



Fall • 2025 •

# Prairie Gazette

Official Publication of Lakewood Historical Society

## MUSEUM HOSTS FIRST EVER MINI-FAB FESTIVAL

by Phil Raschke

On 9-10 August the Lakewood History Museum hosted its first ever Mini-FAB festival **FAB** stands for **F**ilm, **A**rt, **B**ook and the concept was based on a much larger festival formerly held at the Sharon McGavick Center on the campus of Clover Park Technical College. The two day Museum event involved all three FAB elements, but on a smaller scale due to space limitations.

First, a selection of historical films were selected for presentation on the Museum's large screen in our event room. Then award winning local artists **Shirley Petersen, Cindy Baij, Karen Petrillose, Linda Wakely** and others were invited to come display their artwork as well as offer it for sale. Next, acclaimed local authors **Susanne Bacon, Larry Fowler, Kathy Johansen** and

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Mini-FAB art coordinator **Shirley Petersen** proudly displays a painting by **Cindy Baij** that was purchased for \$250 by a Mini-FAB attendee.

Right: Steilacoom author **Kathy Johansen** and **Michele Hilderbrand** (Socks editor) pose in front of their display for Kathy's new book "Sock Peddler Surprises, Fish On"



### Mini-FAB Film Reveals Local Hollywood Connection



Following the showing of the film "Stan and Ollie" at the Mini-FAB, **Joyce Jackman** of Tacoma displayed a photo of her mother with the legendary comedian **Oliver Hardy**. Joyce's mother, **Ethel Sykes**, was an early Hollywood actress who appeared in over 50 films to include those featuring the famous Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

**Phil Raschke** was honored when Joyce asked him to share a photo with the historic picture of her mom with Oliver Hardy.



Acclaimed Lakewood author **Susanne Bacon** shares a happy smile as she holds a copy of one of her latest books.

**Susanne** has over 16 novels in print plus writes the popular "Over the Fence" column for the *Suburban Times*.



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## PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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## MEETINGS

The Lakewood Historical Society formed in 1998 to preserve and share Lakewood's rich history through programs, displays and publications. The Society offers frequent programs on topics of historical interest. Most programs are free and open to the public. Visit us on Facebook or our website for information on events and activities:

www.LakewoodHistorical.org



## President's Message

Like to start this column with a special thank you to **Mary Moss** for joining the museum for the mural ribbon cutting. Also, special thanks to **Ben Sclair** and **The Suburban Times** for his outstanding support of our museum activities. It is sincerely appreciated.

**Phil Raschke** And a special salute goes to the museum **Board of Directors**, **Tink Kinney**, **Don Meeker**, and **Jessica James** for volunteering their time and energy to keep the museum alive and well. As you know, museum's don't run themselves. It takes dedication, time and often a good amount of elbow grease.

Speaking of elbow grease, my friend **Raul Munoz**, Lakes High School JROTC Army instructor, told me about a letter of commendation he received on cadet **Raelyn Gonzales**. Raelyn was visiting Texas back in early July when the devastating flooding took place. She immediately volunteered to assist local military personnel conducting heavy duty recovery operations. It's always great to hear about young people stepping up to the plate to help those in need. **Thank you, Raelyn.**

Gotta share one more young person story with you. Did you know the **number three ranked Karate expert in the world** is a student at Steilacoom High School? Yep, **Jaxson Lovelle** is currently ranked Number Three in the World and that's no small achievement! Plus, Jaxson did much of his training here at the Lakewood Dojo. Congratulations Jaxson on your outstanding accomplishment!

Also, if you've recently seen some of our museum promotional ads and are currently reading this copy of the **Prairie Gazette**. it's because of our great graphic artist **Chuck Mathias**. We'd be lost without him!

Lastly, we're about to clean up our membership lists, so if you haven't responded to our annual renewal letter...now is the time. We'll soon be doing a membership renewal drawing for free **Classy Chassis Car Washes**, so don't miss out. And if you really want to help us, consider applying for a Board of Directors position.

## Phil

*"You can easily judge the character of a person by how they treat those who can do nothing for them."*

—James D. Miles

MINI-FAB, from pg 1

**Don Wilbur** were invited to offer their latest publications for sale.

Key challenge was to make a smooth flowing floor plan that allowed attendees to interact with the FAB artists and also view the historical exhibits of the museum. The layout worked! Films were applauded, Artwork and Books were sold and everyone had a "FABulous" time to include the hard working Museum volunteers who worked day and night to setup the event.

## Rare Photo: Five Museum Presidents



Would you believe **five** museum Presidents were in attendance at the Mini-FAB?

Left to right are **Phil Raschke**, current President, and past Presidents **Becky Huber**, **Ed Voie**, **Sue Scott** and **Glen Spieth**.

For the record, the first President of the museum was **Cy Happy** back in 1998.

Photo by **Jessica James**.

## Deputy Mayor Attends Mural Ribbon Cutting

Honored guests and friends gathered at the Museum in June to participate in the ribbon cutting for the Museum's new 17 foot interactive historical mural.

The colorful mural highlights the rich history of Lakewood from the time before humans to the arrival of cityhood.

Sharing the scissors for the ribbon cutting are Lakewood Deputy Mayor **Mary Moss** (C), museum President **Phil Raschke** (L), and mural artist **Mindy Barker** (R). Special thanks to **Linda Smith** and **Scott Jonson** of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for providing the huge ceremonial scissors and the photo.

This gorgeous mural was made possible by a grant from the **Nisqually Tribe**.



## Full House for Holter “Fateful Fourth” Event



Story and photo by Phil Raschke

June also saw a full house of attendees for author **Russell Holter**'s riveting presentation on Tacoma's tragic trolley car accident. The accident claimed the lives of 43 individuals plus dozens more were seriously injured when the overloaded trolley jumped the tracks and fell into a large gully in the early morning of 4 July, 1900.

Following the program, two attendees, **Bob Warfield** (L) of Lakewood and **Dr. Rob McBride** (R) of UP joined Holter (C) for a photo op.

Warfield was the lucky winner of the drawing for an autographed copy of Holter's book "The Fateful Fourth"



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## **Myron Thompson Wins Lee Oskar Print at August Mini-FAB**

Winner of the **Lee Oskar autographed limited edition print** at Mini-FAB was **Myron Thompson** of Orting. Thompson's name was drawn by Museum volunteer **Jessica James**.

While Lee Oskar is known for his acclaimed harmonicas which are sold worldwide, he is also a highly accomplished artist. Lee graciously donated the signed print to the Mini-FAB.

Photo taken by Museum docent **Pamela Larkin** in front of Museum's historic pioneer cabin.

Check [www.lakewoodhistorical.org](http://www.lakewoodhistorical.org) for notices about upcoming programs