

Summer 2013

Points N.E. Historical Society

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

Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park

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What should we get Browns Point & the Lighthouse for 110th Birthday?

This year marks the 110th Anniversary of the dedication of the first lighthouse (1903) and the 80th Anniversary of the present lighthouse. At that original dedication ceremony in October 1903, the area was officially renamed from Point Brown to Browns Point. (See page 5). It is in a sense, our community's birthday. Anyone interested in helping to plan a community birthday party, call our message phone at 253-927-2536 or Jim Harnish at 253- 927-6019.



First Lighthouse built in 1903



Current Lighthouse at dedication in 1933

We Never Promised you a Rose Garden, But Here It Is

The Dash Point Garden Club members have planted a beautiful rose garden along side the boxwoods which line the front sidewalk leading up to the cottage. Once again PNEHS with the Garden Club's expertise and work are returning the cottage gardens to the original. Oscar and Annie Brown, the original light keepers, had a row of roses lining the side walk leading to the cottage. They would feel at home with all that has happened this past decade. Don't miss our lovely new floral addition! The rose ladies are **Suzanne Matoni, Debbie Hutchinson and Kathy Juracek.**



4th Grade Field Trips, A Success

For years PNEHS has been hosting 4th grade field trips for **Browns Point and Crescent Heights Schools**. This year we were pleased to add **Northeast Tacoma School**.

The days of the field trips, May 21, 22 and 23, were probably the worst weather we had all Spring. It was cold, windy and threatening rain which required us to change our usual rotation system. Three of the learning sites are normally outdoors: the **Lighthouse** where they learn about the first and the current lighthouse, the **Park** where they hear about famous mariners who first visited and named many places on Puget Sound plus learning about the Mosquito Fleet and the **Bell House** where the children learn how to tie mariners' knots plus ringing our famous fog bell. Docents at two of these outdoor sites and their classes were moved into the **cottage**. Two other docents with their classes were in their usual places, the **music room** and in the **museum downstairs**. This made for lots of activity in the cottage. The boat-house lesson was in the **boathouse** as usual and the lesson about explorers was held in the **history center**. The 250 children seemed to enjoy it all in spite of the weather.

We owe special thanks to the following docent/teachers who were well prepared and very flexible due to the bad weather: **Linda VanNest, Neil Hanson, Janice Burgess, Art Ladley, Bob Robinson, Norm Butka, Jim Harnish, Jim Lumley, Dennis Champagne and Mavis Stears**. Each day the 4th graders were divided into seven groups and rotated in an organized fashion so that they had a different learning experience at seven different sites. This year we added the 7th site, the **Browns Point Fire Truck** with our fire fighters teaching water safety. Each docent taught the same lesson 7 times. In the three days they did it a total of 21 times....maybe a little "above and beyond the call of duty."

Our assistant docents were **Lavern Stone, Sue Wenski, Mary Chavez and JoAnn Hawkins**. Much of the learning involved "hands on" experiences requiring extra help from these docents with items in our museums such as the kitchen sink pump, the wall telephone, the typewriter, and using old fashioned tools in the boathouse. The children experienced a little of what life was like in the early 1900s.

Our time keepers and bell ringer docents were **Pat Harnish, Mary Pete and Pam Ladley**. **Dale Friend** assisted on Browns Point's day. This job was extremely important. When the docents heard them blow the boat whistle they knew it was time to send each group to their next site. All was accomplished in less than two and a half hours.

Our fabulous Fire Department withstood the weather while the rest of us had some shelter. Adding the 7th site (the fire department) was a great help in making our groups smaller, but the big bonus was that they had a lot to teach our children. Each child personally learned how to throw a boat ring and learned the proper way to wear a life jacket. We thank **Chief Cliff McCollum and his team** for making this an unforgettable experience for the children. Thanks to **St Matthew Church Outreach Committee** for granting \$150 to Northeast Tacoma School for school bus transportation for this event.



250 local students converge on the Park for history field trip



Jim Lumley helps students learn knots



Students learn to throw life preser to manequin

With Special Permits and Limited Access, Historic Real Estate Office Back on Display



After receiving a special use permit from Metro Parks in addition to earlier approval from Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation in Olympia, the historic Hyada Park Real Estate Office is back on Lighthouse Park property temporarily. Since last fall, it had been stored on the Monahan property, where restoration work was done.

These permissions were necessary because, the lightstation property is on the National Register of Historic Places and the real estate office was not originally located on the site (but a few hundred yards away on the corner of Hyada and Ton-A-Wan-Da). Metro Parks also required a “hold harmless” agreement to protect them from liabilities.

Later this year, Metro Parks will begin planning for some park improvements which were funded by a 2005 Bond Issue for among other things improving access. Hopefully, a more permanent site for the office will be included in that planning. The acquisition and restoration of the office was a joint project between Browns Point Improvement Club and PNEHS. No suitable place on BPIC property could be identified and besides this would be too far away from other PNEHS historic museum buildings to be easily staffed by docents for weekly open house visits. Visitors now can peek into the restored building which is furnished as the office might have been over a hundred years ago and learn about its history and purpose from the informational posters on the outside of the building.

Get your Red, White and Blue on!

The Annual lower Browns Point 4th of July parade is Thursday, July 4 . A fairly recent tradition, it is a throwback to the 4th of Julys of old with a neighborhood parade resplendent with decorated bikes, babies in strollers, homemade floats, decorated pets and more. Afterwards there are games and tugs of war, watermelons for eating and spitting and our Fire Department and fire truck are in the fun too. All are welcome to participate. The start time is 10:00 am and the location is the Curly Slide Park. PNEHS members traditionally walk in the parade with our banner. So get in on the fun. If you'd like to walk with the PNEHS, show up. If you'd like to, you can dress in PNEHS historical garb or patriotic garb! For more information about the entire event, contact Parade Coordinator, Silvia McClung at 253-927-2127.



Students “ticketed and booked” by “Friends” at Browns Point Grade School Celebration



Ta da! The Finished Project. 88 students may now say they are “published authors”.



WE GOT BOOKS!



Going like hotcakes: Mr Friend and PNEHS President Jim Harnish “supervise” the distribution of the books to students.

To the Right: Students in the late 1920s pose in front of the “old School” on Tok A Lou St.

Eighty eight Browns Point Grade School students who participated in a history project last year were presented (“**booked**”) with the published results of their work, a 36 page hardback history of their school. **Dale Friend**, who directed the project and his wife **Ione** presented each student with an individual copy at a year-end celebration recently. In addition, each received a pass (“**ticketed**”) to Wild Waves, thanks to a former student.

Last year, the students interviewed several former students, some in their 90’s and researched the files at Points Northeast History Center for pictures and other information about the school. Dale retired after 43 years of teaching at Browns Point. Then he and Ione put the material together in a published format and wanted each student to have a copy as evidence of their historical project.

Funding for the project came easily as Browns Point PTA, Browns Point Improvement Club, and Points Northeast Historical Society came forth to support the project along with several local businesses and former students. Enough money was raised to cover not only the cost of the books for each student but also provide copies for the school’s library and the PNEHS History Collection.

A few extra copies will be available for \$20 at the PNEHS History Museum (open 1-4 pm Saturdays). All proceeds will go into a special fund to support the annual local 4th grade history field trips which this year included 250 students from the three local grade schools.

Classes involved were the 2011–2012 classes of **Mr. Friend, Mrs. Hasenauer, Mrs. Liebl, Mrs. Koutles and Ms. Nielsen.**

Thanks to the former alums who were interviewed: **Madeline West, Beverlee Storkman, Ginger Wolfe Appelo, Majorie Wolfe Cosseinelli, Carol Rogers Simpson, Glen and Bev More, John Kennedy and Peter Darling.**



What's in a Name: Point Brown or Brown's Point or Browns Point

- U.S. Naval Lt. Charles Wilkes first named our point Point Harris in 1841 after a crew member.
- U.S. Naval Lt. Ambrose Wyckoff lists it on his charts as Point Brown in 1877 perhaps because the Madrona trees on the point looked so brown compared to the green forest above.
- Occasionally, some news clippings in the very late 1890s list it as Brown's Point with an apostrophe.

Here's the rest of the story:

- On **October 26th 1903**, the light on the post that had been erected and maintained by a hired Tacoma man since 1887 was removed. **At that time the name Point Brown ceased to exist.**
- **That same evening of October 26th, Oscar Brown the first light keeper lit the lantern in our first lighthouse for the first time. At that moment the name Browns Point was born.** A letter from the Department of Commerce and Labor dated September 25, 1903 was sent to mariners informing them of the name change.

Officially the name Browns Point never had an apostrophe. Since 1890 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has discouraged the use of the possessive form. The apostrophe noting possession is almost always omitted. Since 1890 only five place names with apostrophes have been allowed for various reasons. Martha's Vineyard is an example.

With this newly found information we can now state that our point became Browns Point on October 26th, 1903. **Browns Point is officially 110 years old this year. Birthday cake anyone?**

Dash Point History Featured in Exhibit Opening

This year's featured exhibit at the Points Northeast Historical Society museum traces the history of **Dash Point beginning in 1906. The museum, located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park**, will be open every Saturday from 1-4 p.m. until November 16. The Dash Point exhibit shows how the area grew from the time it was Puyallup Indian Reservation land when individual patent deeds were signed in 1886 by President Grover. It includes the community's progress in areas of transportation, business, social events and celebrations. PNEHS also maintains a small museum in the original principal's office in the historic Dash Point School (now owned by Northpoint Coop Pre-school). Access to the Browns Point Museum for private group tours where you will find this Dash Point exhibit is by appointment. (253-927-2536).

A Tip from The Lightkeeper's Cap goes to:

- *Our Garden Club volunteers for creating and maintaining our beautiful gardens including Suzanne Matoni, Diane Gallaher, Nancie Russ, Lynne Snell, Cindy Berard, Kathy Winslow, Karen Hegarty, Sue Wenski, Diane Ritcher, Lila Owes, Pam Ladley, Linda Butcher and Kathy Juraeck.*
- *Thanks to Suzanne Matoni, Karen Hegarty, Debbie Hutchison, Kathy Juracek, Metro Parks, C. Raker and Sons, Inc. And the Dash Point Garden Club for donating plants.*
- *The North Point Preschool for letting us use their Dash Point building for our Annual Meeting in February.*
- *Docent Coordinator Janice Burgess and her band of intrepid cottage docents*
- *Dick Collins for rototilling the new boathouse garden area*
- *Corey McFarland and his volunteers from the Marine View Presbyterian Church for clearing away sod for the new boathouse garden.*
- *Mavis Stears for coordinating the school field trips and the volunteers who made them a success.*
- *Jill and Dan Barkley for coordinating the Annual Meeting at historic Dash Point School.*
- *New Business Members Alfred's Café (Brett and Linda Armstrong) and St Matthew Episcopal Church.*
- *Larry Stears, our sweetheart of a IT guy who keeps our computer up to date and solves our technical woes.*
- *St. Matthew Episcopal Church for letting the PNEHS Board meet in their Parish Hall.*

Donations Needed

The following list of items are needed to enhance our museum collection of antiques from the 1900—1930 era.

- Small Harp
- Set of book ends with nautical theme or school theme
- Elementary school Lincoln picture
- Hat pin holder and/ or hat pin(s)
- Glass cake knife
- Silhouette picture(s)
- Stick pen(s)
- Ink Wells for student desk(s)
- Student chalk board(s)
- Double globe parlor lamp/ antique lamps (not standing)



This home on Arthur Street in Dash Point built in 1923 has been nominated for the Pierce County Historical Registry by the David Gray Smith family.

Dash Point Day 2013 Featured “The Hot Footers”

The Dash Point Social and Improvement Club celebrated the Annual Dash Point Day Saturday, June 1. Events included the Dash Point Dash Fun Run, a barbeque and historical display. The Club featured this year for their display and race t-shirts pictures of “The Hot Footers,” a group of Browns Point and Dash Point women volunteer firefighters. The display featured an original uniform worn by Georgina Camp and a 1968 newspaper photo and article (the newspaper dubbed the ladies, “Howard’s Harem” after Howard Jones, fire chief.

“*Dash Point Since 1906*” is the current exhibit at the Cottage Basement Museum. It’s a fun collection of old and new photos and artifacts celebrating the unique community of Dash Point. The Dash Point School Museum can be opened for tours by appointment. Contact Jill Barkley at 253 927-3329 or jill-cwt@comcast.net.



DPSIC President Karen Hansen addresses race participants .

To the right: Louise Fincham and Linda Stacy are wearing the 2013 t-shirts which feature the “Hotfooters” and which also included their mothers, Louise Austin and Georgina Camp.



***Browns Point Light Station Museums Are Open
for Tours and Visits every Saturday from 1-4 p.m. until Nov. 16***

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Brett and Linda Armstrong

Casual Dining at its **BEST**

A Few Projects Need Helpers

If you have a few hours to spare we could use some help :

Painting projects include:

- Back porch second coat of paint (a few hours)
- South side of cottage, scraping, prep and painting (a few hours or few days)

Carpentry work:

- Replace some of boathouse flooring (a few days)
- Helping to design brochures, website, and promotional video.

Call Jim Harnish 253-927-6019

PNEHS Board of Directors 2013

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Dash Point School Jill Barkley	253) 927-3329
Cottage Scheduler Julie Perkins	(253) 927-2536
<u>PNEHS Answering Phone</u>	(253) 927-2536

*This newsletter is published by Points Northeast Historical Society
Editor: Kathleen Monahan*

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Membership is open to all.
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Send to Membership Chair
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It's About US!

Our Curator, Mavis Stears wrote an article about our Lighthouse published in the *March/April Lighthouse Digest*. The piece was six pages with a glorious color center-fold of our cottage! Look for it to be posted on our website. You can also check the magazine's website at *LighthouseDigest.com*

**Points Northeast Historical
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Thank you, Docents :
Janice Burgess, Cindy Laing, Jim and Pat Harnish, Dick Carman, Mignonne Peterson, Nancy Pawlicki, Midi Mees, Mark and Rochele Garner, Mari Hagen, Jill Barkley, Kathleen Monahan, Pam Halsan, Randy White, Silvia McClung, Mary Pete, Amy Ecker, JoAnn Hawkins, Sue Wenski,
Come join our intrepid band! Call 253-927-2536.



Lighthouse Holly Hock Seeds
Gathered by the Ladies of the Dash Point
Garden Club.
Tending Gardens since 1946

**Buy Historic
Lighthouse Holly Hock Seeds
at \$2.00 a packet
in the Cottage Museum Sales Area**

**Perfect for your yard !
Send a friend a floral reminder of the
Historic Browns Point Light Station.**