



Highline Historical Society News

Volume 48

October 2008

Dia de los Muertos

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.

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Historical Society
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The Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos in Spanish) is a holiday celebrated mainly in Mexico and by people of Mexican heritage (and others) in the US and Canada. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and relatives who have died. The celebration occurs on the 1st and 2nd of November, in connection with the Catholic holy days of All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, which take place on those days. Traditions include building private altars honoring the deceased, using sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these gifts. Observance of the holiday in Mexican-American communities in the US has become more important and widespread as the community grows numerically and economically.

Scholars trace the origins of the modern holiday to indigenous observances dating back thousands of years, and to an Aztec festival dedicated to a goddess called Mictecacihuatl (known in English as "The Lady of the Dead").

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From the President

So many good things are happening at the Historical Society that we can barely keep up. Curators, Volunteers, and Trustees alike are all busy with projects. Our Building Committee works regularly with the architect, our Manager is talking to groups, we have a newly - founded Education Committee working with teachers and the Exhibit Designer to align our school programs for the new museum with state education standards. Other Trustees are taping Oral Histories and working on the collections. The curators are preparing the collections for exhibition and are sustaining outside exhibits in SeaTac and Normandy Park City Halls. We are producing programs, exhibits and community outreach... all this while working to build a fine museum with a Smithsonian affiliation right here in Highline. There aren't enough hours in the day or enough people to cover all the bases. If you have a spare hour in your week, help at the collections, bring a friend to a program, and encourage your neighbors to join the Society.



In challenging times it is good to find activities right here in our communities to sustain us. Participate in our programs listed on the next page, visit our exhibits and bid on the online auction. Let's keep the momentum going and finish this project!

Terry Jarvis Anderson



Henry Freidman displays his book, "I'm No Hero, Journeys of a Holocaust Survivor" at the Society's presentation of his compelling program in August. His excellent book can be ordered through the Society. Contact Cyndi Upthegrove for more information at 206-246-6354.

Photo Dick Dahlgard

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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

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.

Upcoming Events and Programs

SeaTac Exhibit
Dick Tracy's Best!
Opens Oct 28

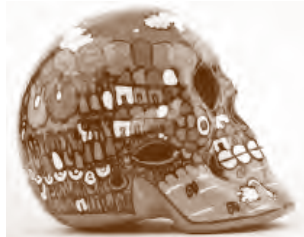
**Commemorate the
Day of the Dead!**
Nov. 1-2 at Burien's
Community Center

**The Seike Garden
An American Story**
Nov. 23 at
SeaTac City Hall

**Start Your Christmas
Shopping!**
Nov. 15 - Dec. 15

SeaTac Exhibit - City Hall - 4800 S 188th St. Daily 9-5

Using former SeaTac resident Dick Tracy's excellent collection of Dick Tracy memorabilia and artifacts, we have put together a very fun and nostalgic exhibit. Remember Dick Tracy as he used to be! Opening at City Hall on Tuesday, October 28, 2008. Stop by and bring a friend .



Ofrendas in Highline !!

**Burien Community Center (425 SW 144th St.)
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Nov. 1st and 2nd**

Members and friends are invited to visit the Center and view the Ofrendas placed there by members of our local Highline Latino community. Curator Nancy Salguero McKay, and Society Trustee Mauricio Ayon will be commemorating their own families, and many familiar members of the community will be participating.

The Seike Garden, An American Story. SeaTac City Hall (4800 S. 188th St.) 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Sunday, November 23

Many people have told us that they missed the premiere of this 27 minute documentary about moving the beautiful Seike Gardens. So we have decided to show it again. Built by the Seikes as a tribute to a family member who was killed in WWII, the community was faced with the possibility of losing this valuable cultural asset. The compelling story of saving the gardens.

'Tis the Season - Online Fundraising Auction, Nov. 15 - Dec. 15 Give the Gift that Keeps on Giving!

Shop the Historical Society online auction for great items for Christmas. Your shopping helps to support the activities and the building campaign for the Society, and you also may find the perfect gift or service for that hard-to-please person on your shopping list. Watch your email or your local paper for the auction starting announcement, or go to www.cmarket.com/highline to shop starting on November 15th.

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Volunteer Appreciation Picnic 2008



Curators Nancy McKay and Angela Stalgis.



Lots of chat.
Front table: Trustee Gary Long, Jane Emerson and Barbara Coplen
Back left table: Lynn Castillo, Beth Williams and Rochelle Flynn
Table back right: Judy Elliot



Helen Hove helps the magician search for Mike Emerson's wallet.

On August 14, the Society Curators and Trustees honored thirty five of the volunteers that sustain our organization. Volunteers that help with the collections, the garden tour, the Board of Trustees, and the office were all treated to a picnic provided by the Trustees. Sleight of hand, balloon animals for the children and a magic show were provided by Mike the Magician.



Volunteers Judy Elliot, Blanche Black, Chuck Burgess, Helen and Carl Hove and Robert Howell (with drink - sorry Robert) Photos Dick Dahlgard.

Society Awarded Grants

King County's 4Culture has awarded the Society an \$1800 Special Projects grant for a Photograph Digitization Project. This grant enables Society curators to train volunteers and interns to digitize and catalogue photographs. This continuing project will include the development of a workbook to be posted online for others to use, and will ultimately make it possible to digitize and post as many as 15,000 Historical Society photos. Interested members are invited to participate either to learn for themselves or to assist the Society with the project. Call Cyndi Upthegrove at 206-246-6354 for more information.

Additionally, the Society has been awarded a \$3900 Facilities and Fixed Assets grant from 4Culture to cover the expense of purchasing a computer system and equipment for making vinyl cut letters. This letter making and sign making equipment is designed for use for museum exhibits. The Society will realize large savings by being able to make their own signs rather than contracting their production.

The King County Waste Management Division has announced the award of a \$20,000 grant to the Society to assist with the "green" environmental components of our new museum building. The new Highline Heritage Museum has been designed as a LEED Silver rated building, utilizing geo-thermal heating and air conditioning, pervious paving on the exterior of the building and a partial green roof.



The following articles are reprinted from the SEAHURST PARK OPTIMIST, May, 1915. - Ed.

New Public School Is A Credit to the District

A thriving public school, equipped with a splendid modern building and a five-acre plat of ground is one of the recent acquisitions to the rapidly growing home district contiguous to Lake Burien and the Sound. The school grounds, which are the largest in King county, are situated in Seahurst Park, near the terminus of the municipal railway line. These grounds are being attractively landscaped, and when the improvements are completed the school district will possess one of the most sightly schools in the entire west.

Amid such congenial and inspiring surroundings, the school children of the Lake Burien district are making preparations for their life's work. School was started in a tent and the new building was occupied last November. So rapidly has progress been made in the school work that a high school course will be installed the coming fall.

Occupying a central position on the broad grounds, and constructed with a view to beauty as well as roominess and convenience, the new structure is a handsome addition to the schools of the county. The exterior of the building is of stucco finish, enriched with Welsh quarry tiles.

The building contains four classrooms, principal and teachers' room, large recreation quarters for both boys and girls, boiler room, shower, baths, etc.

The school is in charge of Miss Beatrice Snow, and the school board is composed of True Uneapher, chairman, W. B. Sprague and Fred Dashley, all of whom have property interests in the Lake Burien district and are vitally concerned in its welfare.

City Conveniences For Home Owners

Among its various other advantages for home owners, Seahurst Park is equipped with a splendid water system of its own. The water, which comes from pure, sparkling mountain springs, is raised to a large tank, and thence distributed by gravity flow throughout all portions of this 200 acre residential park.

A water shed of 30 acres has been reserved for the protection of the water supply, and the water is sent through galvanized mains, thus insuring its purity at all times. There is an abundant supply for both irrigation and domestic use.

Telephone service is also supplied to Seahurst Park giving direct connection with all Seattle lines, with no toll charges. Thus the Seahurst Park resident, although living in the country, can call up any point in Seattle at any time, free of charge. With a telephone system and street car system, he is in intimate touch with the city at all times.

Donations and Memorials

The following items were recently donated to the 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, as well as for both restricted and unrestricted cash donations. For more information about donating items to HHS, please call 246-6354 or send an email to editor@highlinehistory.org

From **Jerry and Elsbeth Robinson**, for the archives, a pamphlet titled "King County Washington Boating Code", 1964, by Commissioner **Ed Munro**.

From **Bonnie Myhre**, for the archives, an excellent photograph of the 1953 Toastmistress Club in the Angle Lake (South Seattle) area. Hats and corsages abound!

From **Elaine M. Robbins**, for the archives, in memory of **Ella Bluemell Carey**, Club Treasurer, two scrapbooks: Boulevard Park Democratic Women and Evergreen Democratic Women's Society.

From **Chuck and Patti Burgess**, for the collections, a Salish dugout cedar canoe, circa 1915-1920.

From the estate of SeaTac's **Francis "Frankie" Tracy**, for the collections, two dollhouses complete with hundreds of fixtures and items, a 50-year project of the decedent.

From **Kenneth and Kathy Hand**, for the Highline Schools exhibit in our new museum, a Seattle Mariners lunchbox. From **Terry Anderson**, another lunchbox for the same exhibit.

From **Pat and Fred Ronhaar**, for the collections Emergency Kit, several disposable cameras. For the collections, they have donated half a dozen vintage cameras.

From **Ian Gunsel**, for the collections Emergency Kit, a CB radio and base station.

From **Connie O'Keefe**, daughter, for the collections, a complete collection of White Center boxer **Harry "Kid" Matthews** memorabilia, chronicling his more than 200 pro bouts (only 4 losses). He fought in four different divisions over the course of his 24-year career. (LW, MW, LH, H --- Age 14 thru 36). Mentioned in the *Guinness Book of Records*, he's known for the longest winning streak on record.



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

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 (necessary to receive Monthly E-News)

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

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Expires: _____

Signature: _____

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This application is for **new members only**. Renewing members will be notified by mail.

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return to the Society. Thank you.*

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Duplicate mailing



Window Dressing

Curator Nancy McKay is captured resting inside an exhibit case at SeaTac City Hall at the completion of the “Then and Now” installation.