

# 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"

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

## Memory Lane

The gardens are bursting with bloom  
this time of year

While neighbors, family and friends  
Are quietly remembered here.



Lacey Historical Society planned  
So many years ago

To honor those that passed  
With a living Memorial.



The Lacey crews from the City  
Knowledgeable with their care,

Others from the Society  
Always are there to share.



A perfect time to visit the Museum.  
The birds and scents of a lovely Spring day  
What better time than April or even  
The month of May?



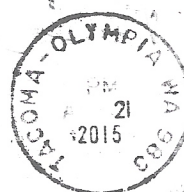
Some lovely Spring Day  
When the Museum is open to you,  
Take a walk or a drive  
To our Lacey Museum to view.



So time to visit our Lacey Museum  
Nothing stays the same,  
But we all sure love to reminisce  
With a walk down Memory Lane.

- Amy Turner

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



To:

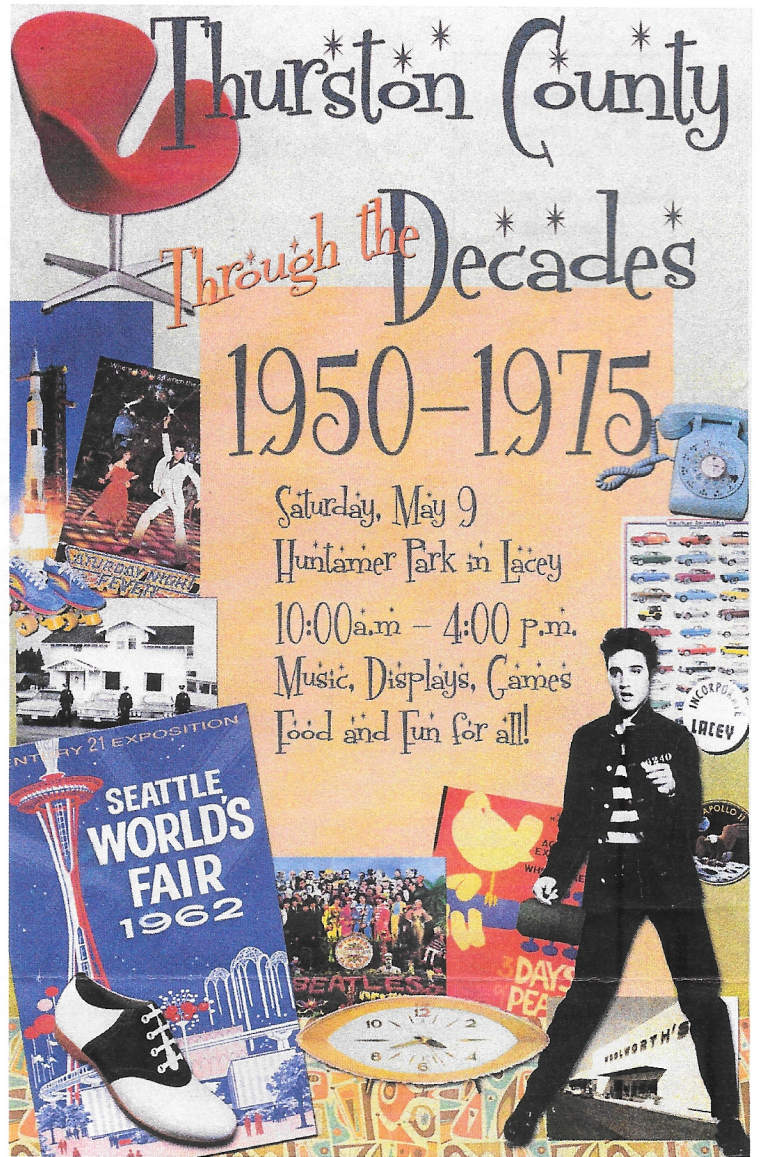


## Thurston County Through The Decades

Do you still have that old poodle skirt from the 1950's lying around? How about those plaid bell bottom pants from the 1960's and 1970's? Well, bring them out of the closet, because on Saturday, May 9, you're going to have the opportunity to wear them again as Lacey will host Thurston County Through The Decades. Join us for the fun when Thurston County's historical associations gather to celebrate the years 1950 to 1975 with exhibits, games, stories and more. Stop by Pacos Tacos wagon for a snack and swing to the music of this very danceable era provided by DJ SmyleZ.

The full slate of entertainment has not been finalized at this point, but you can expect to see another rousing presentation by the dancers from High Impact Dance. Kids of all ages will enjoy a variety of antique cars and Lacey Fire District #3's historic fire engine. This event, co-sponsored by the City of Lacey and the Lacey Historical Society, is free and open to the public. As we used to say, "be there or be square."

Saturday, May 9, 2015  
 Huntamer Park  
 Lacey  
 10 - 4



JOIN THE  
*Lacey Historical Society*  
 P.O. Box 3324 Lacey, WA 98509-3324

2015/2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (If new) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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*



# Memories...

SEPT, 30, 2013

JEAN (SIMONSON) SPENCER THE DAUGHTER OF JOHN G. SIMONSON LIVED IN UNION MILLS JUST EAST OF LACEY. THE FAMILY BOUGHT A HOME IN UNION MILLS AT THE BEGINNING OF W.W.II. THEY MOVED TO LACEY AREA FROM GLENDIVE MT.

JOHN SIMONSONS, SISTER MARTHA JORDON AND HER FAMILY LIVED IN LACEY, ON PACIFIC AVE. HER IS NOW THE LACEY MUSEUM. MARTHA SOLD HER HOME TO THE LACEY FIRE DEPT. AND LATER WAS MOVED AND MADE INTO THE NOW MUSEUM.

MARTHA, REMARRIED A. KINSEY WHO OWNED AND OPERATED THE KINSEY HARDWARE STORE IN OLYMPIA, WA.

EDWARD SPENCER MET JEAN SIMONSON AT FORT LEWIS IN 1945, JEAN WAS A CASHIER AT THE MADIGAN SERVICE CLUB. HERE WE MET. WE DATED ABOUT 7 MONTHS AND MARRIED ON JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> 1947. WE NOW LIVE IN CARY, IL., HAVE TWO BOYS AND ONE DAUGHTER, 14 GRAND CHILDREN 30 GREAT GRAND CHILDREN. WE JUST CELEBRATED OUR 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, ED WILL BE 90 ON OCT 13<sup>TH</sup> AND JEAN WILL BE 87.

Spencer Ed and Jean (Simonson)

## 4 Horse Girls

My mom is Leona Peterson, (the farm on Wiggins Road and the Valley Dairy and Creamery) and my Dad, Jack Mullen (Mullen Resort on Pattison Lake) both went to Lacey Grade School. My sisters, Jean and Linda, also went to school in Lacey.... As many others, I also have life-long friends from my grade school days: Cary Pulliem, Janet Yates, Judy Mullen, and I were known as the "4 Horse Girls." We remember playing "touch" football with the boys, Red Rover, Soft Ball, Basketball, Hop Scotch and listening to the World Series on the radio during class in the Fall!! There are fond memories of Jack Shelling! He gave us "Racing Forms" and "Winners Circle" photos of Longacres winners! He used to call my little sister, Linda, "Dynamite".....OH. YES.... We did learn.... Reading and Writing and Arithmetic!!! - Betty McCaffrey



# More Memories...

## Lost and Found

Alan Gorsuch was a friend of my sister Mary Earl in high school and later she and her husband John Stenberg came to know Alan through a mutual interest in antiques.

A few years ago Mary received the first Alan Gorsuch book "ALL THE WAYS I FOUND TO HURT MYSELF" which she and her husband enjoyed reading and then loaned the book to me.

Even though I am somewhat older than both Alan my sister I did attend Lacey School for eight years and could identify some of the "name changed" teachers and principal. Lacey has changed so much so it was nice to remember some of the area around the school as it was in the 50's and early 60's. I also enjoyed even more his coming of age (or not) stories and especially the planting of trees on the Olympic Peninsula. That alone should have grown one up fast.

A year or so after loaning me the book, Mary asked for it back. I searched my book shelf and the house, but no book. "Mary" I said, "I must have returned it." "Well, Janet" she replied, "I don't have it." So there it stood for a couple more years. Being a woman and a mother, the guilt grew and I knew I should try to replace the book.

Our mother, Jewell Earl lived in Sequim near me in her last years. After she was gone, it was up to me to sort through her things. To my surprise there was the book "All THE WAYS I FOUND TO HURT MYSELF." Did she read it? We will never know now, but it would have been wonderful to know if this mother of four daughters was grateful that she did not raise four boys like Alan.

Last year I made a donation to LHS and received for Mary of both books through the Lacey Historical Society, so I have the first one for myself. I asked Mary for a comment for this, her only comment was she enjoys having the books and that Alan was the nicest fellow she dated in those years. We continue to loan each other books and as the years go by and we get more forgetful just know that the books will turn up some time, or not.

Our mother, Jewell Earl was a cook for some years, first at Lacey Grade School and then Lydia Hawk and enjoyed the children so much, made long lasting friends with the teachers and Mr. Whitney.

Janet Earl Perez

## Mothers Memorabilia

I am descended from the Ruddell family and the Himes family who settled here in the 1850's. My mother's maiden name was Ruddell and she loved and shared many stories, books and pictures about her "Lacey Pioneer Ancestors."

Ten years ago my Mother passed away and as her oldest child and trustee I had her property to take of. I had kept several boxes of her pictures and books and it is time I to do something with them. I thought I would pass on the ideas and solutions suggested to me.

Any loose pictures of other family members were put in an envelope and sent to that family, (weddings, graduations, birthdays, reunions etc).

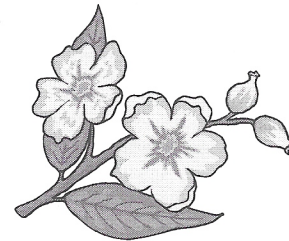
Photo books were given to other family members so they could take what had meaning to them. Some duplicated the photos from the books or just took the page they wanted. They then passed them on and the last one to see them disposed of the books. Former organizations and friends were also given an opportunity to see them and take pictures.

Since I have genealogy books of our family, I made a one-page collage of her pictures (mostly her face from baby on) and included it with her family record.

I also made a page of newspaper articles and stories about her. Slides and tapes can be made onto DVDs by commercial means or by you, (if you understand and have the equipment). I had over 3,000 of my slides put on 5 DVDs by Costco and I'm really pleased with them.

Most legal records and accounts can be destroyed after 10 years but I have kept a few for our Family History. Books can be given to organizations that have libraries such as schools and churches or sold at yard sales and rummage sales. Some, like school annuals and personal trip books, just have to be disposed of... Goodwill or other organizations will also take books.

Zelma Bernd



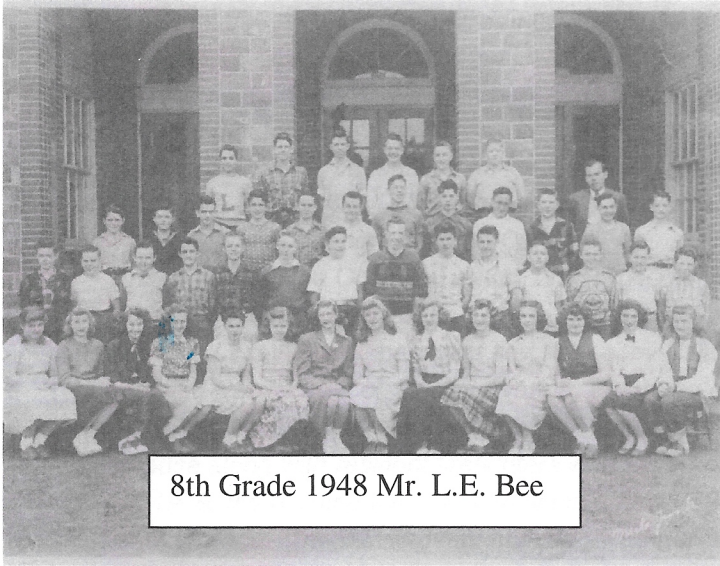
## LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

*DID YOU KNOW?*....the reason "Why" the Lacey Historical Society began their "Memorial Plantings?"

In 1986 when the city wanted to recognize its 20th anniversary, we celebrated over the three-day weekend in October. Beginning on Friday, the first Lacey City Council meeting was reenacted in the Lacey Museum (Lacey's first City Hall). Several original councilmen were present. Anna Homann did the honors for her deceased husband, Lacey's first Mayor Al Homann. Dick Web read the first treasurer's report, noting that the City had \$9.27 in its account. Saturday the focus was on the South Sound Shopping Center. Bob Blume had brought a major shopping center to Lacey in 1966. Sunday, the Lacey Historical Society invited the Lacey community to an afternoon rose planting event in honor of Mayor Al Homann and Creighton Hayes with Homann's favorite yellow rose and Hayes' petite "Lucky Lady" like the one he always wore in his lapel.

From that day on, the Society honors its first and current citizens with plantings around the museum and the adjacent historical Gallagher house. The 125 plantings remind us of our past. As we did in 1986, we plan to celebrate the City of Lacey's 50th Anniversary in 2016. - SHIRLEY DZIEDZIC





8th Grade 1948 Mr. L.E. Bee

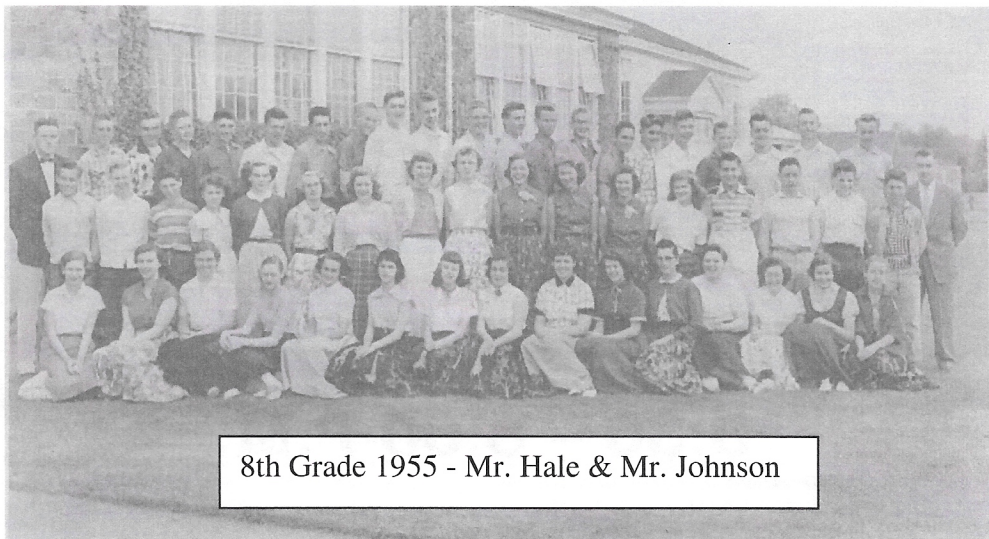
Place Thursday September 25, 2014 on your calendar for the Lacey Historical Society Annual Meeting at the Lacey Community Center. This year's event will include the Lacey School Reunion (postponed from last year). We will be honoring all former Lacey School students and school personnel. It should be a fun evening of sharing memories. In fact, the theme of this year's event is: **Lacey School Memories**. As usual, a meal will be provided. On the menu – a school lunch (complete with hairnets!). The Kenney twins will return to briefly

recap the Lacey School's history and share what it was like for them back in 1901.

Recently former Lacey resident John Dodge recounted his days at the Lacey School in an article in *The Olympian*. "Community life revolved around my schools," he says, "first the...Lacey Elementary, then the brand-new Chinook Middle School and finally, North Thurston High School." He laments that Lacey "lost [one of its] community icons...the Lacey Elementary School at the corner of Carpenter Road and Pacific Avenue."

The Society hopes that, like John Dodge, you will be willing to tell your stories of the Lacey School. Our next newsletter, published in August, will have space to feature as many memories as we receive before publication date! If you have pictures to share as well, please bring them to the meeting or mail them to:

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



8th Grade 1955 - Mr. Hale & Mr. Johnson



# The Russell Farmhouse

The building that we know now as the Lacey Museum started life along today's Pacific Avenue in 1926 as the home of Fred and Minnie Russell. An article in the February 16, 1926 issue of the Morning Olympian described it in glowing terms and mentioned that it stood just to the west of the Russells' gas station and confectionary store. Unfortunately for the Russell family, mounting debts caused them to lose it just a few years later. Subsequent owners included E.J. Johnson, Clara Rohde and the Jordans.

During the 1950's because of its ideal location in the burgeoning community of Lacey, the building served as the home of Lacey Fire District #3. Following the city's incorporation in December 1966, that same ideal location appealed to the new city government and it became City Hall.

An article from the Olympian dated 1986 recounts the history from there: "The City of Lacey was incorporated in 1966, but has a past dating back to the 1800's. From 1940 to the 1960's, a farmhouse built in 1922 by Fred and Minnie Russell housed the Lacey Fire Department and the Lacey Police Department. It also served as Lacey City Hall. The Russell homestead was located on Pacific Avenue. When the city incorporated, the city offices were moved into portable buildings and the Fire Department relocated adjacent to the farmhouse. The Police Department (see photo) remained in the Russell farmhouse along with resident firefighters who were housed upstairs.

By 1979, the building was vacated since a new City Hall had been constructed on College Street on the grounds of St. Martin's College. The building had housed a number of city offices over the years and had become a large part of Lacey's history. As growth progressed, citizens were becoming concerned that many of the fragile ties to the past were being lost due to the rapid development of the area. Residents encouraged the city to preserve the structure as a museum. The City Council created the Lacey Historical Commission to develop a historic program for the city which included a museum. As a result, the Lacey Women's Club donated land on Lacey Street for the new location of the Russell farmhouse. Restoration of the future museum began and was scheduled for completion in five years.

The outpouring by the community was incredible with donations of time, money and support. Initially, the city received a \$50,000 federal grant from CETA (the Comprehensive Education and Training Act). By the time the museum was finished, civic groups, businesses and individuals had contributed over \$20,000 in funds and materials. With much community pride, the Lacey Museum was completed in one year! In September 1980 the museum was dedicated and the keys were formally turned over to the City of Lacey. Since its dedication, the Lacey Museum has been the site of many local gatherings. The outstanding commitment of Lacey residents to the creation of this Museum will always be a reminder of the value of ties to the past which help define the present and balance our future."

1967



**For many years the Russell farmhouse housed the Lacey Police Department. In a photo taken in 1967 are (left to right) Lacey officers Chuck Nauman, John Gibson and Captain Mel Journey. This is the entire police force.**

Photo courtesy the Lacey Historical Commission and Lacey Museum.

2015



John Gibson's (center of photo on left) 1964 Ford Galaxie (shown above) eventually was sold to his 15-year-old nephew, Curtis Hoffer, for \$75. The car needed a new transmission so with the help of his dad, Don Hoffer, the car was restored to its original beauty. Curtis has shown the car at many shows and has won numerous trophies. His Uncle Johnny must surely be smiling from above! Curtis is the owner of Creative Artistry, an engraving/award business in the small Lacey Plaza strip mall on Pacific Avenue.



# DEDICATION

Gwin J. 'Jack' and Marcia G. Hicks made a donation in memory of Richard 'Dick' L. Hicks, to recognize the efforts he and Norma have made over the years to the Historical Society.

*Jack & Marcia*

## Upcoming Events

LACEY DAYS  
**A MIDSUMMER'S  
ICE CREAM**

AT THE  
LACEY MUSEUM  
829 LACEY ST

**FREE!**

**FRIDAY  
JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
— 2015 —

**6 PM TO 8 PM**

Activities, crafts, and storytelling.  
Good old fashioned family fun!

A LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION EVENT

*Lacey Historical Society*  
ANNUAL MEETING  
**Harvest Moon  
Picnic**

"A walk down memory lane"

**Thursday  
Sept. 24  
5:30 pm**

Learn more about Lacey's agricultural roots  
(pun intended) and the stories of the people  
lovingly memorialized through the plants.

Lacey Community Center 6729 Pacific Ave. S.E., Lacey, WA

## Thank You



The Lacey Historical Society Memorial Plantings are under Wolbert's care. We appreciate their support of this memorial place where family and friends remember their loved ones with living beauty.