



Highline Historical Society News

Volume 38

January 2006

The Mission of the Highline Historical Society is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret the history of the Highline region and its people, and promote appreciation of the region's heritage.

Highline
Historical Society
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PIONEER PANEL RECALLS EARLY HIGHLINE



On Sunday afternoon, October 23rd, a group of four pioneer residents gathered at SeaTac City Hall to reminisce about their memories of doing business in Highline years ago. Panelists included Jerry Robinson (above left), owner and publisher of *The Highline Times*, as well as Al Snead (second from right), the previous owner/publisher of *The Highline Times*. Also on the panel was June Christensen Wittman, whose parents owned the Burien Electric Bakery and Loyal Reynolds (far right), long-time owner of Loyal Electric.

The audience enjoyed their recollections of interesting news stories, occurrences, homes, business and farms from 50 years ago. As frequently happens at these events, stories digressed and we were treated to one of Loyal Reynolds' great tales about Highline's early chicken farms. The Society is fortunate that Dick Dahlgard videotapes every event, and our new site at Angle Lake School has a viewer and a comfortable chair where visitors can watch our past 11 years of Salutes to Pioneers.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President	Page 2	Meet Your Trustees	Page 6
Upcoming Events	3	New Accessions	7
Annual Fund Donors	4	From the Collections	8
Camp Wascowitz (continued)	5		

From the President

Serving as President of the Highline Historical Society is an honor. My predecessors have set the stage for all of us who follow.

My parents bought their first lot in Gregory Heights in 1928 and built their first home there a few years later. Both my brother and I went to Lake Burien Elementary School and Highline High School. My father served on the Highline School Board. Quietly serving our community has been part of living here. I just finished my 16th year on the SeaTac City Council with human services needs being one of my greatest interests.



Our previous boards have given unselfishly both of their time and money to make this organization a growing success. We all have great hopes for the future growth of not only our membership but your participation in the coming year. Our thanks to all of you for what you do and the terrific support you give to our community. We all sincerely appreciate it.

Be sure to read this document as there are several activities coming up and it would be great to see you there. If you have any questions about the coming events or viewing the exhibits please feel free to call me or any of the Society Trustees.

Thank you again for your support.

Terry Jarvis Anderson



This excellent playhouse, designed and built by carpentry students at the SeaTac Occupational Skills Center, will be auctioned at the Kennedy High School auction in March, with half the proceeds going to the Highline Historical Society and half going to Kennedy High School.

Highline Historical Society News

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Comments or information for publication may be sent to Editor, at the Society address, or email at editor@highlinehistory.org

Note: The Highline Historical Society respects our donors' and friends' confidentiality. We do not make our mailing lists available to other organizations.



CULTURE
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

A special thank you to Wizards Casino for their continuing generous sponsorship of our newsletter!



Upcoming Society Events & Programs

January 2006
Interurban Exhibit opens
at SeaTac City Hall

February 26, 2006
Annual Fund Donor's
Event

March 18, 2006
3rd Annual Dinner Auction

Early June
New exhibit at SeaTac
City Hall

June 10, 2006
Highline Garden Tour

Special Fall Mystery Program
September 2006

The Society is a proud member
of
Discover Burien,
the Assn. of King County
Historical Societies,
the South King County
Cultural Coalition,
Washington Museums Assn.
and the
American Association of
State and Local History.

New Exhibit at SeaTac City Hall

Interurban: Historical Photographs of the Puget Sound Electric Railway
Curated by Warren Wing

“Frequent, Fast, Safe Service,” was the motto of Puget Sound’s mass-transit system from 1902 to 1928. Indeed, you could take the Puget Sound Electric Railway’s Interurban from Auburn to Seattle in under an hour, EVERY half-hour, for about 25 cents. Stops made at every little town; between Auburn and Kent, the Interurban stopped at Christopher, Meredith, White River, and Thomas. It hauled people to work, shoppers to Seattle, and mail and express cargos around the region.

Local historian, author and everyone’s favorite guest speaker, Warren Wing curated this exhibit from his own collection of historical photographs. The framed images will visually take you from Tacoma to Seattle, showing the cars, their interior, scenery, stations, signals, and the track unique to this electric railway. Many of the images were taken in 1915 in a survey for the Puget Sound Electric Railway’s then newly installed system of semaphores.

Third Annual Founders Dinner and Auction

Rainier Golf and Country Club

March 18, 2006, 5:30 PM

Mark your calendars for this event to benefit our museum building campaign. We are actively soliciting nice donations for the auction, and of course would like for you to attend and BUY! Watch for your invitation soon.

Highline Garden Tour

Saturday June 10, 2006, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Back by popular demand. The Society is continuing to build on our first Garden Tour last year. We are finding wonderful gardens for you to explore. Contact Cyndi Upthegrove at 206-246-6354 if you are interested in volunteering part of a day in exchange for a ticket.



MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rita Creighton has committed her adult life to organizations that make a difference in our communities, and the Society is fortunate to have her formidable skills at work in the design and implementation of our new Highline Heritage Museum. She began her interests in Highline by graduating from Mt. Rainier H. S. (year undisclosed), and has expanded her interests to PTA (former State President), Communities in Schools of Highline, and is now the Governor's most recent appointee to the position of Trustee of Highline Community College. She has raised two children in the Highline School District and has worked hard to help maintain a quality education for all of our children. Rita likes things that are good for young people.

One of the planned upcoming exhibits that she is most excited about in our museum is the exhibit about Camp Wascowitz. "I loved attending the Camp," she said, "and my own children loved their trips to the Camp. I think our museum exhibit about Camp Wascowitz will help teachers prepare new students for their mountain camping trip while renewing wonderful memories for countless parents in Highline that attended there themselves. It is hard work but great fun to help with the planning for this new museum. I hope more members of the community will step forward to give us a hand, both as volunteers and as donors."



*Photo courtesy
Highline Community College*

Thank You Annual Fund Donors!

We pledge continued good stewardship of the resources you have generously given to us. This, our first Annual Fund drive, has generated \$7000 to date to support our Curators, with an average donation of \$70.00 from 10% of the people we mailed to. This is a remarkable response and we thank the following Highline businesses and individuals for their support!

Dr. Jeff and Marge Abolofia	Jack and Judy Elliot	Craig and Laurie Marocco	Hope Schulz
Helen Anderson	Ruth Phillips English	Beth Dennis Merz	Leroy Scott
Peter Barton	Fred and Margaret Folsom	F. Jeanne Moeller	Bob and Gloria Sealey
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Burien Chevrolet	Dan and Lynda Isernio	Dr. Robert and Burrita Perry	Upthegrove
Burien Plaza/Powell Development	Vaughn Holden	Jeanne Pfeifer	Andy Vagi and Susan
Burien Toyota/ Scion	Senator Karen Keiser	Drs. Joe Pfeifer & Cindy Murrill	Plecko
Dr. Sidney and Barbara Calvo	Byrne and Frances Kelly	Barbara Piper	Dr. Odd and Georgette
Richard and Mary Carr	Dr. John and Alberta Kennelly	Pollock Insurance	Valle
Walt and Joyce Carsten	Joe and Gro Kleitsch	Puget Sound Energy	George and Arlene Wade
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Jean Clingan	Betty LePenske	Kathy Reed	Carolyn Williamson
Randy and Barbara Coplen	Pat Lofstedt	Dr. James and Nancy Rice	Galen and Nancy Willis
Cecilia Coy	Gary Long	Fred and Patricia Ronhaar	June Christensen Wittman
Colin Craig, DDS	Susan Luthy	William Rudberg	Wizard's Casino
Tricia L. Hansen Crozier	Hallie and Sally Mackey	Alexander Sasonoff	
Linda Dougherty	Lynn Majors	Inge and Kathy Skarbo	
Ernie Eder	Donald and Irene Malmberg	Donald and Margaret Schindler	



In the early 1980's, Superintendent of Highline School District Robert Sealey asked former Superintendent Carl Jensen to record his recollections of the founding of a number of Highline School District institutions. We thank Dr. Sealey for sharing this document with the Society. Space limitations have required that we reprint the following document about Camp Waskowitz over several issues. - Ed.

CAMP WASCOWITZ, PART II

This document is continued from the previous issue of *News from Highline Historical Society*.

CHANGE IN STATE LAW ACCOMPLISHED

By State law, a school district could not own property out of its district. A change in the law was necessary. Since the Highline program had earned strong support from State Superintendent, Pearl Wanamaker, she assigned a member of her staff, Harley Robertson, director of Physical Education and Recreation, to work with Jensen in lobbying legislators to pass a bill permitting school districts to own property out of the district's boundaries. The bill passed, although the word recreation was left out and had to be amended later. Thus when the seller's contract was satisfied, the camp and its nine acres were deeded to the Highline School District.

ADDITIONAL ACREAGE SOUGHT

This was but the beginning of a long acquisition process. It was discovered that the nine acres did not include all of the play field. Also, people were buying lots along both sides of the south fork of the Snoqualmie River and would soon be encroaching upon the camp itself. This required quick action. The owner of the 33 acres west of the camp and of the entire hill across the river from camp was the son of the man from whom the government had originally acquired the nine acres for the CC camp. His father had purchased over 1,000 tax title acres in the Snoqualmie Valley for \$1.00 per acre during the depression years.

A meeting was held with this owner at a rather unusual place and under unusual circumstances. After a long discussion, a handshake agreement was reached to buy not only the 33 acres, but all of the additional acreage across the river at some future time as funding could be arranged. The price agreed upon was \$600 per acre. Lots along the river were then selling for \$3,000 per lot.

To his credit, over a seventeen-year period of time, this owner honored that handshake, with nothing in writing, even though land values soon quadrupled in that area.

HIGHLINE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION LOAN

The immediate concern was how to pay for the 33 acres. The Highline Education Association had been accumulating a reserve building fund for a future headquarters. They were offered temporary quarters in a house recently acquired by the District in return for a \$19,000 loan at the same rate of interest they were getting. With this loan, the land adjacent to the camp was secured. In two years, the H.E.A. loan was repaid with interest. The deed to the 33 acre tract, so important to the camp, was then transferred to the Highline School District.

STATE TEACHERS CREDIT UNION LOANS

The flow of residents into the Valley was continuing. It soon became imperative to acquire the west side of the hill across from camp if the camp were to have any privacy. Jensen approached Robert J. Handy, founder of the Washington School Employees Credit Union, about a loan to purchase three quarter sections, 120 acres. With the favorable record of repaying the student loan, the initial contract and the HEA loan, all well ahead of schedule, Mr. Handy agreed to a \$72,000 loan at 6% interest. Someone had to sign the note. Since the District could not borrow money, Jensen signed the note for that amount which was many times over his annual salary. This loan was also paid off well ahead of schedule, also from funds derived from leasing the camp to other groups.

PUGET SOUND YOUTH FOUNDATION

Although the encroachment from the west had been blocked, the camp was still vulnerable across the river. This and the desire to make this a complete and protected resource led to a continuing effort at acquiring the entire hill acreage. Since it was still available at a well below current market value, it was decided to try to acquire it based upon the earlier handshake agreement price. Jensen, however, did not wish to again sign additional notes at a personal risk. So in order to accomplish

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the goal, a non-profit foundation was created. Made up of interested Highline citizens, this foundation was able to arrange successive loans over a period of years from the School Employees Credit Union, to acquire a number of quarter sections of land at each transaction. The foundation in turn leased the land to the Highline District for use in the program. The Highline District paid said leases from funds derived from subletting to other groups. This allowed the Foundation to repay each loan from the Credit Union. As each loan was repaid, the deed would be conveyed to the School District. In this manner, over a period of seventeen

years, over 350 acres were acquired from earnings of the camp and without public dollars being involved. During the administration of Superintendent Robert Sealey, this process was carried on until completed. The final deed was presented to the Highline School Board during the tenure of Dr. Sealey. Members of the Foundation were present as Chairman Lee Henderson, the former president of the Burien Seafirst Bank, made the presentation and Jensen reviewed the seventeen year process and history of the enterprise.

PROGRESS REPORT



Photo courtesy King County Department of Transportation

A celebration was held on December 6th at the North Highline Fire Station to celebrate the completion of the first segment of the restoration of Des Moines Memorial Boulevard. In the photo above, Society Trustee Kitty Milne and King County Councilman Dow Constantine pose with a mounted poster commemorating the event. The poster has been donated to the Society's archives.

For the past eight years a group of people representing the cities of Highline and various interest groups has met and worked with consultants to design a redeveloped boulevard that celebrates the history of the road. The first portion of the road restored, the northern (or King County) portion has been restored with markers in the sidewalks where each memorial elm once stood. Citizens are invited to visit the road and enjoy the new monuments. Future restorations in adjoining cities will include replacing the original elm trees, where possible, and working to make the Des Moines Memorial Boulevard monument on the corner of the boulevard and SW 156th Street in front of Sunnydale School more accessible to the public.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

The following items were recently donated to the Highline Historical Society. Special thanks to these far-sighted individuals for helping HHS preserve authentic artifacts and archival materials of the recent and not-so-recent past. For more information about donating items to HHS, please call 206-246-6354 or send an email to editor@highlinehistory.org.

From **Rosella Roff**, a memorabilia box filled with items from her desk, representing her years as Principal at McMicken Heights Elementary School, for the collections.

From **Dick Dahlgard**, a 1940's infielder's mitt, a stereo opticon and 500 stereo opticon cards, for the collections. For the archives, Dick has donated a 1962 cookbook from the Women's University Club. He has made an additional donation of a high-quality digital camera for use in cataloguing the collections so that they may eventually be posted online, and a countertop freezer.

From **Nell Hepburn**, a set of 1940's elementary school desks, for the collections.

From **Richard and Mary Carr**, for the collections: a 1955 Turbinator model salon hair dryer, pink and plywood all-in-one seat and dryer hood, owned by **Myrtle Irene Carr**; a Kenmore Visomatic wringer washer, circa late 1940's, owned by **Marie Emma Sorrels**; a Simplex wooden ironing table, circa late 1940's owned by Marie Emma Sorrels; plywood and yarn poodle footstool, given to Mary Sorrels by Richard Carr circa 1955 when dating; a green plaid combination stroller-baby buggy, used 1965-1970 by all Carr sons; a 1950's vacuum cleaner; Columbia washboard, used by Marie Emma Sorels; three wooden yardsticks, each advertising an earlier Burien business, **Pay'n Pak, Ernst Hardware, Lamon's Hardware**. Additionally, Mrs. Carr donated a collection of school and family photographs for the archives.

From **Betty Brennan**, shoemaker's lasts and cobbler's kit from the late 1800's.

A Highline High School Symphonic Band Cookbook, produced in 1992-1993 by the **Highline High School Band Parent Association** - found at the OSC and forwarded to the Society for the archives.

WISH LIST

Can you help by donating any of the following items?

If so, please contact the Society at 206- 246- 6354.

Thank you.

1. A filing cabinet with extra deep drawers (15" deep, or more).
2. Donated carpenter time to build collections shelving.

Join The Highline Historical Society

Benefits of an annual HHS Membership Include...

- Quarterly newsletter
- Bi-Monthly E-News about heritage-related events
- Patron members receive the quarterly magazine of the Washington State Historical Society
- Free admission to Society programs
- Free admission to our future museum

Become a Member Today

Please indicate your membership classification below:

Individual - \$20

Family - \$30

Commercial/Business - \$50

Patron - \$125

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

(necessary to receive Monthly E-News)

Make checks payable: *Highline Historical Society*, or charge your membership to:

Visa MasterCard

Account Number

Expires: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 317, Seahurst, WA 98062
This application is for **new members only**.
Renewing members will be notified by mail.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS



Long-time residents may recognize this 1955 Turbinator salon hair dryer, pink and plywood all-in-one seat and dryer hood, owned by **Myrtle Irene Carr**. Mrs. Carr owned Michel's Salon, one of the first beauty salons in the area, located on 152nd and 2nd SW in Burien.

P. O. Box 317
Seahurst, WA 98062

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TIME DATED MATERIALS

Changes?

*Please make the corrections on your label. Circle the appropriate spot below, and return to the Society.
Thank you.*

- Name misspelled*
- Contact person changed*
- Address wrong*
- Duplicate mailing*
- Remove from mailing list*