

Points N.E. Historical Society

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

Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park

Mailing Address:
6716 Eastside Drive NE
#1-135
Browns Point, WA 98422

Telephone: (253) 927-2536
Email: pointsnortheast@comcast.net
Website: www.pointsnortheast.org
Facebook: facebook.com/PointsNortheast

Summer 2018



Park Closed for June and July

Metro Parks Working on Projects Voted in 2005 and 2014 Bonds Elections

As soon as the last bus of 4th graders left the BPIC parking lot (after another successful round of student field trips), construction workers moved in to start the projects for the Park. Included in the work are a paved parking lot with a roundabout and a designated handicapped parking space and ADA accessible sidewalks in the Park. The new sidewalks are wide enough for wheelchairs to access.

Visitors can still access the beach through the BPIC parking lot.

Although small children may take delight in watching the Construction machines at work, it does appear to be a bit like making sausage. The finished product is great but watching

the sausage making process is not! But the Park will be getting a much improved parking lot and access for members of our community that haven't had it before.

"We are really excited because it's going to get a lot of folks that normally wouldn't maybe go there or be able to get down to the beach now," said Tom Dargan, project administrator for Metro Parks.

Points NE Historical Society had high hopes of being able to continue the Saturday Docent Tours in the Cottage Museums and of continuing its Honorary Light Keeper's Cottage rentals. But after the first Saturday, it became apparent that the Tours were not compatible. PNEHS is hoping to restart its tours during the Salmon Bake. The work is being done by Puget Paving and Construction.

Tom Dargan of Metro Parks and Members of the PNEHS Board met for a tour of the construction process in July.

Pictured are Mavis Stears, Linda Van Nest, Jim Harnish, Nancy Bess, Kathy Juracek, Nancy Pawlicki and Tom Dargan. Also attending were Norm and Margot Andersen, Diane Malone and Kathleen Monahan



From Our President

Dear Members and Friends,

As you may have observed, our Browns Point Lighthouse Park is undergoing some changes which alter our small, informal site. Metropolitan Parks Tacoma is using Bond funds to upgrade the parking lot with a circular drive, and to install an Americans with Disabilities Act walkway to the north shoreline. Right now you'll find orange construction fencing surrounding the affected area, and concrete foundations.

We have heard from many of you that this is upsetting to see such changes, as the feel of the Park is not the same. That is true, and very valid. It will take some getting used to with more concrete and less grass. We have also heard from some of you how pleased you are to be able to access the Park for the first time in years. Previously, with walkers or wheelchairs you were unable to visit the Park.

Right now our Park looks sad. Our hope is that with proper fill, and landscaping, much of the landscape will be softened and blend better with our site. We have met with MPT and shared our concern. They are listening. One example is the rose garden which was removed from the front of the Cottage. MPT has promised to bring in compost and new plants to refresh the rose garden in the spring.

We will continue to ask questions, and wait and see with you how this all turns out. As good lightkeepers, we will stay on watch. Meanwhile, if you have more questions or thoughts, you may contact us, or Tom Dargan, Metro Parks project engineer at tomd@tacomaparks.com

Linda Van Nest
President,
PNEHS

*President
Linda Van
Nest
strolling on
the new
ADA side-
walk on a
sunny after-
noon!*



Restoration Projects On Hold For Now

Restoration, grant and maintenance projects have been put on hold due to disruption and lack of access at the Browns Point Lighthouse Park because of Metro Parks project to install ADA accessible parking and paths. This \$500,000+ construction effort, funded by a 2005 bond issue, has also forced us to cancel the Saturday visitor tours until August. Cottage rentals are still available because several reservations have been cancelled.

The restoration and maintenance projects that are being held up include the Generator Building, a \$23,000 project to restore the windows, ventilator louvers, and roof is funded by a Pierce County Preservation Grant, Washington Lighthouse License Fund, and matching grants from PNEHS. This is the second to last of the seven buildings on the lightstation to be restored. Grant money of \$4,500 from Tacoma Landmarks fund has been secured to assess the condition of the lighthouse, and develop detailed drawings for restoration of this 1933 structure. In hand is another \$20,000 in grants from the Port of Tacoma and Pierce County Lodging Tax funds to upgrade Park informational signage.

Over the past several years, PNEHS has attracted almost \$300,000 in grants and matching funds. In addition, volunteers have contributed around 4,000 of work annually which is worth about \$100,000.

You membership is very important for our fund raising efforts, not only because of your dues but because grant-funding agencies are impressed with our organization having over 300 members and a good track record of projects completed.

*Architect
Gene
Grulich
and Jim
Harnish
caught
after a
meeting
about our
Restora-
tion pro-
jects.
Gene has
been our
shining
armor!*





Gift Shop Buzz

Pictured at left is the newest item in our Gift Shop, a slimmer style tote bag in our signature blue color. Available for just \$4.00, this tote will be given away **FREE WITH EVERY NEW MEMBERSHIP** purchase during the Salmon Bake on August 4th and 5th. Ask your friends to consider joining Points Northeast, or perhaps give a membership as a gift. Annual fees start as low as \$10.00. Think about giving other unique items from the Gift Shop for all gift occasions....mugs, aprons, books, maps. You'd be amazed at the variety of merchandise, nothing over \$25.00.

It's never too early for Holiday shopping! Think birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, thank you gifts, new home, babies



Summer Park Photos

THE BROWNS POINT IMPROVEMENT CLUB PRESENTS
The Original SALMON BAKE

REUNION!

THE GET-TOGETHER FOR
 OF ALL OF US WHO WENT TO
 SCHOOL TOGETHER 'WAY
 BACK WHEN.
 AND RODE RAY'S OLD BUS INTO
 TACOMA.
 CAN YOU BELIEVE IT'S BEEN
 2 YEARS SINCE OUR LAST
 REUNION?
 PLEASE SAVE SATURDAY
 AUGUST 4TH AT NOON
 FOR OUR HAPPY
 GATHERING.
 AS USUAL, WE'RE UNDER
 THE DINING TENT.

DATES BACK TO
 THE EARLY 1900'S

**AUGUST
 4 and 5
 NOON TO 8PM**

BEER GARDEN
 Open until Midnight
 on Saturday

SHOW UP AT NOON, WE'LL VISIT
 AND SHARE MEMORIES, TAKE
 A GROUP PHOTO AT 2 PM, AND
 CALL IT GOOD TILL NEXT TIME.
 WE'LL REMEMBER THE
 CLASSMATES WE'VE LOST.
PLEASE BRING ANY PHOTOS
 YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE.
 AND TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO
 PASS THIS NOTE ALONG TO
 OTHER OLD-TIMERS. WE DON'T
 HAVE EVERYONE'S EMAIL OR
 SNAIL MAIL ADDRESS.
 QUESTIONS? PAM (MORE) HALSAN
 253-219-3439

*August 7
 is
 National
 Light-
 house
 Day!
 Celebrate
 with your
 favorite
 Light-
 house.*

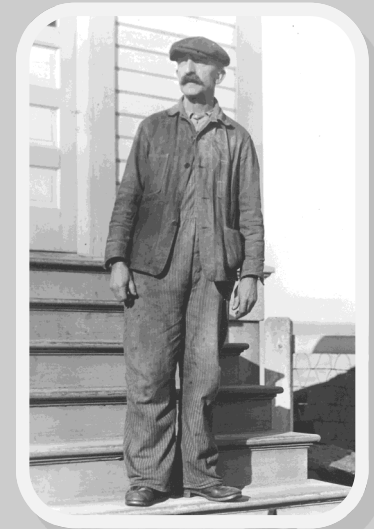
Part two: Oscar and Annie Brown

Before Oscar and Annie's arrival at Browns Point, a light on a post was the only sign given to mariners that they were close to Browns Point. It had been erected on a pole in December 1887. A hired man from Tacoma was hired to row out to the light once a week to change the wick and clean, polish and relight the lantern.

Oscar and Annie Brown arrived at Browns Point on October 26, 1903. They spent their first night in the brand new light keeper's house built along with the lighthouse during that summer of 1903. Oscar's upright grand piano spent a few nights on the beach until men from Tacoma arrived to move it into the house. The grounds below the house were a messy/ muddy swamp. In those first years, at high tide, Oscar often rowed his boat out to the lighthouse instead of wading in high water. They had no running water. Oscar located a natural spring on the property and soon a tank on stilts was built in the back yard to collect rain water. A well was dug in 1915, but they did not get indoor plumbing or a septic system until 1917 when a power house for the well was built. With plumbing came the problems of pipes freezing in the winter time. We suspect Annie didn't care. She finally had running water in the house the rest of the time. Electricity would not come to them until 1921 when the first road called Marine View Drive was built.

The property for the lighthouse had been purchased in 1901 by the United States Government from the descendants of Joe Douette, a Puyallup native. All of the land in Browns Point, Dash Point and Northeast Tacoma was part of the Puyallup Reservation. In 1903 Oscar and Annie were the first white residents. Oscar tore down several dilapidated buildings keeping one for a temporary chicken house and barn for his horse and cow. He eventually built a new building for them. An interesting note is that in these early years, fighting fires occurred several times in the Browns Point and Dash Point areas according to

Lighting the lantern and pushing it out of the second story window of the lighthouse every night was simple. But ringing the fog bell every 20 seconds on foggy days and nights was not so simple. It was operated with a very large, clock work machine that required winding a crank every 90 minutes. This lifted a very, heavy weight that kept a hammer hitting the exterior part of the bell. He described it as being run by "brute force and stupidity". PNEHS exhibits this bell in the pump house. We call it the Bell house now. Oscar's chores included chopping wood every day for the kitchen stove, feeding animals, and in summer time a continual painting of the inside and outside of all of the buildings required by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. He had to mix his own paint from recipes provided by the Service. They raised much of their food and fortunately, the past owner had established some fruit trees. Oscar planted more.



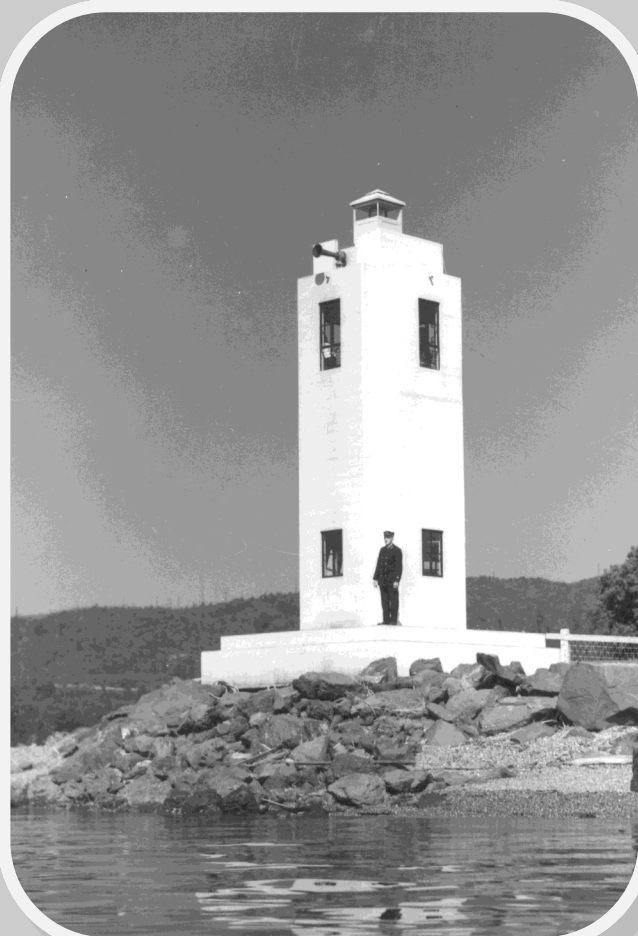
He rowed to Tacoma once a week for mail and purchased anything else they needed. In the summer time he sold fruit in Tacoma. There were no roads. The only transportation to small communities along the Sound was via mosquito fleet boats (similar to buses having routes) which were usually privately or family owned. He never owned an automobile. By 1905 when the lower part of Browns Point was platted by Jerry Meeker and his partners, they sold lots and neighbors arrived. Often during extremely foggy times when the fog bell mechanism broke the neighbors would help Oscar keep the bell ringing. Oscar and Annie both loved flowers. As the years progressed, they expanded their gardens to include many perennials. In the grassy areas during the early springtime, daffodils popped out all over the grounds.

When his chores were completed, Oscar was able to enjoy his love for music and use of his many musical talents. He became the piano and wind instrument teacher to many neighborhood children. Oscar and Annie would often take the last boat to Tacoma to attend concerts and returned by bus or street car to the bottom of Julia's Gulch and then walked home...yes, at night. They never had a vacation. Few people did in those days.

Oscar's mother Susan lived with them for many years though we don't know when she arrived. She died in the cottage in 1930. Two charming little girls, Annie Lou and Ruth also became part of Oscar and Annie's family though they lived just up the road with their father, Richard Wayson, a single parent. He was Annie's brother. Annie taught the girls to cook and sew. She served as a room mother for their school classes and also taught their religion classes. Oscar and Annie both had extensive education. They were avid readers with a large collection of books and subscriptions to the Saturday Evening Post, National Geographic, Rudder, Yachtsmen and Etude (a music magazine).

Finally the road we call Marine View Drive was built in 1921. Other small communities along the Sound were also opened to roads. Boats on the Sound became fewer and fewer.

By 1933, the old wooden lighthouse was being threatened by the tides. It's foundation was damaged and the shoreline around it required upgrading with a stronger bulkhead.



This new lighthouse, a two story, concrete building housed a small Fresnel lens light and instead of a fog bell had a fog horn. This was a much easier job which Oscar enjoyed for six more years although he was already old enough to retire.

In 1939 the United States Lighthouse Service was replaced by the U.S. Coast Guard at which time Oscar retired with 48 years of light keeping. Service. He and Annie moved to Tacoma where he died in 1946 at the age of 79. Annie died in 1960.

47^{NORTH}
DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to our new
business member!

MATT HERRON

Matt@47NorthDevelopment.com

206.931.2535

520 Pike St, Ste. 1505

Seattle, WA 98101

www.47NorthDevelopment.com

ALFRED'S CAFÉ
402 PUYALLUP AVENUE
TACOMA

253 627 5491

BRETT AND LINDA ARMSTRONG
CASUAL DINING AT ITS BEST

All Seattle Tacoma Area Realty Services

Fay Ainsworth, Broker

Real Estate Consultant, MBA - All STARS Team Manager



Direct: **253-927-4000**

Fax: **253-952-7848**

fayainsworth@msn.com

*"Opening Doors to
Opportunities"*

**KELLER
WILLIAMS**
REALTY

33530 First Way So. Suite 100
Federal Way, WA 98003



www.allWAhomes.com

Each office is independently owned and operated.

NWMLS

**Saint Matthew Episcopal
Church**

6800 Eastside Drive NE
Browns Point, WA 98422

PH: 253 927 9808

www.neighborhoodparish.org

Office email:

office@stmatthew.comcastbiz.net

Fr. Kendall Haynes

fatherkendall@gmail.com

Sunday services:

8 am and 10 am

A Church for all People



The Browns Point Diner

in the Browns Point

Shopping Center

Shane and Tanja Leek

Open 7 days a week

Get Stranded in the Sandbar!

253 952-3743

Dine-in or Take Out

View our historic PNEHS photos display

Your Ad Could Be Here!

***Join PNEHS as a Business Member
And Get Exposure!***

***Contact our Membership Chair
253 370 4683***



Stephanie Herrmann
Owner/Broker

253.332.2101

Ofc 253.238.9511

Fax 253.238.9514

MyAgentStephanie@bpsv.onmicrosoft.com

www.BetterPropertiesSoundView.com

MLS

6716 East Side Dr NE, Suite 3
Tacoma/Browns Point, WA 98422

**Better
Properties**
 SoundView

PNEHS Board of Directors 2018 –2019

President Linda Van Nest	253 927 4250
V-President Diane Malone	253 265 2080
Past Pres. Jill Barkley	253 927 3329
Co-Secretaries Neil Hanson	253 952 3271
Diane Jahnke	253 517 3289
Treas/Mbrsp Chair Norm Andersen	253 370 4683
Curator Mavis Stears	253 927 5385
Garden Club Liaison Kathy Juracek	253 952 8874
BPIC Liaison Fay Ainsworth	253 927 4000
Sales Pat Harnish	253 927 6019
Cottage Greeter Nancy Pawlicki	253 222 7121
Maintenance Chair Bob Robinson	253 722 6764
Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Bess	360 876 5110
Newsltr/Publicity Kathleen Monahan	253 927 2425
Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Bess	360 876 5110

Board Members

Margot Andersen Cottage	253 588 8559
Mary Chavez Website	253 927 8826
Neil Hanson Collections	253 952 3271
Jim Harnish	253 9276019

Other Contacts

Dash Point School Jill Barkley	253 927 3329
Cottage Scheduler Julie Perkins	253 927 2536
Assistant Curator Pam Halsan	253 219 3439
PNEHS Message Phone	253 927 2536

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

Points Northeast Historical Society Browns Point, Dash Point and NE Tacoma Membership and Volunteer Opportunities

Memberships

New _____ **Renewal** _____

Individual	15.00	_____
Family	25.00	_____
Senior (Per Member)	10.00	_____
Sponsor	50.00	_____
Business	100.00	_____

Total Enclosed _____

Volunteer Opportunities

Docent (Guide) _____	Maintenance _____
Filing _____	Publicity _____
Grant Writing _____	Merchandising _____
Education _____	Fund Raising _____
Spec. Events _____	Research _____
Cottage _____	Photography _____
Computer inputting (much needed) _____	

Points Northeast Historical Society appreciates your support in helping to preserve, promote and celebrate the history of Browns Point, Dash Point and Northeast Tacoma.

Please return this form to:

**Points Northeast Historical Society
6716 Eastside Drive #1-135
Browns Point WA 98422**

**253-927-2536 www.pointsnortheast.org
Email: pointsnortheast@comcast.net**

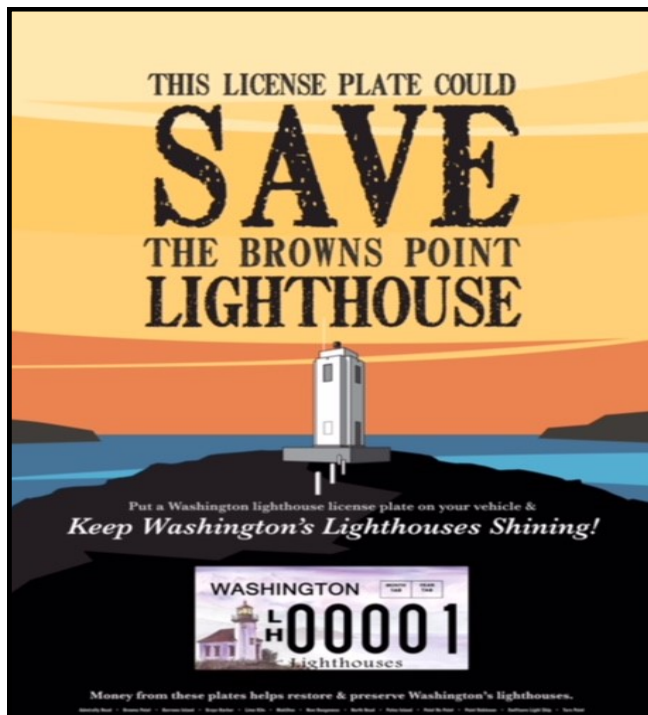
Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone () _____

E-mail _____



Points Northeast Historical Society
6716 Eastside Drive NE #1-135
Browns Point, WA 98422

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FEDERAL WAY, WA
PERMIT 109

Don't forget the World Famous Browns Point Salmon Bake on August 4 and 5!

It happens only every two years! So this is the time to get your salmon or clam chowder or Browns Point Diner milkshake fixes! Enjoy the Beer Garden, entertainment, art show, raffles, visiting with friends and neighbors and touring the historical Light Keepers' Cottage Museums!

