



Highline Historical Society News

Volume 31 Preserving the Roots of the Community April 2004

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
2003-2004
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Old Time Radio Featured



The Society hosted its 10th Volunteer Appreciation event at the North SeaTac Community Center on Sunday, March 21st. Guests were greeted by SeaTac **Mayor Frank Hansen**, then volunteers were recognized for their contributions to the Society. More than 3000 hours of volunteer time have been accrued during the past year, and volunteers have provided services far beyond what many would think. This year's volunteer contributions have ranged from detailing and repairing a donated boat to prepare it for sale, to assisting with exhibits and serving on committees.

Entertainment for the event was provided by the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound. The non-profit group shown above entertains audiences all around Puget Sound with their excellent and faithful renditions of long-ago radio shows. Shown performing above are **Thomas Probst** as Doc Long the Texas womanizer, **Paul Feavel** as Jack Packard, the leader of the pack, and **Chuck Royalty**, as Reggie York the Brit. The group performed episodes 13 & 14 of I Love a Mystery, Temple of Vampires.

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From the President



National Volunteer Week is April 18 - 24, and all over the country organizations that rely on volunteers for their success will be recognizing these folks. This is the 30th annual celebration of National Volunteer Week, which began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting the week. To all of you that help move the Highline Historical Society along, we sincerely thank you. You have made this organization a better place. For those who would like to lend a hand, we would like to extend ours to you and welcome you aboard. Whether it's

working on the collections, helping on a committee, writing an article or offering to stuff envelopes and mail newsletters, we would love to have you as an active member of the HHS workforce.

Additionally, I would like to remind everyone to mark their calendars for April 22, 2004, when we are hosting our first Founders Day Dinner and Silent Auction at the Rainier Golf & Country Club. A special award will honor the founder of our organization, Jeanne Pfeifer. KCPQ - TV's anchor Tony Ventrella will be master of ceremonies and guest speaker. Members of the Board of Trustees are seeking donations for the auction and members of the Society are encouraged to attend and support the evening.

I want to encourage all of you to keep building our membership. If each of you brings in one new member, a friend or neighbor, we will double our size. A strong membership will guarantee the success of our organization.

Sincerely,
Alexander Sasonoff

Do you shop online? The Historical Society is registered as a recipient of funds raised through wellspent.org, an internet shopping site that passes on a percentage of the dollars spent at that site to non-profit organizations that the shopper may designate. We would encourage you to check this site, and if you are shopping for something specific that is available on wellspent.org, please remember to designate the Highline Historical Society.

**“Mark your
calendars for the
Founders Day
Dinner.”**

*Highline Historical
Society News*

is published by the
Highline Historical
Society
P.O. Box 317
Seahurst, WA 98062

Comments or information
for publication may
be sent to Editor, at the
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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

February 17 - Mid-August:
“Slide Rules, The Original Personal Computer!” exhibit at SeaTac City Hall

April - student cultural heritage exhibit featuring selections from Chinook Middle School - displayed at SeaTac City Hall.

April 20 - Genealogy class starts.

April 22 - Founders Day Dinner & Silent Auction

May 22 - 100th Anniversary of Sunnydale Elementary School

June - Burien Strawberry Festival

August 15 - New SeaTac exhibit opens

September 23 - Normandy Park Community Club program

November - Salute to Pioneers

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

“**Slide Rules – The Original Personal Computers**” – This exhibit opened at SeaTac City Hall on February 17 and will run until mid- August. Based on the extensive, 300-piece collection of long-time SeaTac resident **Raymond Baron**, the exhibit features the history and variety of slide rules that were the predecessors to today’s computers. Members are encouraged to visit and enjoy Mr. Baron’s collection, and the well-crafted exhibit designed for the Society by **Iolene Webb** of WebbGroup.

Middle School Cultural Heritage Fairs – Each year members of the Society visit the Middle School Cultural Heritage Fairs and select examples of students’ work to be exhibited at the various city halls. The Chinook Middle School program will be on March 31st and selected student exhibits will be displayed at SeaTac City Hall through April.

Beginning Genealogy – Classes will be taught in 6-two hour sessions by Highline pioneer and Society member **Jean Whisler**. Jean is a 40-year genealogist and has taught classes for 23 years. The course is for beginners and will discuss “...the things you need to know so you don’t make all the mistakes I made...” All handouts will be provided. Classes will be held in the Discover Burien classroom at 653 SW 152nd Street. The course is free for members of the Society. Cost for non-members is \$25. Registration is restricted to 15 participants. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM, beginning on April 20th. To register, please call 206-246-6354.

First Annual Awards Dinner with Silent Auction. Join KCPQ-TV’s Tony Ventrella and Highline Historical Society in honoring **Jeanne Pfeifer** on the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Highline Historical Society. The event is Thursday, April 22nd, from 5:30 - 8:30 PM. Tickets are \$50 per person. The evening will be highlighted by the first class buffet provided by Rainier Golf & Country Club accompanied by the jazz stylings of the Ryan Burns Trio. Bid on items such as a vacation getaway, local services and sporting events. Proceeds support the Society’s Capital Building Campaign. For an invitation, call 206-246-6354.

Sunnydale Elementary School’s 100th Anniversary. This event is being celebrated on May 22nd at the school (South 156th and Des Moines Memorial Boulevard). The program will begin at 11:00 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new sport court donated by the City of Burien. Following formalities and introductions, guests are welcome to visit the school, look at various exhibits and purchase lunch from local vendors. The event is free to the public and all former students are especially encouraged to attend.

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. Step ladder |
| 3. Space heater | 6. Old cloth diaper cleaning rags |



Oral History

In this issue we are pleased to focus on excerpts from our Oral History collections about Sunnydale Elementary School. This is in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the school.

By: **Gwen Morris**

My uncle's wife was related to the Morasch family, well known in the Sunnydale area. They were able to get my dad, **Frank Morris**, a job as the custodian at Sunnydale school. **Cyrus Gilbert** was the principal at the time and he liked my mom and dad. My mom had never cooked for any more than just our family, but she got in there and did her thing and she learned fast. My dad took care of the school. My dad rang the bell which was out in front of Sunnydale school. He went out every morning and rang it to bring the children to school. Dad went back later when they were to go home. They had a bell in the belfry at the top of the school. Sometimes the older boys would play tricks on him. They'd break in there in the middle of the night and ring the bell. So he'd have to go and attend to them. I think he kind of knew who they were. When my dad passed away my mother left the school. At that time she was cooking for about 200 children every day. Some of the people I know said that she made such great soup. I think she made hot dishes too.

We lived at the back of the school. To the north of the school there was a little building that had an apartment in back of it. It had two bedrooms and a bath and a sitting-dining area. So we had free rent, which made it fine during the Depression years.

At Sunnydale there used to be a hall we called the drill hall. I think there's a kindergarten there now. We'd go there and see silent movies. There was a lady there playing the piano. That was about 1925 or 26. It was also the gym, and that's where they had most of their entertainment. They'd play basketball there and have any kind of social functions.

I came to Sunnydale at fifth grade. Cyrus Gilbert was the principal when we moved there. Sunnydale had grades one through seven. **Harry Kittleman** was there later. He was there for twenty years before he died. There's a little plaque in his memory on the grounds on the corner where there's two birch trees. It says: "Frank

Morris, twenty years of service" or something like that. That's at the north end of the grounds, right on the corner of 156th.

By: **Fern McKenzie**

We went to Sunnydale until eighth grade, and then to Highline High School. I was scared to death of one of the teachers at Sunnydale. She was probably a very nice person but she started the school year by threatening everyone. She was in the second grade. The first grade was in the other building. The second and third grades were combined. The other half of the third grade was combined with the fourth grade. If you were doing well they put you in the combined class, thought some of it would rub off I guess. **Stillwell** was one of the teachers in grade school. **Gibson** was one of the high school teachers.

At Sunnydale school I had **Miss Allen**. **Martha Allen** was in eighth grade, her sister taught me in first grade. I had **Miss Davis** who taught me English. She was just the sweetest teacher. I didn't like to get up in front of a crowd, but one time we were acting out MacBeth. I think I was one of the witches, but I just completely blanked out. Miss Davis said "Oh, that's okay, you can just go sit down" She was a nice gal.

I had some trouble one day and I was crying. Mr. Gilbert asked me what was the matter and I said, "None of your damn business." So he said, "Do you want to go stand in the corner until you quiet down?" So I did. But he was nice.

I remember that at noon time we had ukeleles. **Florence Love** had one, and I had one. We had a much longer lunch. We'd meet with Mr. Gilbert, who played the banjo. And we all had music together.

Continued on page 7

You May Order From Us...

The Historical Society has several local history publications, as well as our note cards, available for sale. Readers are welcome to contact Cyndi Upthegrove (206-246-6354), or send a check plus \$3.00 shipping to the Society address to order any of the following:

1. "Our Burien," by Esther Balzarini. A limited number of copies of this good local history by a community pioneer are available in softback for \$12.00. Proceeds support the Highline Historical Society.
2. "Listen To Your Father," by *Highline Times* publisher Jerry Robinson. \$25.00.
3. "Highline School District Chronicle," by former Superintendent Carl Jensen. Proceeds from this \$10.00 history of the local schools support the Highline Community College Foundation.
4. Highline note cards, featuring photos from the Historical Society collections. Cards are \$ 1.25 each, or 10 for \$10.00

Notice of Dues Increase: Members will note that we have raised our membership fees. 2004 is the 10th Anniversary of the Historical Society. We have never raised our dues, opting instead to absorb some of the increases in costs that we incur each year. At their March 2004 meeting, the Board of Trustees determined to raise membership costs to more closely reflect the costs of programs, exhibits and printing. The new fees are noted on the "Join" form below, and will be assessed with your annual renewal letters as your individual renewal date comes up. We appreciate your continued support.



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

Join the Highline Historical Society

Annual membership is open to anyone interested in the history of the greater Highline area. Members receive a seasonal newsletter and free admission to Society programs and events. Patron members also receive **Washington State Historical Society's** quarterly magazine.

Note: This is not a renewal notice. Members are advised of renewal by mail.

YES! I would like to join. Indicate your membership classification and make check payable to **Highline Historical Society**. Please mail to P.O. Box 317, Seahurst, WA 98062.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Commercial/business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Donations are deductible within the guidelines of the law. Please check with your financial advisor.

Highline Historical Society is recognized by most corporate gift matching programs.

Meet The Board of Trustees

This is the fourth of a series of introductions of our Board of Trustees, a feature that will run in each issue of the Highline Historical Society News. This issue features life-long Burien resident Dick Dahlgard.



A stalwart of the Highline community, Trustee Dick Dahlgard shares his talents with a number of local organizations. In addition to being on the Board of the Historical Society, Dick either presently serves or has previously served on the boards of Discover Burien, the Highline Hospital Foundation, the Highline Alumnae Association and is a 20-year member of the Burien-White Center Rotary Club.

As a Burien native, he brings a pioneer perspective to the board of the Society. Dick grew up in a home on Des Moines Memorial Boulevard and attended Sunnydale Elementary School and Highline High School.

He became interested in photography at Highline High School, where he first learned about photographic equipment. Following graduation he worked in a retail photo store, then at Tall's Camera. In 1969 he opened Dick's Camera. He claims he is never going to retire.

He also has been extremely generous with the Society by photographing our programs, by making numerous copies of photos from our collections and by assisting us to acquire photographic equipment that a museum will need. Dick has special expertise in analyzing, cleaning and repairing cameras, projectors and accessories. We are actually hoping that Dick will retire so that we can put his expertise to full use at the new Highline Heritage Museum! Thanks, Dick, for all you do for us!

RECENT DONATIONS

19' Reinell runabout boat and trailer – donated by **Ray and Louisa Rice**, and sold in support of the Capital Building campaign.

Workshop full of household tools – donated by **Madeline Mennella** to be used for exhibits construction and general maintenance.

Six aircraft models and a packet of archival materials – donated by **Ronald Suttell**, Alaska Airlines Facilities Director, to be used for exhibits and archival research.

Lake Burien archival materials and early plat maps – donated by **Bob and Darlene King**, to be used for archival research.

Lake Burien Kindergarten scrapbooks (1934 – 1964) - donated by **Billie Putnam** to be used for exhibits and archival research.

SeaTac Communities Plan, and various Highline School Board records - donated by **Kathy Hand** for archival research.

Highline School Board records, vintage kitchen implements, WWII army uniform(s) and various clothing, donated by **Shirley Farley** for archival research and exhibits.

Canon Bubblejet printer – donated by **Joe Wozniak**, to be used for Society operations.

Many scrapbooks, toys, photographs, household implements and Highline pioneer family memorabilia, donated by **Beth Williams** for archival research and exhibits.

Continued from page 4

It was really fun. He came up to Highline later, while I was up there.

At Sunnydale there used to be an outhouse, quite a way back. Later they put in some inside toilets. There was a huge building and in half of it they put up modern facilities. But they would freeze up in the winter because there was no heat or insulation in the building. The other end of the building held huge stacks of wood for the furnace that heated the school. All winter they would be hauling it out to the furnace. There were four rooms in the school and the heat came up through a vent to those adjustable. We always had a sweater on in the school.

They had a fire escape on the outside of the school. But I never have found out why they turned that building around. They re-did the thing, or maybe they just moved the doors. The fire escape was just like any other stairway with wood steps all the way up, on the outside of the building.

Sunnydale had a lot of playground equipment. There were swings and bars that you could play on. I don't think kids got hurt on them much. But somebody got hurt and they got sued, so they took them all down.

By: Robert Gilbert:

My father, **Cyrus Gilbert**, first came to the Sunnydale area in 1904 as a Methodist minister. He served there for three years and was then assigned to Shelton.

So teaching is what brought him back to Sunnydale. He was principal and teacher (Principals taught in those days) at Sunnydale. He started there in 1923. So I was in Sunnydale grade school. There was no high school in the area at that time. Some high school kids went to West Seattle, some to Kent, some to Auburn. To travel to West Seattle they took the Toonerville Trolley out of Burien. Of course we had automobiles at that time. But we did a lot of walking too.

Rosalia Brothers had a big flower farm on Des Moines Way. We kids used to get jobs pulling weeds there. We worked ten hours a day and got 15 cents an hour. That was in 1924-25. There were jobs for the kids if they wanted to work.

Most of the area was farms between 12th and 16th South. We kids used to earn some money by picking cucumbers up at **Gene Wilcox's**. There were houses all over up there, but they moved them all out when they built the airport.

By: Della Utterback Schmitz

Interviewer: ... So would you like to add anything before we go to Highline High School? Do you remember any the names of any teachers in either the grade school or the high school?

DUS: Well, let's see. I had a **Mrs. Perkins** in Manhattan and then down at Sunnydale there was **Mrs. Gerhart** and **Mr. Edie** and **Mr. Kilman** and **Mrs. Heinse** and **Miss Kelly**.

Interviewer: You remember them all.

DUS: Oh yeah. The principal when I first went to Sunnydale was Mr. Mitchell. **Truman B. Mitchell** and he was followed by **Harry Kittleman**. At Highline I had, the principal was **Mr. Baker** and then **Mr. Johnson**.

We're on line!

www.highlinehistory.org

Check us out! Thanks to Webmaster **Don McQuinn** the Society now has a nice web site to post information and announcements. Additions and improvements will continue over the upcoming months. One especially nice feature of the site is the ability to receive secure donations and memberships, as well as spaces for visitors to record their own memories. We will post new information about collections and programs, use the site to supplement our email notification of events and to make ourselves more visible in the community. Your comments and assistance with content are always welcomed.

From the Collections



Lifting logs with donkey engine. This photo was taken leading to Three Tree Point from Five Corners, at about Sylvester Road and SW 164th. Date unknown.

Photo Highline Historical Society.

Highline Historical Society
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- Contact person changed*
- Address wrong*
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- Remove from mailing list*