

## *Points N.E. Historical Society*

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

*Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park*

**Mailing Address:**

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**Website:** [www.pointsnortheast.org](http://www.pointsnortheast.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/PointsNortheast](https://facebook.com/PointsNortheast)

**Fall 2018**



● Holiday Refreshments ●

*Free Admission*



## We 've Got A lot Going On!



*Kathy Martin paints the numbers on oil house*



*Busy Bees swarm the Generator House*



*Dave Noll works out*



*Pat Patterson, VA service officer advises Dick Collins at the Veterans' Breakfast*



*Linda Van Nest and Gene Grulich view Lighthouse plans*



*Summer Visitors*



*Bill Peterson views the Veterans' Gallery*

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

You can help support these projects by renewing your membership and recruiting new members. We sincerely thank you for your support

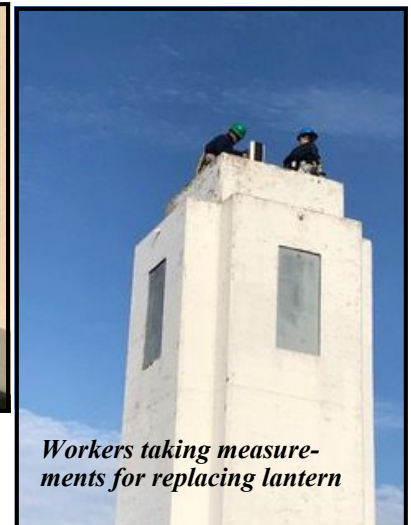
See membership application on page 7



*Meeker Bazara volunteers Pischels pose with Oscar*



*Tom Smith and his shadow painting the Generator Building*



*Workers taking measurements for replacing lantern*

## *Silent Night ... Stille Nacht* *A P.O.W.'s Story*



Many homes in the Browns Point/ Dash Point area can boast of having cabinets made by Clair Cline of Browns Point. Cline was a carpenter and cabinet maker. He and his wife Anne raised four children on Le Lou Wa.: Roger, Nancy, Francy and Virginia. Their living room was full of string instruments that the family played. On the wall in a display case was a very special one, indeed.

In 1944, Cline bailed out of the B-24 bomber that he was flying over Germany. He landed in Occupied Holland and was taken to a prison camp for captured Allied airmen.

Conditions were dismal and boredom was rampant. Cline wrote letters home to his wife and made models of B-24s. When he could not carve another model, he remembered the violin he had growing up in Minnesota and decided to make one.

He used slats from the beds and a pen knife that he obtained by trading cigarettes with the camp guards. A piece of broken glass came in handy for carving. He and other men scraped glue from chairs and tables.

In three months, the body was finished. He sanded the wood with pumice and polished it with paraffin oil. A guard came up with catgut for strings. One day, he was handed a bow.

He drew the bow across and his heart leaped as a pure resonant sound echoed through the air. His fellow prisoners clapped, sang and danced as he played "Red Wing", "Home on the Range" and "Red River Valley".

*Cline said his most memorable moment was Christmas Eve. As his companions brooded about home and families, he began playing "Silent Night". A voice chimed in, then others. Amid the others, he heard a different language. "Stille Nacht .....". An elderly white-haired guard stood in the shadows, his eyes wet with tears.*

The following May, Cline was liberated and returned home. At the war's end, his violin was part of a POW Life exhibition that toured the country. It was viewed by over four million Americans. The violin was played at many venues.

In 1996, Cline was invited to contribute the violin to the World War II Museum aboard the aircraft carrier Intrepid in New York. He was told that the Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic would play it at the Museum's opening. The Concertmaster called him afterwards and said that "he had expected a jalousy of a violin". "Instead it was something looking very good and sounding quite wonderful. It was an amazing achievement".

Cline made about a dozen more violins, three basses and two violas as a hobby. His son Roger and a grandson and granddaughter all play for national symphonies.

He passed away in 2010 survived by his wife, four children and six grandchildren. His wife Anne recently passed away.

### *Editor's Note:*

*You can view a movie about this historical event by going to the YouTube channel, and searching 'Instrument of War.' Produced by BYU, it's a great story with experienced actors. It was originally released at Christmastime last year.*

*Son Roger Cline stopped by the PNEHS History Center for a chat this summer as the family was in Browns Point for private service for their mother.*

### *Clair Cline in later years*



*The U.S. government purchased 7.21 Acres for a lighthouse in 1900. There were existing shacks (small buildings south of where the cottage sits). These two bits of knowledge are not in the log books, but do serve as an introduction to the log books. Following are some of the necessities of comfortable living we take for granted today which Oscar and Annie finally got after many years of living here. Oscar's log books include much more than you see here. I have picked out only the items that document the other buildings and amenities as they were added throughout the years.*

*Mavis Stears, curator*

### **Important Dates for Browns Point Light Station taken from Oscar Brown's log books**

#### **1903:**

Oct 26: Oscar and Annie arrive at Browns Point  
 Nov 2: "Heather" brings Brown's furniture  
 Nov 8: piano was brought in from the beach  
 Early months: repaired buildings on site etc.

#### **1904:**

Oct: Cleaned water tank (*this is probably the tank on stilts in the back yard for rain water*)

#### **1905:**

Feb : Boathouse built  
 Mar: track rails for boat set  
 Apr: Mrs. Brown (mother) came to live  
 May: put out boat track  
 Sept: worked on boat cart

#### **1907:**

Jan: Oil house framed  
 June: made boat cradle  
 Aug: razed old Oil house (*this was one of the original buildings on the property*)

#### **1908:**

Feb: cistern?  
 June: painted water tank (*this is probably the tank on stilts in the back yard for rain water*)

#### **1911:**

Jan: furnace repairs  
     (*so we know their heat came from a furnace and probably kitchen stove also.*)  
 June: water tank? Worked on water pump at spring.

(we have known from other sources that he tapped a spring on his arrival to the Point).

#### **1913:**

Sept: painted Oil house  
 Oct: painted barn and shed (shacks on site when he came)  
 Jan: water in cellar, highest tide in 10 years

**1914:**

July: Forest fire near Caledonia

Sept: repaired kitchen pump (*So we know they had water in the kitchen. Bathroom—we don't know*)

Nov: dug well

**1915:**

May: New Road: (*probably only at Browns Point*) --not Eastside drive

Aug: made cover for well, began pumping from new well

**1917:**

Jan: pipes frozen, packed water pipes

Nov: work begun on power house (*this probably is the bell house?*), digging for septic tank, plumbing in cellar

Dec: work begun – plumbing and drains (*this was probably when the bathroom was plumbed*)  
Digging trenches and plumbing, concrete sidewalks to Boathouse and Well house

**1918:**

Mar: work on water pipes

July: side walk to tower

Aug: leveled ground where old earthen closet stood?

**1922:**

Feb: Got #’d mail boxes

Sept. Power Co. set poles

Oct.19: Lights on in dwelling, trench to Lighthouse

Dec 1 : 1922 changed light to electricity

Dec 8: 1922 bell gear completed and operational with electricity

**1923:**

Jan 6: Slide on new road blocks traffic (Marine View Drive), water in cellar (basement)

*Oscar Brown  
in work  
clothes.  
He was a  
pretty busy  
fellow!*



*It wasn't all  
work and no  
play for  
Oscar,  
though as evi-  
denced by this  
great salmon  
catch!*





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office@stmatthew.comcastbiz.net  
Fr. Kendall Haynes  
fatherkendall@gmail.com  
Sunday services:  
8 am and 10 am  
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Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Bess	360 876 5110

#### *Board Members*

Margot Andersen Cottage	253 588 8559
Neil Hanson Collections	253 952 3271
Jim Harnish	253 9276019

#### *Other Contacts*

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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](http://www.pointsnortheast.org)  
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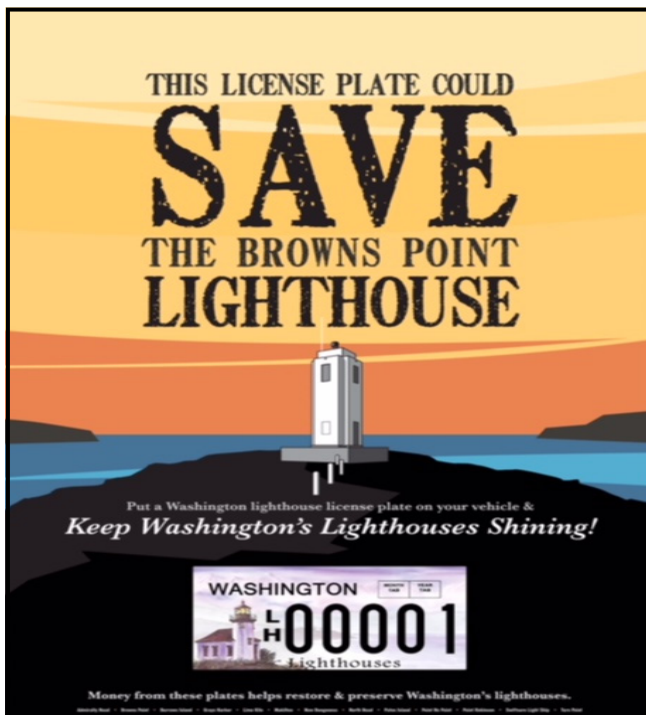
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**Points Northeast Historical Society**  
**6716 Eastside Drive NE #1-135**  
**Browns Point, WA 98422**

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*The BPIC Parking  
 lot will be available  
 for parking  
 during our  
 Christmas Tea!*



### **THE PARK IS NOW OPEN!**

After a very dusty and construction-filled summer, the Park opened in early Fall. It still needs signs and benches and tables but its open for recreation! If you haven't been down yet, be sure to visit. We have great ADA sidewalks and a paved parking lot. It sure is pretty! Sat. afternoon tours had to be cancelled but we were able to open during the Salmon Bake and had the most visitors ever– a whopping 1200!

### **PNEHS ANNUAL MEETING**

***February 19, 2019***

***7 pm***

***St Matthew Church  
 Browns Point***

***Elections and Special Speaker***

***Our Special Speaker will be  
 Nick K. Adams.***

***He is an  
 author,  
 storyteller/historian.***

***Save the Date on your new  
 2019 calendar!***