

Winter 2012

Points N.E. Historical Society

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

Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park

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Local Author to Present Illustrated Historical Travelogue “The Story of Washington State from Territory to Today”

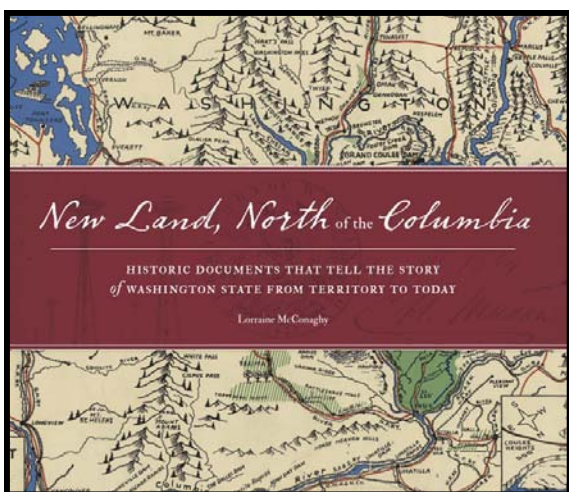
Points Northeast Historical Society’s annual public program will feature local author, Lorraine McConaghy, who will present an illustrated historical travelogue drawn from material in her recently published book *New Land, North of the Columbia: The Story of Washington State from Territory to Today*. The program is **Thursday, Feb 16 at 7pm** at St Matthew Church.

Research for this book, featuring nearly 400 documents, took McConaghy, public historian at the Museum of History and Industry, more than a year of travel throughout Washington State, from Walla Walla to Bellingham, Kelso to Newport, visiting public and university libraries, historical society archives, and federal, state, county and municipal archives.

McConaghy’s highly visual engaging presentation, showing archival material ranging from maps, correspondence and public records to patent drawings, menus and paper dolls, will explore the rich shared heritage of public archives, in Washington State, that document who we were, who we are, and who we might become.

Last spring Lorraine directed a workshop here for Points Northeast participants teaching how to develop local history. Her infectious presentation style and depth of knowledge and understanding about local history received enthusiastic response. It will be great to have another opportunity to hear her presentation. Her book will be available for purchase and she will be available for signing personal copies.

Her presentation is funded by a grant from Humanities Washington through their state-wide Speakers Bureau which brings Washington’s finest scholars, historians, musicians, and storytellers to local communities to give presentations at libraries, schools, museums, and other community organizations. For information visit www.humanities.org.



Christmas Tea with Santa, Singing, and Holiday Cheer Attracted 250 Visitors

The annual Points Northeast Christmas Tea at the Cottage attracted over 250 people, including lots of children, who enjoyed the beautiful holiday decorations, wonderful goodies, caroling groups, pictures with Santa, and opportunity to see and talk with neighbors and friends.

The old fashioned Christmas interior decorations, including an army of Nutcrackers, was organized by Margot Andersen and the outdoor lighting and greenery by Kathy Juracek and Dash Point Garden Club members created a warm welcome atmosphere.

A group of musicians and singers, organized by Chuck Zimmerman “Just for the Love of Singing,” provided singing of classic Christmas Carols and Mavis Stears played carols on the 100 year old antique pump organ.

Over 25 volunteers recruited, greeted and directed visitors around the historic cottage museum and gave tours of the Boat House Museum with classic replica Coast Guard surf boat. Several more cookie makers provided a wide variety of home-made sweets and snacks.

Santa (aka Jon Dewire a leader in the former Washington Lighthousekeepers Association) provided a lap for kids and adults to sit while Dennis Champagne took digital pictures which later were sent to all who participated.



As someone commented, “This was the best Tea ever!”

Learn About History of Lighthouse and Local Area Volunteer to Give Tours of Cottage—Twice a Year

For a just a little time commitment, you can both learn more about local history and have a fun time showing people through the cottage on Saturday afternoons from 1-4pm for as little as once or twice a year.

Special orientations with prepared background information on the history of the lighthouse will be available for those interested in getting trained as “Docents,” to guide people through the Lighthouse Cottage Museum and Boat House. New docents will be paired with experienced guides. Docent training will be scheduled some time in March.

It’s a fun experience because visitors are so amazed at what they experience in the cottage museum. You don’t need to be an in depth expert. Your main task is to open the cottage, put out signs, and provide a sense of welcoming hospitality. Last year we had about 2000 visitors from April through November. We are closed December to April.

Contact Randy White for more information on training and scheduling. 927-1708 or watac2001@yahoo.com



Guess who we saw at the Christmas Tea?



Carols, cookies and friends in our 1903 lightkeeper's cottage.. Recipe for fun!

Tacoma Fireman's Park and Foss Waterway Area Noted as Native American Venerated Location

According to local Puyallup Native American traditions, a beautiful sunrise on the Winter Solstice provides a unique opportunity to experience a spiritual event, the opening of a doorway to the spirit world which provides insight into how life should be lived. When standing in Fireman's Park in downtown Tacoma at sunrise on December 21 the sun can be seen arising out of the top of Mount Rainier. Something akin to a Stonehenge phenomenon.



This is just one reason, according to Douglas McDonnell, who has studied this phenomenon, to suggest that the area that now comprises Tacoma's downtown and Thea Foss Waterway is a most holy and venerated location. In addition to the solstice experience, this area was also the site of an ancient petroglyph, buried when building the railroad in the 1870's which shows an image of a corrupt man cast in stone as the consequences of not living a virtuous life.

Together these two features show that the downtown Tacoma and entire Puyallup Valley, according to Native American traditions are blessed as being close to paradise.

Accomplishments for Points Northeast in 2011

- Replaced roofs on four historic buildings with funding from Wa License Plate Fund and Metro Parks Tacoma
- Painted fence around the cottage with materials from Metro Parks and volunteer labor
- Upgraded alarm system in cottage and boathouse
- Restored windows in Boat House Museum. and installed security window covers
- Restored original 1903 front and back doors and installed wainscoting in the cottage
- Garden Club improved Cottage Heritage Gardens and restored gardens around history center
- Helped to fund restoration of Dash Point Fountain
- Completed major restoration of original 100 year old Hyada Park real estate office
- Restored and recovered antique couch and chairs in cottage
- Hosted a 25th anniversary celebration and 911 commemoration with over 450 attending
- Hosted annual Christmas Tea for 250
- Presented History Reenactors at annual history program
- Sponsored a workshop which resulted in a dozen history displays showing local history
- Upgraded museum displays with video capabilities
- Increased membership to 357 including 29 life members and recruited new board members
- Attracted grants, matching funds, in-kind contributions for projects worth over \$75,000
- Engaged in Strategic Planning sessions to provide 3-year direction for PNEHS
- Developed an investment plan for Endowment Fund now totaling \$14,500
- Completed Agreement with Northpoint Coop School to use principal's office as museum
- Provided around 4000 hours of volunteer labor (valued at \$80,000+) for projects
- Increased cottage occupancy to 28 weeks.
- Attracted over 2000 visitors to history museums and hosted 45 guests from a national lighthouse group.
- Organized school and Scout field trips for over 250 children
- Provided local groups with slide presentations focused on history of the area
- Developed historic site scavenger hunt guide for families and schools
- Sponsored a maritime photo contest
- Continued to acquire and catalog artifacts, photos, articles, documents in the History Research Center

Federal Way Symphony July Garden Tour To Highlight Lighthouse Cottage Gardens

Federal Way Symphony has chosen the Browns Point Lighthouse cottage gardens as the focal point for their annual Garden Tour, July 21 from 10-5pm. Other gardens in the Browns Point and Federal Way area will also be included.

Not only will visitors, be able to see the Cottage Heritage Gardens and tour the Cottage and Points Northeast Historical Society Museums, but also attend gardening presentation by Alison Kutz, owner/operator of a wholesale nursery.

The Cottage gardens have been develop over the years by the Dash Point Garden Club, now led by Kathy Juracek, who is also a member of PNEHS Board.

Time for Membership Renewals Business Membership Perks Available

Membership in PNEHS has increased every year for the past few years, almost tripling to over 350 in 2011. We are hoping to top 400 for 2012. You can help by both renewing your membership, if you haven't done so already, recruiting your friends and neighbors—maybe giving a membership as a gift to children or grandchildren to get them interested in the history of their neighborhood.

We sent renewal notices to everyone who has been a past member resulting so far in over 30 new members or members who have not renewed in a long time (some from over 20 years ago). *Sometimes people think that they are members of PNEHS because they are members of Browns Point Improvement Club. Even though we are neighbors and work together on projects, we are separate organizations with separate membership and dues.*

We are also encouraging local business to support our efforts by signing up for a Business Membership for \$100 a year. In return we will give special recognition in our newsletter and on our revised website.

Memberships dues: Senior, \$10; Individual \$15; Family \$25; Sponsor, \$50; Benefactor, \$75; Patron and Business \$100. Life Membership fees: Senior \$350; Senior Family \$500; Individual \$500; Family \$750

Welcome new Life Members: Bradley/ Dede Hull and Bob/Mary Robinson

Other Life Members: Margot/Norm Andersen, Jill/Dan Barkley, Peter/Ann Darling, Neil/Karen Hanson, Jim/Path Harnish, Bob/Marilyn Johnson, Diane Malone, Jerry Monahan, Kathleen Monahan, Marie Monahan, Gary/Nancie Russ, Mavis/Larry Stears, Lynette Stevenson, Ron/Laverne Stone, Karen Sullivan, Linda/Jay VanNest, and Thomas Waite

Below are paid up members for 2012. If your name is not here please consider renewing. Fay Ainsworth, Browns Point Diner, Bill Drew/Aileen Williams, Akers family, Al/Mickey Allen, Anita/Don Andersen, Heidi/Doug Andersen, Harriet Anderson, Tom Anderson, Ron/Sue Ayer, Bill/Sally Baird, Jerry/Jackie Barrett, Mary/Frank Blacker, Stacy Blake, Jose/Mary Bolanos, Ray Taylor, Bonnie Stenberg, Chris/Patricia Bradley, Joe/Jean Buhaly, Janice Burgess, David/Beverly Carlson, Richard/Jeanette Carman, Jay Stern, Carol Schneider, Sandy/Chuck Carpenter, Dennis Champagne, Chris Vanasse & Cindy Laing, Christine/Douglas Clapp family, Ruth Clapp, Dick/Linda Collins, Stacy/Craig Colombel, Joan/Boyd Curtis, Mary Daughters, Diane Deason, George Dennett, Joanne Deyo, Chris Harnish & Dianne Boyd, Ted/Marje Dietrich, Amy Ecker, Adeline Ehle, Rich/Gladys Engler, Joel/Susan Farley, Barbara Farron, Brian/Tricia Fransen, Diane/Brendan Gallagher, Michael Gallagher family, John/Sue Gammell, Don Gleason, Marjorie Grim, Tom/Mari Hagen, Geri/Bob Hager, Steve Haney, Christine Harris, Carol Hazelrigg, Larry/Karen Hegarty, Heimers Family, Eric Henriksson, Mary Hildebrand, Charles/Gayle Holcom, Howard/Sandra Holder, Charlene Honda, Ellen Hovey, Bill/Betty Huff, Patti/Roger Hurlbut, Huson Family, Helen Jacobson, Scott Andersen & Jennifer Bishop, Kathy Juracek, Sharon/Mark Keplinger, Don/Dorothy Keuter, Key family, Richard/Pamela Knapp, Toni/Michael Kuresman, Art/Pam Ladley, Lucy/George Lark, Beth/Liz Latsis, Albert/Janet Lauer, Ted/Patrice Linde, Lohr Family, John/Liz Kurnitzi-Thurlow, Judy Oh & Mark Soldan, Jennifer Harnish family, Kathy Martin, Gary Jacobson/ Mary Wave Van Deren, Terry Massey, McClung Family, Julia McKee, Roger McLennan, Midi Mees, Molly Harnish, Vic Monahan, Jeff/Sandra Morgan, Robert/Shirley Muntz, Nancy Murray, Mary Nadeau, Jayne Neitzel, James/Marian Oberg, Jennifer Ohanessian, Rebecca Olson, Linda Olson, Mignonne/Bill Peterson, Douglas/Ellen Peterson, Shirley Prather, David/Jane Randles, Robert Goforth and Randy White, Gary Gillette & Renee Hughes, Jason Russ family, Seabury School, Paul/Doris Schwarz, Alex/Kristin Sergienko, Eric/Kristen Smith, Larry/Debra Smolinski family, Lynn/Kathy Sommers, David/Mary Souza, Beth/Josh Sparks family, Dave/Marti Stark, Julie Allen/Stephen Doll, Joe Stiegler, James Storey, Beverlee Storkman, Jesse/Mary Thomas, Susan Volz, Monica Watchie, Susan Wenski, Madeline West, Keith/Pamela Wetterer, Whitham Family, John Wilkins, Bob/Janet Witter, Victoria Woodards.

For application, see: pointsnortheast.org or leave message at 253-927-2536

A New Addition: Much Needed Copy Machine

Thank you goes to **Pacific Office Automation** located in Fife for their prompt, courteous and professional sale and delivery of a slightly used copy machine at a great rate. Removal of our dated copiers was also included.

Their service is highly recommended to any business in need.



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PNEHS Answering Phone 253 927-2536

Cottage Scheduler Julie Perkins

*This newsletter is published
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**Points NE Historical Society
Suite 180, PMB #135
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Browns Points, WA 98422**

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US POSTAGE
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POINTS NE
HIST. SOCIETY

**Special Historical Program/Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 16th, 7 p.m.
St. Matthew Episcopal Church**



**Local author Lorraine McConaghy
will present an illustrated historical
travelogue *The Story of Washington
State from Territory to Today***

Ballot for 2012 Annual Meeting Elections

**Please mail your ballot by February 15
to Points NE Historical Society at
Suite 180 PMB #135
1000 Town Center NE
Browns Point, WA 98422**

Or

Bring to the Annual Meeting, February 16th 7 p.m.

I cast my vote for :

Treasurer: Norm Andersen 3 year term yes ___ no ___

Vice President: Neil Hanson 2 year term yes ___ no ___

Happenings Around the Points

Polar Bears Appear at Dash Point Dock Plunge into Puget Sound Waters, Jan 1



For the past several years, a growing number of local “polar bears,” kids, adults, and seniors have celebrated New Year’s day with a plunge off the Dash Point Dock into the icy waters of Puget Sound. This year about two dozen hearty souls made the leap, some on their own, others with the help of a push from friends. Linda Olsen, member of PNEHS, may have been the most senior jumper. Organizers of this “historic event” seems to be Maura and Todd Carlise, who with their three children, Quinn, Levi and Zoe were plungers. Some hot drinks and a warm fire on the beach were provided for all, including the spectators.



Ramona Hawthorne, granddaughter of Jerry Meeker, celebrated her 90th birthday on Friday, November 25th with a gathering of friends at the BPIC clubhouse. It was sponsored by BPIC and with food catered by the Emerald Queen Casino.

Ramona, a life-long Browns Point resident lives in her grandfather’s home which is the second oldest building in Browns Point. Her grandfather Jerry was a member of the Puyallup tribe and a founder of Browns Point. Ramona had a career as a nurse during WWII and later was a librarian in the Tacoma Public Schools.

Ramona Hawthorne turns 90 Years Old...What A Celebration!