



Lacey Historical Society NEWSLETTER

P.O.Box 3324, Lacey WA 98503-0324

August 1995

TOM HUNTAMER

Tom Huntamer, the immediate past president of the Lacey Historical Society, who almost everyone described as a fine community leader, a wonderful person and a good friend, has died.

Tom died on July 3, 1995 at the age of 80, after dedicating a good portion of his life to the community he loved.

Tom was born Thomas Woodrow Huntamer on January 28, 1915 in Lacey, son of Lourence Cleveand and Ellen M Callant.

His parents had moved to Lacey in 1910 to join L.C.'s father who had moved here previously. They purchased property from the Robbins family and eventually owned 40 acres at the intersection of College Street and Lacey Boulevard. Part of that property was recently purchased by the City of Lacey and is the location of the city shops.

Like most residents of the time, L.C. was a farmer who raised hogs and a variety of crops. He was also a small contractor who helped others plow fields, build homes and install septic systems. During the summer months, when other wells ran dry, the Huntamer's well remained productive. At the request of neighbors, they started laying pipe to provide

water and over time the Huntamer Water Service reached close to 3000 customers. Later, Tom and his brother Dean ran the system until it was purchased by the City of Lacey in 1969.

L.C. served as Thurston County Sheriff for 8 years and was active in the Lacey School PTA. Tom likes to point out that the 12 Huntamer children provided most of the students for the school.

Tom started in first grade at the Lacey School in 1920 and graduated in 1929. He then attended Olympia High School (the only high school in the county) and the University of Washington. He met and married K. Louise Brown in San Francisco in 1942. The couple soon had three children -- Kathy, Woody, and Merry. In 1954 they returned to Lacey.

Tom became active in the community and was a member of the all volunteer Lacey Fire Department, an activity he continued for 25 years. He worked for the North Thurston School District in a variety of capacities including transportation supervisor.

In 1964, when the citizens of Lacey first defeated an early effort to incorporate, Tom Huntamer drew more votes for the Lacey City Council than any other candidate. As a matter of

fact, Tom drew more votes than did the incorporation measure.

In 1969 when the incorporation of the city finally passed, Tom was elected to the Lacey City Council. Except for brief periods when the city purchased the Huntamer Water System, and he stepped down for about a year, Tom was a continuous member of the Council until 1980.

Tom served as mayor pro-tem and in 1973 was appointed as mayor serving as a bridge between the resignation of Mayor Leon Schindleman, the last fully functioning elected mayor, and the beginning of the city manager form of government.

When the Lacey Historical Society was first formed, Tom was a charter member and worked diligently to make certain that Lacey's history was preserved and protected. In 1988 he was elected as president of the Lacey Historical Society and served in that capacity until 1994.

"He was a real friend and a great man who was always ready to help his community," said Shirley Dziedzic, the current president of the Lacey Historical Society.

Her feelings echo all those who knew Tom.

★★★★★

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The gavel has been passed on Tom Huntamer's six year reign. At the time of his death, he held the office of Past President on the Board.

I now pick up the reins as the Fourth President in our fifteen years of existence -- Denise Keegan and Liz Thomas -- preceding Tom and I.

Tom's leadership and gentle ways always smoothed the ripples. His dedication to the history of Lacey, his willingness to take on small as well as big projects (like the Mesplay House), made us feel like he'd be around forever. I shall try to follow in Tom's footsteps.

Some exciting news: The creation of a "Remembering Space" on the Museum grounds is progressing nicely. A generous gift in the form of a lovely 6 foot Riviera granite bench has been given to us by the Gwin Hicks family in memory of Juanita Hicks.

Two Eagle Scouts are involved in helping to establish this site. Scout Don Healy of Troop 322 is working with the City of Lacey and the Olympia Cast Company.

Also planned for this quiet reflection area is a birdbath to honor Emma Robbins.

We have long desired to place a map locating the 93 plantings of the Society over the past 10 years. Scout Sung Lee, Troop 208 is developing the map design. We may be asking for your participation in this part when the final costs are made known.

♥♥♥

OLD LACEY SCHOOL REUNION

The "Old Lacey School Reunion" will be held on September 17, 1995 from noon to 5 p.m. in Heritage Hall at the Thurston County Fairgrounds.

A potluck dinner will begin at 1 p.m. with coffee, juice and eating supplies provided.

Many special events are planned.

Tom Huntamer will join the list of previous honorees: Beth Fleetwood 1989; Bessie Porteous 1991; with Agnes Button and Ollie Foy 1993.

In memory of Tom, a short video of him in the basement of the 1913 school will be shown. Tom is talking to a young student of today and telling him about Old Lacey School Days. (continued next column)

Annual Meeting

The call goes out for all members of the Lacey Historical Society to gather together for the annual meeting on **October 29, 1995**.

While the Board of Trustees will carry out some business it will not be all business. The doors to the museum will be open and refreshments will be waiting.

"We have 76 paid members," said Society President Shirley Dziedzic. "We need the support and attendance of these members."

"Come plan to spend a couple of hours on a pleasant Sunday afternoon and see and hear about the actions of the society in 1995," she said.

The video was produced by River Ridge High School and the class of Pam Davidson on the last day that the building was open.

The Memorial Committee will present monument design ideas for placement at the old school site. Members of the committee include: past school board directors, alumnus and technical and professional supporters.

The "Lakes School" booklet will be available. This book was researched by 21 fifth and sixth grade students under the direction of Lakes school librarian Sally Alexander.

The authors will be available to autograph copies and discuss their project.

Co-chairs of the reunion committee are Mina Bowker, Shirley Dziedzic, Phyllis Lathrop and Annabelle Webb.

"The old Lacey school building is gone but not the memories, stories and friends who are the old Lacey school," they said. "That's why we gather every two years to renew our loyalties, to visit with each other and to have a good time."



PURPOSE OF THE NEWSLETTER

The Lacey Historical Society has the responsibility to be the voice for all early Lacey people, places and events. A newsletter is sent to members and selected non-members for these reasons:

- to increase membership
- to inform the membership of Society activities
- to chronicle Lacey's history

We intend to publish twice a year, Spring and Summer.

Are there any aspiring reporters or editors wishing to be involved?

We need you.

FOY STREET

The first "Historical Name" street sign, Foy Street, is scheduled for placement. The brown colored sign will remind us of the Foy Store locations and its importance to the early Lacey community.

Ollie Foy VanSlyke made the request and the City of Lacey was able to fulfill her one hundred and two and a half year's wish. Ollie was delighted when the large brown Foy Street metal sign was shown to her on August 3, 1995. She is living at Puget Sound Health Care. Hopefully, she'll be able to be present when the sign is installed by the City of Lacey.

HUNTAMER PARK

The newest park in the City of Lacey honors Thomas Woodrow Huntamer's life as a Lacey citizen, mayor and guardian of historical values. The Lacey City Council voted on August 10, 1995 to select his name over three other choices that had been presented by the Lacey Parks Commission. The Lacey Historical Commission and Lacey Historical Society were strong advocates in promoting Tom's nomination. Huntamer Park was the scene of the first "Lacey in Tune" summer program. The large crowds attending these concerts indicate there may be future performances in the new Thomas Woodrow Huntamer Park!

JOIN THE LACEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____

DUES:
Seniors & Students: \$5.00
Individual: \$10.00
Family: \$15.00

Yes, I want to become a member of the Lacey Historical Society

MAIL to: P.O. Box 3324, Lacey, WA 98503

Please make checks payable to the LACEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors	President Shirley Dziedzic	Past Pres. Thomas W Huntamer	Vice-Pres. Dr. Wm. A.Ehlers	Secretary Richard Webb	Treasurer Richard L. Husk	Trustees:	Gwin Hicks	John R. Puckett	Harold Yates	Emeline R. Kilber	Louise Ensign	Larry Cunningham
--------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------	---------------	--------------------	-----------------	----------------------	------------------	---------------------