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With the exception of the few grants we have been awarded in the past, we do not receive funding from the city, county, state or federal government. It is this community's belief in us that supports our efforts to preserve and share the county's history. The board of directors and volunteer staff thank you for your continued support.

*CCHS thanks Virginia
Fitzpatrick and Irene Wyman
for their sponsorship of this
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Check out our website at
www.clallamhistoricalsociety.com

The Reporter and the River

In 1996 a reporter for the *Spokane Spokesman-Review* wrote a story about the delay of federal appropriations to restore the Elwha River by removing its dams; legislation to do that had passed way back in 1992. Lynda Mapes came to Port Angeles – her first of many trips; many would follow working for the *Seattle Times*, beginning in 1997. She has written many articles about the dams, the river and the tribe, which provide information for today's newspaper readers and tomorrow's researchers.

She has written two books: "Breaking Ground: The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and the Unearthing of Tze-whit-zen Village," published in 2009, and the just-published "Elwha: A River Reborn." The books cover what no other books on local history cover—local history from the Indians' perspective.

Now 54, she will become a fellow of the Knight Science Journalism program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from August to May 2014. She plans to study how species take their seasonal cues and how climate change is disrupting the synchrony of seasonal timing.

What do you find unique about the history of the Olympic Peninsula?

One of the unique features of the history of the Olympic Peninsula is that it is so young, and so visible, in the community, and on the landscape. From the mills on the West End of the waterfront, to Tse-Whit-zen Village and what's left of the Elwha dams, there is so much to learn and delve into and consider in a compact geography. Indeed, the entire history of the Northwest, from aboriginal abundance to exploration, disease, white settlement and industrialization, and restoration and renewal can be found and told on the Peninsula. From Neah Bay to Port Angeles, there are stories to find and tell, and people around with primary source material to enrich the telling.

How did the Society help you in your research?

The Clallam County Historical Society was vital to my research. Kathy Monds and Dona Cloud greeted me with stacks of material pulled just for me: original newspaper clippings, homesteader's diaries, books and more. I worked my way through these unique, primary sources

with greedy gratitude. The collection maintained at the Society of original newspapers is second to none, and the organization of the material and assistance for researchers is absolutely first rate. The material is carefully curated at the Society and available nowhere else. It only grows in value by the day.

(Continued on page 3)



Lynda Mapes at Lake Aldwell. Photo credit: Steve Ringman/Seattle Times.



***Congratulations
to Joyce Sabol,
the winner of Karen
Sistek's silk painting
"Ina May" and thank
you to everyone who
purchased tickets.***

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View from the Executive Director's Desk

By Kathy Monds

It's hard to believe that summer is here already! The first six months of 2013 were incredibly busy with classes, programs, and lots of research requests. No two days are alike, but I think that's one of the reasons why we all like working here so much.

Forty volunteers are working regularly to bring you this year's garage sale. Their dedication, good humor, and willingness to work in a cold, damp building never ceases to amaze me. We all look forward to opening the doors on August 29!

As we go about our business, there is sadness that certain people are no longer with us. But memories of their friendship over the years bring a smile. Since 2012, we have said good bye to Earle Thompson, Gwen Schreiner, Diane Jorgenson, Gwen Pierce and MaryAnn McDaniel. You are remembered with love.

Little-Known Library Offers a Lot

By John Kendall

Users of Apple devices know when they have a question, they ask Siri. So how about this one: "I live in the Sequim area, and love the Sequim Library, but often it gets crowded, sometimes I can't even use the copier. Is there an alternative, Siri?"

"Welcome to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library, which is open to all six days a week," said Siri Hiltz, tribal librarian. "You can get a free library card, and if you need to use our copier, there is no charge for the first five copies, then five cents a copy for black and white."

The tribe established a library in the 1980s to meet social service needs. In March 2012 it was moved to a separate building on the lower campus (north of Highway 101) at the east end.

"We have about 5,000 items here and have a primary collection of material by native authors specifically for a native audience," said Hiltz. The library also offers:

- local newspapers and tribal periodicals; no general-interest magazines;
- four computers for public use; Wi-Fi is available;
- help answering "reference questions"; e-mail library@jamestowntribe.org;
- reference material about the S' Klallam people and other inhabitants of the Olympic Peninsula;
- technical works about habitat restoration, fisheries, water resources and environmental issues;
- books about the histories of Sequim, Clallam and Jefferson counties and the Northwest;
- CDs, DVDs and audio books, including music CDs by Native American artists and storytelling CDs;
- Elders' computer classes, open to anyone over 55; titles are Introduction to Computing, Word Processing; E-mail and Social Media.
- genealogy classes: Introduction to Genealogy; Researching Native American Heritage;
- children's story times.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Besides Hiltz, Lilly Croft is librarian assistant and Marlene Hanson, part-time librarian assistant.

The library's website is www.library.jamestowntribe.org; email is library@jamestowntribe.org; phone number is 360-681-4632.

(Continued from page 1)

Besides reading your two books, what can non-Indians do to understand the history and legacy of local Indians? Are there other books and websites?

The Makah Museum at Neah Bay is an excellent resource. So is the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle. As for books and websites, there are too many to list, but I can offer some of my favorites: "Messages from Franks's Landing," by Charles Wilkinson, which provides an excellent background on treaty fishing rights and fish wars of the 1970s in Washington State. Many people don't understand the fish wars here were violent, ongoing, and as compelling a case of injustice as the race violence in the Deep South. Carstein Lein's books "Exploring the Olympic Mountains" (Mountaineer Books) and "Olympic Battleground" (Mountaineer Books) are primers for anyone wanting to understand the Peninsula and its history.

It is the year 2020. What is the status of the following: The Lower Elwha Tribe, Elwha River and its fishery, what was Lake Aldwell, what was Lake Mills, the Seattle Times, Lynda Mapes?

In the year 2020, I expect to still be working as an author, and reporter at the *Seattle Times*, which I have no doubt will still be locally owned by the Blethen family, as it has since 1896, and continuing publication both in print and online. I hope by then the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will have realized its dream of building a museum for the artifacts from Tse-whit-zen Village now in storage at the Burke Museum. I have no doubt that by then both dams will be out of the Elwha River, and the fish booming back to healthy populations. Lake Aldwell and Lake Mills will be covered with vegetation in many places higher than your head, and people who weren't around when all this happened will wonder that all the fuss was about, because the river is, well, looking like a river.

CCHS Research Library *By Dona Cloud, Research Librarian*

I always learn or re-learn something I have forgotten every time there is a request regarding history in Clallam County. A researcher often comes to the library with a point of view or an agenda and wants an answer to support his or her preconceived conclusion. Sometimes new information comes to light that is interpreted with a new perspective. Sometimes there is no definitive answer, only speculation based on present information.

One such question is the trees at Lincoln Park. What was the intent by the Federal government for those acres? What influenced the development of the airport? Why does it infringe on the park lovers? How come there is a park there and in what year did it become a park? How did the airport get to be where it is? There are more questions than firm answers.

So what do we find in newspapers, correspondence, books and peoples' memories? The *Tribune Times*, November 20, 1903, reported the Commercial Club plans for Congress to take some "Action in Matter of Government Portion of Townsite." In 1862, this area had been designated by President Lincoln as part of the Military Reserve. Matilda Cooper (who had success-

fully obtained government land for Ocean View Cemetery) brought up the matter to the club. Plans for securing a tract suitable for a city park and fairgrounds was supported by several other organizations and the city council. The original proposal was 160 acres for park purpose and 160 acres for county fairgrounds.

The site selected for the park and fair was 170 acres including Cook's Prairie. A telegram dated February 19, 1904, was sent to then-mayor, Dr. Freeborn Lewis, confirming the passage of the "Park Bill." It was stipulated that in the event this land was not used as a park for a period of five years or longer, the land would revert to the U.S. government. It is believed that Matilda Cooper named the park "Lincoln." The first fair was held at the Lincoln Park site in 1920.

The airfield in downtown Port Angeles on First Street was no longer adequate. The airport was moved to a flat area at Cook's Prairie west of Lincoln Park and operated by Clallam County. The airport was improved when underground drainage and buildings were constructed with help from the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s. The first commercial air service began in the spring of 1931. The airfield

was enlarged and operated by the War Department from 1942- 44. It was occupied in WWII by two squadrons of twin engine P38s. The U.S. Army occupied Lincoln Park at that time. The airport was expanded by the Army into 35.5 acres of park when the runway was lengthened. From 1944 - 46, the airport was operated by the Navy. Clallam County operated the airport on an interim permit from 1946 until the Navy declared it surplus, and 578 acres was deeded to Clallam County. In 1951 Clallam County transferred all airport assets to the Port District. The 35.5 acres was returned to Port Angeles (Lincoln Park) in 1952 and leased to the Port as a "fly-in-campground" in 1980. In 1976 the city council encouraged future expansion of airport facilities to be made to the west and the Port move off airport property. Senate Bill S.1134 amended the 1904 act to correct the wording from "Park use" to "Public use." In 2006 the Port purchased from the city the 35 acres that had been leased.

According to sources at the County Fair offices, the Port of Port Angeles and the City Parks Department, 45 acres to the north of Lincoln Park is the Clallam County Fairgrounds. To the west is Fairchild Airport;

(Continued on page 4)



**CLALLAM COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MISSION
STATEMENT:**

The Clallam County Historical Society is devoted to the preservation and interpretation of our County's cultural heritage as a vital service to the community and its visitors.

Research Library
931 West 9th Street
Port Angeles, Washington 98363
360-452-2662
Open Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
or by appointment

From the Museum at the Carnegie

By Gwen & Lee Porterfield

“Welcome to the Carnegie!” This is the greeting given by the docents at the Carnegie when visitors enter the building. Volunteers greet and explain how the displays are arranged to show the history and development of Clallam County in its early years. Some are surprised it is not still the local library, and others are concerned with finding a research center for some study. After they have been helped to locate both of those buildings, they are welcomed to tour the Carnegie and enjoy the artifacts and written information available at this site. Most people have entered the building because of the OPEN signs, and others have read about the Museum from short items in travel bulletins. So far

this year, there have been several visitors from foreign countries as well as around the United States. Keep this local gem in mind for your out-of-town visitors. Open Wednesday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., it is a great way to get a feeling of how pioneers settled the far northwest.

Before leaving, many have marveled at the variety of previously read books we sell. The wide range of titles and obvious age of some books come from the wide range of patrons who donated the books. Books for everyone plus a few pieces of local artistry are available.

Hope to see you soon at the Carnegie!

(Continued from page 3)

it has a total acreage of 800 acres. Six hundred ninety of those acres are in aeronautical use. Lincoln Park consists of 147 acres.

Today, young children's equipment is minimal. The tennis courts are pathetic, and the wading pool is gone. Camping cabins and space have been eliminated. The west end of the park leaves a lot to be desired. The buildings to the east, restored pioneer cabins, sit on foundations of cement. They have been vandalized over the years. The Long House is des-

igned for destruction and recycling by the Elwha Tribe. The Loomis Tavern building sits, waiting. The park is clean and neat.

From the beginning, Lincoln Park has always been a park in transition and change. The trees were a given part of the park. In June 1925 the Park Board policy was “not to cut down any more trees or underbrush. Leave the park as much as possible in natural state, only cut paths.” The intent of the government and the city was not about trees, but about people and recreation within the park. It was and is a park with trees. “Wooded area furnished an unparalleled attraction that would be hard to equal.” The ponds, trails, baseball fields, heritage buildings, picnic areas, fishing as well as duck derbies, dog park, disk golf and a BMX track, make Lincoln Park a thoroughly multi-use park. Through all of this, trees have come and gone but have always been a consistent and intricate part of the park.



Mature conifers, wild roses, ferns, roots of fallen trees and winding paths give Lincoln Park its unique character.

The Porterfields: Books Plus

By John Kendall

To prepare for the Society's 2010 garage sale, Gwen Porterfield was sorting books which would be sold for \$1 and \$2. She recalled thinking: "Some of these can be sold at the Carnegie for more money."

She started checking the value of selected books on websites. Since then, more than 530 books have been sold – and not for \$1 or \$2. More than \$5,550 has been added to the Society's general fund, thanks to Lee and Gwen Porterfield, who price the books and run a book store year round – 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, with the help of other volunteers.

Working with and reading books have been a major part of their lives.

Gwen Fairchild, now 78, was born in Port Angeles, and as a third grader at Washington School (where the post office is now), she would sneak away during recess, run across a gully to the Carnegie Library to borrow a book – until she was warned to stay on the playground. While attending high school, she was a part-time page at the school library and a part-time worker at the Carnegie Library.

She attended Western Washington College of Education. Requirements of the music class were to listen to classical music, which she did by going to classical movies with classmate Lee Porterfield, who was born in Puyallup, served in the Army in Europe,

then attended the Bellingham college on the G. I. Bill, majoring in history.

They married, and Lee, according to Gwen, "dragged me back home" to Port Angeles, where he taught at Roosevelt Junior High for 23 years, then the high school for seven years, teaching world geography and Washington state history. Gwen worked for Pacific Northwest Bell Co. as a test-board technician.

They both retired in 1986, and with their extra time joined the Society while volunteering for other organizations. Then in 2004, they volunteered for the Society, beginning as docents in the newly opened Museum at the Carnegie. There was a gift shop on the lower floor which sold local books and gifts. "There was not enough traffic to justify the gift shop," said Gwen, "so the store concentrated on local historical books."

Around Christmas 2010, the Porterfields, with the first batch of books rescued from the garage sale, opened Books Plus. They scour the garage sale books and some people donate directly to Books Plus. A recent estate sale donated a sizable collection of Folio Society books, classics on high-quality paper and bindings in slipcovers.

Gwen evaluates every book and logs it in on a computer spread sheet. Currently there are more than 800 books. "The

Brandywine," part of the Rivers of America series and copyright 1941, has illustrations by the famed Andrew Wyeth, which increases its value. Gwen priced it at \$100. Shaking the book in his hand, Lee declared, "There's somebody out there who will want this book."

Another book, "A Modern Kitchen Guide," copyright 1934, is priced at \$16 and \$13 (including shipping) on two websites for the book in the same condition as the one Gwen



Garage Sale Dates:

August 29

Members Only Preview

August 30 & 31

Regular Sale Days

September 6

Half-price Day

September 7

Buck-a-Bag Day



has. It costs \$5 at Books Plus, tax included. Old post cards, sorted by topic, are \$3 to \$7.

Lee, now 83, was on the Society board of directors from 2000 to 2009. They have two daughters, Wende Porterfield and Nola Grier, who both live nearby, and three grandchildren.

The Porterfields' house is brimming with books – "we have so many books you wouldn't believe," said Gwen. To keep from adding more to their collection, they have used the city library for 10 years, borrowing mysteries and audio books.

They have no plans to stop volunteering— "You can't just sit around and do nothing," said Gwen.





**CLALLAM COUNTY
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The Reporter & the River..... Page 1
Jamestown S'Kallam Library... Page 2
CCHS Research Library..... Page 3
Museum at the Carnegie..... Page 4
Volunteers: The Porterfields..... Page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Teresa Lingvall continues to seek information about Olympic Hot Springs. Anyone with personal knowledge of the resort is asked to contact Kathy Mond, 360-452-2662, or artifact@olympen.com.

**CLALLAM COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



The old Congregational Church (now the Serenity House Thrift Store) celebrates its 125th birthday this year. Watch for major renovation work and a dedication to honor this historic structure.

JOIN US!

