



Winter 2022 Prairie Gazette

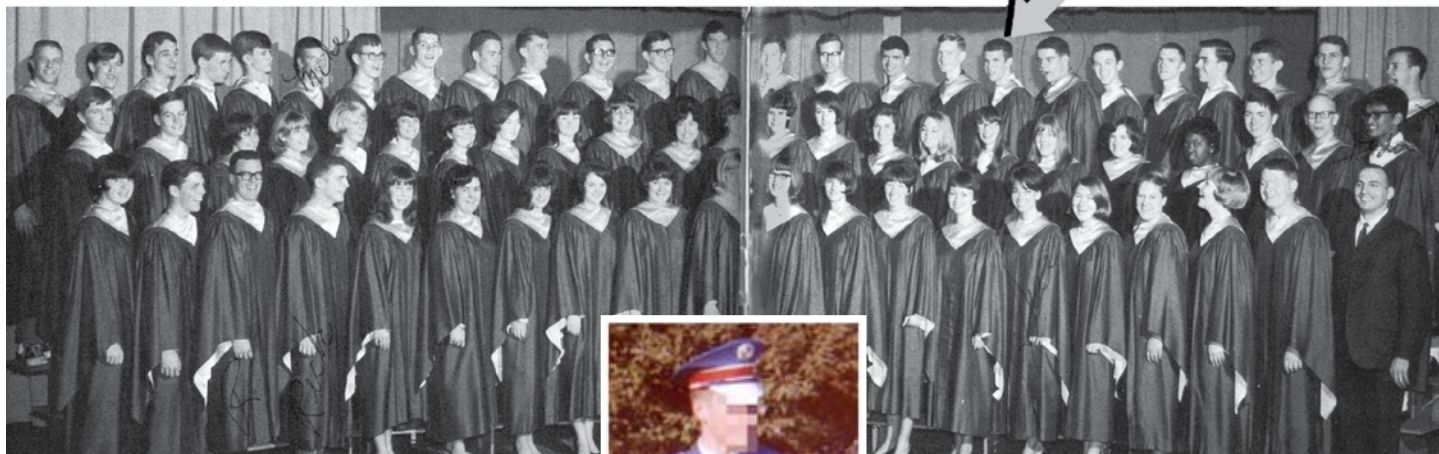
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My (Mostly in Lakewood) Musical Memories

by Tim Marsh, Lakes High School Class of 1966

Author Tim Marsh



Above, Lakes Choir. Director Ed Harmic, right.

I can't claim an ear for music...

But I have musical memories, most of them from while living in Lakewood.

As a lad, my father briefly took piano lessons, but my interest in music came mostly from my mother, a soprano in Lakewood's **Little Church on the Prairie** choir.

My own musical career began at Park Lodge School when I joined the band directed by **Gerald Pepos**. An uncle in Oregon had a C-melody saxophone which, according to Wikipedia "enjoyed popularity in the early 1900s... but is now uncommon." I borrowed it, and that became my instrument, never mind the fact there wasn't any sheet music for it—I had to play flute music, and only in the key of C!

Staying with the C-melody, I moved on from



Perhaps his face was blurred to avoid distracting from the snazzy marching band uniform he's modeling...? At any rate—here, the outfit of choice for the Lakes Marching Band—in royal blue.

Park Lodge elementary to Navy Base School, where I played at evening concerts held in the school cafeteria. Walking from the parking lot to the cafeteria was often a stinky experience. Flett Dairy was nearby and cow manure smells wafted across the road to the school grounds.

After Navy Base School came Hudtloff Junior High, where **Al Meddaugh** was band director. By that time in my musical development flute music had become too high up the scale for me to play, so Al transcribed sheet music from flute to sax so I could play it. Later that year my folks bought me an E-flat alto sax, for which music was and is available. I still have this instrument. In the days before students carried school books in backpacks, the case holding my saxophone was a perfect

place to store my books. I often carried the case

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PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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MEETINGS

The Lakewood Historical Society formed in 1998 to preserve and share Lakewood's rich history through programs, displays and publications. The Society offers frequent programs on topics of historical interest. Most programs are free and open to the public. Visit us on Facebook or our website for information on events and activities:

www.LakewoodHistorical.org

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Sue Scott

President's Message

Hello everyone and welcome(?) to 2022. I hope everyone made it thru the holidays and now getting back to "normal". I was able to spend time with my daughter and family in northern Illinois and fortunately able to attend my granddaughter's college graduation from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh.

We had a very nice annual meeting here in the museum in November. Phil Raschke gave an interesting presentation on Veteran's Day. And congratulations to Sarah Woodall and Shirley Kapala – their names were drawn for a bottle of wine and 2 wineglasses. Hope they enjoyed it.

The museum continues to be open just Fridays and Saturdays. If you haven't had a chance to stop by, the exhibit on Ivan the Gorilla is still here.

Still working on programs at the museum for this year. Any ideas? Or if you are interested in keeping the museum collection in order? Let me know!

Thanks again for your continued support of the Lakewood Historical Society & Museum.

Recent Donors

Tal Edman

Maria Kelly

Mike & Paula Lonergan

James Manning

Jim & Pat Candiotta

Andrea Gernon

Burton & Doris Johnson

Bob & Sylvia Allen

Stephanie Walsh

Suzanne Merriam: in memory of Winston Merriam

Gerald Julian: in memory of Elizabeth Julian

amazon smile Are you an Amazon shopper?

Set up *amazonsmile* and make us your charity of choice. Be sure to designate Lakewood Historical Society **Washington** (yes, there *are* other Lakewood Historical Societies out there!) We receive a small percentage of your purchase price at **no extra cost** to you.

MUSICAL MEMORIES, from pg 1

on a rack in front of my bicycle.

Meddaugh's musical background included playing trumpet and coronet in a big band performing at "Top of the Ocean," a restaurant that looked like a ship, along the bay in Old Tacoma.

Among my Hudtloff bandmates was flutist **Linda Dangel** whose brother **Rich** played lead guitar in the fabulous Lakewood-based **Wailers** rock band. Co-writer of "Tall Cool One," Rich wrote the unforgettable opening chords of "Louie Louie." The Wailers appeared on TV's Dick Clark's American Bandstand on June 11, 1959.

My family having moved from Bridgeport Way to American Lake, I next attended Iva Alice Mann Junior High where band director **Jack Henderson** insisted on long hours of practice, which paid off during band competitions. According to his obituary, Mr. Henderson was a "devoted band teacher for 35 years at Elma and Clover Park School Districts."

Then on to Lakes High, where Mr. Pepos was again my band director and where I switched from E-flat alto to E-flat baritone sax, a heavier instrument pitched an octave lower than the alto. When midnight of New Year's stuck, I played my sax as a noisemaker.

After retiring from teaching in 1966, Mr. Pepos became a business partner in the Lakewood Music Center. Opening in 1955 in the part of Lakewood Colonial Center on the north side of Gravelly Lake Drive, Lakewood Music expanded to include eight Puget Sound regional music centers.

The Lakes band played at Lancer home football games at Clover Park's Thompson Field (Lakes hadn't a field of its own at the time), in the stands, and marching on the field at halftime. As a pep band, we played in the gym at basketball games.

I have a kinship with Clover Park High School. I took a musical theory class, probably taught by Wilbur Elliott, during CP Summer School. My sister (Class of 1962) played violin in the CP orchestra and I attended concerts at the school. These were great productions featuring string, wind and vocal groups. Thinking I would attend Clover Park, I learned its fight song. This came in handy at WSU since the CP Fight Song uses the same music and similar words to those of the university.

During the 1963-64 school year the Lakes band was invited to play at Cheney Stadium, home of the Tacoma Giants, for a Sept. 27, 1963 speech by **President Kennedy**. Unfortunately, there were too many bands and ours was not the only



Resplendent in royal blue, the Lakes Marching Band takes part in the 1964 Daffodil Festival Parade, seen here on Pacific Avenue in Downtown Tacoma.

one to not play a single note.

A few months later found us practicing outside, marching on streets near the campus to assure we were ready to parade proudly in our royal blue uniforms through Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and Orting for the April 11, 1964 Daffodil Festival Grand Floral Parade.

After skipping for a year I resumed musically as a senior in 1965, becoming a member of the Lakes Choir directed by **Ed Harmic**. It was such an enjoyable experience I wished I'd joined a year earlier. At concerts we sang "Mexican Christmas Procession" and Broadway songs from Camelot, also "Try to Remember," from The Fantasticks.

A personal highlight at Lakes, which opened in fall 1962 and didn't have a fight song when I arrived as a sophomore in fall 1963, was co-writing the "Alma Mater". An invitation for students to submit words for the songs inspired me to put lyrics on paper and submit them. Soon thereafter I learned via public address system

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A hot take on recent history:

June 2021's Record-Shattering **HEATWAVE**



Photo taken in your editor's backyard, June 27, 2021

On the 26th of June, 2021, the weather in the Northwest started making headlines—not just locally but around the world.

A “heat dome”, a high-pressure system trapping hot air over a single geographic area, formed and stalled over a region extending from the middle of British Columbia to the California border.

For the next three days, the usually temperate Northwest sweltered under highs more typical of *Death* than *Maple Valley*.

Meteorologist **Cliff Mass** recorded the worst of it in his weather blog:

The maximum temperatures during the heat-wave were as high as 30-40 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Seattle had a high of 108F, 35F above the normal high of 73F. Quilluete on the Washington Coast zoomed to 109F compared to a normal high of 65 (44F above normal). Throughout the region, all-time temperature records were broken, representing the hottest day on record at many locations.

Such extreme heat was certain to cause suffering—especially in the Pacific Northwest, probably the least air-conditioned corner of the country. And

suffer we did: to the point, tragically, of deaths in unprecedented numbers. By the time it was over, the heatwave had caused **112 deaths** spread over 20 counties throughout the state—Pierce County alone accounted for **21**—making it the **deadliest weather phenomenon** in our history.

Nor was the plant kingdom immune—far from it. Two expert witnesses to the heat's effect on local flora were **Kristine Dillinger**, Lead Horticulturist and **Maya Neff**, Horticulturist, of Lakewood's premiere garden spot, **Lakewold Gardens**. Our thanks to them for the following report:

We noted:

- scorched foliage on the south side of even some well-watered plants,
- lawns that browned-out even with regular watering,
- die-back of whole sections of some shrubs,
- an increase in pest issues on water-stressed plants,
- a need to provide daily water to containerized specimens that would have previously been okay with water 3 times a week.

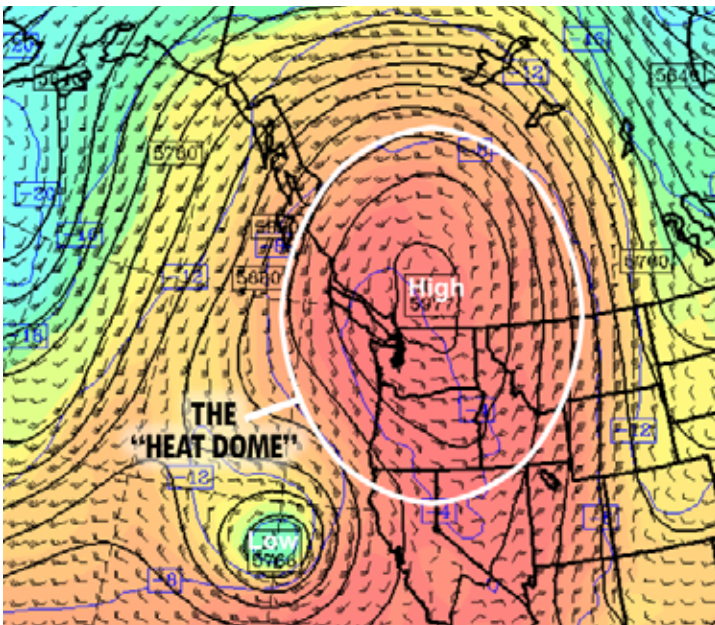
On the other hand, people visiting the garden after the heat dome remarked that the garden was looking good still.

We have been actively looking ahead and planning for longer, drier summers. However, it should be noted that some of the plants that looked okay after this summer may end up crashing from the stress of this year.

Given the many different kinds of plants grown at Lakewold, damage from an extreme heat or cold event can show up long after the actual event.

In summary, extreme heat, like what we experienced for a prolonged period of time, resulted in plants asking for more water than our irrigation system had the capacity to provide.

Stressed plants then became susceptible to issues that under other circumstances they would have been able to overcome.



11am, June 27: Map of the high pressure ridge known as the “Heat Dome”. At this level (18,000 ft), the ridge was **the most intense ever observed** over the region.

Let's cool off a bit...

...and what better way than by taking note of that jolly, wintery gent **Santa Claus** and his first ever visit to the Lakewood History Museum!

Our thanks to LHS board member **Phil Raschke** for arranging St. Nick's appearance.

Likewise to LHS members **Jenny Cho** for enlisting Elf 1 (left) and **Bev Raschke**, who did the same for Elf 2.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to **Elf Ivan** for taking time off from his exhibit (currently showing at the museum) to lend a holiday hand.



2021 ended with a week of unusually cold temperatures and a snowfall that quickly wore out its welcome. At least it brought us this lovely view of a freshly-frosted Lakewold Gardens.

Photo by Keith Hayner, Lakewold Operations Manager via @lakewold-gardens on Instagram

MUSICAL MEMORIES, from pg 3
that **Evelyne Hendricks** (choir, Class of '65) and I (Class of '66, band) were now officially cowriters of the alma mater lyrics (below). The song's tune was written by Music theory student **Ron Relaford** (Class of '64).

After graduation, I played a one-time stint with Oregon's Linfield College pep band during a

basketball game. A gig with the community band in Pullman, WA lasted longer, however, covering several of the 26-plus years I was on staff at Washington State University. It was a pleasure playing my alto sax under the direction of **Dana Cleveland**, a local legend for his wonderful work leading both the Pullman High School and School District band programs.

*“Lakes High we salute you, pride to us you bring
For friendship true and vict'ries won, your praise we sing
We honor orange and blue as days go by and
Give our hearts' devotion to Lakes High”*

This story first appeared in slightly different form on the Suburban Times' website: thesubtimes.com

Winter 2021-22, Omicron Arrives, Pierce County Ramps up Testing!

Story and Photo by Phil Raschke



LHS member Lonnie Lai suggests concerned local residents take advantage of the Pierce County Health Department's free testing site at Pierce College.

The rapid onset of the Omicron Covid variant prompted quick action by the Pierce County medical staff. At the first signs of spreading, free Covid test sites were setup in Lakewood and other areas.

In mid-January, Lakewood Historical Society member **Lonnie Lai** took time to visit the test site at Pierce College, Parking Lot D off of Farwest Drive.

The Pierce College site is currently open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 3 pm.

Results are normally available within 48-72 hours of testing.

To schedule a free test appointment, go to:

<https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/testing-information>

Historical Markers of Lakewood: 13th in a Series.

United States Army Fort Steilacoom

A lot of history has taken place on the grounds of Western State Hospital.

The plaque below, commemorating the army's 19-year sojourn at the site, is one of **three** placed on the grounds by your Society.

The others mark:

1) the first use to which the location was put by a white settler (the Heath Farm) and



US ARMY FORT STEILACOOM

IN AUGUST OF 1849, CAPTAIN BENNETT HILL AND 23 SOLDIERS OF COMPANY M, 1ST US ARTILLERY REGIMENT ARRIVED AND LEASED 20 ACRES OF THE FORMER HEATH FARM FROM THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY FOR \$50 A MONTH AND ESTABLISHED FORT STEILACOOM. THE FORT GREW IN SIZE WITH THE ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL TROOPS IN 1853. THESE TROOPS ASSISTED IN SURVEY AND ROAD BUILDING THROUGHOUT THE PUGET SOUND REGION AND ACROSS THE CASCADES THROUGH NACHES PASS. THEY ALSO AIDED IN THE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AND SAFETY OF NEWLY ARRIVING SETTLERS. THE HEATH FARM BUILDINGS WERE USED UNTIL NEW FORT BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED 1857. FOUR OF THESE BUILDINGS STILL REMAIN AROUND THE OLD FORT STEILACOOM PARADE GROUND. ARMY OFFICERS RESPECTED CHIEF LESCHI AND PROTECTED HIM FROM TERRITORIAL OFFICIALS WANTING TO EXECUTE HIM IN 1858 UNTIL FORCED BY JUDICIAL RULING TO TURN THE NISQUALLY LEADER OVER TO THE THURSTON COUNTY SHERIFF. IN 1859, SOLDIERS DEPLOYED TO THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS TO UPHOLD AMERICAN INTERESTS DURING THE PIG WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN. IN 1861, FEDERAL MILITARY UNITS WERE ORDERED TO RETURN EAST FOR SERVICE IN THE CIVIL WAR. REGIONAL MILITIA FORCES MANNED THE FORT UNTIL 1868 WHEN IT WAS TURNED OVER TO THE WASHINGTON TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT. IN 1871, FORT STEILACOOM BECAME THE TERRITORIAL MENTAL HOSPITAL AND EVENTUALLY BECAME WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL.

THE FORT IS ON THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES REGISTER, THE PIERCE COUNTY REGISTER AND THE LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY LANDMARK REGISTER.

DEDICATED 2017



The plaque includes this photo of the buildings comprising Fort Steilacoom, taken sometime in the 1860's.

Additional text under the photo:
THIS MARKER IS PROVIDED BY THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, AND THE PIERCE COUNTY LANDMARKS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

2) a tragic miscarriage of justice (the trial resulting in the execution of Leschi, a leader of the Nisqually Tribe, for supposed crimes committed during the Indian Wars of the 1850's.)

To find the Army marker, turn into the Hospital's main entrance on Steilacoom Boulevard and look directly ahead, about a block away, to the four restored Officers' Quarters buildings—some of the oldest structures still standing in western Washington. The marker stands nearest the building farthest to your right, in front of a shelter that protects two cannons from the era.



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Society**
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DOCENTS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Lately, your Society has had to limit the hours and even days we're open due to a severe and ongoing shortage of

**** **DOCENTS** ****

If you like history, people and bringing them together, **WE WANT YOU** to be a docent whenever you can spare a few hours. No experience necessary; we'll show you the ropes. Call **Sue Scott, 253-588-6354**



Check lakewoodhistorical.org for notices of upcoming programs.