Prairie Gazette The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

## Fall 2015

# A VISIT TO THE BOATMAN-AINSWORTH HOUSE

By Nancy Covert Late last year, the Lakewood Historical Society (LHS) placed one of its first nine historical markers at a property on 112th Street SW.

The site marks the location of the **Willis Boatman-Ainsworth home**—the first private residence in what became the City of Lakewood in 1996.

**Marjorie Candau** is the 6th owner of the two-story frame house and outbuilding at that location. Since late last year she's gradually been moving her furnishings into this 12-room house that eventually was built on the site of a former hunting camp in 1858.

Marjorie, born and raised in New Jersey,

and lately relocated to Washington from California to keep an "eye on her grandchildren" while their mother is serving overseas, is adding bits of her own family history to her new home—a history that began in the 1600s when three **Moses brothers** emigrated to America.

Those who don't learn about their history, she says, "are doomed to repeat

*Current owner Marjorie Candau* it." She firmly believes in that statement, and a brief tour through her new home bears testimony to those words—it's like being in a museum—even better, this one is livable, and very historical.

"It's an honor to live in this house," she says.

While continuing to arrange her own historical items around her new home, she muses about whether or not she might be related to **A. Benton Moses**. (He figured in the Indian War in the 1850s) but once settled in, she plans to investigate a possible connection. In the meantime, a portrait of her grandfather, **Fred Moses**, hangs above the fireplace in a more masculine-looking room she calls the "Men's Parlor."



LHS marker, visible from sidewalk along 112th Street SW

President's Message2 History Room on Pacific Highway4 Cartooning with Chuck5	Spotlight: BestBurgers10
Lakewood's Fountains	•
American Lake Commuter James Guerrerro8	Fall 2015 Programs & Events12

See HISTORIC HOME, pg. 3



Lakewood Historical Society contact@lakewoodhistorical.org

President Becky Huber • 253-582-8682

Vice President Glen Spieth • 253-584-3930

Secretary Sue Scott • 253-588-6354

Treasurer Gary Fowler • 253-584-3958

> **Directors** Kristin Davis Kris Kauffman **Dick Meier** Barbara Lord Nelson **Barbara Scott**

Director Emeriti Cyrus Happy III LTG Bill Harrison

Museum Consultants Mary Bowlby Meg Justus

**Chuck Mathias** 

### 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 History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Drive SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 • 253-682-3480

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.

Content of this publication is copyright protected by the Society and/or the authors and artists.

#### 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:

I'm so glad the rains have returned with cooler temperatures. We had guite a summer this year-great for tomatoes but not so good for the rhodies.

President's Message

This issue is showcasing some of the great businesses that have been in our community-see special coverage on Allen Realty, celebrating 75 years; Guerrerro Architects that moved to their new location on Gravelly Lake Drive and Best Burgers, one of our new business sponsors.

We are especially pleased that the new owner of the **Boatman**-Ainsworth house will be hosting a tour on Sat, Oct 17th.

Hope to see you soon at one of our programs or events listed on page 12.

Becky Huber

# Allen Realtors Marks 75th Anniversarv

by Nancy Covert

Allen Realtors' milestone celebration next month may not be on the same scale as some famous British monarch's Jubilee, but it definitely will be a Lakewood occasion you won't want to miss.

Here are the details:

Founded in Tacoma in 1940. Allen Realtors has been a Lakewood fixture since 1953. The company marks its 75th anniversary next month. The dates for the party are October 1-2, said Mike Larson, President and Designated Broker for the company.

The celebration officially kicks off with an Invitation Only party from 4-7 p.m. on the first. The following day, Oct. 2, between 11 am-5 pm, the realtors will "fire up" the grill to cook hot dogs and hamburgers for those who stop by that afternoon.

"Everyone's welcome," Larson encourages.

Allen Real Estate is located at 9805 Gravelly Lake Dr., in the small frame house that's been the company's headquarters since 1953 when Harold Allen, Jr. moved the company from its Tacoma office at 11th and



Mike Larson invites you to party hearty on October 2nd.

Pacific to the suburbs.

Mike emphasizes that Allen Realtors promise to meet your real estate needs.

Continuing a long-time tradition, the reader board at Allen Realtors may be used to publicize local events. Local organizations seeking to announce an event should contact Allen Realtors two weeks in advance about posting of that information.

Read more about Allen Real Estate in an article published in the Winter, 2014 edition of the Lakewood Historical Society's Prairie Gazette.

www.LakewoodHistorical.org 2

#### HISTORIC HOME from pg 1

Passing by the front door, the first sight a visitor sees are the framed illustrations depicting the structure's earliest owners: **Mr. Ainsworth** and **Willis** and **Mary Ann Boatman**.

Across the hallway is the "Ladies Parlor" that's filled with feminine furnishings, including a tall, glassed cabinet with three Golden Bears displayed inside. The bears, she explains, are honors from her California years when she won top prize for her detailed needlework—which also is displayed around the house.

Step down the hallway to her Friends' Dining

Room—so named because a series of commemorative plates

depicting Friends' Meeting Houses from the East Coast—are arranged around the upper border of the room. (She's a Quaker, by the way).

As the informal tour continues, she pauses to tell stories, (there's not just one) about every room, such as one she calls "The California Room" because there are several prints of San Francisco's renowned "Cliff House" hanging on two of the walls. Too many stories to digest in one, brief afternoon visit, but definitely food for thought.

She plans to share that history with Lakewood Historical members and others who are interested to learn about Lakewood's first private residence.

# THE STORY OF THE BOATMANS: A PIONEER SAGA "Willis had fulfilled his dreams. The hardships endured together had rewarded the couple with success and happiness."

Marjorie Candau is the newest resident of the two-story blue frame house built in 1858 by early settler Willis Boatman. On the lawn outside the structure is Historic Plaque No. 1, placed by the Lakewood Historical Society. A map showing the locations of the first dozen plaques can be picked up at the History Museum on Mt. Tacoma Drive, between Noon and 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Get to know the historic spots in Lakewood by following the map.

The Boatman information presented below is condensed from "Told by the Pioneers, A Washington Pioneer Project", directed by Washington Secretary of State E. N. Hutchinson, 1936-37, and "Surviving the Oregon Trail, 1852," by Weldon Willis Rau, Washington State University Press, 2001.

ccording to the Historical Driving Tour Map of Lakewood, the house was originally built in 1858 as a hunting camp for Boatman, one of the men who helped construct Ft. Steilacoom when Lt. August Kautz was Quartermaster. Later, Capt. John C. Ainsworth, founder of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, expanded the site. Walter J. Thompson, a territorial legislator and founder of two Tacoma banks, The Merchants National Bank and Tacoma Savings Bank, owned the house later.

Boatman continues his story: "I left my home in Sangamon County, IL on the 29th of March, 1852 in a wagon with three yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows with my wife, my brother and my brotherin-law, **William Richardson**. We started westward, traveled about 12 miles, and arrived at a small town called Waverly. There we camped with some more of our party overnight and the next day made a start for the Willamette Valley."

Dealing with cholera and scurvy, lack of food and work, along the route, Boatman and his wife **Mary Ann** eventually made their way to Portland where he met **Lafayette Balch**, who hired him and two other men to work at his camp on Henderson Bay, for \$75 a month. Mary Ann earned \$50 per month as camp cook.

"We worked only about three months and then went over to Steilacoom and began a boarding house." On Jan. 11, 1854 they located a donation claim and built a house, where they lived briefly until 1855 when threat of an Indian war prompted them to take shelter at Ft. Steilacoom. They remained there until February of 1856 when they ran short of money, credit and provisions. Boatman went to fort commander Col. Casey and told him that he "must give me work or provisions, that my family was suffering for something to eat." Casey told Boatman that he had no work for him to do. "I told him that I must have provisions, and he told me to go with the company to Puyallup and he would see that my family did not suffer. Boatman did so and remained in the Quartermaster's employ until the war closed in March, 1858."

Mr. Rau, Boatman's great-grandson, continues with the "rest of the story." He reports that while all of the settlers' cabins in the valley were burned, Boatman's was not. Although Boatman continued to work for the military for another 15 years, he built another home on 160 acres. There he raised sheep and developed a large orchard. During these years, Willis also maintained his Puyallup Valley claim, clearing land, planting in the spring and harvesting in the fall.

Early on, Boatman became involved in community affairs. He was instrumental in planning and constructing some of the first roads in the territory. He served on many grand and petit juries, and in 1889 served on the last territorial grand jury.

In the 1870s the Boatmans sold their boarding house and other property near Steilacoom and returned to the Puyallup Valley land. There they built their final home and became one of the major hop growers in the valley. Boatman became involved in banking and for several years was president of one of the first banks in Puyallup. The Boatmans had seven children: four sons and three daughters.

On October 14, 1911 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, but Mrs. Boatman died nine days later. Willis, then 85, was still in fine health and remained on the homestead another 10 years. In 1921 he left the homestead and moved to Sumner to live with his daughter, **Caddie Frie**. There he became known as the "old snowy-headed man in the window," since his favorite chair was by a window, and he waved to all passing by.

Boatman died peacefully in his sleep on New Year's night, 1926, at the age of 99 years and three months. He and Mary Ann now rest beside one another in the Sumner cemetery.

# The History Room on Pacific Highway By Nancy Covert

Most Lakewood residents are familiar with local museums at Historic Fort Steilacoom on Steilacoom Blvd. and the Lakewood Historical Society in the Lakewood Colonial Center on Mt. Tacoma Drive. They may not know much, though, about the "History Room" at 10928 Pacific Highway SW.

It's been 11 years since the one-time Lakewood **Fire Department** (LFD) moved to its current Pacific Highway location. Its mini-museum opened in 2011, containing two rooms filled with fascinating, colorful history about the fire department since it began in 1940. Visitors interested in learning more may visit on weekdays between 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

The History Room features walls filled with framed copies of stories about the area's big fires: the Tacoma Golf And Country Club's 1960 fire, the fire at clover Park High School's gymnasium, the fire at Martin's Boat House on American Lake, as well as one about a McChord jet that crashed into a pond at Vista Orchard. Displays also include

gear, firefighting equipment such as radio speakers, axes and nozzles, an ominous Darth Vader-looking mannequin, and a photo of the department's first woman firefighter, hired in 2004. Then there's "Squirt."

"Squirt" you might guess, is a red plastic fire hydrant once used as part of the department's fire education program that visited local schools. Then there's the kid-sized fire engine.

Another corner is dedicated to memorabilia from Sept. 11, 2001. Visiting the History Room is a good way to learn about this little-known aspect of Lakewood history.

Lakewood's department, originally known as the Tacoma Lakes District, became a fire protection district in 1940 (PCFPD #2). The department's first fire station was in the Evans-Burke Garage (now B&B Glass) on Gravelly Lake Dr., across from Clover Park High School. In 1942, L. T. Caraway was named as its first chief, with Walt Evan, a volunteer, as his assistant.

In 1954, a measure was approved to expand the

AKEWOOD FI

to grow. In 2001, voters approved a bond issue to build a fifth station on Pacific Hwy, where the headquarters station was relocated, along with a fifth engine company. This bond issue

also allowed a major renovation of all of the other facilities. including the state-ofthe-art training center on Steilacoom Blvd.

On March 1, 2011 Lakewood's Fire Department (founded in November 1940) and University Place's Fire Department (founded on March 4, 1941) officially merged to become West Pierce Fire and Rescue.

Lakewood Fire Department, adding four more

In 1961, after the Lakewood Fire Department annexed additional land in the northwest area

blocks north of the new Lakes High School.

stations: at Ardmore and 93rd, as well as in the

of its fire district, they purchased a site for a fifth fire station, located on Farwest Drive, about ten

Five years later the Department had grown to 14

full-time firefighters and 35 volunteers, and they

state with a Class 5 rating—meaning residents

Department's headquarters station was relocated

from the Ardmore site to 5000 Steilacoom Blvd.

were recognized as the first fire district in the

enjoyed lower insurance rates. In 1969 the

Lake City, Tillicum and Southgate neighborhoods.

As far back as 1983, the two departments realized the benefits of regionalizing emergency services. That same year they joined with the Fircrest Fire Department to form Fire Comm, a regional 9-1-1 dispatch center. Today Fire Comm continues as a division of West Pierce Fire & Rescue providing and dispatching services to more than 400,000 citizens in 15 fire districts throughout Pierce County.

FIRE REPORT: effective July 31. 2015: According to West Pierce Fire and Rescue information, the combined fire districts (Lakewood, University Place and Steilacoom) have received 8,712 911 calls to date. That number, Jenny Weekes, WPFR spokeswoman added, is "up between 8-10 percent."



# **Cartooning with Chuck**

By Nancy Covert

Chalkboards, paper, computers—they're all aspects of **Chuck Mathias'** career path and, after a 30-year stint in the Art World, he continues to share those well-honed skills with Lakewood Historical Society.

For the past three years, Lakewood Historical Society members have encountered Chuck's work in the guise of posters promoting museum programs such as the visit to Villa Madera, the Tacoma Speedway, the 2014 Tacoma Historical Society/Lakewood Historical Society Destiny Dinner, and currently, the Playgrounds of Lakewood exhibit. They've also enjoyed his computer skills through quarterly newsletters. brochures, the website and more.

Born and raised in Steilacoom except for his mom's insistence that her son be born in Montana, her home state— Chuck has, over the decades, made his unique mark on the art scene with his witty work.

Museum members are fortunate to find numerous examples of his prodigious talents that were first shaped by **Donn Laughlin**'s art classes just down the road at Charles Wright Academy. After graduation, Chuck set off to fine-tune skills in many art styles around the northwest, from Oregon to Washington.

Although Chuck can't remember exactly what he first scrawled on that kitchen chalkboard, he knew he wanted to become a cartoonist. Making the transition from chalk to pencil to ink, and finally to



computers has challenged and expanded his skills. Whether to become what he terms a "Pogo" or "Peanuts" style artist was just part of the process. Citing Walt Kelly's detailed renderings versus the lesscomplicated style of Charles Schultz, Chuck sifts through the examples of his art style evolution that are spread across the dining room table of his home. A faint, musty odor rises over the table, but that only adds texture to seeing how his work developed.

There's the beginning in a penciled collection of earlier efforts. Almost buried down in the pile is a get-well card drawn for his mother, Maxine, who was recuperating from



surgery. The exterior shows a woman lying in a hospital bed, while the interior shows a young boy, standing amidst the chaos of the room, water puddles all over.

The message, however, assures the reader that "all is well," despite what appears.

Examples quickly expand to more sophisticated shapes, such as a trio of detailed sketches for murals that filled the walls of Bremerton's Cloverleaf Tavern—sketches that

warrant closer inspection—such as the perturbed expression on the face of one patron who notices the slanted level of his brew—hmmm, could it be that the table's really slanted?

The detailed drawings show a pair of patrons seated at the table—one is reading about Don Juan Castaneda's peyote account, while the other patron sifts through some interesting looking weeds—hmmm, could they be items that have only recently been approved for sale in Washington?

He and his wife, **Betsy**, lived in a trailer near the tavern while he worked.

"There were lots of perks for that after-hours gig," he smiles. Chuck acknowledges that some of his work may not have been "PC" but that's what makes it all the more interesting.

Despite numerous attempts to gain national repute as a syndicated cartoonist—and several sheets of meticulously drawn strips testify to that effort, he found his place in Pierce County; creating training programs for Roman Meal Co., and ultimately his graphic

See CARTOONING, pg. 9 5

Sakewood's

An unofficial Lakewood-area survey conducted recently revealed five fountains that can be considered "public".

These fountains are located at the corner of 110th and Gravelly Lake Drive, at Lakewood City Hall, at St. Clare Specialty Treatment Center and in Tillicum at Thornewood Castle and at Mountain View Memorial Park.

According to a group of women who remembered the Visitation Villa Girls School that once occupied the 100 acres that now makes up the Lakewood Towne Center property there once was a fountain, fed by water from Clover Creek that flowed across the property. When the school closed in the early 1950s, that fountain was dismantled.

Seattle artist **George Tsutakawa**, renowned for his prolific output of paintings, obos (stone structures) and sculptures, created the dramatic fountain that stands in a basin at Lakewood's Chase Bank at the intersection of Gravelly Lake Drive and 110th Street.

Originally designed in 1964 for Tacoma's Pacific First Federal Savings Bank, the sculpture eventually was moved to Lakewood where it has continued to dispense its cooling waters from its stylized water lily petals—despite the occasional prank of soap suds or dye being added to its water.



By Nancy Covert

In the Bellevue Arts Museum book about

bountains

Tsutakawa's work, the artist explains his purpose about the fountain to interviewer **Jane Estes** in 1978:

"Our sense of continuity and rhythm is universal in water. Even in childhood I was interested in running water, in the recycling process of water. I remember **Mark Tobey** talking to me about the life cycle of the universe and the fact that water moves about endlessly in its various forms, vapor, ice drops forming

in the clouds to be released into the rivers. This recycling always fascinated me" (Estes). It was the essence of the Northwest itself, with its rain and its ubiquitous bodies of water.



City Hall fountain, Lakewood Farmers Market in background

A dramatic, more traditional fountain is located outside Lakewood's City Hall where a collection of rocks gives the impression of a desert oasis was designed by Architects **Merritt-Pardini**. Originally of Tacoma, the firm now is located in Kettle Falls, WA.

Outside St. Clare's Specialty Center there's another refreshing fountain, this one created from several basalt columns.

There's also the ornate **Thornewood Castle** fountain. Placed at the famous Tillicum estate on the edge of American Lake in the early 21st century, the fountain is a legacy from ABC Disney whose film crew used the castle for its made-for-TV mystery, "Rose Red". The massive fountain appears in several scenes in that gothic horror

6 Thornewood Castle's "Rose Red" fountain

story. Once the crew finished filming, the company gifted the current owners with the fountain.

Finally, there's a fountain on the grounds of **Mt. View Memorial Park** off Steilacoom Blvd.

The third section, The Trevi Fountain at Noon *(La fontana di Trevi al meriggio)*, is ushered in by a triumph giving news of a recent victory by the god Neptune.

The final section, The Villa



Fountain in the "Sunken Garden", Thornewood Castle.

### Now, for some water music:

In the early 20th century Italian composer **Ottorino Resphigi** composed a tone poem entitled "The Fountains of Rome" in which the music represented several of the Eternal City's renowned waterholes, including The Fountain of Valle Giulia at Dawn (*La fontana di Valle Giulia all'Alba*). This shows the fountain at daybreak in a pastoral landscape which cattle pass through during the morning.

In the second section, The Triton Fountain in the Morning *(La fontana del Tritone al mattino)*, depicts Naiads and Tritons dancing in the morning light, as figures of the Bernini fountain are seen nearby. Gods and goddesses using conch shells are portrayed by the French horn. Medici Fountain at Sunset (La fontana di Villa Medici al tramonto), portrays a more melancholy atmosphere as the brilliance of the sun fades.

Although **Lakewold Gardens** has several water sites including the peaceful reflecting pond and swimming pool as well as nearby Gravelly Lake, there are no fountains on the property.

Perhaps someday some local composer will be inspired to write music to honor Lakewood's fountains. Until then, one option would be to take a recording of **George Frideric Handel's** "Water Music" and find a shady lakeside setting in which to enjoy the music.

*Right: Tsutakawa's "Lily" fountain, Lakewood* 

# George Tsutakawa

(1910-1997): Master of Fountains



George Tsutakawa was an internationally recognized artist of Japanese American heritage. A native and longtime resident of Seattle, he was a painter, sculptor, and fountain maker.

He made an art form of water, setting a world record not only for our age but probably for all of history to date in having created more than **70** fountains for public places around the world. Their shapes, like his own life, marry Japanese and American sensibilities.

Tsutakawa taught at the University of Washington for more than 30 years, and received honorary degrees from Whitman College and Seattle University.



# American Lake Commuter James Guerrerro

"New in the neighborhood —stop in and visit," was the message displayed on the reader board on Gravelly Lake Drive SW, opposite Nyanza Drive, several weeks ago.

So I did.

I met architect **James Guerrero**, born and raised in Lakewood (he's a Lakes High Grad and has two children currently attending the same school)—and, he commutes to his new office from his home ON American Lake.

The Guerreros are fortunate to have a home on Silcox Island that middle-of-the lake island that a small group of Lakewood Historical Society members visited this past summer. His commute is "less than a mile" from that 13-acre island to Tillicum to his Lakewood office where he relocated "about three weeks ago" (late July).

Guerrero Architects is now located in the former John Korsmo site—a place, James says, that began in the 40s as a real estate office. The late **John Korsmo, Sr.** had his office there, then his son **John**, **Jr.** occupied the building before relocating to Tacoma. Most recently the building had been the location for Sylvan Learning. That office is at 11150 Gravelly Lake Drive SW. in Lakewood

James graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Architecture in 1987. After five years at a successful Tacoma firm, he founded James

Guerrero Architects in 1982.

By Nancy Covert

**Neitha Wilkey**, a 1988 WSU graduate, joined JGA in 1997 as a Project Architect and became a partner in 2007 save owner's time and money while providing an aesthetically pleasing structure that blends harmoniously with its surroundings.

> "As a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified professional organization, James Guerrero Architects is mindful of the need to assess design and construction principles to achieve minimal negative effects on the environment."

James Guerrero, sharing a quote from Ben Franklin. Duri staff of intern architects and draftsmen, they also work closely with a variety of consultants including structural, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineers, landscape architects, and various independent contractors. James contributes to the local community as a member of the Lakewood Rotary Club.

> Neitha is a former president of the American Institute of Architects Southwest Washington Chapter. She also is a member and past chair of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. She currently serves on the state's Architects License Board and two national committees that write components for the architect's licensing exam.

According to its website, the firm "strives to be innovative in its application of materials and processes that increase a project's viability, profitability and functionality. They diligently search for solutions that will During the past two years, the firm has worked with Clover Park School District on the assessment of district buildings for the development of a bond issue package. Harrison **Preparatory** was operating out of Lake City Elementary School while the two elementary schools, which now make up Four Heroes, were on sites where development was limited due to safety concerns, and the populations had dwindled, no longer supporting two separate campuses.

Harrison Prep formally opened at its new site on Lakewood Drive last winter, with an official dedication this past spring, and Four Heroes opened this September.

Integrus Architects and James Guerrero Architects were selected to design the combined schools. The two schools operate separately. They share the multipurpose, cafeteria, kitchens, elevators, and bus loop. The exterior is a



#### CONTINUED from previous page

combination of brick veneer, concrete masonry, colorful laminated, and corrugated panels. The two schools total 180,572 square feet on two stories.

James said that current projects include a threestory medical office building on South Tacoma Way and an indoor shooting range on Pacific Highway.

As for the Gravelly Lake reader board message tradition, James plans to continue that custom, changing the message, he hopes, "every couple of weeks."

The latest message reads: *Well Done is Better than Well Said*, according to Ben Franklin. (John Korsmo gave James a book of Thoughts to use. Just so he doesn't duplicate any, John kept track



Harrison Prep, opened September 2015.

of the one's he'd used during his tenure at the site.) Drive by to read what's new.

And visit James Guerrero Architects website (www.jgarch.net) to view other projects.

CARTOONS, from pg. 5



A few representative works, spanning nearly 50 years

designer career with Pierce Transit. Chuck retired in 2010.

Once computers came on the scene, Chuck says, it made all the difference for graphic artists such as he: the relative ease, the variety, the expanded scope of creating art. Anyone who works with computers will agree that Steve Jobs' company had a huge impact on contemporary graphic artists. Chuck reiterates: Macintosh made it all possible.

From Bus Pass cards to his distinctive artwork promoting Pierce Transit's bike lockers—a bicyclist holding a coffee cup as he peddles furiously to work (also the design he uses on his business cards). There also are detailed illustrated downtown walkabout maps. such as the one he created for University of Washington Tacoma students. and more.

Hanging on one wall in his home is his reproduction of a famous Rembrandt; next to it, his contemporary interpretation showing his dog, clothed in 16th Century attire, including a jaunty beret, contemplating his most favorite possession: a doubleended orb throw-toy!

Chuck's work may not be hanging from the ceiling of the

Sistine Chapel as is the work of one renowned artist, but a quick glance around the room reveals a large ladder slanted against the TV room's skylight—a work in progress "Part of our emergency preparedness efforts," he explains. You know, in case that predicted West Coast earthquake strikes.

Note: It's hoped that, at some future date, Chuck's work will be shared at the Museum.



Join LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Call 253-682-3480 or visit our website: www.lakewoodhistorical.org



There are plenty of "doubles" at **Best Burgers**, from gooey double cheeseburgers to the cool and creamy double thick milkshakes, to the two generations working behind the grill and counter.

Over the years, people visiting this 50's inspired Lakewood spot may have thought "Best" was just hyperbole. Turns out, "Best" not only describes the menu, it's the family's surname! Double entendre aside, naming their new business was not happenstance for **Rick and Cathy Best** when they opened the original location in Port Orchard in 1989. In 1990, two more locations opened in Mount Vernon and in Lakewood, owned by Cathy's sister **Nancy** and brother-inlaw **Terry Flajole**. The family envisioned a friendly atmosphere with tasty food, generous portions and a place you could bring the whole family for treats—but not have to break the bank.

Cathy and manager son, Brian,

who started working in the family business at age 14 and kept at it throughout college, are members of Lakewood Historical Society and proud of their long history in our city.

Celebrating 25 years as a Lakewood business this year, Best Burgers' neon sign at Custer & Bridgeport beckons the way to a variety of home-

CONTINUED next page

# Lakewood History Museum Thank You, Business Members and Sponsors

City of Lakewood Lodging Tax Funds help support and promote the Lakewood Historical Society and Museum operations, educational programs, events, historical markers, community outreach programs and Museum displays/exhibits.

### SPONSORS AND BUSINESS MEMBERS

Ardessons Shoe Repair & New Shoes **B&B** Glass Best Burgers of Lakewood Inc **Better Properties Real Estate** Cartridge World City of Lakewood **Edward Jones Investments** Gertie's Grill Gramor Development WA Gravediggers BBQ Harborstone Credit Union Heritage Bank Historical Phil Raschke KLAY Radio Interlaaken Realty Lakeview Light and Power Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Lakewood Ford Lakewood Grocery Outlet Lakewood Hardware & Paint 10

Lakewood Water District LeMay Pierce County Refuse Mandarin Gallery Northwest Properties Agency Inc. Original House of Donuts Paktek Inc Parkwood Property Management **Pierce County Council** Pierce Co Landmarks Commission Radcliffe Hardwood Floors Robi's Camera Center Rolf's Import Auto Service Sheri Hodson Insurance Agency South Sound Restaurant Group Sound Tax and Bookkeeping Inc The Suburban Times Tacoma Country and Golf Club Tacoma Public Library Tacoma Trophy Todd (Farmers) Insurance Agency Travel Leaders/Travel Center Tucci and Sons Water Rights Inc Weinand Associates

### NEW INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY MEMBERS SINCE LAST REPORT

**Gretchen Burk** Brenda Dietz Jonathan Farnsworth Don and Betty Gilbertson Jean Gray Pete and Irene Haraguchi Rod and Jennette Hurlow Leanna Jensen **Brian Kamens** Shirley Kapala **Ginny Kershaw** Winona Knutsen Roger and Donna Laybourn Haley Liu Geoff Piper Lenore Rogers Kate and Frank VanGelder William and Dorothy Wickline Penny Witt Gene and Ellie Wilson

#### CONTINUED from previous page

style items. They treat their loyal customers as extended family. One of 14 friendly employees will take your order at the walkup window and deliver it to you at a shady table outside. If you're in a hurry, there's the drive up window.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, one of the best-sellers is the 1/2 pound juicy double cheeseburger—but they are most famous for their blackberry milkshake. Unique to Best Burgers is the "spudster", deep



fried mashed potato bites. If you order the triple blue cheese burger, you might want to ask for extra napkins. Each month, Best Burgers features meal deals and a "Shake of the Month" with flavors ranging from vanilla/orange cream in June to eggnog in December. In keeping with their philosophy of fresh and seasonal ingredients, all of the food is locally sourced in Washington and every order is freshly made when you order it.

Visit them online at *http://www. bestburgerslakewood.com* Call in your order—they will be happy to have it ready **(253) 472-0736**.



# "Transpire" at the Transit Station

The three intertwining tendrils of "Transpire" create a radiant and elegant design inspired by the early history of settlement in the Lakewood area.

The artist is **Mark Calderon** and his work was dedicated in 2008 when the Lakewood Transit Station opened on Pacific Highway South, just a few blocks northeast of Bridgeport Way.

#### LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT January thru August 2015

Opening Cash on Hand - 01/01/2015	
Checking Money Market	\$ 4,525.19 <u>\$18,134.91</u>
Total	\$22,660.10
Income - 8 Months 2015 YTD	, ,
Grants Family and Individual Memberships Business Memberships Business Sponsorships Donations – Museum Fund Memorial Gifts Special Fund Raisers Bank Interest Other Total Income	\$ 23,122.49 \$ 6,120.00 \$ 550.00 \$ 3,125.00 \$ 8,030.35 \$ 150.00 \$ 0.00 \$ 50.84 <u>\$ 251.00</u> \$ 41,399.68
Expenses – 8 Months 2015 YTD	÷,•••••••
Operations & Administration Museum Lease Equipment/Software/Furnishings Professional Develop/Recognition Contract Services & Support Insurance Museum Fund Raising Special Events Marketing/Publications/Advertising Newsletter printing/mailing Graphic Design Services Web Site Hosting/Maintenance Educational Programs/Events Museum Exhibits/Displays Acquisitions/Collections Historical Markers Total Expenses	\$ 3,773.76 \$ 13,050.00 \$ 0.00 \$ 302.94 \$ 2,661.36 \$ 1,787.00 \$ 638.29 \$ 17.46 \$ 9,085.12 \$ 2,878.16 \$ 7,672.20 \$ 324.23 \$ 200.00 \$ 4,082.32 \$ 0.00 \$ 46,888.94
Closing Cash on Hand 08/31/2015	
Checking Money Market Total	\$ 3,116.20 <u>\$ 14,054.64</u> \$ 17,170.84



(Return service requested)

Non-Profit Org US Postage Paid Tacoma, WA Permit #1347

## Fall 2015 Lakewood Historical Society's Programs and Events

**Saturday, October 17th**, 2:00 pm—Boatman-Ainsworth House tour, 6000 112th St SW, tour Lakewood's oldest home, hosted by Marjorie Candau. Refreshments served.

Wednesday, October 24th, 4:30-7:00 pm—Boo Bash; Lakewood Chamber's fall event at Great American Casino, 10117 South Tacoma Way, Lakewood. Visit Society's booth, door prizes, free food, must be 21 to attend.

**Tuesday, November 17th**, 7:00 pm—Annual Meeting, St Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW. Program on Veterans group (TBA), year end report, elections of board members, recognition of achievements. Refreshments served.

**Thursday, November 19th**, 1:00 pm—Holiday Traditions: Then and Now, as part of the "Let's Enjoy History Together" at the Lakewood Senior Activity Center, 9112 Lakewood Dr SW. Free, but call **253-798-4090** to register.

**Saturday, December 5th**, 2:00-4:00 pm—Holiday Open House, Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW, enjoy vintage holiday decorations and refreshments.