHS Page 3



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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

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President's Message

The fall season means cooler temperatures and its time to get out the sweaters and have the furnace serviced. This is also a time of transition for the Society. We have just presented our request from the City of Lakewood for the 2010 Hotel/Motel Tax Grant. We were not awarded as much as in past years. It was the decision of the Lodging Tax Advisory Board to not award funds for Museum rent or operations. We recognized last year that we needed to become more self-sufficient so we have put plans into place to accomplish that.

We have three fund raising events planned over the next year that will bring in funds to meet our operating expenses. The kick off of the first activity will be at our Annual Meeting on October 15th. Back by popular demand and due to the generosity of Gerrie Zeratsky we will again have a raffle with the first prize being a week in Gerrie's Maui, Hawaii condo in September 2010. We hope to add several additional prizes to make it even more appealing.

Another repeat activity will be a Command Performance at the Lakewood Playhouse next year. We are particularly interested in doing it during the run of "*HMS Pinafore*." We had excellent attendance when we had our last one for "*Sound of Music*."

Our third event and potentially the most significant will be our first signature event next spring. We don't have all of the details worked out yet but it will basically be a musical variety show at the new Lakes High School Performing Arts Center. We need volunteers to help plan this event so please contact Becky if you are interested.

We are moving ahead with our plans for the Mueller-Harkins Hangar as the permanent museum. We have contracted with BCRA Design for an engineering study and cost analysis to determine what is required to bring the hangar up to current code for use as a museum. The findings will be presented to Clover Park Technical College to start negotiating a lease for the facility.

One of the important components in attaining our goals is to increase our membership. It really starts in retaining our current members. We encourage members to renew at the October meeting (Please use the membership form in this newsletter), and we encourage you to sponsor a new member at the same time. Pick up some of our revised membership brochures to give to your friends and neighbors.

As always, I welcome your input and appreciate your support as we pursue our goals.

Your dedicated leader,
Becky

Unit adopted by LHS From Page 1

a Halloween Open House at the Museum in October for the families and mailing holiday care packages to the soldiers in November.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to show our appreciation to our military. If you would like more information on the program or would like to volunteer to help with the activities, please give Becky Huber a call at 253-582-8682 or send an e-mail to craftyhubers@comcast.net

You need not be a member to participate. Thank you for your support.

Photos:

Top right

Casing ceremony - Troops of the 4th Stryker Brigade of the 2nd Infantry took part in a unit colors casing ceremony of Ft. Lewis recently.

Middle right

Lakewood Deputy Mayor Don Anderson and Stryker Commander Col. John Norris chat during striking ceremony.

Bottom right

Passing in review - Soldiers of the 4th Stryker Brigade passed in review during the recent colors casing ceremony at Fort Lewis.

Museum Hours

Wednesday thru Saturday

Noon to 4 pm

Want to help?

You can be a docent!





Dr. John McLoughlin, reenacted by Jerry Eckrom, describes his life and experiences to the audience during the September program of the Lakewood Historical Society.

Inset photo - Hudsons Bay Company traded for beaver pelts and other furs extensively. This beaver and a beaver pelt were loaned for the program by Roger Hamel of Roger's Taxidermy in Lakewood. One of the beaver hats came from the John Harry Woolverton estate.

Re-enactor brings Dr. John McLoughlin to life at program

Jerry Eckrom, a re-enactor from the Fort Nisqually Interpretive Center, masterfully portrayed Dr John McLoughlin, of the Hudson's Bay Company at the Lakewood Library September 15. The free program was sponsored by the Lakewood Historical Society and, as always, was open to the public.

Dr, McLoughlin was chief factor of the Columbia Fur District for Hudson's Bay Company. At the Tuesday program, Eckrom brought Dr. McLoughlin to life in 1854

while in retirement at his home in Oregon City, Oregon. During the presentation Dr. McLoughlin provided the audience with a look back on a long and eventful life.

Heightening the re-enactor's presentation was a special display including a beaver hat from the Lakewood History Museum's collection. It came from the John Harry Woolverton estate. Also on display was a life-sized beaver and beaver pelt loaned for the evening by Roger Hamel of Roger's Taxidermy in Lakewood.

Dr. McLoughlin was born in

Canada in 1794 of an Irish father and Scottish mother. His father died when he was 16 years old and he was raised in the home of his maternal grandfather, Malcolm Fraser. He was greatly influenced by his great uncle, Simon Fraser, Canada's famed explorer.

After obtaining a license to practice surgery and pharmacy in Scotland in 1803, he was appointed medical officer for the Northwest Fur Company, a fierce competitor of the Hudson's Bay

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Dr. McLoughlin From Page 4

Company. His hair prematurely turned white in 1816 after a near drowning incident. As a result he became widely known as “The Great White Eagle.”

The two companies merged in 1821 and in 1824 McLoughlin was personally appointed by Governor George Simpson as the Chief Factor of Fort George (Astoria, Oregon) which in 1825 moved to Fort Vancouver. The new headquarters was a more favorable location on the northern side of the Columbia River. Thus began his illustrious career with

the Company.

By the 1840’s Simpson and McLoughlin were at odds on how the district should be run. The controversy coincided with the arrival of American immigrants and the decline in fur trading because of over trapping. Dr McLoughlin, going against company policy, was sympathetic to the plight of the settlers and offered them aid. He resigned his position with the company in 1845.

After separating from the company he moved to Oregon City to land he had claimed back in 1829. Unfortunately, he was met with hostility by his

neighbors and a conspiracy to strip him of his claim began when Oregon became part of the United States in 1849. He immediately applied for American citizenship but even that wasn’t sufficient to settle the land dispute.

In 1851 the former company officer served as mayor of Oregon City. Sadly, he died a heart-broken man in 1857, before the land dispute could be rectified. The state of Oregon released the property to his heirs in 1862 after a nominal payment.

Upon the centennial of his death, the state legislature awarded him the title “The Father of Oregon.”

Silcox Island tour draws very nice crowd



HISTORY OF ISLAND EXPLAINED - Lakewood Historical Society members touring Silcox Island recently learned about the island from Dorothy Holm, granddaughter of the original land purchaser, Albert Silcox. Here part of the group of 58 enjoys the shaded patio of the Holm house on the island before taking a guided tour of the 26 homes or cottages located on the 13-acre island.

ISLAND HOSTESS - Dorothy Holm (left in right photo), granddaughter of Albert Silcox who acquired the island in American Lake and named it Silcox Island, visits with Becky Huber, president of the Lakewood Historical Society, in the Holm home on the island. Silcox Island celebrated its centennial in 2005.

The old house stood there as though leaning into the wind. It was 100 years old today and the sad thing was it looked it. One corner had sunk into the ground where water running off her roof had soaked the soil. The siding had not been painted for years. The windows were half broken out, letting in wind and rain. The roof had been leaking for a long time. The once proud home now stood empty and forgotten. This was the day it was to be bulldozed and cleared away for a new home.

No house would ever replace that old house. It had been the source of happy family times. Oly and Milly Folsted were the first owners. They had come from Norway fifteen years before. They worked hard and saved until they finally had enough to have the house built.

The day the contractor started the house, Oly brought out a keg of beer and invited all his friends to the beginning of Oly and Milly's first home. Oh what a party they had, the first of many at this house.

Everything went well but Milly had to fight for an inside bathroom. The old contractor had never put an outhouse inside before, but Milly insisted. That winter Oly was glad she did; he had never enjoyed a warm toilet before.

When they moved in, Oly and Milly had two children, Sven was 9 and Hilga was 5. The children were thrilled to have their own, spacious rooms.

The Old House

By Roger Enfield



In a couple of years Milly had another boy, Oly Jr, and then a girl, Gretchen. The house rang with laughter and the hustle and bustle of a family growing up. Oh it was a happy time then.

One day the old house realized Sven had not been home for a long time. Then it heard Oly and Milly talking about Sven in college. Then the old house became quieter. Then Hilga was gone and Oly Jr. Then there was a big wedding for Gretchen. Oh what a party it was.

After this happy time things really quieted down and Oly and Milly settled in to enjoy their old age. The house missed the laughter of the children and the games they used to play.

Then one day there was a commotion and they took Oly away. Milly lived on for a few more years.

The old house stood empty until a young family moved in. They were so happy to find a house they could afford There were three children and they had fun playing. Life was good again. But the same as before, the children grew up and left one at a time. The parents started talking about a smaller house. After a while they were gone too and the old house again stood empty.

It stood empty much longer this time. Finally a man bought it as a rental and moved in a widow with seven children. At first the house was happy but after a while realized they were not like the others. They broke windows and did awful things. After a few years they moved out leaving a mess. The owner said he wasn't going to fix it.

Preparations had been made to clean up the whole block and the bulldozers arrived. The poor old house knew it was the end. But what a life it had had with the families that had lived in it.

"My grandfather built this house. I can't see tearing it down. I'm going to rebuild. Dad used to talk of all of the fun times he had there," an onlooker said. The old house perked up. What a joy, maybe there will be children again and parties too?"

Roger Enfield is a long time resident of Lakewood who built many area homes. He lives in the house he built in 1937, adding rooms as the family grew to 12 children.

Lakewood Historical Society
New Members, Donors & Financial Report

Donations
Year to Date thru 8/31/09
\$16,065

Donors since Summer 2009 Newsletter

<p>Martha and John Bargren Mrs Joseph L. (Barbara) Carman III Susan Coulter Chris Finnigan John and Becky Huber Harborstone Credit Union Audrey Honeycutt Walter and Cindy Neary</p>	<p>Alice Peeples Doug and Charlene Richardson Sound Transit Raye Staples Dugald and Norita Stewart Thea Vestal Cordy and Judy Wagner Johnny and Lucinda Williams</p>
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New members
since
Summer 2009
Newsletter

Connie J. Coleman-Lacadie
Tim and Sue Gary
Harborstone Credit Union
Dorothy Holm
Robert and Marcie Mitchell
Clarence and Nancy Rieper
Gertrude Strickland
John and Dorothy Vipond

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Financial Statement
8 Months YTD thru August 2009

Cash on Hand 12/31/2008	\$ 8,171.07
<u>Income</u>	
Grants	\$23,060.68
Membership Dues	\$ 5,215.00
Contributions	\$16,065.00
Other	<u>\$ 960.60</u>
Total	\$45,301.28
<u>Expenses</u>	
Operations/Admin	\$ 5,114.20
Insurance	\$ 1,780.00
Contract Services	\$ 6,255.00
Permanent Museum Study	\$ 7,360.00
Museum Lease	\$15,000.00
Marketing and Publicity	<u>\$ 6,352.15</u>
Total	\$41,861.35
Cash on Hand – end of August	\$11,611.00

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

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Programs for Fall 2009

Thurs, Oct 15, 7-9 pm - **Annual Meeting and Elections**

Little Church on the Prairie, Prairie Hall, 6310 Motor Avenue SW, Review of accomplishments for 2009 and election of officers and directors. Refreshments will be served. The public is welcome.

Tues, Nov 10, 7-9 pm - **“History of the Tacoma Speedway”**

Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Rd SW. Dr Wayne Herstad, local expert on the Speedway, will show historic photos from his private collection. When the Speedway was opened in 1912 it was only the second track in the nation. Before it closed in 1922, it accommodated over 50,000 spectators.

Sat, Dec 12th, 2-4 pm - **Holiday Open House**

Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Drive SW. Start your holiday season with a visit to the Museum. Refreshments will be served. The public is welcome. Non-perishable food will be collected for a local food bank.