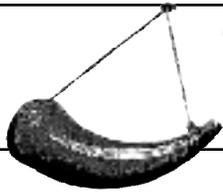


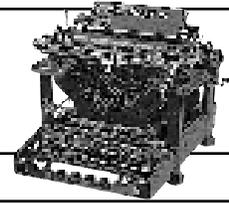
BECAUSE OUR HISTORY MATTERS



# Prairie Gazette

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2010



## Historical markers scattered all over Lakewood

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

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

Look for more next issue.



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

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

**LAKWOOD HISTORICAL MARKER**

ON THIS SITE STANDS  
**THE MUELLER - HARKINS AIRPORT HANGAR**



1930

In 1922 Rudy A. Mueller and Leo H. Harkins acquired the Tacoma Speedway and built an airport for Tacoma. The first airmail service arrived here in April of 1925. In 1927 this field was to become the Tacoma Municipal Airport with trimotor airline service. In 1929 this building, at a cost of \$10,000, became the Airport Administration Building. During the 1930's and 1940's pilot training (Washington Air College), national air races and many air shows were held here. In 1944 the government filed condemnation proceedings against the airport and it became federal property. An Advanced Navy Base was built, but the old hangar was spared. In 1949 the property was declared surplus and acquired by the Clover Park School District and later became Clover Park Technical College. This hangar is one of only a few in the nation to remain intact at its original location.

**Board Members**  
C. Happy G. Spieth  
D. Weeks M. Gunter  
T. D. Imholt D. Cable  
W. Herstad J. Palmas  
E. Poinsett J. McDonald

Marker Donated By:  
Lakewood Historical Society  
2002




**LAKWOOD HISTORICAL MARKER**

ON THIS SITE STOOD  
**THE TACOMA SPEEDWAY**



Cooper in 1912

In July of 1912 the Tacoma Speedway held its first race. The top names in racing drove here - Oldfield, Rickenbacker, Tetzlaff, DePalma, Cooper and others. The first track was five miles of dirt road that ran on Steilacoom Boulevard to Grevelly Lake Drive to 11th Street to Lakeview Avenue and back to Steilacoom Boulevard. In 1913 the track was reduced to 3/4 mile and went up 100th Street instead of 11th. By 1916, the track was reduced to a 2 mile oval built of two-by-four lumber laid on edge with 16 foot high banks on the curves. A fire in 1920 razed the grandstand which was replaced at a cost of \$100,000. The 1922 race was the best, but with the cost of the grandstand and reduced gate receipts and the highest purse yet, the Tacoma Speedway Association failed. The track was sold in 1922 and became the Mueller-Harkins Airport.

**Board Members**  
C. Happy G. Spieth  
D. Weeks M. Gunter  
T. D. Imholt D. Cable  
W. Herstad J. Palmas  
E. Poinsett J. McDonald

Marker Donated By:  
Lakewood Historical Society  
2002






## Lakewood Historical Society

### President

Becky Huber \* 253-582-8682  
craftyhubers@comcast.net

### Vice President

Glen Spieth \* 253-584-3930  
b17relic@comcast.net

### Secretary

Sue Scott \* 253-588-6354  
nonniesue@live.com

### Treasurer

Gary Fowler \* 253-584-3958  
gjfowler@hotmail.com

### Directors

Marion Ball \* Sandra Glasse  
Bill Harrison \* Gary Hess  
Kris Kauffman \* Walter Neary  
Pat Price \* Dave Reames  
Dave Sclair

### Directors Emeritus

Cyrus Happy III  
Elizabeth Poinsett

### Museum Consultant

Mary Bowlby  
bowlby\_wandm@msn.com

### 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.

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 the website for information on events and activities.

[www.lakewoodhistorical.org](http://www.lakewoodhistorical.org).

### EDITOR

Dave Sclair  
e-mail: dsclair@comcast.net

## President's Message

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your dedication.

Becky Huber

## **Lakewood Coffee Shop opened in '52; now is Bur's**



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

## **LHS receives \$5,000 grant for operations, displays**

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

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

The Society opened the Lakewood History Museum

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

In addition to operating the museum, the Lakewood Historical Society produces monthly programs featuring a variety of historical subjects.

The next program will take place at the Lakewood Library on Tuesday, January

19 at 7 pm. Dick Blumenthal will do a presentation about an 1838-1842 US exploration expedition of the Puget Sound area led by Navy Lt. Charles Wilkes. In February, Steilacoom historian, Nancy Covert will speak about the history of early area newspapers, including the *Lakewood Log* and the *Suburban Times*.

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

For more information:  
[www.lakewoodhistorical.org](http://www.lakewoodhistorical.org)

## *Hawaii vacation LHS fundraising raffle prize*

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

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

Colonial Center.

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

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

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

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

## *Museum gets experienced staff member*

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

Becky Huber, society president, said the board of directors was excited when it learned Bowlby would be available and agreed to hire her on an independent contractor basis for three months with an option to extend. Bowlby will work primarily on

managing the museum's collection and training docents as well



as assessing exhibits.

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

## **Lakewood Playhouse 'Pinafore' April 17 to benefit LHS**

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

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

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

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

The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 4 pm.

# LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

## 2009 MUSEUM FUND CONTRIBUTORS

December 31, 2009

*Thank You, Museum Fund Donors and Sponsors*

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

*Actual: \$23,630 from 148 donors*

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

### **SPONSORS**

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

### **PREMIER - \$1,000 or more**

Comcast  
Rebecca and John Huber  
Helga P. Miller  
The Helen and John Vogt  
Foundation

### **PATRON - \$500 to \$999**

Dimmer Family Foundation  
Carol Else  
Samuel G. Hewston  
Mac and Bette Kirk  
Puget Sound Energy  
Sound Transit

### **PARTNER - \$200 to \$499**

BCRA Design  
Edie Brewer  
Chris Finnigan  
Gary and Karen Fowler  
Clarence and Sandra Glasse  
Ray and Janice Graves  
Harborstone Credit Union  
LTG (Ret) William Harrison  
Larry and Natalie Humphrey  
Clyde and Jean Kalahan  
Kris and Sylvia Kauffman

Brad and Liz MacGowan  
Clark and Sharon Montgomery  
L. T. Murray, Jr  
Alice Peeples  
Elizabeth Poinsett  
Henry Schatz  
Glen and Marlene Spieth  
Raye Staples  
Water Rights Inc  
David and Barbara Young

### **Memorials in Honor of:**

LTC Darwin C. Miller  
by Helga P. Miller  
Sam Brown  
by Ray and Janice Graves  
Maria "Babita" Griffin  
by Ray and Janice Graves  
Wayne Pieper  
by John & Becky Huber  
Wayne Pieper  
by Edie Brewer

### **ASSOCIATE - \$100 to \$199**

Marian Ball  
The Boeing Company  
Ron and Christine Cronk  
Daughter of Pioneers – Steila-  
coom  
Ann Davis  
Rhona Diehl  
Horace & Lilli Gamas Family  
Dr. William & Andrea Gernon  
Joe and Carolyn Ghilarducci  
Sandra Godfrey  
Royce and Genny Hansen  
Frances L. Hilliard  
Donald Hirte  
Mary K. Johnson  
Brad Jones  
Robert and Maria Kelly

Shannon Krueger  
Col Karl B. and Sue B. Lorenz  
Nancy Mace  
James Manning  
Stone Maritime (Jim& Mona  
Stone)  
Tim Marsh  
David J. McDonald  
Andrea Moawad  
Walter and Cindy Neary  
Robin and Linda Rego  
Larry Saunders  
Dave and Mary Lou Sclair  
Sue Scott  
Ruth Stevick & Lynn Gracey  
Idella Whitfield-Stith  
Dr. Steve and Diane Stykal  
Cordy and Judy Wagner  
Gregg and Stephanie Walsh  
Larry and Darlene Wilder  
Johnny and Lucinda Williams

### **BUSINESS & ASSOCIATION**

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

**Continued on Page 6  
Page 5**

## CONTRIBUTOR

David and Julia Aiken  
Steven and Bridgette Allen  
Darlene Anderson  
Sandra K. Anderson  
Bob and Marilyn Arndt  
Gene and Peggy Bal  
Frank and Betty Ball  
Martha and John Bargren  
Richard and Helen Bednarczyk  
Doris Beyl  
Stan and Beverley Bills  
Virginia Brinsfield  
Karol Brown  
Mrs J. L. (Barbara) Carman III  
Charles and Patricia Collier  
Susan C. Coulter  
Judy Davis  
Duane Colt Denfield  
Tal and Molly Edman  
Ken and Evelyn Enslow  
Pearl (Billy) Finley  
Linda Forkenbrock  
Betty Fulton  
Carl and Ingrid Fynboe  
Esther Grant  
Mark and Phyllis Griggs

Wayne and Carol Herstad  
Venette Hagen  
George and Geneva Hamill  
Jeannie Hansen  
Audrey Honeycutt  
Bill and Carol Imholt  
William Lee Jackson  
Rose Corey Jetter  
Diane M. Johnson  
Joann Johnson  
Margaret J. Johnson  
Jerry and Beth Julian  
Verna J. Karlson  
Robert and Joan Kovich  
Charles and Charlotte Larson  
Emmalou Lyle  
Nancy Mace  
Dr. Doris McEwen  
Tim Marsh  
Mary Ann Miller  
Herb Mellor  
M. Tom Mezs  
D. J. and Carol Moreno  
Dave and Lindy O'Keefe  
Gene and Margaret Pankey  
Arthur Pavey  
James Peterson

H. Dale Piercy  
Prairie Schooners – Little  
Church  
Doug & Charlene Richardson  
Pat and Maria Riggs  
Robert and Skaidrite Russ  
Don and Katherine Russell  
Dorris Saunders  
John S. Schrieber  
Ray and Pam Schuler  
Fred and Louise Schumock  
Carol Seeburger  
Gen John & Joan Shalikashvili  
Colleen Smart  
Jim and Kathy Spencer  
Irwin Sternberg  
Dugald and Norita Stewart  
Patricia Stolp  
Claudia Thomas  
Brewer and Joanne Thompson  
Thelma Thumm  
Molly Tuohy  
Judy Turcotte  
Thea Vestal  
Ella Washburn  
Harriet R. Wolverton



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

**LAKESWOOD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM  
2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

*Prepared 12/31/2009*

**Cash on Hand - 12/31/2008**

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Checking               | \$ 1556.72     |
| Money Market           | \$ 6614.35     |
| Certificate of Deposit | <u>\$ 0.00</u> |
| Total                  | \$ 8171.07     |

**Income - 2009**

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

**Expenses - 2009**

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

**Cash on Hand 12/31/2009**

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Checking     | \$ 1907.36         |
| Money Market | <u>\$10,807.58</u> |
| Total        | \$12,714.94        |

***Old Newspaper  
files now available  
at museum on film***

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

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

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

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

The film can be accessed whenever the museum is open.

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

NonProfit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Tacoma, WA  
Permit # 356

## ***Programs for Winter 2010***

*Meetings start at 7 pm in Lakewood Library meeting room  
6300 Wildaire Road SW, Lakewood unless otherwise mentioned.*

### **Tuesday, Jan. 19 - LT Charles Wilkes' 1840's Exploration of Puget Sound**

Dick Blumenthal will discuss details of this early US Navy expedition into the area.

### **Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Black and White and Re(a)d all Over.**

Nancy Covert, Steilacoom historian, will present the history of early area newspapers, including the Lakewood Log and the Suburban Times.

### **Tuesday, Mar. 23 - A Journey of Thousands of Steps.**

Bart Smith, "The Trail Guy", has hiked the 11 National Scenic Trails over 17 years, covering 16,500 miles of hiking. His presentation includes a slide show from his vast file of photographs taken during his years of hiking the scenic mountain trails.

### **Other dates to remember:**

Sat, April 17, 2 pm - HMS Pinafore Command Performance at Lakewood Playhouse

Sat, May 1, 2 pm - A Vaudeville Variety Show at new Lakes High School Performing Arts Center - Our first major fundraiser