

Lacey Historical Society

2018 Spring Newsletter

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

Save the Date!

Lacey Historical Society Annual Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018 Lacey Community Center

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

Program: *This is Your Life, Shirley Dziedzic*

(Look for more details about program in the

2018 Summer LHS Newsletter)

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Memories

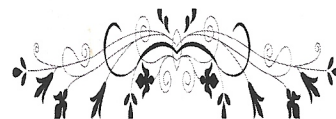
Judy Isham Hildebrandt remembers....

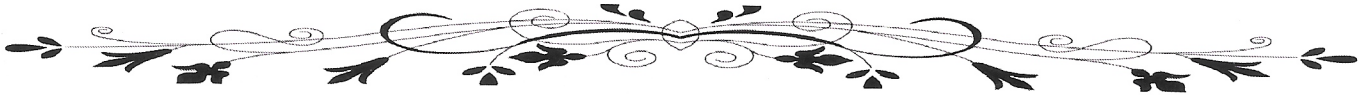
- watching elephants, walking trunk to tail on Lacey Blvd, in late 1940s on their way to circus where Fred Meyer is now. They came from Tacoma by train
- Leo Harrington's rodeo [at the] end of Golf Course Road
- sledding down hill club house was on, on Golf Course Road
- rodeo grounds at end of Golf Course Road
- the Lacey Plywood Mill where original Lacey train depot was.
- Pattison Lake roller skating rink. It was on stilts over the water, solid

wood structure. [It] was a fire hazard for sure, but very popular.

- The Lacey Drive-in came after the circus at [the site of] Fred Meyer. It had "buck" night on Wednesday. A whole car full of kids could get in for one dollar.

- Lynn Larson and I were in 7 & 8 grades in one wing of the new North Thurston High School. We were not allowed in the main part of the school.





Featured in this newsletter is a new series called 'Where Did the Name Come From?'

Where Did the Name 'Kinwood Road' Come From?

On May 20, 1940, the Thurston County Commission ordered the establishment of Kinwood Road, based on the petition of Harry Williams, L.M. Shilling and others for a road "60 feet in width, commencing at a point one-half mile west from the Section corner common to Sections 14, 15, 22 and 23, Twp. 18 North, Range 1 West, WM, running thence North to the said center of Section 15 and ending at the center of said Section 15, the whole distance being about one-half mile." Where did the name Kinwood come from?

The gentlemen who had petitioned for the road lived along its intended path. They had previously considered other names, but ultimately decided on Kinwood, a name intended to honor another resident whose property abutted the planned road, Tom Kinsella. Mr. Kinsella had died in 1936, but so beloved was he that years later his neighbors found a way to honor his memory.

His obituary in the *Daily Olympian* of Nov. 16, 1936 quoted neighbor George

Stansfield who wrote, "With the death of Tom Kinsella lovingly known as Uncle Tom, the community of Lacey lost a real friend and noble citizen.... For a quarter center Mr. Kinsella has been the janitor at the Lacey grade school.... Uncle Tom has endeared himself to the whole countryside. He was kind, generous and with a heart of gold...."



Where Did the Name 'Carpenter Road' Come From?

Carpenter Road runs from Hawks Prairie Road in the north to beyond Mullen Road in the south, making it one of Lacey's major thoroughfares. Where did the name come from?

In 1891, the Thurston County Commission received a petition from Charles Brown for a road linking the Olympia-Steilacoom Road (now Pacific Avenue) with Pattison Lake. When the Commission rejected the petition because the ground over which it would pass was unstable, George Warren Carpenter resubmitted the application suggesting a slightly different Route. His application was accepted and as was typical in those days, the road took on the name of the applicant, hence Carpenter Road.

Who was George Warren Carpenter? Born in 1850 in Indiana, Warren (as he was known) moved with his mother and stepfather to Pacific County about 1869. There he met Mary Ann Adams,

his mother's sister's step-daughter, and they fell in love. They were married about 1871 and followed Mary Ann's father, John M. Adams to Thurston County. A farmer, Adams purchased a lot of land in what is now Lacey, including the Isaac and Catherine Wood Donation Land claim. Likewise, Carpenter purchased land; from his father-in-law he received land along Woodland Creek and later 186 acres that included a portion of the Wood claim..

Census records first identify Carpenter's profession as logger, then farmer, two occupations common to the time period. But in 1892, Warren Carpenter is identified as a merchant, having built his store on a portion of the Wood claim abutting Carpenter Road. A photograph in the Lacey Museum shows the store with the club house/hotel associated with the Woodland Driving Park in the near distance to the west.

As a father of four, Carpenter took an interest in the local school, becoming a member of the board of Wood School

District #10. He took part in the decision to purchase the property along Carpenter Road and the Olympia-Steilacoom Road for a new school building. In 1896 he led the effort to petition the County Commissioners to create the community's own voting precinct, the Wood Precinct.

Perhaps Carpenter's greatest legacy however, took place when he became the first Lacey postmaster in 1891. He signed the petition to the U.S. Post Office Department that created the post office...with the name Lacey. He remained the postmaster until 1897.

For unknown reasons, Carpenter and his family moved to Eastern Washington about 1899. He opened a drug store in Waitsburg, becoming a "pillar of the community" according to the local paper. He died there in 1927.

Where Did the Name 'Huntamer Park' Come From?

In between Sleater-Kinney Road and College Street sits Woodland Square, an area of businesses and office buildings. In its midst is the park, complete with a stage for entertainment. Where did the name come from? Thomas Woodrow Huntamer was the sixth of twelve children born to Lourence Cleveland (L.C.) and Ellen Huntamer, who had moved to Lacey from their native South Dakota in 1910, settling on a large piece of land purchased from the Robbins family near Lacey Boulevard and Pacific Avenue. Considered a jack of all trades, L.C. also started the Huntamer Water Service and served as the Thurston County Sheriff from 1935 to 1948.

Son Tom performed numerous chores on the farm, sometimes even early in the morning before he walked to the Lacey School. Like almost every

other high school student in Lacey, he continued his education at Olympia High School, graduating in 1929.

Like his father before him, Tom, too, was a jack of all trades. He helped to build the Mushroom Farm, worked as a farmhand at St. Martin's, and eventually moved to California around 1940 to work at the Richmond shipyards. With the start of World War II, he joined the SeeBees and served overseas. When the war ended, he chose to remain in California, where he had met his wife. In 1955, however, the Huntamers returned to Lacey so that he could work with the Huntamer Water Service. He also worked as a bus driver for the North Thurston School District and as a volunteer for Fire District 3.

When the Fire District became involved with the movement to incorporate

the City of Lacey, Tom joined the effort. During the first attempt at incorporation in 1964, Tom ran for city council. He was so respected that he received the most votes of anyone else. But the attempt at incorporation failed. Two years later, when incorporation succeeded, Tom became a member of the council, a position he held off and on for thirteen years, during which time he served as both mayor pro-tem and mayor.

Tom always took an interest in Lacey history, serving as the president of the Lacey Historical Society for many years and lending his knowledge of the city's past to help further the preservation of that history. Shortly before Tom's death in 1995, the Lacey Historical Commission proposed the name Huntamer Park in honor of Tom Huntamer.

Submitted by: Lanny Weaver



Memories.....Marilyn Tubbs Marrone

Lacey Resort

I adored Patterson Lake. My teen ages were spent at the lake to swim and the roller rink. This is where I learned to skate backwards, forwards and dancing. I spent many hours there. I lived with my grandparents during that time - Mary Laura Tubbs and Harden Tubbs who lived on Kagy Road. There were only four houses there at that time. My best friend Jackie O'Grady lived on the road towards the rink and I used to walk to her house in the dark to her place by myself. She and I had some wonderful times there.

Save the Date:

*Thurston County Thru the
Decades*

Sat. May 19, 2018 at the
Thurston County
Fairgrounds.

Where Did the Name 'Adams Acre Tracts' Come From?

The name 'Adams Acre Tracts' is not commonly known to most residents of Lacey, but it should be. It is the oldest platted property within today's corporate limits of the city. In 1890, 31 lots were laid out north of the tracks of the Tacoma, Olympia and Grays Harbor Railway line along two streets, West Street on the border with Saint Martin's College and Adams Street down the middle of the subdivision. West Street no longer exists and Adams Street became Bowker Street a long time ago.

Adams Acre Tracts make up the western portion of the Lacey Historic Area. Where did the name for this subdivision come from?

John Adams, a native of New York, took out a Donation Land Claim in Oregon in 1855. About 1861, he moved north to Pacific County in Washington Territory, because he had an interest in a saw mill. He met and married Jane Wheaton Fiester

Vail, who had been widowed twice by men who had taken out donation land claims in Washington. From the sale of the two DLC properties, Adams was able to purchase land in Thurston County, including the Isaac and Catherine Wood Donation Land Claim, in the heart of what is now the historical part of Lacey. Adams was a farmer, but in 1890 for unknown reasons, he decided to plat Adams Acre Tracts. He died that same year.