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# 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 Newsletter 2015



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# Thurston County

## “Through The Decades in Lacey”

Sunshine greeted Thurston County's historically minded organizations on May 9 as they attended the spring rendition of "Thurston County Through The Decades" at Huntamer Park. The Lacey Historical Society and the City of Lacey co-sponsored the event. Historical groups from all over Thurston County set up booths filled with historical exhibits, memorabilia and booths to celebrate the decades from 1950-1975. Visitors to the event enjoyed not just the displays, but also period music, food, costumes and cars. Museum curator Erin Quinn-Valcho counted 140 visitors to the combined Lacey Museum/Historical Commission/Historical Society booth alone.

To start off the day, we were honored to have Lacey Mayor Andy Ryder give a speech, which perfectly captured the spirit of the event for Thurston County and the role of history in the development of the City of Lacey. With the mayor's permission, we are presenting excerpts from that speech here:

"...It's a pleasure to welcome all of you to the City of Lacey and "Thurston County Through the Decades..."

"...often find when talking with residents and visitors that many have the impression that Lacey suddenly appeared out of nowhere in the middle of the 20th century as a suburban city. They're often surprised to learn our community was settled way back in the 1850's and by 1891 boasted a train station, hotel, post office, and nationally-renowned horse-racing track. In fact, Lacey's original residential blocks – now called the Old Lacey Historical Area – were platted just one year after Washington became a state.

"I'm fortunate to have been raised in that historic neighborhood – living there to this day – and I can share with you from personal experience that it's a very special place. Thurston County and its communities are filled with special places, each holding a unique narrative revealing what makes it so.

"...Today's "Through the Decades" occasion focuses on the 1950's through the 1970's. I'd like to take a moment to say that, while I'm a big fan of history, I'm not sure I'm ready to accept the fact that I've lived long enough to see the decade of my birth featured at a history event.

"But I will say there's some great drama to explore from those particular decades, including how Lacey, after nearly a century as a community, battled to incorporate and finally make things official. In fact, Lacey will be celebrating 125 years as an established community and 50 years of incorporation, in 2016.

"We hope to see you during Lacey's Birthday Celebration in 2016."

*Contributed by Lanny Weaver*

# NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE - COMMUNITY GARDEN



The Nisqually Indian Tribe's Community Garden, located at 18815 Mounts Road SW in Dupont, Washington, north of Olympia, was founded by and for local Tribal Members to work toward self-sufficiency and overall community, family and individuals. The Tribe tends 5 thriving acres of berries, vegetables, fruit trees and traditional plants so that they can distribute food, medicinal plants and body care products directly to folks throughout their community. In addition, the Tribe coordinates various classes and workshops that help build skills in growing, harvesting and preparing foods and medicines. They also host youth field trips, provide job training to Tribal members through Nisqually Workforce Development and SPIPA Vocational Rehab. They also sponsor annual events and partner with many other programs and departments.

By encouraging the active practice of traditional ways of healthy living and eating, the Garden creates a value to the Tribe that improves physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional health. People practice traditional ways of healthy eating and living and pass this on to their children. People become conscious of sustaining the health of the land, animals and plants. They also grow, eat, prepare and store food. The Garden has become a part of the family tradition, and children will eventually grow up to bring their children to work in the Tribal Garden.

*Contributed by Susan Hartman*

**Here is a recipe from the Nisqually Indian Tribe:**

## Berry Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing

- cup fresh or frozen and thawed huckleberries or blueberries
- cup extra virgin olive oil or walnut oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon honey
- Pinch of salt and pepper

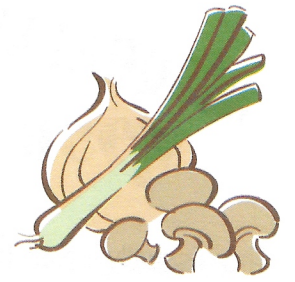
Mix all ingredients together and enjoy!



Editor: Susan Hartman, LHS Secretary  
Lacey Historical Society



# Annual Meeting Celebrates Community and Agriculture



AGRICULTURE in the fertile prairies and valleys began with the Native Americans who were already living on and maintaining the land, and continued when our first settlers came to what is now known as LACEY. Many farms—from those growing mushrooms to those growing trees for our forests—have been here since 1930 and before. Individual family farms had backyard gardens and preserved the foods for winter use. AGRICULTURE provided many jobs and was the foundation for our "roots." There was a cannery on Sleater-Kinney Road for people to use and food lockers were for rent at Turner's Market. Home basements were equipped with sinks, cabinets, wood stoves, jars, lids, pressure cookers and, the old granite canners and copper boilers for cold pack. Huge gardens of vegetables and fruits were harvested.

**Come to Our Annual Dinner Meeting, September 24, at 5:30 pm** This year, The Society recognizes AGRICULTURE as a major reason for growth of our 'soon to be' 50-year-old City of Lacey! Our Museum is surrounded with 125 plantings that are a living memorial of our loved ones. The North Thurston Garden Club was started in the 1950's to beautify our area and planted some of the Memorial plantings at our Gallagher House and Lacey Museum. The North Thurston School District, through its FFA program, supported these Memorial Plantings by sharing with the next generation the value of agriculture in their community. Please confirm your attendance with Shirley at 360-491-0905 before September 15, 2015. The dinner will include chicken (provided) and we ask you to also bring a picnic side dish for a fun evening at the Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Ave. SE Lacey, WA

*Contributed by Amy Turner*



# Shared Memories

## Did you know...

- 1 The first lavender farm in the State of Washington, **THIRD LARGEST IN THE WORLD**, was located on the Yelm Highway and Ruddell Road SE. Their lavender was sold to Yardley, in France. In 1930, the owner lost his business during the depression. In the 1970's lavender plants were still blooming there!
- 2 Puget Sound Fox and Fur Farms were founded in 1925. E. H. Retting was President of Capital Fox Farm in August 1928 and attended the Fox Farmers Convention in Lacey. Treibell's Fox Farm was located on Steilcoom Road in the 1930's.
- 3 The Mushroom Plant was in Lacey on Steilacoom Road since early 1930's.
- 4 Mervin Ward Sr. bought acreage in 1952 and raised strawberry plants, opened U-Pick for strawberries, raspberries and corn. 1970 the Ward/VanLeiroop Farm was managed by the next generation, Mervin and Lynn, who raised cucumbers, cauliflower, corn and broccoli. The Turf Farms on Yelm Highway began business in October 1987 and were owned by Jeff, grandson of the Ward family, and his wife, Trella VanLeiroop.
- 5 There was a U-Cannery on Sleater-Kinney Road SE, about where McDonald's is today.
- 6 Food Lockers were available at Turner's Market on Pacific Avenue since home freezers were not in many homes.
- 7 Hunter's Tree Farms on the Yelm Highway, where you can cut your own Christmas Tree, has a gift shop during the Holidays.
- 8 North Thurston High School has Horticulture classes and a green house for teaching our young people the importance of agriculture.
- 9 Native Americans were said to burn the prairie lands so that trees would not grow and then the Camas lily could provide food for them.
- 10 In the 1950's the Greenwood family raised turkeys on their farm on Yelm Highway and so did the Englehart Family.

*Contributed by Amy Turner*

# DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND LACEY'S HISTORY?

**ANSWER: LOOK ON LACEY STREET IN THE LACEY HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD!**

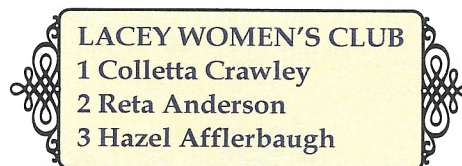
There you will find the Lacey Museum and the Lacey Historical Society's Memorial Garden where the lives of 125 Lacey People are remembered!

Our 2015 Spring Newsletter honored Lacey's first Mayor, Al Homann, and Creighton Hayes (who was known as Mr. Rose...he always wore a rosebud in his lapel) represented members of the 1966 Lacey Community who had voted to become the City of Lacey.

This Summer 2015 issue continues with 42 more names of Lacey people who have had memorial plantings in their name. The map in this newsletter indicates where their plantings may be found by their number in one of three locations:

- the Lacey Women's Club
- the Lacey Museum's Grounds
- the Lacey Historical Society's Grounds

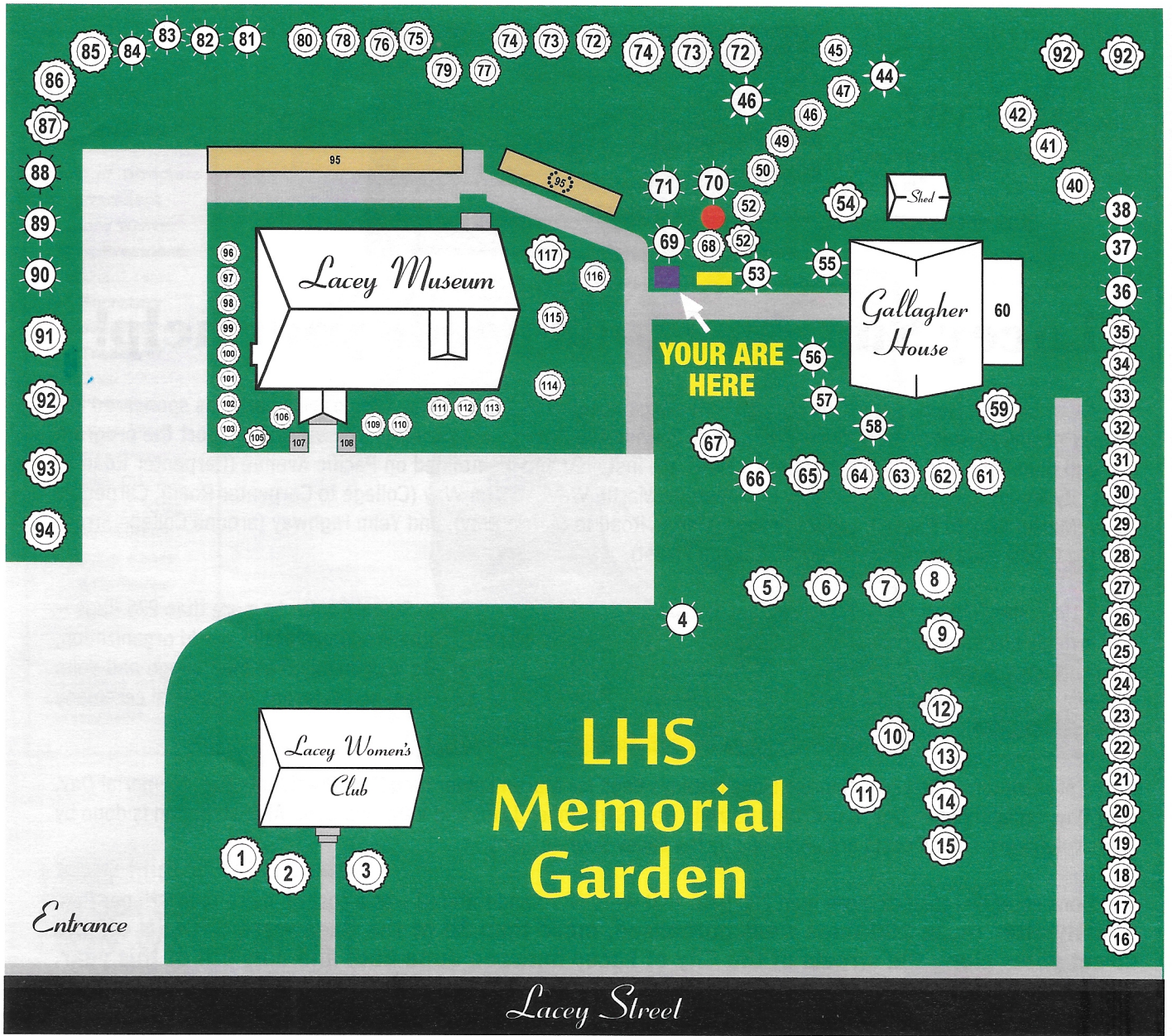
**The following list of Lacey people is an introduction to the 125 Memorial Plantings which began in 1986 on Lacey's Twentieth Anniversary:**



22	Genevieve Akehurst	60	Brownie Troop #975
17	Grace Dent Aufang	38	Agnes Button
93	David & Jennie Bagley	85	Campfire Orca Friends
13	Virginia Bailey	45	Elizabeth Carkin
10	Ted Bailey	48	Larry Cunningham
87	Ken Balsley	49	Jean Cunningham
15	Edythe Barnes	67	Danielle Damilio
53	Lois Bowen	95	Rose Darmody
91	Ralph Bowen	44	Shirley Dziedzic
35	Frank Bower	65	William Earl
28	Boy Scouts Troop #214	5	Lois R. Ethredge
102	Karen Fraser	41	Pete Finnegan
94	Si & Myrtle Gallagher	79	Tom Finnegan
124	Doyle Gallagher	43	Beth Fleetwood
108	Girl Scout Troops #386, #663	20	Lyman Fleetwood
119	Sue Goff	63	Gordon Snap Foy
120	Elizabeth Thomas	47	Alice Hale
86	Louie Franz	33	Eric Han
105	Boy Scout Troops #101, #208, #221		

*Contributed by Shirley Dziedzic*

The 2016 Spring and Summer issues will finalize our List of 125 Lacey People, each of whom has played a valuable role in Lacey's history.



Photos courtesy of Creative Artistry

## Lacey Historical Society

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## Lacey Sunrise Lions needs your help!

The Lacey Sunrise Lions, one of the oldest service organizations in Lacey, (40 years old this year!) has sponsored the display of United States flags since 1987. They provide this service on a volunteer basis and support the program through donations and flag sponsorships. Flags are installed and maintained on Pacific Avenue (Carpenter Road to west city limits), College Street (Lacey Boulevard to Martin Way), Martin Way (College to Carpenter Road), Carpenter Road (Martin Way to Pacific), Hawks Prairie (Marvin Road to Martin Way), and Yelm Highway (around College Street and the Crossroads shopping area near College Street).

Since 1987, the Sunrise Lions' Flag Program has grown from one flag at South Sound Center to more than 275 flags -- all lovingly placed along major thoroughfares in Lacey. With the support of the Woodmen of the World organization, the program will soon grow to more than 600 flags by the Fall of 2015. A flag was installed at the College and Yelm Highway Starbucks where the Lacey Sunrise Lions honoring all service personnel and veterans in a special ceremony on August 22, 2015.

At the present time, the Lacey Sunrise Lions displays flags for Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Patriots Day (September 11th) and Veterans Day. All installation is done by Lions volunteers and all costs are absorbed by the Lacey Sunrise Lions.

The Lions recently replaced more than 200 flags that were worn and tattered – at a cost of more than \$25 per flag. **Shortly after those 200 flags were purchased, more than 30 of the flags were STOLEN off the street poles along the streets of the City of Lacey between June 26th and July 4th of this year.** Lion Pat Bucknell, chairman of the flag project, voiced concern that he hopes the flags were not desecrated.

Unfortunately, the replacement costs for those stolen flags fall on the shoulders of the Lacey Sunrise Lions and their crew. Thus, at present, the Lions are needing to come up with more than \$700 to replace the stolen flags!

Let's help the Lacey Sunrise Lions to meet the cost for replacing these flags! All donations are tax deductible and you will be helping the Lions in their efforts to proudly display the Red, White and Blue throughout our community!



**Donations payable to: Lacey Sunrise Lions**

**Mail check to:**

Lacey Sunrise Lions  
P.O. Box 3629  
Lacey, WA 98509

