

# Lacey Historical Society

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

## Summer "School Days" Newsletter 2014



Lacey School Grandstand circa 1949

Photo courtesy of Amy Turner

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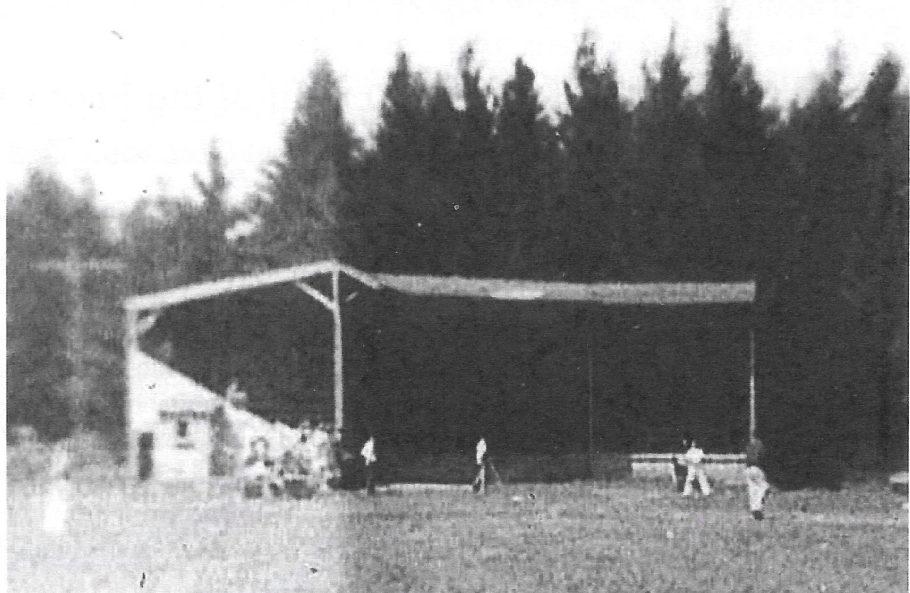
Lacey Historical Society  
is a qualified 501(c)(3)  
Non-Profit Organization  
Tax ID #94-3048716

## 'THEN' ... and... 'NOW'... ~ Lacey School Grandstand ~

**THEN....** Lacey School Grandstand was built by Al Homann, a Lacey contractor and the First Mayor of Lacey. He built the Grandstand in the late 1940's, at his own expense, and he built it to last! It was located in the northeast corner, where the current Safeway store is located on Carpenter and Pacific Ave.

**NOW....** Did you know today you can still sit on those same benches at its new location? Its current location still provides you with a great view of a baseball game. Where is its current location?

Bring your idea and best guess with you to the  
**Lacey School Days Reunion, September 25, 2014**  
**Lacey Community Center**  
**6729 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey, WA 98503**  
**5:30~7:30 pm**



Lacey School Grandstand circa 1949

Photo courtesy of The Lacey Museum

# ❧ THEN AND NOW ❧

The Lacey Historical Society's Annual Meeting theme is honoring 'THEN' (our past) and 'NOW' (our present) of the Woodland and Lacey years. First, we were Woodland (ca. 1850) before becoming Lacey in 1891 then incorporating as the City of Lacey in 1966. The North Thurston School District was formed in 1953. They celebrated their 60th Anniversary last year!

Please join us for "**The Lacey School Days Reunion**" at the Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503, on **September 25, 2014** from 5:30~7:30pm. The evening's program is '*Sharing School Memories*', while we turn back the clock and enjoy a school lunch meal together.

***Our Guest of Honor is Mary Zindt, who is 103 years young!*** Be sure to read her memory letter on page 4. The Master of Ceremony is Greg Cuoio whose delightful manner last year brought out many shared memories! The Society will also be holding the mandatory elections of Officers and Trustees.

The 'THEN' display will be all of the Photo Albums from the Lacey Museum of the Lacey School Classes. The 'NOW' attraction will be the new "Lacey Museum at the Depot Exhibit." The Lacey Museum Curator Erin Valcho will be attending and she will be available to answer questions.

What memories of school or growing up in Woodland/Lacey do you have that could be shared and enjoyed? Help us gather together that past. When you share your memories it brings back memories for others as well!

See you all soon, ~ Lacey Historical Society ~

## ***“To be able to enjoy one’s past Life is to live twice”***

As years fly by, as years do, my fondness for the old institution of my youth is a heart warming memory. Still after 72 years, I recall the old Lacey School with the brick columns and the other more aged section of a white wood exterior with a basement. The new and old section of Lacey School adjoined between the 5th and 6th grades. In the wooden building when I began the second grade in 1942, Mrs. Sundberg was my teacher. In the basement was a cafeteria, boiler room and Mrs. Hayes 3rd grade class room.

A door to the outside led to the east side playground of that old structure where a huge Maple tree grew. It was double branched at the base where we could stand inside. We played tag, chased each other and conversed around this old tree and in the fall could play in the leaves. The playground behind the school had a softball diamond and the grandstand for the boys baseball diamond near Carpenter Road (where the Safeway is today). “Speedball” and soccer, probably the same, was played, too. I remember the roughness! I played first base on the girls softball team and we had a girl, Judy Conine who was a natural athlete, and with Judy we almost always won! Students played marbles in the section between the old and newer building on the concrete floor. The 1st grade through the 5th grade classrooms were in the old section. There were bike stands and a place where buses would load and unload students at the back, as there was no parking on the front along Pacific Ave. A covered play shed also was behind the school. Late in 1948, the new addition was added including the new cafeteria, upper story for 7th and 8th grade classrooms, a huge covered auditorium and offices on the lower level, near Carpenter Road.

Our cafeteria had colorful murals that inspired young artists. The lunch ladies wore house dresses, clunky comfortable shoes and always had hair nets. Bill Southwick, our janitor in his bib overalls, was a stout man with a sense of humor and loved playing tricks on the teachers. Ted McArthur, our principal, knew everyone by name that was associated with the school and he was a very personable gentleman. In that cafeteria the caps on the glass milk bottles provided entertainment as the kids learned how to shoot them somehow and my niece remembers one of the ceiling lights exploding after a hit with a milk cap! That was latter years! Classes were large, usually 43 to 48 students, but I do remember there were 2 third grade classes, taught by Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Gibbs in 1943. First grade, Miss Webber; second, Mrs. Sundberg; fourth, Mrs. Couch; fifth, Mrs. Rippy. In the brick section were sixth, Mrs. Bordeaux; seventh, Mrs. Fleetwood; eighth, Mr. Lindberg, and Mr. Galkowski and Mr. Lenny Bee was our coach and teacher.

The *earthquake* in 1949 happened while we were studying the atomic bomb. I was seated next to the window in the upper floor of the newest section by Carpenter Road. I watched the road buckle and turn and the rock house (the old Albertson’s) was really “Rocking.” It was a harrowing experience and the round florescent tube lighting crashed, but I was under my desk in time! Mr. Lindberg calmly filed us out and down stairs to the playground and instructed us to put our heads down to have the blood flow back in our traumatized state of shock. Graduation was a huge time for all of us, as we were now on our way to spend a year as ninth graders at Washington Jr. High in downtown Olympia. We made many new friends from all the adjoining grade schools and then went to OHS for the remaining three years. I am fortunate to have and enjoy my Lacey School contacts after so many years, but miss those that are no longer here.

Amy Anderson Turner

# Lacey Memories of the 40's and 50's

My first day of school at Lacey School in September 1947 opened up a whole new world for me. My parents Bill and Jewell Earl had built their home on two and one-half acres down a lane off of Robbins Road in 1939. For many years we were not able to see any neighbors, the excitement of being with other children all day that were not my sisters was a wonderful new experience for me and the beginning of a lifelong love of school and learning new things.

The school had an auditorium with a stage and the cafeteria in the basement until the early 50's when a two story addition with a cafeteria, gym and more class rooms was added. The cafeteria was especially wonderful with a nursery rhyme mural wall (see below).

Mrs. Rippy was my first grade teacher. Among the classmates that became lifelong friends were Charlene Beadles, Patty Smith and Janice Spencer among others who went on to graduate together in 1959. In the Spring of 1949 during a spelling bee between our two second grade classes the big earthquake hit. The teachers led us out the front of the school where the light poles were still going up and down. The next day we learned that we should stay in the room together and get under our desks!

Lacey has changed to much since then. We had a couple of grocery stores, a bakery I remember next to Morrie's (a very nice school bus driver), Auto repair, the Lacey Volunteer Fire Department and a post office. Sidewalks were unheard of and lots of roads were gravel. The big top circus was set up on College Way. Seeing the elephants and the circus was a real treat. We could go to the Saturday Matinees in Olympia for twenty-five cents and see westerns or Bowery Boys adventures.

North Thurston High School opened in September 1955. The parents from Lacey and South Bay put in much work to make this possible. My Mom, Jewell Earl helped with surveying interest in the project from Sleater-Kinney Road to the top of Nisqually hill and she told us all people, including a man with an outside water pump, were for building a high school. These were people who had lived through the depression and WWII and sacrificed much. They had a strong belief in education and were willing to pay for a high school in our community.

I went away to college in September 1959 and had not lived in Lacey since then and, as the saying goes, "you can't go home" as my parents sold the home place in 1979 and later the property became the off ramp to College Way. When driving I-5 my sisters and I and our children and grandchildren all can point out the Big Maple that is the only landmark left to mark where we were raised. But I do have great memories of our childhood home and schools.

My sisters, Helen in Tacoma, Marlene in Tucson and Mary in The Dalles also went through Lacey Grade School and North Thurston High School.

I look forward to reading other memories of those times.

Janet (Earl) Perez



Lacey School Mural

Photo courtesy of The Lacey Museum

## “THERE WAS A FROG LIVED IN A SPRING”

I have lived near Aldergrove, B.C. for about the last 40 years, but I still visit my brothers in the Lacey area several times each year. I attended Lacey Elementary School during the years 1946 to 1950, and have many good memories of my school years there. Several events that stand out in my memory are the 1949 earthquake that shook the school noticeably (no significant damage that I remember), the excellent instruction that we got from Mr. Galkowski, Mrs. Fleetwood and Mr. Bee, and one particular school assembly when the principal (Mr. McArthur I believe) demonstrated a new device the school had just acquired—a wire recorder. I remember he asked for volunteers to speak or sing into the microphone and be recorded, and I sang a song called “There Was A Frog Lived In A Spring” which I had learned in the first grade while attending Auburn Elementary School in Auburn, Washington. Another event that I recall was that I was the salutatorian for our 8th grade graduation ceremonies, and Judith Mann was the valedictorian (we both gave speeches). I seem to recall that Les Popkes may have played a piano accordion solo. While attending school at Lacey Elementary School we had a music instructor who gave instrument lessons (Mr. Mellinkof?) and it was then that I learned to play the French horn. I went on to play in the school band at Washington Junior High School (9th grade) and then at Olympia High School (grades 10-12). After graduation from high school I joined the U.S. Air Force in January 1955 and played in the 12th Air Force band in Germany for 3 years (good duty!). After being discharged in August 1958 I obtained a Master’s Degree in Forestry at the University of Washington and worked in the forest industry for 32 years before retirement in 1997. I plan to attend the Lacey School Reunion this September 25 and I hope to see many of my old classmates there. I would especially like to see several of the young ladies that I thought were quite special, including Judith Mann and Marlyn Rutledge. I am enclosing class photos from my years at Lacey Elementary School - classes of 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950\*. I wrote many of the names on the back of the photos when I received the photos, and am including those also. Hopefully they can be displayed at the meeting in September. I am also enclosing a photo of the old Lacey School Grandstand, which I believe is where a grocery store now stands.

Sincerely yours, Melvin L. Larsen

\*note: 1950 photo on page 8

\*note: The Lacey Museum’s photo albums have identified all but 7 students out of a class of 43 students from the class of 1950.



# "CINDERS IN MY KNEE"

I was born in 1937 to Robert Anthony O'Donnell (a former St Martins College football player and student) and Margaret Miller, a daughter of E. G. Miller and Jeannette Miller, Builders and owners of the Lacey Store. My mother went to the Lacey school from Kindergarten through the 8th grade. It was war years and I lived off and on with my grandparents, attending the Lacey School off and on through the 5th grade. Mrs. Darling was my first grade teacher. I remember her because she got my attention one day by paddling me. I deserved it and thank her to this day. Bill Southwick was the janitor and my friend. He was a great guy. Mrs. McKinney, Mrs. Southwick, and Mrs. Couch are all the teachers I remember. I also remember the cinder pile under the row of rings. I still have cinders in my knee. My grandmother was an active member of the Lacey Women's Club and I can remember walking with her to a club meeting. I probably am the only person living that has my name embroidered on the Women's Club quilt that is in the Lacey Museum. Local folks that I have especially fond memories of are Bernard and Shirley McGill, Alma Baker, Mrs. Cunningham, Bessie Yates, Father Gregory, and the Goodrich daughters.

Sincerely Janet J. (O'Donnell) Little



Photo courtesy of Melvin Larsen

## *Lacey Alum Quotes*

- "Running and sliding on the freshly waxed floors"
- "Standing in the corner with your nose in a circle on the black board for talking in class"
- "The Lunchroom Wall Murals...(they were) inspiring to an artist..."
- "Being called to the office...and finding your mother had called with a message..." (NOT that you were in trouble!)
- "To Be Able To Enjoy One's Past Life is to Live Life Twice..."
- "That HUGE Maple Tree at the back of Lacey School on the east side...the base of the tree had a 'split opening' with one branch going north and the other branch going south...just perfect for lots of private conversations! Then in the fall all those maple leaves were just perfect for playing in!"

## “That Simple Event”

....to this very day, I think the only reason I became a sixth grader was based on that simple event. I do believe that Mrs. Fleetwood passed me to grade six out of some degree of respect that she afforded her small fencing opponent. She may have thought, “If nothing else, this kid could make it in life because of his ability to think on his feet.” Mrs. Fleetwood forged my stiff-necked unsuspecting self into an appreciation of hard work...and poetry. Yes I had been outmaneuvered and Duane Profe was correct, I think in his appraisal of Mrs. Fleetwood:

She was gentle, in her own way. She just knew how to be a different type of gentle with a rigid student who was of a slightly different mettle.

Alan Gorsuch “All the Ways I Found to Hurt Myself”  
Volume One page 68-70

This excerpt was lovingly borrowed with the authors permission. To find out what “That simple event” was, please read the paragraph which begins with “Now is the time” on page 68.



**Mrs. Fleetwood**

Photo courtesy of Mari Fleetwood



Photo courtesy of Patricia Gibbs Wilson

1945

**Lacey Grade School Faculty Circa 1945**

# Remembering Our Society Friends

~ Jim Koval ~

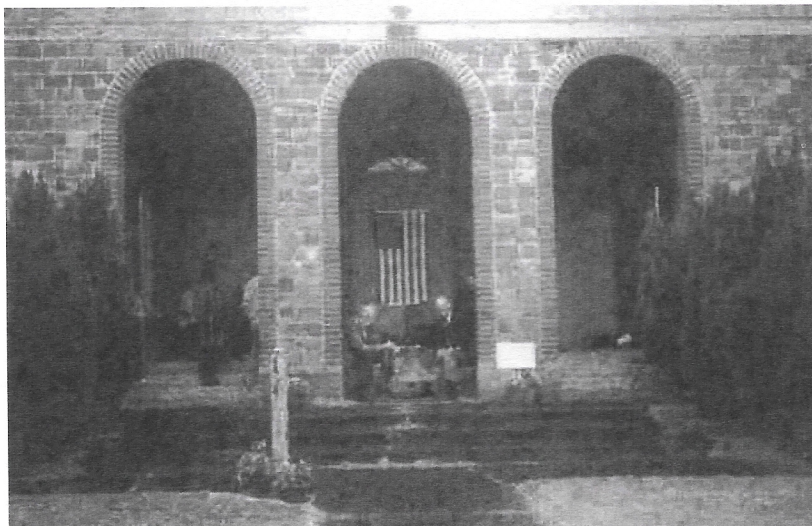
We wish to HONOR the Memory of Jim for his many dedicated years of Educational Contributions to the North Thurston School Community, to the Washington State Office of Superintendent, and the Washington State School Board Director's Association.

~ Dick Husk ~

We wish to HONOR the Memory of Dick's Life, and his solid values that identified him so very well. He had Hick's Pioneer family roots and he was a historian in an aviation pioneer group. His leadership with the society's activities were most important. The financial guidance he has given us has been beneficial to this day. The Society received donations of \$300.00 in his honor!

## LHS Memorials

"Farewell Day" to Lacey School  
June 4, 1994



**Principals, Joe Hale (left) Frank Bower (right)**

The Lacey School Bell is now located in the Lacey Museum "School Room"

### OLD LACEY SCHOOL

No more are Lacey's halls to share  
Their grave or gleeful mood,  
To life's great schoolroom they repair,  
With rainbow dreams imbued.  
With them go Lacey's firm belief  
In their abilities;  
They leave to ease the parting grief  
A thousand memories.

The Rosebud Annual - The class of 1927



# RSVP

## *Lacey School Days Reunion*

**When:** *September 25, 2014*

**Where:** Lacey Community Center  
6729 Pacific Ave. S.E.  
Lacey, WA 98503

**Time:** 5:30 ~ 7:30 pm

A school lunch meal will be served around 6:00 pm

**Name/Contact** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of People attending #** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return both forms (Dues/Membership and RSVP) by **September 18, 2014**

Call or mail to:

**Lacey Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 3324**

**Lacey, WA 98509-3324**

Or Call Shirley Dziedzic @ 360-491-0905



**JOIN THE**

**2015**

*Lacey Historical Society*

P.O. Box 3324 Lacey, WA 98509-3324

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if new) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Seniors/Students: \$5.00    Individuals: \$10.00    Family: \$15.00    Business: \$25.00

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

The upper right hand corner of your mailing label contains the year through which you have paid dues. If no year appears, we do not have a record of a recent dues payment.

Lacey Historical Society is a Section 501(c)(3) organization and both Dues and Donations are tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.

***Thank you for your continued support in preserving Lacey's Heritage***

# *Lacey Historical Society*

*Summer "School Days" Newsletter 2014*



**Woodland School (Grade School & High School circa 1901)**

Photo provided by The Lacey Museum

Lacey Historical Society  
PO Box 3324  
Lacey, WA 98509-3324

To: