

Summer 2012

Points N.E. Historical Society

Browns Point .. Dash Point .. N.E. Tacoma

Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park

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Coming Soon

Federal Way Symphony Garden Tour

At the Lighthouse
Gardens

Saturday July 21

10 am to 5 pm

Browns Point Salmon Bake

Sat August 4 and Sun
August 5

Don't miss the great
food and fun!

PNEHS Open House: Cottage, Boathouse, Bell House During the Salmon Bake

Noon to 7 pm

PNEHS Board Meeting Monday August 13

Coming in the Fall Issue

All About Lighthouses
by the US Lighthouse Society

The History of the Browns Point
School project

The Christmas Tea

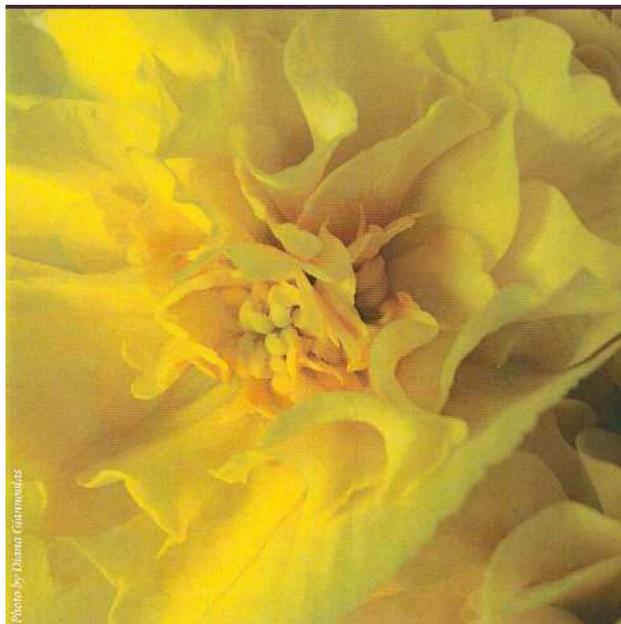


Photo by Diana Christopoulos

Federal Way Symphony's

**13th Annual
Garden Tour**

Ticket

Saturday, July 21, 2012

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Strollers, pets, wheelchairs and children
under 10 years cannot be accommodated.

Cottage Gardens Featured on Symphony Garden Tour

The Memorial Gardens around the lightkeeper's cottage will be featured in the Federal Way Symphony's 13th Annual Garden Tour Saturday, July 21 from 10am-5pm.

The cottage gardens have been tended by the Dash Point Garden Club, which has been in existence for over 60 years. In addition to being able to tour several gardens in the area, a ticket will provide entrance to talks at 10:30 or 3pm in the Cottage yard by local horticulturalist, Alison Kutz focusing on "*Discovering Nature's Lessons in Your Garden.*"

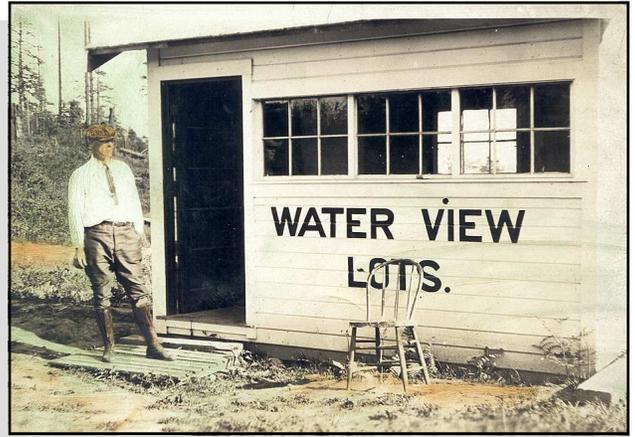
Other gardens on the tour in the immediate area include: the Caledonia Summit Conservatory, the largest private conservatory in the western US; another on Hyada Blvd is described as "a peaceful blend of forest and flower...in an organic, certified backyard sanctuary;" In Dash Point explore the Goodwin/Hutchinson Garden owned and cared for since 1942 by a dedicated member of the Dash Point Garden Club. Three other gardens are located in Federal Way.

The cottage History Museum and Boat House maritime displays will also be open for guided tours.

Tickets are available at Browns Point Diner or by calling **253.529.9857**.

Grand Opening of 100 year old Hyada Park Real Estate Office At Salmon Bake, Aug 4-5

After two years of restoration work, the original Hyada Park Real Estate office will be on display at the Salmon Bake, Aug 4 & 5 as a mini-museum with exhibits explaining how the Browns Point/Dash Point area property was developed in the early 1900's.



Bob Gleason at the sales office

The structure, like a backyard garden shed, was acquired through a joint effort of Browns Point Improvement Club and Points Northeast Historical Society from owners of property on Hyada Street. The Hyada Park Real Estate Company, including owner Jerry Meeker, sold lots in the development that was advertised in 1908 to be "to Tacoma what Brooklyn is to New York." Lots were selling for \$250.

The exhibit will include old pictures, plat maps with original Native American names on lots and antique furnishings to replicate what probably was in the original office.



Original lettering on office wall

Restoration work was funded by BPIC and PNEHS and volunteer labor of over 150 hours was provided by Brian Fransen, Bob Robinson, Dave Noll, Jim Harnish, Jeff McClung and Greg Hoffman. Kathy Martin will replicate the lettering on the exterior of the building. Neil Hansen and Linda VanNest are planning the exhibit. **Wright Roofing** donated labor and materials to restore the roof. Marie and Kathleen Monahan "hosted" the office during restoration on their property. A final permanent site for the office has not been determined.



Brian Fransen at work

News Rates for Lighthouse Cottage Rentals

The Lightkeepers Program, under which the Lighthouse Cottage is available as a vacation rental, will have new higher rates beginning in January 2013. But people making reservations before the end of this year will receive the old lower rates: Oct-May \$550 and May through September \$880 and \$125 per night with a two-night minimum.

New Rates starting 2013

Premium Weeks (July and August) by the week only, \$950
High Season (June and September) weeks, \$880

Off season (October thru May), weekly \$595 or Friday & Saturday, \$175 per night with a two-night minimum; Sunday thru Thursday, \$150 per night, two night minimum.

All stays also require a \$200 refundable damage deposit and a \$25 family membership in PNEHS.

Jerry Meeker Featured Exhibits

This summer Points Northeast Historical Society has two very different exhibits which both feature Jerry Meeker, the father of Browns Point. First, *in the history museum* in the lighthouse cottage, we feature photos and artifacts of the life and times of Jerry Meeker. This exhibit is written by Linda Van Nest with the able curator assistance of Mavis Stears. Second, we are restoring the actual real estate office used by Meeker and his company to sell lots in Hyada Park. The *office will be on display at the Salmon Bake in August*. It will feature items, photos, and Hyada Park lot maps, which will illustrate this small, 1907 office. It is a joint venture of Points Northeast Historical Society and Browns Point Improvement Club.

Who was Jerry Meeker? A Native American teacher, a family man, a real estate developer, a Puyallup language interpreter, an advisor to chiefs, a weather man, a salmon bake expert, and a good neighbor. Brought up during the period of Native American assimilation, Meeker learned the ways of the white man from friends and at several Indian schools. He was a product of two cultures and lived in two worlds.

Jerry's father, Sky-uch (later called Jim), worked for Ezra Meeker, and adopted his last name from Meeker, his mentor. Jerry, Doyott La-Hal-Da, was born on the Puyallup reservation near Fern Hill on April 6, 1862. He attended the Puyallup Indian School, and later the Forest Grove Industrial and Training School in Oregon. At these schools the children were forbidden to use any native traditions, including their own language. When he returned to the Puyallup reservation, Jerry married Eliza O'Dell, a native woman, and eventually had four children, Silas, Maude, and two who died in early childhood. In 1925, after Eliza died, Jerry married Lillian Arquette. He lived much of his life with his family in a large log home near the lighthouse on Browns Point. His granddaughter, Ramona Hawthorne, age 90, still lives on the property.



One of Jerry's accomplishments was the development of Hyada Park on Browns Point.

In 1904 he joined a real estate partnership, the Bethel Investment Company, with Fremont Campbell, J.M. Campbell, George Taylor, and Frank Ross. They acquired much of Browns Point and platted out the Hyada Park development. Jerry gave the streets native names, including La-Hal-Da, his own native name.

Jerry was also well known for his salmon bakes on the beach. These actually began as clam bakes in the early years, but by 1940 clams became scarce, and Meeker began neighborhood salmon bakes. They were eventually sponsored by the Browns Point Improvement Club, and have evolved into what we have today.



Meeker lived a long and fruitful life at Browns Point, passing away at the age of nearly 93 years. He is remembered today not only for his real estate development and salmon bakes, but also by a small triangle park near the Browns Point Diner, and by Meeker Middle School in the nearby neighborhood.

*Submitted by Linda VanNest
Museum Coordinator*

Fourth Graders Experience “Life at the Lighthouse over 100 Years Ago”

Points Northeast Historical Society has been providing Field Trips for local schools since 1989 when all Browns Point, Dash Point and Northeast Tacoma Elementary Schools participated in celebrating the Centennial of Washington State by trekking from Dash Point Dock around Caledonia Beach and ending at the Browns Point Lighthouse Park. Classes were guided by trained docents (volunteers from the community) who pointed out historical sites along the way, including describing days of yore when the Mosquito Fleet was the only reliable mode of transportation between beach communities, Tacoma, Olympia, and Seattle. Those children are all in their late 20s to mid 30s now, and no doubt many remember that occasion.

Points Northeast Historical Society since 1989 has been providing field trips on varying topics to school classes, scout troops and organizations. When Lighthouse Park and specifically the cottage and boathouse became two of our special projects in a Memorandum of Understanding with Metro Parks, we began providing field trips, specifically to area 4th grade classes who study Washington State history. Browns Point and Crescent Height's 4th graders participated in this year's experience. Both schools had 90 students each, plus many parents and six teachers who were divided into 6 groups rotating to six sites in Lighthouse Park. A docent at each site gave different information, experience and hands on activities.



James Storey, boathouse docent with 4th graders

Docents: Linda VanNest, Janice Burgess, James Storey, Nancy Pawlicki, Jim Lumley, Jim Harnish, Neil Hanson, Art Ladley, Mavis Stears. Pat Harnish and Mary Chavez assisted. Photographers were Dennis Champagne and Peggy Macias. Our thanks to the teachers, parents, students and our PNEHS staff. We've chalked up another success in spite of the weather.

Introducing our 2012 Team of Docents

Twenty four docents received docent training in April and May. For the new docents it was a detailed introduction to guiding our day visitors through the cottage floors, the downstairs museum and the boathouse museum. They were exposed to information about each of the rooms in the cottage revealing much about the life of Oscar and Annie Brown our first lightkeeper and his wife and the work of a lightkeeper. A docent folder containing information about Points Northeast Historical Society and ideas on how to be an effective guide were given to each docent. The sessions were hosted by Mavis Stears curator and Jim Harnish, president. Following is a list of the participants who are now officially our 2012 docents ready to serve on Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. and for special occasions throughout the year. They are knowledgeable and personable and we are proud to welcome them to this service to the community. **Jill Barkley, Janice Burgess, Richard Carmen, Dennis Champagne, Michael and Rosalie Gallagher and daughters Elizabeth and Theresa, Mari Hagen, Jim and Pat Harnish, Kathy Juracek, Art and Pam Ladley, Patrice Linde, Midi Mees, Nancy Pawlicki, Mignonette Peterson, Ron and Lavern Stone, Sue Wenski, Randy White, Kathleen Monahan, Susan Volz and James Storey.** They are joined by **Bob Robinson, Neil Hanson, Linda Van Nest and Margot and Norm Andersen.**

Many are needed in order to make every visitor's experience interesting and enlightening. On a typical Saturday you will usually find two docents and sometimes three if there is no lightkeeper staying in the cottage. Part of the lightkeeper duty is to help as docents during the Saturday open hours. On a recent Saturday 69 visitors signed our guest book. Our Lighthouse Park is now one of the most interesting historical sites in the Pierce County which stands to reason because our lighthouse is the only lighthouse in Pierce County and Pierce County is one of the few counties in Washington to have a lighthouse. Our docents are providing a valuable service to our local communities and also to visitors from all over the state, country and even the world. *On occasion you as a member may be called to help out as a docent even though you have not been trained. We would be scheduling you with an experienced docent and you might find it lots of fun. Please give it a try and say "YES." Or if you are interested in being a docent immediately, give Mavis a call and we can give you a crash course.....no more than an hour or so.* Our sincere thank you goes to all our dedicated docents. We could not provide this service without them. Mavis: 253 927-5385

A Tip of the Lightkeeper's Hat to

Bear Wood Windows for caulking cottage windows free

The Fire Dept for help with the fields trips, moving museum pieces etc

Jon Towne of Mow Towne for edging our gardens with rocks

Janice Burgess—head of the Garden Tour, a new docent and a cottage lightkeeper (renter).

Kathy Juracek and the Dash Point Garden Club which secured donations of plants and Tagro from Metro Parks continually keep the gardens neat, tidy and absolutely beautiful.

The 25 newly trained **Docents**

Dale Friend, teacher at Browns Point Elementary retiring after 43 years

Patricia Thomas, Principal at BP Elementary for leading the “History of Browns Point School” project

The Washington Lighthouse License Fund for funding to replace the back porch deck on the cottage

The Pierce County Lodging Tax Grant Fund for funding an update of the website, printing brochures, and developing a video

The organizers and participants of the awesome 6th Annual 4th of July Parade in Browns Point

Our Junior Lightkeepers who stayed in the cottage in June.—**Jesse, Craig, Kai and Lynn** who presented visitors with hand written reports about Oscar and Annie’s tenure at the Lighthouse.

Beverlee Storkman on her 90th birthday

The reopening of the **Hyleblos Bridge**

Dash Point for a great **Dash Point Dash** and the dedication of the **Fountain**

Cliff McCollum on his promotion to Chief of the Browns Point/ Dash Point Fire Dept.

The Fire Department and the Piece County Sheriff’s Dept for keeping our parks safe on the 4th of July

Our magnificent membership now numbering 400 strong. Don’t forget to join or re-up

Do You Save Obituaries?

In our History Center we have a file entitled “Obituaries.” It is quite full, but we know we are missing many that should be included. Throughout the years we have been collecting obituaries from individuals, newspapers and scrapbooks. For genealogists, researchers and often for our own use, publishing articles and creating exhibits, they are a wealth of community information and history. The Tacoma Public Library has a data base of obituaries from 1984 to the present time. They are presently working on covering those between the 1930s to 1983. Until that time period is available we would like to collect as many from you as we can and this will save a great deal of volunteer time combing the Library records.

If you have collected obituaries of your family, neighbors, friends or people prominent in the community, would you please let us see them, scan them and preserve them? We will return them to you if you wish. Please call Mavis @ 253 927-5385 if you have questions or pop them into an envelope and mail them to Mavis Stears @ PNEHS, Suite 180, PMB Box 135, 1000 Browns Point Center, Tacoma 98422 with your name and address, so we can return them to you. Thank you for searching your drawers, scrapbooks, closets, and attics for any information.

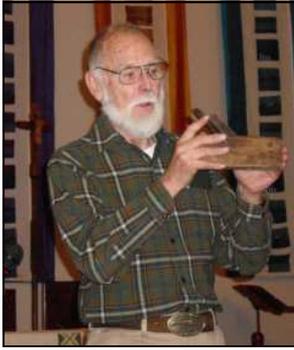
Make Norm Smile, Buy a Membership

This man, Norm Andersen our treasurer, will gladly sell you a membership to Points Northeast Historical Society. It is guaranteed to be more fun than a barrel of gooey ducks! Membership is now at an all time high and more members will make even better service to our communities. Let’s keep it going. There’s a level of membership for everyone! Don’t delay.

Individual-Family-Senior-Business

Check rates at: pointsnortheast@comcast.net





Robin Paterson

PNEHS member and supporter Robin Paterson passed away recently. Robin and his wife, Kae were seen often at our events. He signed copies of his book, *Mosquito Fleet of South Puget Sound* in our cottage parlor.



The Patersons gave us our treasured US Lighthouse Service items; the dust pan, the funnel and the carpenter's plane. They are in special displays and are treasured by us. At the last Heritage League of Pierce County annual meeting, Robin was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award, a duly deserved honor. Robin's knowledge and interests made him the "go to" resource as a regional maritime historian. What little he did not know, he knew how to quickly find out. It was enthralling to visit with him at the Christmas Tea or Open houses. To quote Tom Cashman of the Foss Water Seaport, "Rob was an uniquely gifted man, always helpful, always positive, always inquisitive and always possessive of a loving spirit and giving assistance and joy to everyone he touched. We mourn his passing deeply."



Don Gleason

Early Browns Point resident and avid PNEHS supporter Don Gleason recently passed away. The last time we saw Don was at one of our events, our 25th Anniversary Celebration in September. Don was an important source of information. He took music lessons from Lightkeeper Oscar Brown. He donated his old coronet to our display in the cottage. In his nineties, Don enjoyed returning to his old home to visit and reminisce.



E.R. "Elton" Adams

E.R. Adams, Browns Point resident lost a valiant fight with cancer and died recently. ER was raised in Browns Point and attended school here. He became well known throughout the community as he worked in local grocery stores and was "the corn man" for many Salmon Bakes. You can't have that delicious salmon without that mouth watering corn on the cob and that was E.R.'s domain.

E.R. with his wife Collette

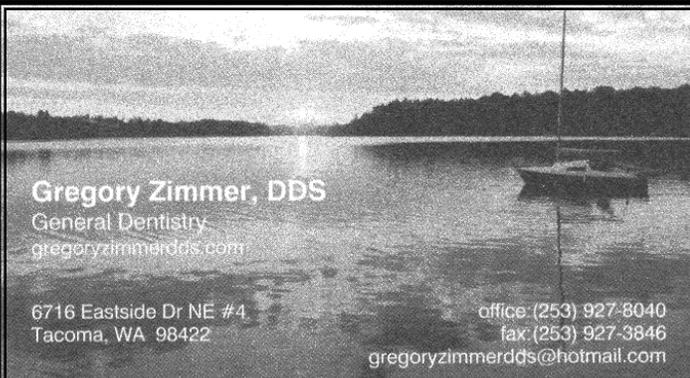
Wayne Swanson

Wayne Swanson (born 1943) died recently in an accident. Wayne and his brother Ned were raised in Browns Point. Their father, Ed Swanson was a longtime head salmon cook at the Salmon Bakes. You may have seen his picture in chef attire posing with Jerry Meeker. Wayne had been one of the leaders of the Browns Point Old Timers who met at the Salmon Bakes. Wayne taught art, stained glass and ceramics at Stadium and Lincoln High Schools. In retirement, he restored numerous historical houses in Tacoma.

Become a Business Member and your ad will be here! Business Memberships are \$100.

**Welcome to our new
Business Members:**

**Esther Min, DDS
And
Gregory Zimmer, DDS**



Gregory Zimmer, DDS
General Dentistry
gregoryzimmerdds.com

6716 Eastside Dr NE #4
Tacoma, WA 98422

office: (253) 927-8040
fax: (253) 927-3846
gregoryzimmerdds@hotmail.com

**The Browns Point Diner
and Sandbar**

in the Browns Point Shopping Center

253.952.3743

Visit our facebook page

Shane and Tanja Leek

MTWT: 8am to 8:30 pm

F S 8am to 9 pm, Sun 8am to 3 pm

PNEHS Board of Directors 2012-13

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Neil Hanson

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Kathleen Monahan

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Norm Andersen

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Mavis Stears

Museum coordinator

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Jill Barkley

Cottage Scheduler

Julie Perkins

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253.927.2536

This newsletter is published by Points Northeast Historical Society

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Next to the Browns Point Fire

**Points Northeast Historical Society
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Browns Point, WA 98422**

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" Stop and smell the flowers at the
 " Federal Way Symphony's 13th
 " Annual Garden Tour Saturday,
 " July 21, 10 am to 5 pm
 "

DONATIONS

TO IMPROVE THE COLLECTION OF ANTIQUES FROM THE 1900 - 1930's AT THE BP LIGHTHOUSE COTTAGE, THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED.

Water pump ("six foot") for cottage
 School picture of Abraham Lincoln for school display
 Oak map case with maps for school display
 Sewing bird for sewing display
 Student chalk board (about 6 X 9 inches) for display
 Wringer for washing for kitchen display
 Oak file cabinet for Meeker Office
 School bell (approximately 6 inch) for classroom in school display
 Small Teacher desk for school display

AGAIN ... WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANTIQUES FROM THE 1900 – 1930 ERA.

Thank you to Vern Reis for shaving items and Nancy Cook for school books and school items.