



# Prairie Gazette

The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

Summer 2014

## Lakewold Celebrates...Big Time



By Nancy Covert

### Carman, Griggs, and Wagner.

Well known names around Lakewood, and especially well known to Lakewood Historical Society members. While not as well known, perhaps, as the “Three Tenors”, **Joe Carman IV**, **Mark Griggs** and **Corydon Wagner III** spoke about their relationship to the renowned Gravelly Lake Drive Estate. The May 20th Historical Society program featured family history and its connection to the history of Lakewold Gardens as part of celebrating National Historic Preservation Month.

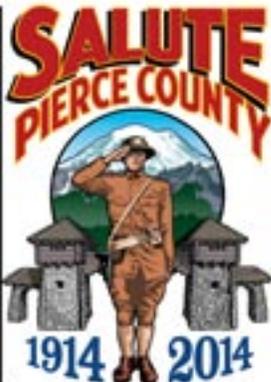


Mr. Carman, as the descendant of **H. F. Alexander**, “that boy from Tacoma,” (as described by **Chester Thorne** and **Sam Perkins** in reference to the early day entrepreneur,) detailed the career of his “very tall” great-grandfather in his quest to own

An historic first! Gathered under the roof of their common ancestral home are representatives of the only three families ever to live at Lakewold: (l to r), Joe Carman IV, Corydon Wagner III, Mark Griggs.

See LAKEWOLD, pg 6

Save the Date  
SUNDAY  
OCT.  
19<sup>th</sup>  
American Lake  
Conference  
Center



Celebrate our  
MILITARY  
HERITAGE  
as we  
Commemorate  
the  
Centennial of  
WORLD  
WAR I



### Historical Societies Join Forces to SALUTE PIERCE COUNTY



Join the Lakewood Historical Society and the Tacoma Historical Society as we commemorate both the centennial of World War I and the proud military heritage of Pierce County. The event will feature a buffet dinner, music, displays and a star-studded array of speakers. Proceeds to benefit both societies in their efforts to preserve, protect and present our region’s history. Details at [lakewoodhistorical.org](http://lakewoodhistorical.org) or by calling 253-682-3480.

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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:

2 www.LakewoodHistorical.org

## President's Message

Because our newsletter is jam-packed with some great articles contributed by **Nancy Covert**, I wanted to use this space to give you more details about our "**Salute Pierce County**" fund raising event scheduled for October 19th mentioned on the front page. Many of you may be wondering—why we are recognizing the centennial of World War I, three years before the United States entered the War in 1917? What did the War have to do with Pierce County anyway?

The United States government had been trying to decide on opening a West Coast base for over 10 years. Starting in 1904, military maneuvers by Regular Army and National Guard troops had been held around American Lake. Thanks to the leadership of Tacoma Mayor **Angelo Fawcett** and the residents of Pierce County, 70,000 acres were purchased and then donated to the U.S. Army to establish **Camp Lewis** that opened in 1917, just in time to train soldiers for the European theater.

The Joint Committee has been busy planning the event making sure to include some very special elements starting with the posting of the colors by the "**Doughboy**" **Memorial Color Guard** from American Legion Post 138 in University Place. A trailer will be shown of the acclaimed documentary, "**Pershing's Last Patriot**", on the life of **Frank Buckles**, the last American WWI veteran. Exhibits will be on display from the Lakewood and Tacoma Historical Societies, Lewis Army Museum and the Buffalo Soldiers Museum. The buffet dinner will showcase the Pacific Northwest's best local food.

This is an event to not be missed. Invitations will be mailed next month with an "early bird" discount.

*Becky Huber*

### Pumpkin, Caramel & Pecan Cheesecake

1/2 cup chopped pecans	1 tbsp pumpkin pie spice
3/8 (about 1 1/2 cups) Ginger Snaps, finely crushed	1 tsp vanilla
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted	4 eggs
4 (8 oz each) packages of Cream Cheese, softened	25 caramel candies
1 cup sugar	1/4 cup milk
1 can (15 oz) pumpkin	

Heat oven to 325 degrees F.

Chop 1/4 cup of nuts finely; place in medium bowl. Add ginger snap crumbs and butter; mix well. Press onto bottom of 13x9-inch pan.

Beat cream cheese and sugar in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add pumpkin, spice and vanilla; mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over crust.

Bake 45 min or until center is almost set. Cool completely. Refrigerate 4 hrs.

Microwave caramels and milk in microwave in microwavable bowl on high 1 1/2 minutes, or until caramels are completely melted, stirring every 30 seconds; spoon over individual servings of cheesecake. Sprinkle with remaining pecans. Serve with whipped cream. Makes 16 servings.

Submitted by **Carol Moreno**, the Society's "Dessert Queen".

# Clover Park High School - 2014

By Nancy Covert

Motorists driving past Clover Park High School during mid-late May will have noticed the rows of flags—American, Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, POW and thousands of tiny white stakes covering the school’s lawn.

The school’s marquee advertised that this was the “Arlington West” project.

Those stakes/mini tombstones replicated the taller, marble tombstones placed in Arlington Cemetery on the other side of the country, in Arlington, Virginia.

Here are a few statistics about the local “cemetery” that was the setting this past Memorial Day for a service of remembrance.

Arlington West was begun as a project for Bryan Winkler’s boy’s advisory in 2005-06.

This year there were more than 6,778 stakes displayed—the display stretches from the entry of the high school to the pool building. Thirty-five flags, including one POW/MIA flag, as well as 12 POW/MIA and 7 Medal of Honor flags are displayed this year.

Visitors to the site were encouraged to leave notes of remembrance, which were archived. More than 400 volunteers helped with this display including CPHS students, staff and faculty, and also JBLM military airmen.

Members of Clover Park’s JROTC took part in a “Retreat” performance on May 22.

It is difficult to tell how many people have visited the Arlington project during the years, said **Bryan Winkler**, CPHS Humanities teacher.

“I can say that we know about spouses and families who have traveled from as far south as Portland and as far north as British Columbia to come and visit the marker of a loved one.”

The response to this project has been incredible and overwhelming at times. The project has been recognized locally by TV and newspapers. It also has been recognized nationally by our armed forces.

Most importantly it is the warm, heartfelt, and often tearful appreciation that Mr. **David Russell** and I have received from veterans, current military personnel, friends of the deceased, wives, husbands, sons, daughters, and relatives that is so very meaningful and powerful. “I am blessed to be able to serve those we have lost in battle

and their families,” Winkler added.

It now takes approximately four school days involving the teamwork of more than 400 students to install the Arlington Project here on the front lawn of Clover Park High School.

Prior to the installation Mr. Russell has led the way in coordinating our advisory classes throughout the school in taking inventory to do our very best to ensure that every service man or woman we have lost during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq are represented. This very worthwhile and arduous process takes several months to complete.

It is difficult to put into words how this project has impacted our student body (past and present), our administration and me.



## *Around the Sound:*

# May 1—Local neighborhood marks 125th anniversary

## Celebrating Lake City's start

by Nancy Covert

This coming November—Nov. 11, 2014, to be exact—Washington State will commemorate its 125th anniversary.

Lake City, one of two communities in the state with that name—one's north of Seattle, the other is a few blocks off Washington Boulevard—also marks its 125th anniversary year.

Among all the dates folks are expected to remember: anniversaries, birthdays, national holidays, etc., it's not surprising this one is likely to slip by with little notice. Still, if you're a Lake-wood-area resident, you might be curious about the origins of a small community on the West Side of American Lake.

This Lake's formation, according to knowledgeable hydrologists and geologists, began about 14,000 years ago when a mile-high glacier covered the area. Eventually, the glacier receded, creating not only a dozen lakes in this region, but also Puget Sound, and much of the unique Pacific Northwest landscape.

Jump ahead, though, specifically to after the Americans formally settled the area in the 19th century.

Shortly after Tacoma, promoted as the "City of Destiny" came into being, Tacoma entrepreneurs began casting their eyes around for development ideas. American Lake was one of the areas ripe for development.

Enter **Allen C. Mason**, a man known for his various contributions to his adopted city, from trolleys to libraries, to land deals and more, grabbed headlines in the *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, encouraging residents to purchase land around the lake. Anything Mason did usually was done with a great splash.

On May 1, 1889 Mason and his supporters arrived in an area that was to become Lake City. A *Tacoma Daily Ledger* article published the news about the enterprise. A Steam Yacht, named Lake City, was christened with a bottle of Mumm's Extra Dry Champagne. Even though the bottle was clumsily broken by Mason's young daughter—Allen C. (the man who a few years later traveled to Egypt, and sent back a Mummy to Tacoma: but that's another story) grabbed a glass and salvaged the remaining

bubbly—tossing the empty bottle in the lake!

The purpose of that steam launch was to provide a cruise around the lake, for 50 cents apiece, and entice people to purchase property around the lake for home sites. A hotel was built nearby.

**Albert Abner Silcox** purchased the 13-acre island, just offshore, in 1904 for \$350! **Dick White** and **Jim Hammond** began a seaplane operation here...and so much more.

Lake City's dreams, like those of so many early communities established around the area—Lakeview, Custer and others—never materialized. It was a good idea, though, and might have succeeded if only the railroads hadn't over-extended their plans in those days. Nevertheless, Lake City and neighboring Tillicum, as well as Camp Murray and the Country Club areas, have done nicely for themselves.

Those who are interested in local history should take note of a few Lake City landmarks, including:

- Lake City Elementary School
- Lake City Community Church
- Lakeside Country Club
- Lake City Community Clubhouse
- The Seaplane Base, originally sited at American Lake Park
- Lake City Business District
- American Lake VA Hospital

...perhaps Mason's champagne bottle is still in the lake!

The city "that never was" is worth a visit, especially in this, its 125th year. Visit Lakewood Historical Museum's Lake City History Display later this summer.

More information about Lake City and Tillicum, its sister city across the Lake, can be found in a history book scheduled for publication in September. Lake City resident/writer **Nancy Covert** began the history project in 2012, and copies of the book, published by History Press of South Carolina, will be available at that time.

*Covert, a South Sound resident since 1991, has co-authored several books about area history, including "Steilacoom Historical School District No. 1: 150 years of Educating Steilacoom Students" and "Mrs. Orr's Pear Tree"*

**So... you think you know Lake City? Test your knowledge on pg 9.**



# MILITARY NEIGHBORS EXHIBIT OPENS TO ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD

**B**e sure to stop by to see the Lakewood History Museum's newest exhibit, "Home of the Free Because of the Brave: Lakewood's Military Neighbors", during regular hours: Wednesday through Saturday, noon-4 pm.

Particularly appropriate in this, the centennial year of World War I, the exhibit focuses on our region's long-standing ties

to the military through a wide assortment of historical displays and rare artifacts. A wall covered with photos of local service men and women, both veterans and active duty, seemed to be the focus of particular attention by many in attendance.

The Museum is in the historic Lakewood Colonial Center at 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW, across from Columbia Bank.

Call **253-682-3480** or e-mail [contact@lakewoodhistorical.org](mailto:contact@lakewoodhistorical.org) for information or to schedule a tour.



Authors Walter Neary and Steve Dunkelberger signed copies of their new book on the colorful lives of prominent locals.



Councilman Doug Richardson and LHS Pres. Becky Huber look on as LTG Bill Harrison does the ribbon-cutting honors.



Left: Arrivals were greeted by walls covered with photos of local veterans—and of service men and women still on active duty.

Right: WW I doughboy's uniform, standing guard outside the main exhibit room.

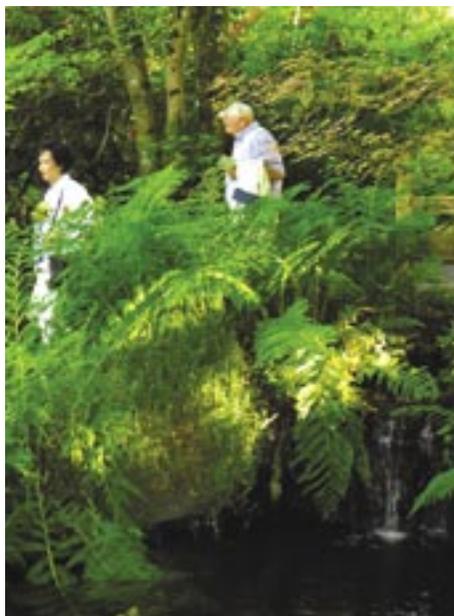
Bottom left: Exploring some of the other exhibits on display at the museum.

Bottom right: These artifacts in the front window are just a sampling of the historic wartime relics inside.





Top: Topiary in the style of an English formal garden. Middle row: 1. Entering the Tea House, now occupying the spot where the gazebo seen on page one once stood. 2. Passing through the Don & Mary Williams Garden Room. Bottom row: 1. Lovely to look at, the velvety leaves of this particular species of *Rhododendron* are also delightful to touch. 2. Northwest nature in the raw, just a short walk from the formal gardens.



*LAKEWOLD* from page 1

and operate the fastest, most powerful steamships on the Pacific Coast.

Acquiring the *U.S.S. Columbia*—a former troop ship—that was re-christened as the *Dorothy Alexander* was the crowning achievement. The other steamships were known as the *Emma Alexander*, and the *Ruth Alexander*. The truly luxury liner acquisition, at great expense and overcoming challenges—in order to transport a group of Shriners to Hawaii—was the most amusing part of the presentation. Sadly, the ship became a war casualty when the Japanese sank it during World War II.

Mr. Carman brought several family scrapbooks and other memorabilia that detailed Alexander's life, and recapped anecdotes about life on Gravelly Lake "back in the day."

Mr. Griggs and Mr. Wagner each added their personal recollections of the past century at this 10-acre garden estate, carved out of a chunk of land that was once part of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company's (1833) Hudson's Bay Company holdings.



Earlier that evening, **Stephanie Walsh**, Lakewold Gardens' Executive Director, guided LHS members and guests on a garden tour of the newly dedicated **Don and Mary Williams** Asian-themed Garden, down the rhody-lined Circle Drive, and later talked about plans for the garden during this, Lakewold Garden's 25th anniversary year.

Yes, there was a pair of "signature" blue poppies in bloom near the knot garden. Guests were invited/encouraged to make return trips to the garden—particularly in a couple of weeks for the annual rhododendron deadheading party.

Lakewold truly is a gem of a Northwest garden, and Lakewold Historical Society is also a gem: the place to find information about local history.



Top: The quatrefoil pattern of The Pool is repeated throughout both house and gardens. Middle row: 1. Inside Wagner House: the art gallery. 2. Viewing the gallery's historic articles and artifacts pertaining to Lakewold. Left: Joseph Carman IV, main presenter of the evening's program. Below: Among Mr. Carman's many fascinating slides: the babe-in-arms is his great-grandfather H. F. Alexander (also seen in the framed photo above), builder of the estate now known as Lakewold.



## The Lions of Lakewood

Test your knowledge of local wildlife. Where in our city would you find these noble beasts?



Answers in our next issue.

# CLOVER LEAVES

## Clover Park High School's school newspaper

By Nancy Covert

Ah...the "good old days!"

Tillicum resident **Jim Taylor** was reminiscing about just that very thing while he sorted through a pile of old papers.

Here's a sampling of what was published in those brittle, yellowing pages of *Clover Leaves*.

From the March 10, 1946 issue:

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### *Clover Park is indeed proud of Patsy Hamm who has won the Pacific Coast Championship Title.*

Patsy, who is a ninth grade student here and the Junior High Yell Leader, has as her partner Jackie Boyle, a junior at Stadium High. Her skating experience started at Lakewood Ice Arena just three years ago; she has been skating with Jackie for only five weeks.

Patsy says she enjoys skating very much and says she thinks it is very fascinating "because you can never learn all there is to know about skating."

### *What Happened To The Flying Saucers?*

One big question that has been puzzling the brass hats in Washington is what were the flying saucers that were reported last summer, and what happened to them?

...Many of our population are of the opinion that the Curtis Candy Company blew up and that the flying saucers were nothing more than a slew of those delicious morsels winging their way through the atmosphere.

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An assortment of ads in the paper included Ghilarducci's florists, Wutke's Photo Studio, KMO presenting the Campus Radio Theatre, Clover Park Beauty Salon, Lakewood Cleaners, Dittimore's Motor Hotel and Ingleside Café. Cutty Sark, with "curb service headquarters" for CP students offered "the best sandwiches and steaks. CS was located "200 yards south of the Lakewood cut-off."

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### *Food Waste dilemma*

The dictionary defines the verb "to waste" as "cast aside as worthless or useless" This is exactly what you students in the cafeteria are doing every day. A recent survey of the garbage cans disclosed that more than half of the lunches that are brought from home are being cast aside as worthless.



The writer scolds his readers, reminding them about how grateful “starving children in Europe” would be to have that cast-off food.

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***Aircraft Shop gets L-3B Aeronca; rebuild plan is proposed project***

The aircraft shop, under the direction of Mr. Miner, recently received another L-3B Aeronca airplane. The plane has been cracked up, and was purchased for the purpose of instructing students in repairing of engines and aircraft.

The plane, a converted Army reconnaissance plane, stalled at 50 feet, crashed and burned. It will be completely covered with fabric, and the wings and part of the fuselage will be rebuilt.

Besides students, the two instructors Mr. Miner and Mr. White will instruct veterans taking the course under the G.I. Bill of Rights.

***Light, Bair earn Kiwanis Sportsmanship Awards***

Mel Light and Jane Bair were awarded the annual Kiwanis Senior High Sportsmanship Award, at a meeting of the South Tacoma Kiwanis Club on Wednesday, May 29. The winners were nominated by the students who cast ballots for their choice, and selected by the faculty.

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What headline stories—memorable or otherwise—do you remember from your High School Days?

Thanks to **Jim Taylor** for use of “Clover Leaves” in the photo.

## A few questions about Lake City

1. What day was Lake City established?
2. Who is the prominent Tacoma promoter who publicized the sale of land around American Lake?
3. How did people travel to American Lake (most likely to the site of American Lake Park) on that day?
4. What was the name of the steamboat that transported prospective buyers around the lake to select their property?
5. Name the famous Tacoma architect who designed Lake City Elementary School. Name a few of his most renowned architectural works in the state.
6. What is the name of the main road that bisects Lake City, extending from Gravelly Lake Drive to the American Lake VA Hospital?
7. What is the name of the (currently vacant) building between the school and Lake City Community Church? When was it built? Who built it?
8. What is the name of the Country Club neighborhood in Lake City?
9. What is the name of the island across from the American Lake Park?
10. How much did Mr. Silcox pay for his 13-acre island when he bought it?

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 11**

# Lakewood Historical Society & Museum

## 2014 Museum Fund Contributors

January 1st thru June 30th

### 2014 Goal: \$25,000

for Operations, Education,  
Exhibits, Programs and Com-  
munity Outreach

### Actual to date: \$13,150

from 97 generous donors and  
sponsors

### City of Lakewood Lodging Tax

helps support the Lakewood  
History Museum displays and  
exhibits as well as Society com-  
munity outreach, promotions  
and educational programs.

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# LAKESWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January thru June 2014

## Opening Cash on Hand - 01/01/2014

Checking	\$ 1,629.90
Money Market	\$ 2,269.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,150.00</b>

## Income

Grants	\$22,633.24
Memberships	\$ 6,090.00
Donations – Museum Fund	\$ 7,350.00
Sponsorships	\$ 0.00
Memorials	\$ 800.00
Special Fund Raisers	\$ 1,185.00
Bank Interest	\$ 22.41
Other	\$ 166.71
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$38,247.36</b>

## Expenses

Operations & Administration	\$ 2,765.29
Museum Lease	\$ 9,150.00
Equipment/Software/Furnishings	\$ 534.98
Professional Develop/Recognition	\$ 573.88
Contract Services & Support	\$ 4,420.67
Insurance	\$ 1,783.00
Museum Fund Raising	\$ 2,044.06
Special Events	\$ 400.00
Marketing/Publications/Advertising	\$ 9,006.45
Newsletter printing/ mailing	\$ 1,612.88
Graphic Design Services	\$ 4,177.50
Web Site Hosting/Maintenance	\$ 199.23
Educational Programs/Events	\$ 150.00
Museum Exhibits/Displays	\$ 334.56
Acquisitions/Collections	\$ 537.08
Historical Markers	\$ 3,728.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$40,417.58</b>

## Closing Cash on Hand - 06/30/2014

Checking	\$ 2,501.46
Money Market	\$ 8,238.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,739.89</b>

Answers to

## A few questions about LAKE CITY

(Quiz on page 9):

1. May 1, 1889; Tacoma realtors had been promoting the event for several weeks.
2. Allen C. Mason was the prominent promoter of this area; he also promoted North Tacoma, rail lines and more.
3. People came on horse-back, by wagon, by rail.
4. The *Lake City* was the name of the steamboat launched that day
5. Ambrose Russell designed the Lake City School; he also designed the Perkins Building, the Armory, Sunrise at Mt. Rainier, and the Washington Governor's mansion.
6. Veterans Drive; the VA hospital was built in 1923.
7. Lake City Community Club; built in the 50s by CPHS students and area residents.
8. Lakeside Country Club. Established in 1910; by Tacoma businessmen; once had 61 homes on the site; now only 19.
9. Silcox Island; named for Abner Silcox.
10. He paid \$350 for the island. 26 families own property there



Now that you've read all about us,  
**DROP BY FOR A VISIT.**

Open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 4 pm.

Lakewood Colonial Center, 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive SW

Tours available: 253-682-3480 • lakewoodhistorical.org



**Lakewood  
Historical  
Society**

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## Summer 2014 Programs & Events

**Wed, July 16th, 3:30 pm—Dedication of Lakewold Gardens Historic Marker, 12317 Gravelly Lake Dr SW; 4:30 pm—Dedication of Ice Arena Marker, Waters' Edge Condos, 7334 Steilacoom Blvd SW.**

**Tues, August 12th, 10 am-3 pm-Lakewood Farmers Market**, in Lakewood Towne Center; Visit booth.

**Tues, August 12th, 7:30 pm, "Legendary Locals of Lakewood"** will be the topic of discussion and book signing from Steve Dunkelberger and Walter Neary, authors of the book, at Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Rd SW.

**Tues, September 9th, 10 am-3 pm—Lakewood Farmers Market**, in Lakewood Towne Center; Visit booth.

**Tues, September 16th, 7 pm—"The Making of the Lakewood Photo Histories and Where We Go From Here?"**, St Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, presented by authors of latest Lakewood book, Steve Dunkelberger and Walter Neary. Learn more about the back story of writing the history book. Books available for sale.

*Find us on Facebook (Lakewood-Historical-Society-Washington-State)  
or check our website for more information and current events: [www.LakewoodHistorical.org](http://www.LakewoodHistorical.org)*