

Prairie Gazette



Winter 2018 The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

Museum: 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive SW, Lakewood WA 98499 OPEN Wed-Sat, 12 Noon-4 pm (253) 682-3480

School Days, School Days, 90 Years of School Days...



Join us as we celebrate Clover Park School District—creating promising futures for nine decades—at Harrison Preparatory School, 9103 Lakewood Dr SW, 6 pm Tuesday, January 23



The Clover Park School District dates back to February, 1928, when five grade school districts—American Lake South, Custer, Lakeview, Lake City and Park Lodge—were joined to create what was first called **Union High School District #204**.

Because the community could only afford to open a junior high school, it required the State of Washington legislature to change the law. Thanks in large part to the



Little School On the Prairie—Clover Park, with plenty of room to grow in this picture taken 70 years ago.

dedication and persistence of **Iva Alice Mann**, the Clerk for the School Board, the plan was approved. The District commissioned the building of **Clover Park Junior High School** in 1928. In 1937 the planned expansion to add the higher grades began with the first senior class graduating in 1940. In 1941 all of the grade schools and District #204 consolidated into **Clover Park School District #400**.

Today, the district encompasses 68 square miles, includes 24 schools and serves more than 13,500 students in preschool through grade 12.



Iva Alice Mann:
She gave CPSD its name.



2 High Schools
Clover Park, Lakes
4 Middle Schools
Hudtloff, Lochburn,
Mann, Woodbrook

2 Specialty Schools
Harrison Preparatory,
Open Doors Program
1 Early Learning
Program

16 Elementary Schools
Beachwood, Carter Lake,
Custer, Dower, Evergreen,
Four Heroes, Hillside,
Idlewild, Lake Louise,
Lakeview, Meriwether,
Oakbrook, Park Lodge,
Rainier, Tillicum, Tye Park

In naming the district, **Iva Alice Mann** told of early pioneers settling “where the creek would overflow and keep the ground green with clover under the big fir trees...so delighted with this beautiful green spot after months crossing the U.S. in covered wagons they called the district Clover Park.”

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PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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The staff of Prairie Gazette actively encourages input from the Society's members as well as the general public regarding story ideas of any other aspects of this newsletter, and the Lakewood Historical Society.

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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

President's Message

As we end 2017, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and looking forward to 2018. It has been a busy year here at the Lakewood Historical Society and Museum. We worked hard on our fundraisers and are looking forward to next year.

Mark your calendars for the second annual "Flapjack Fundraiser" scheduled for March 10th at the Lakewood Applebees.

Don't forget, we still have some of our 2018 collectible calendars available at the museum.

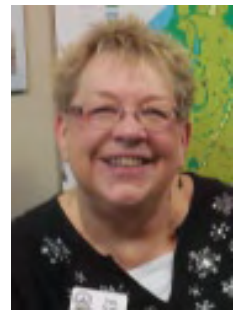
I hope you were able to attend one of our great programs this fall: "Where Have All the Prairies Gone?" and our annual meeting with a program on the "History of the Philippine Scouts" (see pgs 4-5).

The Command Performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Lakewood Playhouse was enjoyed by many of our members and friends (see next page).

We continue to plan programs for 2018. As seen on the front page, the January 23rd program is a collaboration with the Clover Park School District celebrating their 90th anniversary!

Thanks to all those who made a donation to our Annual Fund Campaign—it is much appreciated. We welcomed two new Board members this year: **Rich Wall** and **Jim Schell**. And I hope you will take the opportunity to view our recently installed Artist's Corner featuring the wonderful watercolors of local artist **Kathy Lyn Newby** (see pg 6).

Thanks again for your continued support—we do appreciate it!



Sue Scott

LHS Winter 2018 Schedule of Programs & Activities

Tues, January 23, 6-8 pm-90th Anniversary of Clover Park School District, Harrison Preparatory School, 9103 Lakewood Dr SW. Come celebrate the history of the Clover Park School District with special recognitions, program and refreshments.

Tues, February 27, 7-9 pm-Program and location TBA.

Sat, March 10. 9-11 am, 2nd Annual Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's, 10407 Gravelly Lake Dr SW in the Lakewood Towne Center. See page 8 for details.


Tues, March 27th, 7-9 pm- Lakewood Women in Business, to celebrate Women's History Month. Learn more about an organization that has supported women business owners since 1959. Location TBA.

Not a member? Look at the fun you've missed just since our last issue:




September 26, 2017 at the Lakewood Library—the audience awaits a free showing of “Pershing’s Last Patriot”, the moving documentary on Frank Buckles, last surviving US veteran of World War I.





PERSHING'S LAST PATRIOT



A special film was made even more so by the appearance of producer **Andrew Kouklis** (above) who gave a brief introduction—and an update on the WW I memorial in Washington DC that was long the dream of Frank Buckles.



A Christmas Carol

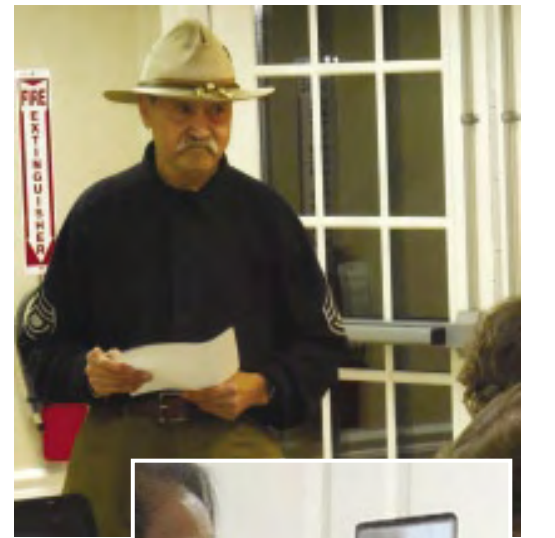
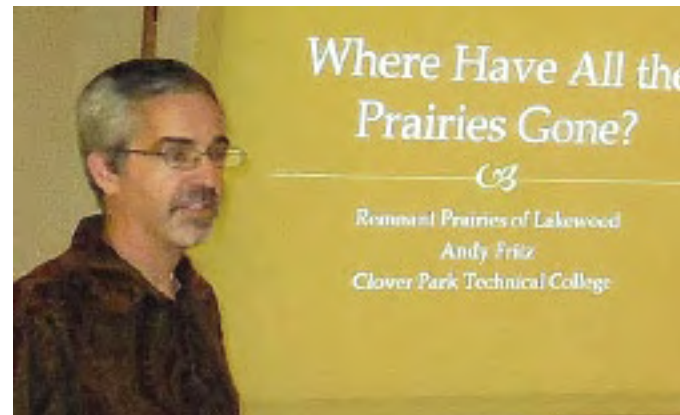
December 14, 2017 at the Lakewood Playhouse—a “Command Performance” of Dickens’ classic benefitted our Society and captivated its audience with an outstanding production performed by experts in the art of eliciting tears from even the most Scrooge-like of onlookers.



LHS President Sue Scott welcomes audience.



More fun to come...



Past LHS President **Becky Huber** introduces speaker **Andy Fritz** and distinguished visitor to his left—CP Tech President **Dr. Joyce Loveday**.

Solid attendance marked the first programs held in the meeting room of Lakewood's Best Western Motor Inn (right). On this page, **Andy Fritz**, professor of Environmental Studies at Clover Park Technical College, answers the question posed by his introductory slide: "Where Have All the Prairies Gone?" The once wide-open spaces of Lakewood were mostly lost to development—but who knew the prairies were not a natural phenomenon in the first place? They were instead the result of clearing by Native Americans in order to facilitate the growth of Camas and other edible plants.

This page: **Art Garcia** (top right) presents the little-known but fascinating story of "The Philippine Scouts", a special unit of the US Army made up of Philippine citizens that saw some of the first action in World War II and served with distinction (though not without some resentment of the American imperialists who took their country over from the Spanish colonialists) from 1901 to 1948. Above, members of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society display insignias the Scouts wore in various theaters of war and (right) the gold medal recently struck in special recognition of the Scouts' service.





“The Oriental view sees man as one part of nature, a part that must live in harmony with the rest. I express this relationship in my fountain sculptures, an attempt to unify water—the life force of the universe that flows in an elusive cyclical course throughout eternity—with an immutable metal sculpture.”—George Tsutakawa

Historical Marker Honors Artist Who Pioneered a New Medium.

Hundreds drive by it every day, but how many know the fountain in front of the Chase Bank branch on Gravelly Lake Drive was the creation of a man who many consider to be the greatest fountain-maker of all time?



Born in Seattle on Feb. 22, 1910, **George Tsutakawa** was raised in both the United States and Japan. He attended the University of Washington, and, after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, became a teacher there. Although an artist in many mediums, he achieved international fame as a fountain designer in the 1960s and 1970s. During his long career more than seventy of his distinctive fountains were placed in public spaces.

Street. In 1974, to call attention to the company’s newly-opened Lakewood branch, the fountain was moved and placed in front of its entry.

Today, Pacific Federal is long gone—as is George Tsutakawa, who died in Seattle in 1997—but his creation remains, where it will hopefully grace its location at the corner of Gravelly Lake Dr and 100th St SW for decades to come.

As for those drivers who don’t know their commute takes them by the work by a world-famous artist daily—perhaps some will stop and take a look at our new marker, installed in 2017 and affixed to the pool in which the Lily sits.

Hopefully, those who do will drive away with a deeper appreciation of both art and local history—and the surprises they may have in store.



Lakewood’s fountain—known as the Lily—began life in downtown Tacoma in 1964 when it was installed in front of Pacific Federal Savings and Loan on Commerce

Top: Tsutakawa pays a visit—over thirty years later—to his very first commissioned fountain, installed at the main branch of the Seattle Public Library in 1958



Speaking of Art & Artists...

Doing its part to beautify our little corner of Lakewood, your Society celebrated the re-installation of the museum’s Artist’s Corner with a reception for artist **Kathy Lyn Gidley-Newby** (left) on Dec. 9th. Stop by and see her striking water colors—and if you’d like to be a patron of both the arts *and* LHS, keep in mind that we get a small percentage from works you buy!

It is with deep sadness we note the passing of **Gary Fowler** in October 2017, the Society’s devoted treasurer and business manager for 15 years, and the passing of **Meg Justus** in November 2017, a museum consultant who designed our major exhibits for five years.

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Welcome! New Members Since September 2017

Ray and Janice Graves
Jeanne Hansen
Ruth and Jacki Hofto
Jerry Merry and Patricia Hunter
Joyce Loveday
Rick and Sharon Selden
Mark and Joy Vinson



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Professor Andy Fritz (see pg. 4) and his wife, educator Jody Fritz. While traveling from their cruise ship to a tour of Mayan ruins, Andy and Jody were among the 12 people tragically killed in a bus crash in southeastern Mexico on Dec. 19, 2017.



**Lakewood
Historical
Society**

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Save the Date!
2nd ANNUAL



FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER

Benefitting the Lakewood Historical Society

Saturday, March 10
9:00-10:30 am • Applebee's
in Lakewood Towne Center

\$1000 per ticket. May be purchased
in advance at the museum
(6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW) or
at the door.