

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'

2016 Summer "50 Years of Lacey" Newsletter

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Lacey Historical Society Annual Meeting

Tuesday Sept. 27, 2016 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Lacey Community Center

6729 Pacific Ave. (Just east of city limits)

Please RSVP to LHS, PO Box 3324,

Lacey, WA 98509-3324 by Tues. Sept. 20th

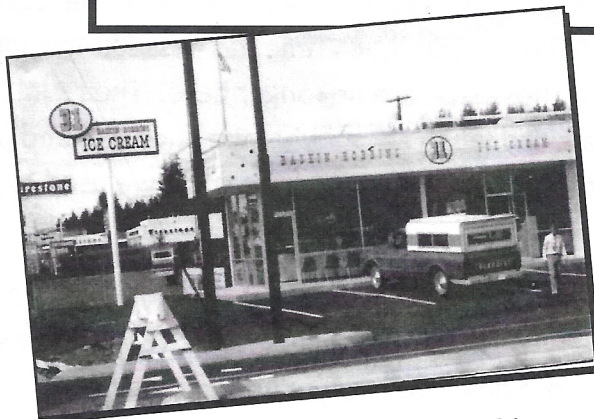
Or call Susan Hartman at (360) 704-0507

Social hour starts at 5:30, followed by a brief business meeting and potluck dinner. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided.

At this year's annual meeting, we are celebrating 50 Years of Lacey! Our program will feature in his own words, a presentation on the life of South Sound Center's developer, Bob Blume. Written by Ken Balsley, it is part of the program developed by the City of Lacey's 50th Anniversary Committee. Next we will have the opportunity to share our memories of those early days of Lacey on topics such as the vote for incorporation, South Sound Center and the drive-in theater.

But wait there's more! This year we will also hold a Lacey School Reunion. Take the opportunity to join your classmates and include your school day memories in the overall discussion of Lacey.

More information about the school reunion can be found on page 2.



Baskin Robbins 31
Flavor Ice Cream



Snappy Photo One-Day Service

Newsletter
Editor,
Susan
Hartman

Lacey School Days Reunion



8th Grade Class 1948-1949

The school building is long gone, but many of us still have the warm memories of our good ol' grade school days. The Lacey Historical Society's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 will include a special recognition of all of the students, teachers, staff and support personnel, whoever walked the halls of the school. It will be a time to share, to reminisce and enjoy the friendships that played such an important role in shaping our lives. The last eighth grade graduating class took place in 1961, and the building was removed in 1994. For those who may have forgotten, the school had a brick front entry along with the adjacent walls of old wood siding. We all have gone far since those days and so much has changed in the world and in each of our lives. It really doesn't seem possible that so much time has passed. And sad to say, as each year goes by, we continue to miss those that are no longer here. The reunion will be a great way for all of us to get together, talk and laugh about what we once did, and perhaps a few things that we shouldn't have done. Does anyone remember the spats we used to get, and rightfully deserved?

There will be photo albums on display of our Lacey School Classes; also, bring your memories and memorabilia to share and enjoy. Please PSVP using the form as shown. Your response will be most helpful so a school lunch meal can be provided for everyone attending.

A decorative header section with a double-line border. Inside the border, the text "Your Lacey Memories" is centered. The border is decorated with stars: one at the top left, one at the top right, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right. Outside the border, there are three more stars: one on the left side, one in the center, and one on the right side.

***Your Lacey
Memories***

For years now, the Society has been collecting personal memories, many of which you may have seen reproduced in our newsletters.


Not only are they a source of enjoyment, they also provide a lasting source of understanding Lacey's history.

*Please take the time to help us record this valuable information
You may send it to our Mailing address:*

*PO Box 3324, Lacey, WA 98509-3324,
or by emailing me at lannyinoly@aol.com*

*Or pass them onto a board member in written form at the Sept. 27th
annual meeting / School Reunion.*

*Thanks in advance,
Lanny Weaver, President
Lacey Historical Society*

A decorative footer section with three large, solid black stars arranged horizontally across the bottom of the page.

Questionnaire

'50 Years of Lacey' Annual Meeting & Lacey School Days Reunion (1966 to 2016)

What do you remember about -

- (1) South Sound Center Mall
- (2) The Lacey Drive-in Theater
- (3) The school's you attended
- (4) The Book Mobile & Library

Where were you in 1966? What happened to you that year?

**Please share your memories during this year's annual meeting
& Lacey School Days Reunion on Sept. 27, 2016**

We Invite You to Join the LHS Board of Directors or

Become an LHS Volunteer

We would like to invite you to apply for a position on the LHS Board of Directors. If you are interested, please talk to a current board member during the annual meeting on Sept. 27, 2016. They will be glad to fill you in on what we do.

The board meets once a month on Thursday at the Lacey Fire District Headquarters building which is located between Pacific Avenue and Lacey Blvd. Meetings are held from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., from September to November, and January to May.

LHS owns and manages the historic Gallagher House. We also participate in the Thurston County Through the Decades event, publish 2 newsletters a year, hold an annual meeting and school day reunion, and among other things, collect memories and images from the past to share with our membership.

If you would rather not join the board, we also have opportunities to volunteer to help with upcoming events. Please feel free to ask questions and learn how you can help during the coming year.

The Hunt for O.C. Lacey Continues....

By Lanny Weaver

When I started working at the Lacey Museum in 1993, one of my first tasks was to find out more about the alleged source of the name of our city, O.C. Lacey. Earlier articles on him declared that there was little information available. Over the next few years, I researched old newspapers and government documents and uncovered a wealth of information during his days in Olympia (1889-1896). What I found was that most of what had been written on him prior to then was based on myth and conjecture. What I did not find was the reason for his name being assigned to the post office and subsequently to the community. Nor did I find much about his life prior to coming to Washington state or what happened to him after he left despite some effort on my part. In 1996, I wrote an essay for the museum based on my findings to that point.

Obviously back then I did not have the internet as a resource. Because the mystery remains, several other people have taken up the search as more information has become available. They include former museum curator Amber Raney, Steve Kirkman with the city's Public Affairs dept, historian Deb Ross and current museum curator Erin Quinn-Valcho. The common assumption is that Lacey returned to Virginia his state of birth and indeed Erin has uncovered his obituary in a newspaper from Hampton, VA. She also found him under "Find-a-Grave". However, the picture was the entire Oakland Cemetery in Hampton, VA, not a grave. Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Oakland Cemetery. As with most things to do with Mr. Lacey, there are annoying complications. The cemetery is privately owned and the owner has neglected to pay his taxes. It is not being cared for, nor are there any records of interment. And you may have guessed by now, there is no grave for O.C. Lacey. I did find some other information during my visit to Virginia, which I hope to share at the annual meeting, but the hunt for O.C. Lacey is not over.

Yates Family

Edward (Teddy) and Margaret Yates immigrated to the U.S. from Manchester, England in 1900 & settled in Roslyn, Wash. Grandpa Yates was a coal miner in Manchester & then in Roslyn, Wash. They had 4 children, Peter, Margaret (Bessie), Harold and one baby that froze to death in her crib.

Because of the crib death, in 1917 Edward and Margaret bought 36 acres on the Steilacoom Rd in Thurston County where they moved to in 1919 and started a chicken ranch. During the Depression, they lived by having a huge garden and greenhouse. Aunt Bessie owned and ran a small grocery store in Lacey at the corner of Pacific Ave. and Carpenter Rd.

They put 3 kids through Lacey Grade School and Olympia High School. Uncle Pete went on to college at WSC and graduated in engineering. He eventually moved to Puyallup and bought a 22 acre raspberry farm.

In 1932, the Miller brothers in Tacoma and the Simpsons in Shelton lost their egg-man. They came to Grandpa Yates and asked if he would deliver eggs to them. Grandpa turned them down but said his youngest son Harold (my dad) could do the job.

Dad bought a small home on Hicks Lake (100 ft frontage and 510 feet deep) on Carpenter Rd in what is now Lacey and built an egg processing plant on that property. When I got married in 1960, dad had to increase his business from small grocery stores to small supermarkets, state institutions, Fort Lewis, and McChord Commissaries. He also had to contract with bigger farms to get more eggs. So that's a brief history of my family.

By Richard (Dick) Yates

Lacey's 50th Anniversary Kick-off Party

Lacey's Independence Day celebration was explosive in many ways! The 50th edition of the annual July 3 Fireworks Spectacular was located for the first time in beautiful Rainier Vista Community Park, and the event was the kick-off party for the year-long celebration of Lacey's Golden Anniversary of incorporation as a city.

More than 5,000 citizens gathered at the park and enjoyed a concert featuring the Blackberry Bushes String Band followed by British Export, a Beatles tribute band. The pseudo John, Paul, George and Ringo had the all-ages crowd happily singing and dancing to songs from the 60s!

As the crowd rollicked, a small plane circled overhead, and four skydivers jumped towards the festivities: two trailing blue and red smoke, one carrying a Lacey 50th Anniversary banner, and the final jumper descending with a large American flag. All landed on target in the park to the delight of the thousands of spectators. When darkness came, the crowd settled in and watched an incredible fireworks display which beautifully honored Lacey's historical tradition and loudly declared the commencement of Lacey's 50th Anniversary celebration.

By Mary Coppin, Event Coordinator

Lacey in the Early 1970s

In comparing today's Lacey to 40 years ago, one would find the streetscape along Sleater-Kinney Rd, Pacific Avenue and Lacey Boulevard quite changed. Buildings have been added or remodeled due to a change of business.

Sleater-Kinney had only one fast-food establishment - Eagan's Lacey Big Tom Drive Inn. By 1976, Albertsons had opened a new store (now site of Office Depot). On that same east side, where Fred Meyer is now, was Market Square with small businesses as Bailey Drugs. Further south was the U.S. Post Office with limited parking.

On the west side was South Sound Center. Northgate Mall, in the north end of Seattle, had opened in the 1950s without a cover, so shopping here in an enclosed mall was pleasant year-round. People's department store anchored the south end with Sears on the north. Inside at Woolworth's you could find basics or eat at the Red Bull Restaurant with a wide variety of other stores.

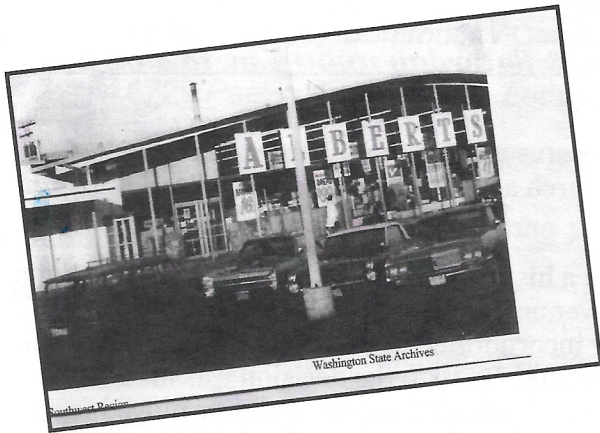
The strip mall to the south housed Ernest Hardware, Malmo Nursery, Pay'N'Save and South Sound National Bank. Across the way was Safeway (now Petsmart) with the wonderful view of Mount Rainier to enjoy as you loaded your groceries.

On Lacey Blvd near College Street, the Lacey Library relocated into the former Coast to Coast Hardware Store. Amazingly the library staff was able to maximize its space for many years.

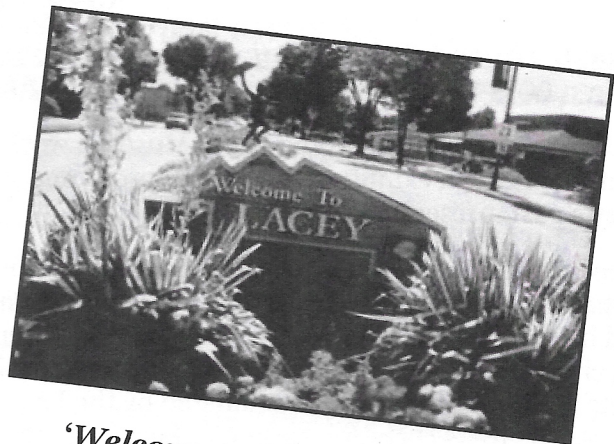
This is just a brief remembrance of the 1970s. For the up-coming annual meeting, consider sharing your remembrances.

By Sue Goff

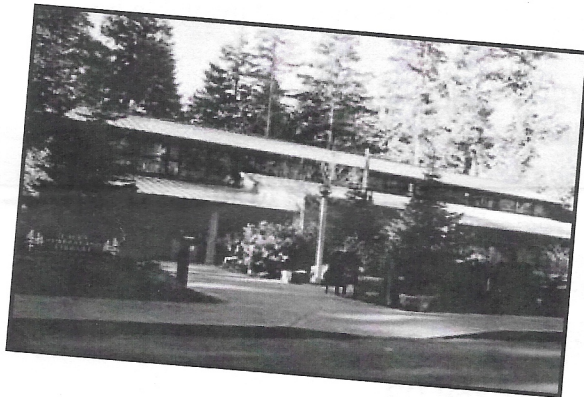
***50 Years of Lacey Landmarks & Special Events
(Between 1966 & 2016)***



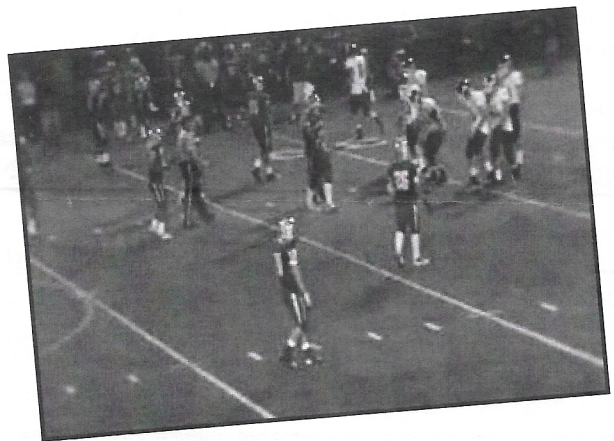
Albertson's Grocery Store



***'Welcome to Lacey' sign on
Pacific Avenue***



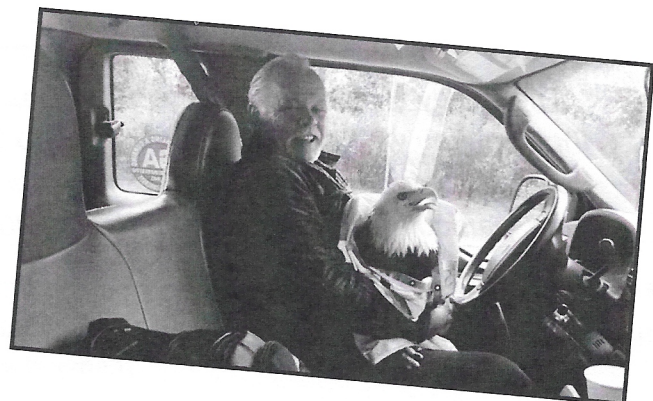
Lacey Timberland Library



Timberline High School Football



***Lacey School District
Educational Display***



***Special Moment—saving
local wildlife (what else can you say)***

Lacey Museum

829 ½ Lacey Street SE Lacey, WA 98503

(360) 438-0209

Open: Thursday & Friday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. & Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FREE

In a changing community, the Lacey Museum works to preserve and interpret Lacey history and identity. Through exhibits, educational programs, and research archives, the museum tells the story of Lacey's past, present and future.

Becoming A Museum: The Lacey Museum is located in a historic structure that was originally built in 1926 by Fred Russell as a private residence on Pacific Avenue. In the late 1940's the building was used by the Lacey Volunteer Fire Department. After Lacey incorporated as a city in 1966, it became the first city hall. Eventually city government outgrew the building. By 1979 the decision was made to create a local museum on land donated by the Lacey Women's Club. The old city hall was moved from Pacific Ave. to its current location on Lacey Street. In 1981 the Lacey Museum opened to the public.

Preserving and Interpreting Lacey's History: The Lacey Museum works in many ways to preserve and interpret local heritage. The Museum collects and cares for historical photographs, objects, and documents related to Lacey history. They are kept at the museum, and available by appointment to researchers.

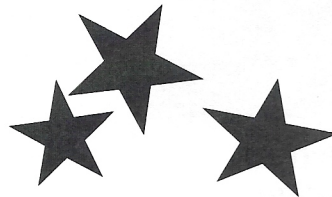
In addition, the Museum installs changing exhibits at the Lacey Timberland Library, Lacey City Hall, special events, and at the Museum. Past displays have included Union Mills, Remembering Fort Nisqually, the Huntamer Family, and Lacey Place Names.

Museum staff regularly give presentations on local history, regional anthropology and conservation techniques to school classes, community organizations and other groups. Please call the Museum for scheduling. These programs are free and open to the public.

Provided by The Lacey Museum

The Lacey Historical Society (LHS) Board of Trustees would like to thank those of you who submitted their dues to the Society in the last year, and a special recognition to those who have contributed special donations and gifts, particularly in memory of friends and relatives.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



RSVP

Lacey Historical Society Annual Meeting & Class Reunion

When: Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Where: Lacey Community Center on Pacific Ave. (just east of the city limits)

6729 Pacific Avenue S.E., Lacey, WA 98503

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fried chicken potluck dinner will be served around 6:00 p.m.

Please bring your favorite meal to share

Name (or Contact Person): _____ Phone #: _____

Number of people attending: _____

Please return your forms (Dues/Membership, & RSVP) by Tuesday Sept. 20, 2016

Mail to: Lacey Historical Society

PO Box 3324

Lacey, WA 98509-3324

Or call Susan Hartman to RSVP at (360) 704-0507

JOIN THE

2016

Lacey Historical Society

PO 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.

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