



2019 Summer Newsletter

Lacey Historical Society (LHS)

P.O. Box 3324 Lacey, Washington 98509-3324 Lacey.hist@gmail.com
'To be a voice for the early citizens of Lacey, and to be their stewards protecting the historical heritage they have given us'

Lacey Historical Society Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Thursday September 26, 2019 from 5:30 to 8 pm

Lacey Community Center - 6729 Pacific Avenue

Theme: Lacey School Memories

Fun awaits us as we meet again to reminisce about the old Lacey School and take time to honor the graduates. Lacey Museum volunteer Kristina will have the binders with old class photographs available for viewing. The Kenney twins will return as well with a brief history of the school.

Last fall, the current Lacey Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary. We are so pleased that principal Sharon McGourty and staff member Shari Kelly will be joining us to share the history of the new school and to make a presentation featuring the anniversary celebration. Join us when Old meets New.

Please bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck. Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. We also need to know how many will be attending so please RSVP no later than Friday, Sept. 19, 2019 by mailing in the form on the back of this newsletter, or by calling Susan Hartman at (360) 704-0507, or by email to lacey.hist@gmail.com

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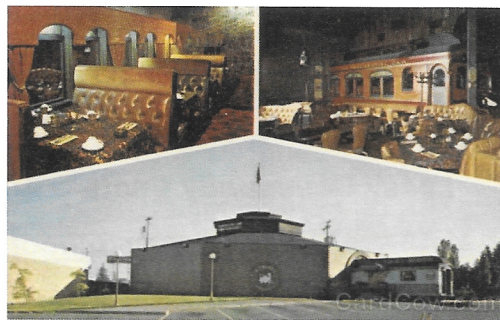
Susan Hartman -
Newsletter Editor



Johnny's Night Train

In her many adventures in search of historic items, Lacey Historical Society Treasurer Sue Goff came across a matchbook stylishly decorated with the name "Johnny's Night Train Lacey, Washington." On the back it proclaims that the business features stage shows, Italian cuisine and dancing to big band sounds. It is a wonderful reminder of some of Lacey's unique past.

Thanks to old telephone books and city directories in the State Library and the June 19, 2015 article in *Ken's Corner & the Real News*, a bit of the history has come into focus. The restaurant was first called Richard's Roundhouse, when it opened in 1974 in Market Square (Fred Meyer area). Although the site plan for Market Square shows it as a hexagon, Balsley refers to it as round, as does the initial name of the restaurant. Inside this brick building was a dining car said to have been used by President Harry Truman in 1948. The 1978 telephone directory ad for the restaurant shows a train engine and advertises dining, dancing, a ten-page menu and a game room.



1978, however, is the last year that Richard's Roundhouse appears in the City Directory. Over the next several years, the restaurant was known as Tuxedo Junction, Ribeye Junction and The Loose Caboose Tavern. In 1984, famed local musician, Johnny Lewis took over the business. But even Johnny Lewis had difficulty making a go of it. In 1987, it became Jim Manning's Doo Wop Diner. The menu in the telephone book bragged that it had "absolutely the last word in burgers." But the restaurant also featured entertainment and dancing, cocktails and banquets. Again, it did not succeed in that location and Manning moved his business to Shelton. The roundhouse in Lacey was torn down by Bob Blume in 1992 and replaced with a bank building. Part of the dining car is in Oakville.

Such was the unique nature of the building and the business, that anyone who has lived in Lacey and the surrounding cities over the past thirty years or so remembers it. Just the mention of any of the aforementioned names will elicit the remark, "Oh yeah, I remember it! What a fun place."

Attendees to the annual meeting will get to see the matchbook, a throwback to a different time. Afterwards, the hope is that the Museum will accept it as a part of its permanent collection.

By Lanny Weaver

Memories - Eleanor Heinzman

"My grandparents were William Franklin and Mary Elizabeth Ulery in Lacey. I believe there is an Ulery Street in Lacey. We visited your area many years ago in our RV and were surprised by the name of the street."

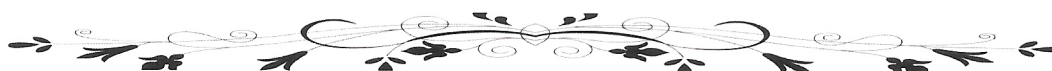
Upcoming Event

Dedication of Chambers Homestead Plaque on October 3, 2019.

Members of the public are cordially invited to the dedication of a new interpretive plaque recognizing the historic location of the David and Elizabeth Chambers Homestead, as well as the important mid-century modern Chalet building on the campus of Panorama 1751 Circle Lane. The event will take place on Oct. 3rd, beginning at 3 pm, in front of the Chalet, near the small traffic circle inside Panorama City in Lacey.

The plaque was made possible in part through grants from the Lacey Historical Society and the Panorama Corporation, with assistance from the City of Lacey.

Provided by Deb Ross



Memories: Ken Michael - Bits and Pieces from the Past

I grew up in the recently demolished big home at 1501 Golf Club Road. First it was a family farm and then Fir Lane Home Park my parents developed. Pan City was a golf course and the "pro" was Art Eckout who became irritated when our milk cow visited the golf course.

I lived on Hawks Prairie from 1971 to 2017 where I operated Ken's Auction Service.

I became good friends with Bruno and Evelyne Betti who had settled on Hawks Prairie in 1948. They bought 400 acres for \$12 per acre! I have more than a few "Betti" tales.

My mom was the PTA president at North Thurston High School. The gavel is in the museum."

Memories of Union Mills by Marilyn Morrone

I was born in 1932 in the Great Depression. I was born in the old St. Peters Hospital. My first home was at Union Mills, which was once a thriving mill town. My folks paid \$5.00 a month for rent. My relatives also lived there. My folks were Joe and Gladys Tubbs, also Uncle Neal and Aunt Lily Cunningham, Pat and George Tubbs, Jean and Larry Cunningham. Friends were like family such as the Hilton Browns.

Very near our cabin-like houses was an abandoned hotel. My best friend and I would peer through the ghostly windows and we saw plates, saucers, silverware, glasses, just like you would expect the workers to appear any moment. We also saw and climbed through abandoned houses. Also there was a railroad track nearby. We would wave to whoever managed the train and he would wave back. If we could find a coin, we would place it on the track to see what would happen.

We found a lot of Indian arrowheads, too. Too bad we didn't save them. We could sell them on E-bay! Sadly a fire burned down many houses and that was when I started school at Lacey Grade School.

Curiosity - Silo on 18th

Historians are curious creatures, asking who, what, where, when and why on a frequent basis. One day a few months ago, I was driving by a piece of property on 18th Avenue that I had passed many times before. It's just west of the large curve that 18th takes to get around the tip of Chambers Lake. An old farmhouse used to stand on the property, but sometime in the past five years or so, it was torn down. Remaining however is an unusual concrete silo.

I don't know why it was that day that my curiosity finally got the better of me. I needed to know the answers to the proverbial questions: who owned the property, who built the house, when was it built and what was the property used for. The obvious answer to the final question would seem to be that it was a farm, but was it?

My search started with determining the legal description of the property, not hard to find with a good old Metsker map: Lot 1 of section 19, township 18 north, range 1 west. According to tax records, there was no house there in 1906 when Thomas Chambers, son of David J. Chambers (whose Donation Land Claim was immediately next door) sold it to Charles Olaf Anderson. In 1910 the house shows up in the tax record, valued at \$125. Charles (also referred to as Carl) was a native of Sweden who had come to the United States about 1887.

A bachelor a good part of his life, he married Ruth Mason in 1921. She had two children from a prior marriage and together they adopted a son. According to his obituary in the April 11, 1946 Daily Olympian, he had "farmed in the Chamber's Lake District for thirty-five years."

Subsequent owners were not farmers by profession, rather they worked at other jobs. Whether or not they also indulged in a little farming is not known. In 1969 the property was sold to the DeTray Development Company. It is still in the ownership of the DeTrays.

So, what did I find? Just what I had suspected all along; the property was just a farm, and then used as a place of residence. But during the research process, I uncovered so many other curiosities, such as a road that is not there anymore, and one that went by different names. And I learned more about the property right next door that was home to the Russell shingle mill, leading to more unanswered questions. You guessed it, my curiosity has once again gotten the better of me and I will search for more answers which will become more articles in subsequent newsletters.

By Lanny Weaver



Memories of Tom Huntamer

When I started working at the Lacey Museum as a researcher in 1993, I met a lot of the members of the Lacey Historical Society. President at the time was Tom Huntamer, a sweet, gentle man, who spoke with a soft voice. I was so fortunate to have had him around as I started my journey into the history of Lacey. Yes, I knew how to get information from records and newspapers, but so much of history is locked away in people's minds. Tom, who had been born and raised in Lacey, active in the move to incorporate the city and served as mayor, was the perfect person from whom to glean information. He was my "go to" guy when I had questions and he never let me down.

He shared his memories with then Lacey Museum Curator Andrea Hein and me in the first oral history we ever did. We had followed proper protocol by first doing a preliminary interview to prepare proper questions for the oral history. During that interview, one of the things he mentioned was about the chores he performed in the morning as a young boy before walking to school among them moving the cows to pasture. To save time, the kids would often ride the cows across the fields. Andrea and I giggled at this wonderfully funny story. When it came to the actual oral history interview, however, he didn't repeat the story, even though we had prepared questions to get it from him. We kept trying and trying but we had to give up and the story never made it to the tape.

When we would get questions at the Museum, there were some that we knew only Tom could answer, in particular the one we received from two men who had had a strange experience in Fred Meyer not long after it opened. Could the place be haunted, they asked. If so, who was the ghost? The tendency to laugh is one of the first reactions to a question like that and the guys asking it knew that it was a bit strange. But when we approached Tom about it, he smiled, then remembered something that did happen in that location. There had been a small house on that spot. Like so many houses in those days it was insulated with saw dust. And one day it caught fire. Tom was a volunteer with the Lacey Fire Department before the incorporation of the city. On that particular day, it was his job to stand outside the windows to receive the child victims being handed to him. It was a hard story for him to relay.

The last time I talked to Tom was about Lacey history, of course. There is a house behind some of the commercial buildings on Pacific Avenue and it sits at a funny angle. I had been doing research on John Adams, the individual who platted Adams Acre Tracts, the oldest plat in Lacey and I found in his probate case file a drawing of the property he owned and on it was the outline of his residence, a house that sat at a funny angle. I suspected then, as I do now, that in fact the two houses are one in the same. After some discussion with him, Tom decided that he agreed with me.

When Tom died, my biggest window to the past closed. I still have so many questions for him.

By Lanny Weaver