



# LACEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (LHS)

## 2021 Fall Newsletter

PO Box 3324 Lacey, Wash. 98509-3324

Lacey.hist@gmail.com

'To be a voice for the early citizens of Lacey, and to be their stewards protecting the historical heritage they have given us'

### Lacey Historical Society 2021 Annual Meeting

To all our members and the community at large who enjoy our bi-annual newsletters, we must announce that the 2021 annual meeting will be postponed until such time as it is safe for us to meet as a group. We will however send out ballots to re-elect board members as we did last year.

In the meantime, please consider sending in your memories of Lacey's past to share with everyone interested in our very remarkable community. You can mail your memories to PO Box 3324, Lacey, Wash., 98509-3324, or email them to [lacey.hist@gmail.com](mailto:lacey.hist@gmail.com)

Best to all of you from your LHS board of directors.

#### **2021 Officers & Trustees**

##### **Board of Directors**

Lanny Weaver,  
President

Robert Krier, Vice-  
President

Sue Goff,  
Treasurer

Susan Hartman,  
Secretary

##### **Trustees**

Shirley Dziedzic

Amber Raney

Mike Smith



#### Memory by Jeannie Kernander Starkey

"I loved your last summer newsletter-especially pages 2 & 3 about Long Lake. I used to live on Long Lake when I was a school girl. Linda Cain and I had to walk a mile to the school bus stop on Marvin Rd."

"My father William Kernander taught engineering at St. Martins back in the '60s."  
Thank you for sharing.

## History of Lacey's Pizza Place, by Lanny Weaver



An article in *The Olympian* of November 29th, 2020 about a building on Sixth Avenue near Lacey City Hall conjured up all kinds of memories for me. The building is currently owned by MJR Development of Kirkland, which proposes to build an apartment building on the site. The article mentions that the current building used to be a Chinese restaurant.

For me, that building will always be the Pizza Place. Early in our married life, my husband and I established the tradition of eating pizza on Friday night. Regardless of where we lived, Germany, Ohio, Hawaii, we found a place to eat pizza. We wouldn't choose just any restaurant; we had to try every pizza restaurant. Once we found "the place", it became our go to place on Friday nights. When we moved to Lacey in 1987 the Pizza Place became our pizza place. It even had coin-operated games for our son.

In addition to Friday night, we would also go for birthdays. Another family tradition. Members of the wait staff would bring us a candle in the middle of a pizza and sing happy birthday. One of them would take a polaroid photo. We have lots of those photos showing us laughing; it was always an awkward moment for whoever was doing the singing and the singing was usually terrible. We got to know the owners, Jack and Bonnie Troupe, who lived in Cowlitz County. It had to have been a true love for the pizza business that brought them up to Lacey. Jack told us that he ate pizza every day.

You can imagine our disappointment when we returned from a military assignment in Hawaii (where we never really found a decent pizza place) to find that Jack and Bonnie were no longer in charge. They had turned the business over to their son, who didn't share their enthusiasm for pizza and the place just wasn't the same.



*The Pizza Place building when it was the Shanghai Restaurant*

I was also surprised to learn that when the building was built in 1973 it was JB Western Wear. In 1983 the Troupes bought it and turned it into a restaurant. In 2003, it became the El Gato Mexican Restaurant, and in 2007, the Shanghai Restaurant

Proposed for the site is a four-story 151-unit apartment building. Besides apartments, there will also be a taproom, a bocce ball court, a gazebo and two common spaces for tenants. But no pizza.

## **South Sound Shopping Center**

Fifty-five years ago on October 12, 1966, South Sound Shopping Center held its Grand Opening complete with dignitaries and several ribbon cuttings. An article in *The Daily Olympian* related how the wish to expand Blume Realty's office grew to eventually a major 400,000 + square foot shopping center.

General contractor for the project was A.G. Homann, who later served as Lacey's first mayor. Local architect Robert T. Olson originally planned the main building to be an open mall, but this was changed to enclosed with a translucent sky-lighted roof. The forty-foot wide interior mall featured an L-shaped fountain at one end.

Anchored at south end by Peoples' Department Store and Sears Roebuck on the north end, the main building had several exterior businesses. Other stores would be established in a separate strip tract to the south as well as separate stand-alone buildings as the Olympia State Bank {later attached to adjoining building}.

The fifty listed businesses at the time of the Grand Opening offered a wide range of products and services. The list included: Barb Restaurant ~ Blume Realty ~ The Bookmark ~ Ernest-Malmo ~ The Guardsman ~ House of Fabrics ~ House of Camera ~ Kinney Shoe ~ Leed's Shoes ~ Lerner's Shops ~ Lew's Hallmark ~ Mode O'Day ~ Olympia State Bank ~ Pay'N'Save Drugs ~ People's ~ Safeway ~ Sears Roebuck ~ Ski Hut ~ Stardust Beauty Salon ~ Sweet Shoppe ~ Toys Galore ~ Weisfield ~ Western Auto ~ Western Optical ~ F.W. Woolworth ~ World of Fabrics.

Events were held in the indoor mall due to its year-round convenience. At one time Christmas Island, originally a feature on Capitol Lake in Olympia, had its display on a section of a parking lot.

The 1978 businesses listed included a physician, Dr. Ehlers; two dentists, Robert Grant and Glenn McKay; LeRoy's Jewelers; J.K. Gill, stationers; Radio Shack; and Don's Camera.

Over the years the Center's businesses were also changed such as the restaurant to The Red Bull. Also, the anchor store of Peoples went to Mervyn's then to the present Kohls. The other anchor store, Sears remained until its closure by 2020. The interior mall closed with the area transformed into Target with some storefronts remaining along the eastside up to Sears.

Those who have memories of the early years of the Center can share them, so they can be included in up-coming issues of the newsletter. Hopefully, an annual meeting program will be devoted to South Sound Shopping Center.

Composed by Sue Goff



### **Memory by Marilyn Tubbs Marrone**

"I was born during the great depression in 1932. We lived in Union Mills. Rent was \$5.00 a month. The Tubbs and Cunnin and the Browns and Percell all lived in these cabin-like houses until one by one burned to the ground. We then went to my grandparents, Hardin and Laura Tubbs. We stayed in my grandfathers tool shed until my dad bought a house in Lacey. My mother had a man give me clarinet lessons for a dollar a visit - so I joined the band. The Turner boys were in school too. Mr. Fleetwood was the janitor and we loved him because he would give us kids apples. My parents got a divorce so I went to live with my grandparents in Olympia on Kraye Road."