



LACEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (LHS)

2022 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 2022 Annual Meeting

To all our members, and the community at large who enjoy learning about Lacey's past, we must once again postpone the LHS annual meeting until such time as it is safe for us to meet as a group. This meeting was originally scheduled for October. 13, 2022.

We will, however, send out ballots to those of you who are paid members to re-elect board members as we did last year.

In the meantime, please consider sending in your memories to share with everyone interested in this historical region. You can mail them to PO Box 3324, Lacey, Wa. 98509-3324, or email them to lacey.hist@gmail.com



2022 Officers & Trustees

Board of Directors

Lanny Weaver,
President

Robert Krier, Vice-
President

Sue Goff,
Treasurer

Susan Hartman,
Secretary

Trustees

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'Remembering' by Ken Michael

The Al Homann Farm and Warehouse was located near where Pacific Ave. and Lacey Blvd come together. An orchard of apples and pears was part of the farm and Jack Homann had a pony which was fenced into the orchard.

A group of neighborhood scalawags including Jack Homann, Tom Turner, Mike Munz and yours truly thought it a good idea to engage in an activity involving pelting one another with apples and pears. Now keep in mind Jack Homann's pony. As the battle heated up, droppings supplied by the pony became a part of our ammunition. Some of it quite fresh. Boys will be boys.

My Memories of South Sound Center Mall

We first arrived in Lacey in 1987 and discovered that the city had a mall, South Sound Center. For me, having spent much of my U.S. time in the east and Midwest, I was familiar with malls. Compared to all the ones I frequented in those locations, South Sound Center seemed very small. We even referred to it as the "small mall". To me its small size was to its advantage because you could easily walk from one end to the other and in the early days it seemed to offer a variety of stores and restaurants. Between the two anchor stores of Mervyns and Sears was Woolworths, the throw-back to the era of the five and dime stores. It offered a lunch counter along with a variety of inexpensive items.

Shortly before it closed, Tom and I dined at the Red Bull Restaurant. I can't say for sure, but I think our waitress was the Historical Society's own Nora Brown.

By Lanny Weaver



Alverson's Lakeroad Grocery Store **By Margie (Worden) Wyllie**

Around 1951, George and Dorothy Alverson purchased a small grocery store from Mr. & Mrs. Walt Rector on the corner of Pacific Ave. & Carpenter Roads, where the current 7-11 store is now. They named it Alverson's Lakeroad Grocery Store as you could easily get to four local lakes: Long, Hicks, Pattison & St. Clair. It was also clearly a very needed neighborhood grocery store for families in the proximity, such as the Huckees, Kohouts, Bakers, Cunninghams, Greens, McKinneys, Shoblums, and other names still recognized today. George & Dorothy not only worked in that small store seven days a week, but lived in the back of it in a small one-bedroom home with their 3 children: Eddie, Eileen and Laura. Eddie slept in an attached lean-to, Eileen and Laura occupied the tiny bedroom, and Dorothy and George nightly made up a roll-away bed and slept in the office.

Besides having seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, they sold cleaning supplies, over the counter medicines, canned and frozen food items. Western Meats supplied steaks, ribs, hamburger, lunch meat and rolls of bologna which they would slice, weigh and charge you by the pound. They also sold Darigold products (which my dad used to deliver to them). Soda pop was a popular item for the kids, and you could turn in your pop bottles for cash and purchase penny candy (a wonderful way to recycle)! Plus, with proper ID, you could buy wine and beer, but not on Sunday because of the Blue Laws. They also not only had gas and diesel pumps, but barrels of white gas and kerosene, which they would dip out for you to purchase.

Remember back then there were no credit cards, George or Dorothy would add your purchase to a "tab", and you would pay at the end of the month or whatever arrangements you agreed on. Back then your word was gold.

George Alverson passed in 1961 and Dorothy ran the store until she sold it in 1962 to Joe O'Hare. Dorothy then went to work for Cunningham's Jewelry Store on Fourth Ave. in Olympia. It was about two years after she had sold the store, she heard a familiar voice calling her name. It was Eunice (Asbach) Bellamy, one of her old customers. Eunice was so glad to run into her as she still owed \$200.00 on the 'tab' which she immediately gave her. Proof positive that your word was gold back then.

In Memory of Shirley Dziedzic

By Lanny Weaver

Shirley Dziedzic passed away in April of 2022. Lanny Weaver shared the following dedication at Shirley's memorial service which was held on April 29, 2022.

"One of the most important moments in Shirley's life was when Tom Huntamer chose her to succeed him as president of the Lacey Historical Society. I know that because Shirley told me any times. Tom had a lot of choices, people who were descendants of the original settlers or several who had been in the Society longer than Shirley, but Tom was smart and he saw something special in Shirley - her energy, her enthusiasm and her tenacity. Shirley threw her heart and soul into the Society and a lot of the recognition of Lacey's past that you see today was the brainchild of Shirley, the memorial garden, the plaque on the Safeway store at Carpenter and Pacific honoring the location of the Lacey School. The designation of the Lacey Historical Area. She documented it all, keeping meticulous records for the Society. From the moment Tom chose her up to today, Shirley has been the face of the Historical Society, earning respect for herself and the Society.

Shirley had this remarkable ability to get people to do what she wanted to. If the Society needed something, but didn't have the money to get it, someone would volunteer to provide the goods or needed services. I don't think anyone ever said no to Shirley. As an example, we used to hold our annual meetings at the Jacob Smith House. Gene made the stew, but Shirley asked others to provide food, which everyone did willingly. She'd have the meeting reported in the Olympian. She convinced people connected to the original settlers to prepare papers detailing their ancestor's life then remarkably they'd join the Society and even make it onto the board. And of all things, we'd have members of the Nisqually Tribe make us fry bread. Who can get people to do things like that? Shirley could.

When she no longer could be active in the day to day workings of the Society, Shirley shared with me her ideas for the future. When I faced situations that seemed impossible, she'd give me advice. She always knew the right thing to say, and the right time to say it. Then she'd give me a hug. Even up to her last days, Shirley's mind was on the Historical Society. I hope she realized what a wonderful legacy she has left to us and to the City of Lacey. Tom Huntamer made the right choice."



Lacey Women's Club

In sending a contribution in honor of Shirley Dziedzic, the Women's Club included this kind note. "Shirley was a member of the Lacey Women's Club and "housemother" of our club house on Lacey Street for many years. We thank her for her long service, especially in recognizing the club house as an historical site."

**Lacey Historical Society
P.O. Box 3324
Lacey, Wash. 98509-3324**

Join / Rejoin Lacey Historical Society (LHS)

PO Box 3324 Lacey, Wash. 98509-3324 email: lacey.hist@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ email: _____

Dues- Senior/Student: \$5.00 Individual: \$10.00 Family: \$15.00 Business: \$25.00 Patron: \$100.00

Please designate any funds sent: Dues \$ _____ Donations: \$ _____

As a member, you receive 3 annual newsletters, access to our email account & website, plus free copies of the Thurston Journal, and an invitation to our annual membership meeting.

Lacey Historical Society (LHS) is a Section 501 (c)(3) organization. Both dues & donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your continued support in preserving Lacey's heritage.