



# Highline Historical Society News

Volume 52

October 2009

## Board of Trustees Approves Final Museum Design. Fundraising Begins.

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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On September 10, 2009, the Society Board of Trustees gave final approval for the design of the new Highline Heritage Museum. The building, designed by Rohleder Borges Architects, is to be located on the Southwest corner of SW 152nd Street and Ambaum Boulevard, SW. Trustees thanked Building Committee members that have worked on this design project for the past year. These members; Kent Matheson, Pat Patterson, Hal Duncanson and consultant Richard Beckerman met regularly with the architects and Trustees from the Board. Trustee Gary Long chaired the Building Committee. The next step in the process of building this excellent facility is to retain fundraising counsel. The Board will be moving forward on this at their October meeting.

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## From the President

More than 10 years ago a group of people came together to preserve a number of important historical collections in Highline. They, and their successors, have spent a great deal of time and dollars planning step by step to provide a new institution for our citizens. As members reading this newsletter, you are also part of this project. It takes your membership dollars and word of mouth support in your local communities to keep this project alive.

This is a beautiful building, designed by experts to be a museum for the 21st Century. It has geo-thermal heating and air conditioning, a green roof and permeable concrete. It has the latest in security and lighting, which together with its environmental controls will help the building qualify to be a site for Smithsonian traveling exhibits. There is also a childrens' activity area, a museum store, a small theater/auditorium, a library, an archive and fascinating galleries.

You can help this project succeed by encouraging your friends and neighbors to become members of the Highline Historical Society. There is a membership form on page 7 of this newsletter. Please share it with someone new.

*Terry Jarvis Anderson*



## From the Curator of Collections - Caring for your Silver

Collections of metals, coins, boxes and other treasures are often prized for their intrinsic value and beauty. The family silver, especially if engraved with an ancestor's initials, is treasure with tradition. Silver in its pure form is so unstable that it is rarely found in nature. Silver is extremely susceptible to the form of corrosion called tarnishing. Tarnish is actually a black layer of silver sulfide, a combination of silver and gaseous silver from the atmosphere. Silver also combines easily with chlorides, oxygen and hydroxides when it comes in contact with them. Even the minute traces of these elements found in the oil on human skin can cause corrosion.

Because the leading cause of tarnish is the sulfur found in the air, silver objects that are used or displayed rather than carefully stored will eventually acquire some tarnish. The earliest stage of corrosion, a light brown film, can be removed without polishing. If your piece has only minor tarnish, proceed with a gentle cleaning. Put a clean piece of flannel, muslin or other soft cotton on the table as a work surface. If the piece is dirty, dust it lightly with a soft brush directed toward a vacuum nozzle. Select a broad brush with an all wooden handle, or tape any metal parts so the brush handle will not scratch the silver. Do not use a dust cloth as it will not reach into small crevices. And it can scratch an object if it rubs trapped grit on the surface. Wash the piece in warm water with a mild detergent. Be sure not to immerse hollow-handled pieces or objects with crannies from which water cannot easily drain.

### How to Polish

Most polishes and dips are too abrasive for the family silver and may contain damaging sulfuric acid or ammonia. Electrolytic, electrochemical and aluminum with baking soda methods of removing tarnish are also harmful because they remove too much of the underlying silver. Make sure the pieces are strong enough to withstand polishing. If you find

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**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.

*Continued on page 6*

**Upcoming Events and Programs**

**SeaTac Exhibit**  
SeaTac Firefighters  
until January

**Commemorate the  
Day of the Dead!**  
Nov. 1 at Burien's  
Interim Art Space

**Veteran's Day  
Community Celebration**  
SeaTac  
Community Center

**Online Fundraising  
Auction**

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

Using selections from the Society's collections and loaned items from the families of long-time SeaTac firefighters, Curator Nancy McKay has put together an engaging exhibit. It was installed on 9/11 and commemorates the challenges that firefighters face every time they go to work. It will be in place until the first of the year. Stop by and bring a friend.

**A Night of 1000 Pumpkins**  
**Burien/ Interim Art Space (6th Ave SW and SW 150th Street)**  
**3:30 PM - 11:00 PM - Nov. 1st**

Members and friends are invited to visit the B/IAS and view the Ofrendas placed there by members of our local Highline Hispanic community. Curator Nancy Salguero McKay and students from Global Connections High School (formerly Tyee HS) and Highline Community College will be commemorating their own families and friends. You will find many familiar members of the community participating. The public is invited to bring their Jack o' Lanterns from Halloween so that we may have as many as 1000 pumpkins. This is the last art event scheduled for this space and the art will be removed shortly after this event.

**Veteran's Day Community Celebration**  
**2:00 PM, November 11 - SeaTac Community Center (13735 24th Ave S.)**

November 11th is Veteran's Day. The Society is collaborating with the Des Moines Memorial Drive Committee to host this event honoring and commemorating veterans of America's wars. A special emphasis is being placed on the contributions of women to these efforts. The Society Trustee Kitty Milne has prepared a Veteran's Day exhibit that will be displayed at the event.

**Holiday Fundraising Auction - Nov. 15th - Dec. 15th.**

In lieu of an annual fundraising appeal, the Society gives our supporters an opportunity to bid online for services, dinners, holiday items and funded items that help us care for our collections. We look forward to your participation in this event. We are soliciting donated items, and we need bidders. If you can participate in any way please contact Cyndi Upthegrove at 206-246-6354.

*Now more than ever.*

**Burien Branch**  
224 SW 152nd Street  
Burien, WA  
206-243-6869



MEMBER FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



*Were you there? Jolly Rogers Motorcycle Club  
Christmas Party, December 9, 1945*

Thank you for sponsoring our newsletter.



*The Society thanks author Charlie Ganong for his contributions to preserving our local history. Several years ago, with a grant from 4Culture, Charlie produced a comprehensive history of Burien's parks. The following is his study of Shorewood Park. - Ed*

## Shorewood Park

119<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. & 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W.  
3.3 Acres

I'm not sure to what extent Shorewood Park is, or ever was, connected to Shorewood School. This north-Burien elementary school was "quickly built" as a 10-room facility in 1951 on a "minimal site of 7.8 acres" to handle the area's growth. A year later, six rooms were added and, two years after that, six more, needed to house the 655 pupils who were soon enrolled there. (Highline School District Chronicle, p. 39)

Shorewood Elementary opened in September, 1952. There were 10 classes and 11 teachers—one class being held in the hall (!). By 1963 Shorewood was the largest elementary school in the Highline District, with 750 students, 25 regular teachers, 21 classrooms and 4 portables. (White Center Remembers, p. 133)

Today Shorewood Park forms the southern boundary of the Shorewood schoolgrounds. Longtime Shorewood resident Fred Henzi believes that when the ground was leveled to build the school and adjoining playground, the head of the ravine (in which the current park lies) was filled in. This would have been a major project involving "lots of engineering work." The natural drainage was diverted west and under 28th Avenue Southwest. Prior to this time, during severe storms and "gully washers," accumulated stormwater would shoot down the ravine—rushing over a small earthen dam which bisected the park—dumping mud and debris in the cul de sac below (27th Place) and onto Marine View Drive.

Originally the Shorewood Park property was owned by a Mr. Wallace, who resided on Vashon Island. Wallace owned most of the land between 28th S.W. and 119th S.W. and Marine View Drive S.W. He built at least six homes (or sold the lots for them) in this neighborhood. During the 1960s (and perhaps earlier) the Brunner family lived in the home just southwest of the entrance to the Park on 28th S.W. (I attended Shorewood School with Scott Brunner, and spent a lot of time at his house and in the "woods" next to it, which is now Shorewood Park.)

Apparently Mr. Wallace could have developed the Shorewood property as late as the 1970s. He wanted \$50,000 for the property, but there were no takers. Eventually King County purchased the land, turning it into "Highline Neighborhood Park No. 4." It was added to the King County Parks

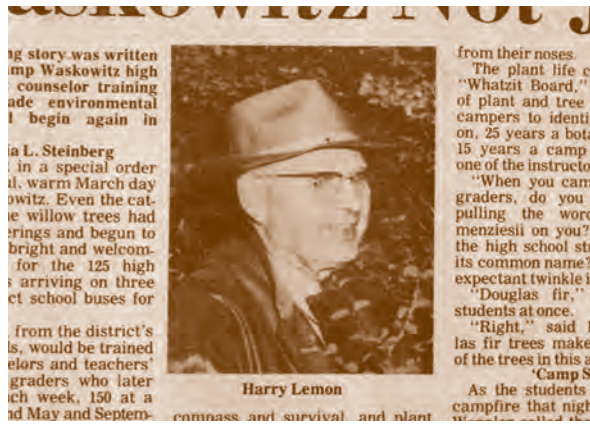
Department's list of active Forward Thrust projects in April, 1971. ("Park near Shorewood added to active projects' report," Highline Times, June 2, 1971)

There was much debate about what to do with the new park. Apparently there was a lot of junk and debris on the property—piles of bricks and whatnot, an old car, wheels (even wagon wheels!)—and the County decided to keep it as an unenclosed park. There was also a small house or cabin on the property, which the County rented out. There was a road of sorts into the park on which one could drive (and turnaround) at least as far as the "dam," and also a small wooden bridge which may have spanned the gully and even connected to 26th Avenue S.W. (Telephone interview with Fred Kenzi, August 10, 2007).

For decades schoolchildren have used Shorewood Park as an outdoor classroom, where they built campfires, learned camp songs and honed their outdoor cooking skills in preparation for a week at Camp Waskowitz. The high point of these sessions was always the visit by Harry Lemon, "Mr. Conservation," one of the Highline School District's first teachers and an expert on conservation and ecology. (His introduction usually went: "You've all seen a fuzzy peach; well, now you've met a Harry Lemon!") Mr. Lemon helped instill the conservation ethic and a love of the outdoors in the hearts and lives of thousands of Highline District students who attended his classes and Camp Waskowitz.

Mr. Lemon was Highline School District's first naturalist in the Outdoor Education program centered around Camp Waskowitz. After retiring from teaching in 1963, he spent the next 12 years as a resident Outdoor Education staff member. He made frequent trips into the woods—Shorewood Park and other forested places he called "God's Garden"—to teach students an abiding love and reverence for all living things. Using the wooded ravines of Shorewood Park and Camp Waskowitz as a "living laboratory," he taught hundreds of eager, young students to immerse ourselves in the wonders of the natural world. Sitting around a campfire in Shorewood Gully, Mr. Lemon taught us the names (both common and scientific) and uses of dozens of nearby plant and tree species, as well as the importance of preserving these precious natural resources.

Camp Waskowitz, a nationally acclaimed "outdoor class-



*Harry Lemon was the first naturalist in the school district's Outdoor Education program. Photo Highline Times.*

room” in the Cascade Mountains near North Bend, was acquired by the Highline School District in 1957. (Many Roads, p. 24) More than just a “camp for kids,” Waskowitz offered an education in nature, outdoor survival and conservation. Camp Director Bill Wepler said of the whole experience, which typically began for students with “trial runs” in Shorewood Park, that “we want children to gain a protective feeling for nature.” (“Waskowitz Not Just Kids Camp,” Highline Times, September, 1973.)

Author’s personal recollections: Shorewood Park was one of the routes I would take to get to the house of one of my first friends in the area, Steve Armstrong. Steve lived on Shorewood beach, and the most direct (and least conspicuous, when stealth was required) route to his house was via the trail through Shorewood Park. (It wasn’t officially a park then, just a handy patch of woods.) The trail opened into a little draw that led right down to the beach. That was in 1964-1966. It looks pretty much the same today. In 1967 I smoked my first cigarette in those woods, in a little clearing now overgrown with ivy, salal and wild blackberries. I was in 7th grade and trying to be cool. I know it made me dizzy.

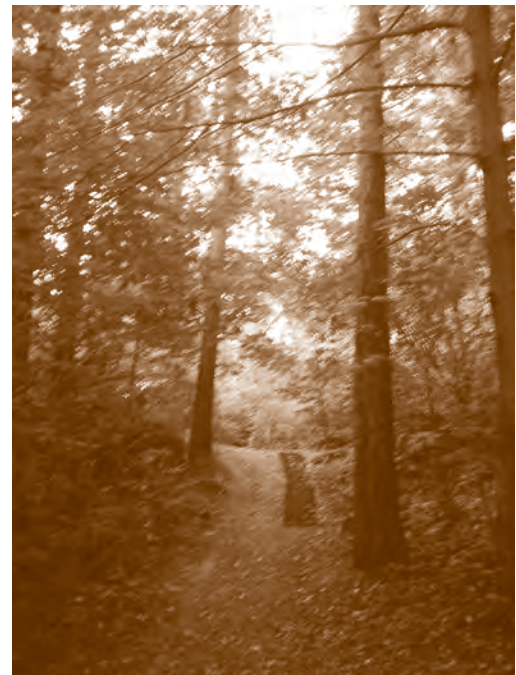
Shorewood Park also devoured many a “home run” kickball, which sometimes bounced so far down the gully that it took the hapless outfielders several embarrassing minutes to scramble down the bank and retrieve it, usually much too late. Many of us undoubtedly stole our first kisses in Shorewood Park, although with whom I’ll never tell. . .

Shorewood Park today is classified as a “neighborhood,” “open space” and “passive” park by various use descriptions and plans. It is mostly wooded with large trees and sloping topography. A path in the park connects 28th Avenue S.W. to Shorewood Elementary School. (Salmon Creek Neighborhood Plan, Oct. 2004, p. 20) A branch of the path drops to the south, toward Puget Sound—perhaps the remains of an old

skid road, where logs were dragged down to the nearby shore to be rafted to Seattle mills. A couple of large logs, all but consumed by mushrooms and returned to earth, lie by the side of the trail—a mossy tribute to days gone by.

The northernmost of Burien’s parks, Shorewood Park lies in a quiet, wooded depression bordering the noisy playgrounds of Shorewood School. Alas, in July 2007, 55-year-old Shorewood School was demolished. The new school opened in September, 2008. Luckily the park itself was not greatly affected by the construction.

In recent years, longtime Shorewood resident Ted Daley and others have spearheaded efforts to free Shorewood Park of invasive plants and build steps along the path. Other neighbors take part in these “ivy pulls” and cleanup parties. (Shorewoodonthesound.org website) Stairs were recently installed where the dam is (or was); and once a month volunteers spend two hours ridding the park of ivy and other invasive plants.



*A new stairway built by neighborhood volunteers graces the trail where the old earthen dam bisects Shorewood gully. September, 2007. Charles Ganong/Highline Historical Society.*

*Continued from page 2*

cracks, weak areas, old repairs or loose and missing parts, do not polish the piece yourself. Take it to a conservator.

You may need to remove old, waxy polish residues before you polish. Sometimes they can be removed by applying a few drops of mild dry detergent solution (for example, a 2% solution of Orvus in water) to the spot, waiting a few minutes, and removing with cotton swabs. Be careful to avoid scratching the surface with the old polish and accumulated grime. Change cotton swabs often and use a rolling rather than a scrubbing motion. To polish, mix in a shallow dish a small amount of precipitated calcium carbonate with a 2% solution of mild detergent and water. The mixture should be the consistency of cream. Apply a small amount of the calcium carbonate mixture to the object, rubbing gently in a circular motion. A common mistake is to use too much.

#### **Where to find silver care materials:**

Unbleached cotton flannel is available from fabrics stores.

Orvus detergent is available from a veterinary supply house or a farm store.

Precipitated calcium carbonate is available from conservation suppliers.

Distilled or deionized water can be found at hardware and grocery stores.

Pacific silver cloth is available from fine jewelers or conservation suppliers.

3M Anti Tarnish strips can found in hardware stores and some supermarkets.

#### **Caring for your silver:**

Keep agents of corrosion such as salt, acidic food, newspaper, wool and rubber away from silver vessels and utensils. Wash silver pieces with warm water and mild soap; dry them thoroughly with a soft cloth. Avoid electrolytic and electrochemical processes, as well as commercial polishes and dips. Polish by gently applying slurry of calcium carbonate and mild detergent. After polishing, wash pieces with mild soap and water to remove residues and dry them with a lint-free cloth. After washing or polishing silver handle it with a soft cloth or clean cotton gloves to prevent fingerprints.

Store pieces individually wrapped in storage bags made of Pacific silver cloth, or wrapped in sulfur and acid free tissue paper and sealed in a bag with a 3M Anti Tarnish strip. Store your silver at a moderate temperature and relative humidity. Always keep your silver away from corrosive agents.

Please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to answer members' questions about conserving your personal

**- Nancy Salguero McKay**

## **Volunteer Party 2009**

Almost 40 Society volunteers braved a huge cloudburst to attend the 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Guests scampered inside and Jim Hughes from Sal's Deli served his delicious BBQ indoors. Old Time Fiddlers entertained and a great time was had by everyone. Last year volunteers donated 4300 hours, worth more than \$70,000. This is a tremendous asset for the Society and we appreciate the time, talents and energy of these very wonderful people.



*Volunteers Gene Pugh (left) and Beth Williams (right) flank Curator Nancy McKay.*



*Primo office volunteer Judy Elliot with Nancy McKay*



*Old Time Fiddlers provided excellent entertainment*

**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 206-246-6354 or send an email to editor@highlinehistory.org. You are helping to tell our stories.

From **Barbara Mack Batdorf**, for the collections, five excellent vintage Valentines given to her mother, **Anna Louise Glastetter**, in the 1940's.

From **Bob and Pam Gilbert**, for the archives from the the estate of **Robert Gilbert**, the original 1925 Renewal Certificate for Boy Scout Troop #1 at Sunnydale, WA.

From **Bob and Darlene King**, for the collections, a vintage electric fan to be used in upcoming exhibits.

From **Daniel Friedman**, for the collections, a 1973 world political globe.

From Georgie **Kunkel**, for the archives, a collection of newsletters from Gregory Heights Elementary School.

From **Iron Age Design** in Burien, for the archives, filing cabinet-sized storage for rolled documants.

From **Dena Schick**, for the collections and the archives from the estate of **Doris Yeisley Kvalheim**, high school items, photos and books (HHS Class of 1934), and a quilt made by Dena's great-grandmother, Sunnydale pioneer **Ann Margaret Carr**.



*Longtime Highline High School Band Director and local orchestra performer and leader, Percy Bronson.*

**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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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**.

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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*



**Southern Heights Elementary School.**

The photograph on the left is of the combined 5th, 6th and 7th grades in the 1920-1921 school year. The photo on the right is a King County photo of the building in 1909. Can you identify any of the students in this photograph?

Please contact the editor (See p. 2) if you, or someone you know, may be able to help with this.