

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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Pfeifer Honored at Founders Event



On April 22, **Jeanne Pfeifer** was honored as the founder of the Highline Historical Society at the Society's First Founders Award Dinner. She was selected for this award as the founder of the Burien Heritage Society, our predecessor organization. Jeanne moved to Burien in 1991, and has applied her prodigious energies to our Highline communities in a number of organizations and activities. She is shown here after receiving her award from **Alexander Sasonoff**, President of the Historical Society Board of Trustees.

The Awards Dinner and Silent Auction was held at Rainier Golf & Country Club, and was attended by 84 members and guests. Bidding was spirited for a number of donated items, photographs, gift packages and get-aways. The guest speaker was KCPQ-TV's **Tony Ventrella**, who entertained the group with his own memories of "the good old days..." and of the value of preserving our mutual heritage. The evening took in \$10,000 for the Society's capital building campaign.

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From the President



Our family moved from Seattle's north end to the White Center area in 1936. It was a sparsely populated area with many vacant lots between the existing homes. All of the roads were graveled and there were no sidewalks. The war sabers had already started to rattle in Europe. The US Army Air Force ordered B-17's from The Boeing Company. My father was fortunate to get a job with the company, so we moved to be near the factory. Boeing was building the China Clippers at Plant One and launching them into the Duwamish River. At Plant Two they were

building B-17's. The Duwamish valley was dotted with farms amongst the various factories and to the south it was all farmlands and wetlands. Unfortunately, all of the garbage collected in Seattle was being dumped into the marshlands as fill. It was then ignited and burned. The location of this dumping ground was between Kenyon and Elmgrove and 1st Avenue S. The 1st Ave South bridge was a two-lane affair that sat on a turntable in the middle of the river and was oriented east and west.

Oil, paint, tires and everything else you could think of was placed into the dump. The burning garbage sent huge volumes of smoke into the air, and when the wind was blowing from the south the areas of South Park and Georgetown disappeared in the blackish mixture of gases. The air was filled with flakes of ash as big as snowflakes. The gasping citizens of the south end complained to the city fathers to no avail. The stigma of the dump and factories of this area left a bruise that took many years to overcome. The university was in the north end, the city in the middle and the dumps and factories in the south end. For years I remember that, after telling a person where I lived, they would say, "Oh, down by the dump."

Despite this stain on the area we are rich in history. The Highline Historical Society is moving to preserve this bit of the past so that our children and grandchildren will know what happened here. We are raising funds to build a museum and we need your help. Ask your friends and neighbors to join the Society so that we can have a large base of people to support this worthy endeavor. We can rise up out of the ashes of the past and construct a building to house the wonderful collections of history in our possession.

Alexander G. Sasonoff

"....South Park & Georgetown disappeared in the blackish mixture of gases."

Highline Historical Society News

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Comments or information for publication may be sent to Editor, at the Society address, call 206-246-6354 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.

Upcoming Society Events & Programs

July 31 - **Red Hat Society Luncheon** to benefit the Society Capital Building Campaign.

August 15 - **Vashon-Maury Island history cruise**

August 16 - **New exhibit** opens at SeaTac City Hall.

September 29 - **Normandy Park Community Club** program features Paul Dorpat.

Coming in November -
Eleventh Annual
Salute to Pioneers!

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

Red Hat Society Luncheon! - Saturday, July 31st - 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - Ladies, you won't want to miss this year's Red Hat Society Luncheon! Dedicated to all of you that don't have the time to do something for every good group in town, the Red Hat Society of Highline supports a featured charity each year. Members of the Red Hat Society pay no dues and continue to work with their own favorite cause, but each year attend the Red Hat luncheon, enjoy the free meal and write one good check to the featured cause. This year the proceeds of the event support the Highline Historical Society Capital Building Campaign. Previous Red Hat recipients have included the Highline Hospital Cancer Center and City Year. Please plan to join us, spend a pleasant time cruising Lake Burien sipping champagne with strawberries, wear your best red hat (Red hat encouraged; wear a pink hat if you're under 50), perhaps a purple dress, and enjoy a salad luncheon served by the men on the Society Board of Trustees. To RSVP and receive directions, call 206-246-6354.

Sail Southern Puget Sound Aboard the Virginia V - On Sunday, August 15th, the Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association will offer an Around-the-Island cruise aboard the National Historic Landmark Steamship Virginia V. Tickets for the cruise are \$50 per person. The cruise will begin and end at Vashon's north end passenger ferry dock, adjacent to where the ferry from Fauntleroy docks, so visitors coming from Seattle can walk on board the ferry at Fauntleroy, and then walk on board the Virginia V. Passengers may board starting at 12:30 PM, and the vessel will depart at 1:00 PM. The cruise will run until approximately 5:30 PM. Bring your own lunch, no alcohol allowed, and soft-soled shoes are required. Local historians will point out sites of historic interest, such as the former Lisabeula resort (hailing port of the *Virginia V*), Camp Sealth (founded in 1921), Point Robinson Lighthouse (recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places), the Dockton shipyards, and sites of Chautauqua meetings in the 1890s. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Barbara Steen at 206-463-9355 or email vashonsteen@aol.com. Proceeds support the Island Heritage Museum exhibit fund.

SeaTac City Hall Exhibit - Its an Election Year! The Society is featuring elections in the upcoming set of exhibits planned for installation in SeaTac. The exhibits will feature political buttons and other patriotic and elections memorabilia represented in the Society's collections and in the outstanding and prolific collections of SeaTac resident **Don Speckhals**, who has collected pins and buttons for 50 years. Opening August 16th at SeaTac City Hall, 4800 S. 188th Street.

The Return of Paul Dorpat Wednesday, September 29th, 7:00 PM – at the Cove. The Society is pleased to co-host this program with the Normandy Park Community Club. Dorpat, a popular raconteur, will provide a program featuring south King County and some of his popular “Then and Now” series that our audiences have become familiar with over the past several years. The Society will exhibit a mounted photo collection that will include the photos produced last year for the 50th Anniversary of Normandy Park. The program is free of charge but a donation will be solicited to benefit the Historical Society.

Wish List

Can you help with any of the following items? If so, please contact the Society at 206-246-6354.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. New or used, white all-cotton sheets | 4. Good extension ladder |
| 2. Heavy duty shelving | 5. A metal file cabinet with extra-deep drawers - 14" - 15" |
| 3. Space heater | |

Survey Results

In February of 2004, the Society distributed a survey to 700 members of the Highline community soliciting advice about the exhibit content of the proposed Highline Heritage Museum, now in the planning stage. Surveys were distributed to the members of the Society (which includes a number of pioneer families and long-time residents), staff members of Highline cities, current and retired schoolteachers, high school honors history students and 75 business owners in Highline. Three hundred thirty seven surveys were returned, an extremely large response of 48%.

In the following four charts, some of the initial results that provide specific answers have been compiled.

The first chart, below, is the response to the question that said: "I believe our new museum should have strong historical representation in the following areas." Respondents were asked to rank 17 items from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The chart titled "**Strong historical representation desired in these areas**" reflects the ranking of the Strongly Agree column.



Chart #2, below, is a bar chart that reflects the respondents' opinions as to who would be the museum's **primary members and visitors**.

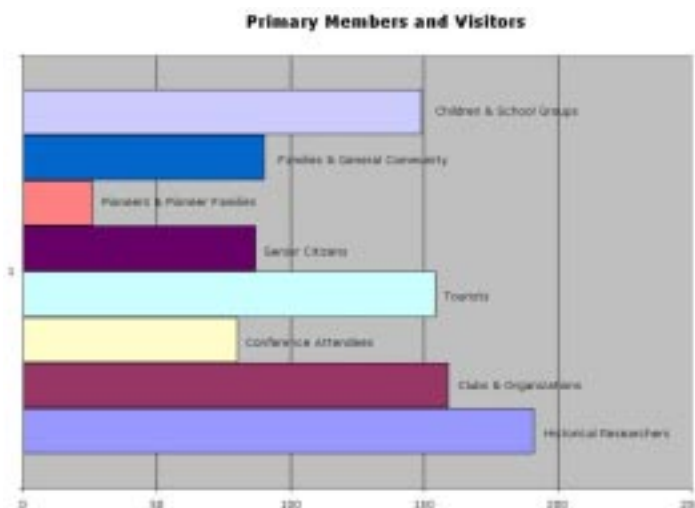
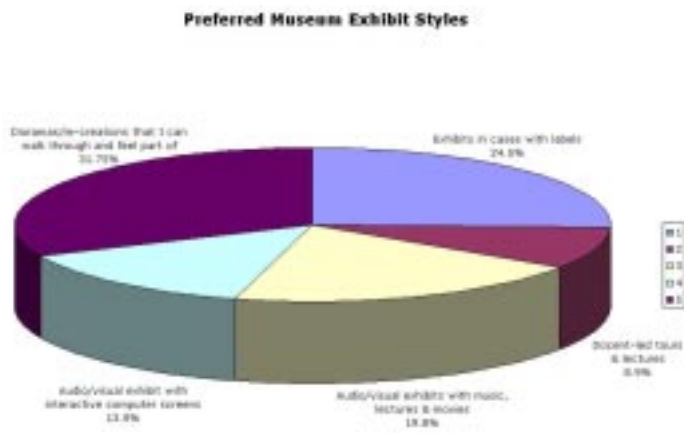


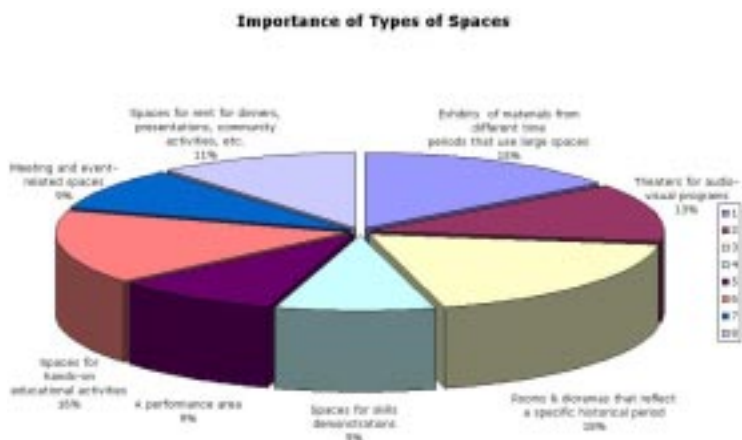
Chart #3 is the response to the question that said: "I most enjoy museum exhibits with the following styles." Respondents were asked to rank 5 items from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The chart titled "**Preferred Museum Exhibit Styles**" reflects the ranking of the Strongly Agree column.



Continued next page

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Chart #4 is the response to the question that said: “How important is it for a museum to have...?” Respondents were asked to rank 8 types of museum spaces from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The chart titled “**Importance of Types of Spaces**” reflects the ranking of the Strongly Agree column.



Although the results of the survey were anonymous, respondents were given an option to provide biographical information of a statistical nature. Approximately two thirds of respondents provided their occupation and age. Seventy-eight respondents were under the age of 20 (students). The ages of remainder were evenly distributed by decade, with 13 responding who were over the age of 80.

Some of the representative occupations listed by respondents ranged from teachers (current and retired - 14), to elected officials, librarians, an editor, city employees, current and retired Boeing employees (20), veterinary worker, business owners, accountants, airline workers, housewives, mail carrier, security guard, retired military officers, a receptionist, retired tax consultant, city planner, criminal investigator for the Public Defender, privacy director for a dot com company, pizza store owner, retired and current pilots, retired airline sales exec., an elevator inspector, health care administrator, art specialist, church treasurer, bowling alley owner and a Starbucks employee.

Those that chose to release their names and telephone number were entered in a drawing for a free membership into Society. The winner of this drawing was **Helen**

Kauffman. The Kauffman membership will be extended at renewal time. Thank you to all who participated! The information contained in the surveys will be shared with the Board of Trustees and with professional exhibit designers and curators that will provide the initial exhibits for our new Highline Heritage Museum.

Sunnydale School's 100th Birthday

Sunnydale School's 100th Anniversary was celebrated Saturday, May 22nd, with a crowd of more than 700 touring their school and participating in a series of commemoration events. The City of Burien opened a sport court for joint community/student use, and speakers told of early years at Sunnydale. The Pioneer Farm Museum set up a group of displays in the gymnasium for students to sample how things were done many years ago. They could try their hand at grinding grain, work with metal and observe how early students in Highline dressed for school. In the hallway former students could visit classrooms and booths set up by local non-profits, and enjoy a large photo exhibit installed by the Society. More than 30 people signed up to have their early memories of Sunnydale School recorded. In the photo below, taken by Jerry Robinson, a student is testing his blacksmithing skills.



Dinner & Silent Auction

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***The evening brought in
\$10,000 to be applied
toward our museum
project!***



Barbie Siefert & Tony Ventrella chat before his presentation.



Jean and Wilton Whisler prepare for dinner.



Gloria Sealey (left), Janet & Joe Wozniak enjoy the evening.



Trustee Helen Kludt compares notes with Miriam Curran during the silent auction.

Dear Editor:

In your April issue of the *Highline Historical Society News* there appeared the oral history of "Gwen Morris" who is a dear friend of mine. She and Jack Stokes lived in Seahurst during their forty-nine year marriage and raised three sons in the Highline area. Jack's business in Burien was Stokes Insurance Agency for 40 some years.

Gwynfil is her correct name of which she is very proud because of her Welch heritage, especially now that her new great-grandchild is named Gwynfil. When I called her today concerning the article, she told me of the fun and recognition she had at Sunnydale's 100th Anniversary Celebration. Thus, this note to you correcting her name to "Gwynfil Morris Stokes" if there is any publicity concerning her.

Gwen's father, Frank Morris, preceded his family to America from Wales. Gwen, her sister, Cynthia Young (recently deceased and also a resident of Seahurst), and her mother came to America on the Olympic, the sister ship to the Titanic. She was nine years old and has vivid memories of the crossing.

As a member of the Historical Society, may I take this opportunity to commend the Board for their tireless and commendable efforts to create the Society and continue its ongoing activities and growth.

Most Sincerely,
Carol Selander

Recent Donations

A donation from **Mr. And Mrs. Ed Allen** of an aluminum stepladder, to the collections storage facility.

A donation from **Sally Teller Buswell** of lint-free diapers, to the collections for cleaning artifacts.

A donation from **Mae Lingwood Pendergrass** of pioneer family photos, scrapbooks and several vintage postcard collections, to the collections.

A donation from **Jim and Tess Chilton** of an aerial photo of Miller's Beach and the Ben Tipp house and clubhouse, est. 1930's, to the collections.

A donation from **Mrs. Arlene Post** of a vintage slide projector, to the collections.

A donation from **Stephen Lamphear** of a copy machine, a computer printer, a Xerox (printer, scanner, fax and copier) workstation, and photo processing software, for museum operations at the collections storage facility.

A donation from **Glenn Jones** of a 100' extension cord, to the collections storage facility.

A donation from **John Upthegrove** of a 25' extension cord, to the collections storage facility.

A donation from **Gerald Teller** of a collection of 1950's pamphlets and Pirate's Logs, to the collections.

A donation by **Microflex Corporation** of a Sharp multiplex collating copier for museum operations.

A donation from **Gene and Warren Pugh** of an architect's drafting table and a 5-drawer flat file for collections storage.

A donation to the collections of PTA records dating from 1948, from **Hazel Valley** Elementary School.

A donation to the collections from **John Emch** of an Apple Mac Classic, modem & laser printer.

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



Join The Highline Historical Society

Benefits of an annual HHS Membership Include...

- Quarterly newsletter
- 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



Whether you attended Pacific Junior High School - or not - these natty students are sure to stir smiles and memories of the '60's.

Highline Historical Society
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*