

Prairie Gazette



Spring 2018 The Official Publication of the Lakewood Historical Society

Museum: 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive SW, Lakewood WA 98499 OPEN Wed-Sat, 12 Noon-4 pm (253) 682-3480

Clover Park Technical College Celebrates Diamond Anniversary

Based on CPTC website article by

Susan Bushey and video by Dean Lamb.



The 2017-18 Academic Year marks Clover Park Technical College's 75th Anniversary in workforce education. CPTC began in 1942 with a War Production Training program in shop buildings available at Clover Park High School. This was in response to World War II, as school districts located near large military bases were asked to provide technical training so citizens of the area would be qualified to repair and maintain ordnance and military equipment needed for the war effort.

Beginning with that first year, more than 500 students were trained as auto mechanics and service mechanics, while 2,500 students were trained for the Tacoma Shipyards in

shipfitting, blueprint reading and welding.

In 1951, the federal government was phasing out the Navy Supply Depot (the current site of CPTC), and the Clover Park School District was granted approximately 130 acres (remaining acreage eventually becoming the thriving commercial development known as Lakewood Industrial Park). Although the school district occupied most of the seven concrete block buildings (which included the steam plant with underground power and heating designed to withstand aerial bombings anticipated during World War II), the school district soon moved to other locations in Lakewood.



Jeeps galore. The WWII heyday of the supply depot that became CPTC.

The vision for CPVTI was coming together. In 1954, the voc-

See CPTC, page 3

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PRAIRIE GAZETTE

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The staff of Prairie Gazette actively encourages input from the Society's members as well as the general public regarding story ideas of any other aspects of this newsletter, and the Lakewood Historical Society.

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MEETINGS

The Lakewood Historical Society formed in 1998 to preserve and share Lakewood's rich history through programs, displays and publications. The Society offers frequent programs on topics of historical interest. Most programs are free and open to the public. Visit us on Facebook or our website for information on events and activities:

www.LakewoodHistorical.org

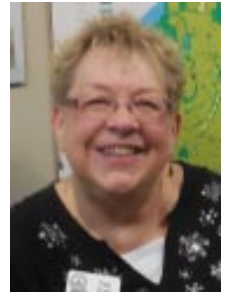
President's Message

Welcome Spring and baseball!!

Thanks to all our members, families and friends who attended the **2nd Annual Flapjack Fundraiser**—we appreciate your support. Speaking of support, I thank those who have renewed their Lakewood Historical Society membership for 2018—and it is still not too late to renew!

Various events are planned for the summer. Join us at the **Lakewood Senior Center Open House** on June 7, at the **Lakewood Farmers Market**, and of course at the **Lakewood SummerFest!** (See calendar of events, page 8).

The Lakewood Historical Society is still looking for a few good Board members, and we are looking for docents to help us keep the doors open. Interested in volunteering as a docent for even 2-4 hours per month? Please call me at **253-588-6354**. Thanks!



Sue Scott

LHS Partners With Pierce County Library for the Largest Reading Event in Washington: Pierce County READS



Pierce County Library System is excited to announce this year's **Pierce County READS** selection. Revisit the events and impacts of the Civil Rights Movement with the award-winning graphic novel trilogy "**March**" co-authored by **Congressman John Lewis** and **Andrew Aydin** and illustrated by **Nate Powell**.

Congressman Lewis (D-Georgia) is one of the key figures of the Civil Rights Movement, and is the last living member of the Big Six Leaders who organized the 1963 March on Washington. His remarkable story is now a graphic novel, educating and inspiring a new generation. From **March 11** to **May 11**, join others throughout Pierce County and read "**March.**" Attend events, learn and talk about diversity, society, and community engagement.

AUTHOR EVENT

An evening with Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell, Friday, May 11, 7:00 pm at Pacific Lutheran University's Olson Auditorium, 124th Street S, Tacoma. Book signing will follow their presentation.

CPTC from page 1

tech moved into the first warehouse to be used exclusively for vocational training, mostly aviation trades; in 1957, the auto shop, machine shop, and electronics programs moved into other vacant warehouses. In the late 1950s the Voc-Tech Institute (VTI) began operation of its first student-operated TV and radio stations.

By 1961 all of the original buildings of the old Navy base were completely occupied, and there was a great need for new buildings, remodeled buildings, and portables. Plus training programs were being created at a steady pace. With the enactment of the National Defense Education Act in 1958, the VTI was given a new financial base from which to begin expansion.

In 1967 the state legislature proposed a new, separate state system for post-secondary institutions. The bill that was adopted allowed the boards of directors of local school districts to release their VTIs to the newly formed community college system, if they so desired. Clover Park



Fred Miner (left), considered by many to be the father of CPTC, with CP's first vocational education director Lillard Swall and CPSD superintendent Art Hudtloff (right). Miner had returned from WWII determined to find a location where he could share his hard-earned knowledge of aviation mechanics.



State of the art automotive shops—today (above) and in 1971 (left)

School District retained Clover Park Vocational-Technical Institute, and it was kept separate from the plans for the Clover Park Community College (which later became Ft. Steilacoom Community College, and then Pierce College).

In 1991 the voc-tech school did in fact separate from the district and became **Clover Park Technical College**. In 2000, CPTC expanded to a second campus in South Hill, where the college's aviation and aeronautical programs are housed, making use of the runway at nearby Thun Field.

TAKE PART IN CPTC'S 75th ANNIVERSARY GALA!

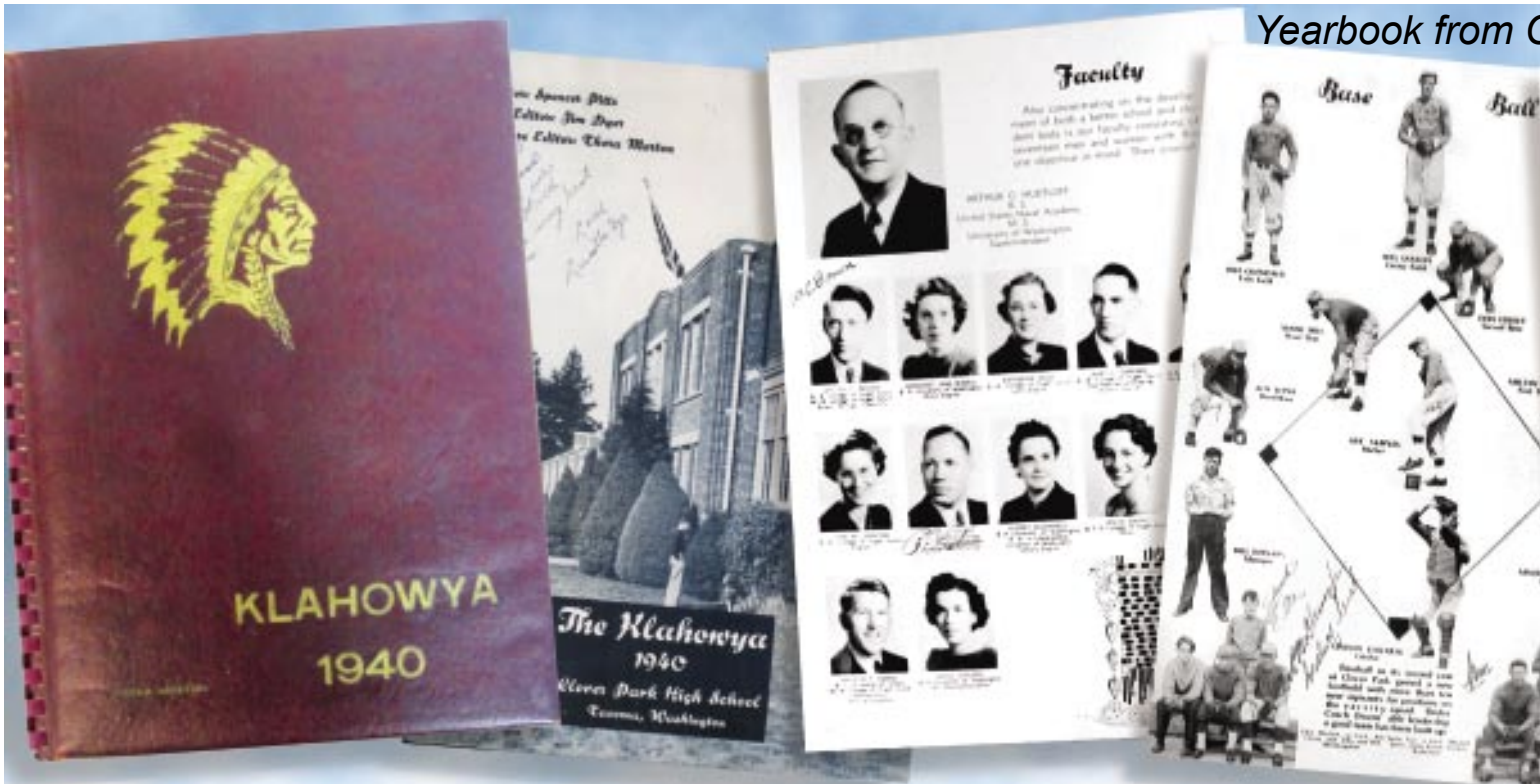
May 19 at the McGavick Conference Center.

Details on page 7.

LHS-placed marker at right notes that from 1914 to 1922 the present-day site of CPTC was home to the Tacoma Speedway, a major fixture on the auto racing circuit that attracted the biggest names of the day...



...including Barney Oldfield, seen here in the pace car for the track's last race. 3



Scenes from a Celebration:
Clover Park School District Marks 90 Years!

Harrison Prep Auditorium,
 January 23, 2018

At special school elections in February 1928, all five grade school districts [Custer, Lakeview, Lake City, Park Lodge and American Lake South] passed the recommendation for the formation of Union High School District No. 204... Now the hard work began. Mrs. **Iva Alice Mann** began "burning up the roadway" with many trips to Olympia to convince the State Board of Education and the Governor to support the proposal for a junior high instead of a high school, as the law then required...

When the draft of the new law was finally presented to the state legislature it didn't look very hopeful. Suddenly, **Governor Clarence Martin** came down from the podium and grabbed Mrs. Mann by her arm and "hauled her up" in front of the legislative body. Addressing the legislators he said



Top: LHS table, staffed by (left to right) President Sue Scott, Past President Becky Huber, Board Member Jim Schell and Secretary Sharon Taylor

Middle: Foto funtime in the Harrison Prep lobby.

Bottom: Lakes High School Jazz Band wows the crowd with their hot tunes, played with polished professionalism.



Clover Park's first graduating class.



"This is the one person who can really answer any questions you have about the need for a junior high school." Because she knew the facts and figures forwards and backwards, she convinced them to pass the law...But what to name the school? Mrs. Mann remembered a story from an early homesteader, how a nearby creek would overflow and the wet ground was covered with clover under the big fir trees.

It was a delightful setting for arriving settlers to view after spending months crossing America in their covered wagons. **"Clover Park"** was recommended and everyone readily agreed that was a perfect name. Clover Park Junior High School was opened on schedule in September 1928.

*Excerpt from speech by Past President **Becky Huber** at Harrison Prep, January 23, 2018*



L to R: Jake Mills (Lakes HS), Hon. Denny Heck, Deputy Mayor Jason Whalen, Becky Huber, Dr. Marty Schafer, Col. Nicole Lewis, Cassidy Barnes (Harrison Prep), Isaiah Huey (Clover Park HS)



Congressman Heck addresses the audience.



Speaking of History...

How Much Thought Have You Given Your Own?

New York Times bestselling author Michael Levin offers Nine Keys to Writing Your Family Memoirs:

Every family has great stories to tell, but what happens if those stories aren't preserved?

So how can any family create a book that captures family memories without headaches, hassles, or revisiting family drama?

Here are nine tips to capturing your family memories:

1. You don't have to cover an entire life. You can just pick one extremely powerful time in a person's life. Coming to America, wartime expe-

Once we see the memories on paper, we realize that not all of them need to see the light of day.

3. Documents are just as powerful as photographs for illustrations. If you still have your parents' immigration documents—especially if they include photos—those are fabulous illustrations for books, so don't overlook them!

4. Hire an interviewer. Should you have an outsider (a grad student from a nearby university) do the interviewing? We think so. Sometimes

com print-on-demand option, along with 99Designs.com to get a beautiful cover designed for a small amount of money.

7. The truth about copyright. It's simple to obtain, at www.loc.gov, the website of the Library of Congress. So don't let someone charge you \$200 or more for a service that takes about five minutes and \$35.

8. The 80 percent solution. Keep in mind there's no such thing as the perfect book. At some point, rewriting and rewriting doesn't actually make



*If you attended our February 27 program, "Discover Your Ancestors", you're already familiar with some of the resources available to amateur genealogists—thanks to the expert presentation by **Dee Haviland Fournier** of Heritage Quest Research Library. There's even **more** available on HQRL's website: <https://hqrl.com/>*

riences, or starting a family business are three strong options. In my mom's case, for instance, there was a period of years that deserved full attention. That way, you don't have to get into periods of time involving divorce or other family drama that doesn't need to be relived.

2. The first draft is often what I call the "therapy draft." Sometimes there's psychological release from writing the story exactly as it happened. But then we step back and ask, if the book were published in this manner, would people's feelings be hurt? Do we really need to bring up the story about Aunt Fannie, now that she's been gone 30 years?

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it's easier to open up to a stranger – people may feel less judged. When my company does a family memoir, it's almost always with a professional interviewer/writer. It's just easier.

5. Private citizens have rights of privacy. If you think there are any issues that might lead to lawsuits, have your book vetted by a competent attorney who specializes in such issues (not your brother-in-law who does wills). And then ask yourself about your motives. Preserving a family legacy is a great thing. Digging up bones is not.

6. Save money. The simplest, least expensive way to get the book done is to use Amazon's CreateSpace.

the book better – it can lose its original tone and turn to mush. Remember, as the expression goes, that great art isn't completed...it's abandoned.

9. Above all, remember that it's not just a book – it's a legacy. This is your chance to pass not just financial resources to succeeding generations but a legacy of values, memory, and family connection. The time to act is now, while loved ones are alive and memories are fresh.

*Author **Michael Levin** runs www.BusinessGhost.com, America's leading provider of ghostwritten and custom published books. Published in **Prime Time News**, September, 2017.*

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Welcome! New Members Since December 2017

Larry Ghilarducci
John Guy
Roger & Kathy Johnson—
The Sock Peddlers, LLC
Dave Langdon
Elisa Burnette & Steven Long
Gayle Hampton-Smith
& Kyle Smith
Gary Tveten—
Tveten's Auto Clinic

CPTC 75th Anniversary Gala

May 19 / McGavick Conference Center

This dinner/auction event (formal dress, black tie optional) will bring together 300 community members with one thing in mind: to help support CPTC students with emergency assistance funding.

Silent auction and social hour scheduled to begin at 5 pm, with the formal dinner starting at 6:15 pm.

Individual tickets are \$75 per person. Donations for the event go through the CPTC Foundation, which is a 501(c)3 organization.

The majority of students at CPTC have significant financial challenges. Your support could make the difference between staying in college or dropping out.



**Lakewood
Historical
Society**

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LHS Spring/Summer 2018 Schedule of Programs & Activities



Tues, April 24th, 7-9 pm—Head in the Clouds: The Story of Harold Bromley. St Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood. Learn the fascinating story of **Harold Bromley** who failed to be the first aviator to cross the Pacific Ocean in the 1920's. Presented by Historic Preservationist **Michael Sullivan**, owner of Artifacts, Inc.

Tues, May 22nd, 7-9 pm—History of the Lakewood Industrial Park, St Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood. **Tim Puyear**, general property manager, will share the history of the industrial park and recent activities.



Thurs, June 7th, 10 am-1 pm—Lakewood Senior Activity Open House. 9112 Lakewood Dr SW. Visit Society's booth, free drawings, refreshments.

Tues, June 19th, 10 am-3 pm—City of Lakewood's Farmers Market, Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW. Be sure to stop by the Society booth to participate in the trivia contest and drawing.

