WASHINGTON A STATE
A NATIONAL SALUTE AND FLAGS UNFURLED

Tacoma Daily Ledger, November 12, 1889

The roar of cannon and the unfurling of flags signalized the receipt of the news at 7:45 o'clock last evening that President Harrison had issued the proclamation declaring Washington a state in the Union....

After the national salute of forty-two guns had been fired and the reverberation had died away along the distant hills, one gun, the loudest of them all, was fired for Tacoma, the metropolis of the new state of Washington.

Therefore, in all, forty-three guns were fired, by order of the mayor, and between the roar of each successive explosion, friends meeting on the streets shook hands and exchanged congratulations. Everybody rejoiced. Flags were unfurled, and as the full moon peeped out from behind a bank of inky, black clouds, shortly before the firing was concluded, the stars and stripes could be seen fluttering in the gentle breeze in all parts of the city.

One of the flags fluttering was at the home of Florence M. Wade on St. Helens Street. The flag is on display at the
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Joan Curtis, Bette Bradley—Editors

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Gary Reese .................. Trustees

Steilacoom Museum, donated by the descendants of Wade, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wade Marsh and Claudia Sing. Mr. Wade, a public spirited and prominent citizen, organized the National Bank of Commerce in Tacoma in 1887.

The forty-two star flags were used only a short time, however, since the forty-third state, Idaho, was admitted to the Union in July, 1890. The Association is fortunate to have one of these mementoes of Washington State’s celebration one hundred years ago.

The other flags used by Florence Wade have been donated to the State of Washington. One is in the care of the Secretary of State and is hanging in the reception room on the third floor of the capitol building, and the other is in the Centennial office.

BOOK NOTES

The Steilacoom Historical Museum Association is very proud to have sponsored the publication of Town on the Sound: Stories of Steilacoom. The public response to the book has been very welcome, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your part in ensuring its success. We have sold 600 copies since it was released in November, and although there are still some copies of the first run, we have ordered a second printing. The price of the book, now at $11.00, will increase to $12.95. Copies of the book, at its original price, will still be available while they last at the Bair Store and at the Steilacoom Historical Museum. So if you haven’t purchased your copy, be sure to do so soon, before the book is restocked at the new price. We hope all of you are enjoying this great book, and again, thank you.

Carol Dye
Publicity Chairman
PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The beginning months of this State Centennial year have been a busy time for the Association. I am pleased to announce that Bill Smurro has joined the Board as a Trustee, filling Vice President Judie Davis' unexpired term. On November 16th, we received the first printing of *Town on the Sound: Stories of Steilacoom* and have sold over 600 copies. The Board has authorized a second printing of the book to carry us through the end of the year.

I would like to thank Bob Bradley for his time and advice on the grant proposals we have submitted on the book and for the Wagon Shop and Forge restoration, phases I and II. Steve Grubb and Harold Roberts have developed the phased restoration plan, and we are receiving bids for contracted work on the project.

The lease for the Bair Store changed hands on March 1. It was unfortunate that the Board and the Jensens could not reach agreement on a new lease. I thank Eric and Benida for their hard work at the store over the past 18 months. Rosa Kreger, the new lessee, re-opened the store on March 14. She lives in Steilacoom with husband Ken and two daughters. Weekend breakfasts will remain a part of Rosa’s menu offering along with the more traditional—soup, salad, sandwich and soda fountain items. She plans to do a lot of baking in her two new ovens!

During the closure of the Bair Store, many volunteers donated hours to inventory artifacts and to clean, paint, and oil the floor. Thanks so much to all of them for their time and interest in this project. Also, special thanks to Trish Laughlin and Joan Curtis for organizing the volunteer effort.

On April 22 at 8 p.m. in the Steilacoom Community Center, the Association is celebrating the arrival of spring with an old-fashioned ice cream social. A Roaring 20's live stage show by Johnny Girvan and Susie Burr will provide authentic entertainment for the evening. I hope to see you there.

*Jenny Hollister*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Orr Home Opens .................................... April  3
"Roaring Twenties" and Ice Cream Social .......... April 22
Washington Museums Association
  Annual Meeting at Port Angeles ................. May 11-13
Independence Day Celebration in Steilacoom ...... July  4
Salmon Bake ........................................ July 30
The Spring Quarterly is mailed to all new members and former members. To continue receiving the publication, dues need to be paid. The annual membership dues are $10.00 per family. If you prefer a Life Membership, which eliminates the annual dues paying, the Individual Life Membership is $50, and a Family Life Membership is $75. If you have any questions as to your membership, please contact Patty Forsyth, 581-5162. A blue mark on your mailing label indicates your dues are unpaid at this time.

Ethel Hacker Geiger has sent a donation in memory of her parents, Flora and Harry Hacker, who settled in Steilacoom in 1923. Ethel and her sister, Elizabeth, were the only twins to attend Steilacoom school all eight years. Their parents were active in the Oberlin Congregational Church and rang the monument bell to announce Sunday school classes and church services.

Bruce LeRoy, Director Emeritus of the Washington State Museum Society, presented the program "Vigilante Days in Old Steilacoom" on February 18. Using a "conscience report" dictated by T. McLain Chambers, with directions that it could only be published after his death, Mr. LeRoy described a time of turmoil as citizens eradicated two bandits who had terrorized the Steilacoom area. Mr. LeRoy donated an oil painting at the meeting. The artist, O. Couglan, used the lithograph of Steilacoom in 1862 as a model. The picture is now hanging in the Museum.

"Preserving Your Family History," a workshop, was held March 11. Bruce Bleckert of Custom Photo and members Cy and Rita Happy, Esther Sreen, and Gary Reese gave their time and expertise to encourage and inform participants in the areas of preserving photographs, documents, and writing and publishing family histories.

Many volunteers worked the first two weeks at the Bair Store inventorying and painting. Thank you's go to Bob Volkmer, Bill Smurro, Pat McCutcheon, Marjorie Johnson, Tom McAvoy, Harold Roberts, Dick Ballew, Bette Bradley, Judie Davis, Mike Beasley, Kathy Roberts, Thelma Bickford, DeEtte Burdue, Bob Johnson, Jackie Dock, Maxine Mathias, Ham Rideout, Carol Rideout, Bob Hollister, Jean Skamser, Sandy Strother, Elsie Claypool, Francie Rieka, Peg Hemphill, Charlotte Splawn, Genny Sumners, Ruth Alvord, Mike
McMullin, Bob Davis, Sue Killiam, Alice Watson, Jenny Hollister, and chairman Trish Laughlin and Joan Curtis. Over 1000 artifacts were cleaned and cataloged.

★ The Orr Home will open on Sunday, April 3 for the season. Hours will be 1 - 4 p.m. every Sunday through October 15. A spring clean up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed for house and garden cleaning. Please call 584-8623 if you can help.

★ Thank you, Allan Forsyth, for pruning the fruit trees at the Orr Orchard. Those trees are very tall, and the work is much appreciated. Thanks, also, to Jim Lester for his advice on possible frozen pipes and his work on replacing said pipes.

NEW MEMBERS

The Association welcomes these new members:

Joanne & Frank Adams  Francie & Charles Reiha
Bob Barker           Shirley Roe
Pat & Dean Booth     Lynette & Anthony Sado
Peg & Stan Cybulski  Orville Stout
Celia & Irwin Dressel Joyce & Richard Swope
Carolyn & Louis Levinson Azella Taylor
Lettice McCoy        Carl Vest
Jan & Homer Oberst   Irmgard Wilcox
Mary Jane O’Neil     Paul Woods
Rae & Pat Hassett    Bettina & Paul Evans

PROJECT LILACS

An Eagle Scout Service Project by Meb West may grow into a major event by 1992. New Board member Gary Reese has developed the project as a means of beautifying Steilacoom. Plans are underway to propagate hundreds of lilac starts in gallon containers this spring. The rooted plants will be offered to Steilacoom gardeners next spring.

The lilacs should be in full bloom in three years for a Lilac Festival to commemorate the scientific aspects of the 1792 Puget Sound survey of the British exploring expedition under the command of Capt. George Vancouver.

Meb’s plans include planting twenty established lilac bushes in the Orr garden in April. He needs to acquire hundreds of starts from local lilac bushes in the gardens of Steilacoom. Please call him at 581-5940 if you have bushes and would like to be part of this project.
ARCHAEOLOGY AT FORT NISQUALLY

During August, 1988, a team of volunteers conducted an archaeological dig of the original site at Fort Nisqually, on land owned by the Weyerhauser Company in DuPont. Pierce County and Pacific Lutheran University sponsored the dig as a state centennial project, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. Dr. Judith Rasson, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the university and Steve Anderson, Director-Curator of the restored Fort Nisqually, jointly headed the team. The main purpose was to determine the stockade configuration, to include the two corner blockhouses or bastions. Both were strong, two-story buildings used for defense, storage, housing, and jails. The following description of the project is extracted from a preliminary report by Steve Anderson.

During 1985, the staff and Advisory Board of Fort Nisqually recommended that a preliminary archaeological investigation or survey of the fort’s original 1843 site, near the present-day city of DuPont, Washington, be undertaken. The Park Board agreed with this line of thinking. A Tacoma Parks Bond Issue was passed by the voters in 1986, $30,000 of which was for an archaeological investigation of the DuPont site.

Preliminary Testing

A great deal needed to be learned about the investigation areas prior to the first shovel load of dirt being removed from the gravelly loam of the Nisqually prairie. As part of a countywide survey in 1986, infra-red photographs were taken (from the air) of the fort’s 1843 site. These photographic images revealed some of the site’s details, such as partial stockade walls and some vegetation patterns that could possibly reflect building locations. The Weyerhauser Company came out to the site shortly following the infra-red photography and did a survey. In another effort, a Seattle firm specializing in the measurement of soil magnetic density, tested the entire fort site, revealing some of the stockade lines. In the final testing, small, shovel-sized test pits were dug at various points around the site in order to correlate the photography and other test results with historic documentation. Dr. Rasson, who chose not to be paid for her services, recruited two paid assistants, organized a class of students, and enlisted the services of sixty volunteers from the Greater Puget Sound region; all of whom worked on the month-long project.
Northwest Investigation Area

The archaeological team began exploring the stockade lines. A majority of the west stockade was clearly marked by a sunken trench which also showed up on the infra-red photographs. On the other hand, the east, south, and north stockade lines were barely visible, and in some cases, non-existent. Prior to this effort, the 1843 site of Fort Nisqually was considered one of the most undisturbed archaeological sites of Hudson’s Bay Company posts in Washington State. Test trenches revealed that significant portions of the south stockade and the northwest corner of the fort had been obliterated by the presence of a 1940’s twelve foot wide sewer trench. No one was absolutely sure of the location of the northwest bastion or north stockade line.

Finally, architect Gene Grulich came out to the site and, using the DuPont site plan of 1928, surveyed the north gate of the fort. Eventually the remains of the north stockade were found. Following this discovery, a section of sunken trench-line, further down the stockade line toward the northeast corner of the site, was also found. Both of these aligned nicely with the measurement for the main gate, also determined by Grulich. Artifacts discovered in this area were minimal and usually from later periods. DuPont Powder Company artifacts and objects from the occupation of the Edward Huggins family (the last Hudson’s Bay Company clerk and private resident of the site) were also found in or near these disturbed areas.
Southwest Investigation Area

Excavation of the southwest area was done by the Pacific Lutheran University students. The goals of this investigation were to locate the southeast bastion and determine its structural configuration. After the south and east stockade lines were accurately established and their axis determined, the area around the axis point was plotted and mapped. The students, working Mondays through Fridays, often in soaring heat, dug, photographed, collected artifacts, and finally wrote reports. Their findings are still under evaluation, but indicated two vital pieces of information: little or no part of the southeast bastion was within the stockade area of the fort; this bastion had more than four sides. Determination of the structure’s configuration, either six or eight sided, has yet to be made.

Stockade Configuration

One of the mysteries of the restored Fort Nisqually in Point Defiance Park has been the authenticity of the twelve foot high, pointed, split log stockades that were reportedly authentically replicated by the WPA in the 1930’s. It was felt that this could be settled through archaeological investigations and a historic records search. Information gained from these two sources was both a surprise and an enlightenment for the archaeological team. When it came to the construction of the fort’s stockades, the dig proved that the walls consisted of a series of round posts, or pickets, five to six inches in diameter, with an occasional king post set in the pickets for structural support. The smaller posts, while closely spaced, did not completely screen the fort, and smaller one to two inch saplings were interspersed between the larger posts, thereby blocking all views into the compound.

The Work Continues

Conclusions about the project’s findings are still under formulation with Dr. Rasson conducting laboratory work on the artifacts. The dig itself, however, was a success, as well as a valuable experience and cooperative venture for all the parties involved. It has paved the way for potential future investigations of the site and has proven that educational, municipal, and corporate entities can work together and achieve a common goal.

Footnote
Steve Anderson, “Digging DuPont: Archaeology at Fort Nisqually.”
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL ROAD NO. 1
BYRD'S MILL ROAD

A new stone monument commemorating the Byrd's Mill Road was dedicated on Saturday, November 12, 1988, as a kick off for Steilacoom's celebration of Washington State's Centennial. The original monument, made of wood, was dedicated in 1941. It was one of forty-nine markers erected in the 1930's and early 1941's by the Department of Highways to record historical sites in Washington. The monument reads:

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL ROAD NO. 1
Byrds Mill Road

Established by Thurston County Oregon Territory Legislature in 1852 and re-established by Washington State Legislature in 1941. This military road afforded the only route of escape from the Puyallup Valley to Fort Steilacoom during the Indian War of 1855, and to the pioneers was a highway of great importance. Along this route in 1864 there was built the Russian-American Telegraph line which was proposed to extend to Europe by way of Bering Strait and Asia.

Washington's first road started as a trail, traveled by the Indian people and the Hudson's Bay Company employees. With the arrival of the U.S. Army at Fort Steilacoom and the increasing number of settlers, it was used more often. When the commissioners of Thurston County met in Olympia in December, 1852, Arthur Denny offered a resolution "that we hereby appoint three men to view and blaze a road from the city of Steilacoom to the town of Seattle." The road was designed to start at Steilacoom, following present day Steilacoom Boulevard, going east over Fern Hill to Puyallup and then north to Seattle.

Locally the road became known as "Byrd's Mill Road" as it connected the settlement of Steilacoom with the grist and lumber mill built by Andrew Byrd on the mouth of Chambers Creek, extending east into the Puyallup Valley.

The road gained military significance, and thus the title of "Military Road," in 1853 when the United States Congress appropriated $20,000 for its development as a connecting link across the newly designated Washington Territory to Walla Walla. Capt. George B. McClellan of the regular army was appointed to superintend the construction. However, the importance of the road was not in its connecting Steilacoom and Walla Walla, but rather as an escape route for isolated settlers in the Puyallup Valley at the outbreak of hostilities in the Indian
War of 1855-1856. Capt. Maloney of Fort Steilacoom had cleared and improved the part of the mill road extending into the valley.

Warnings of impending danger caused widescale panic, and many left all their belongings as they hurried to the safety of Steilacoom and Fort Steilacoom over the road they had so often traveled leisurely with their oxen on the way to the mill. Cooler heads carefully packed their possessions and, driving their livestock before them, made it to the fort unharmed. The same road that brought the refugees also carried the first American soldiers into battle against the Indian people. Volunteer militia and regulars headed across the pass to Yakima country where the greatest action was expected to develop. Gold prospectors used the same route heading for the mines in eastern Washington.

Following the war in 1857, Congress appropriated $35,000 for a "Military Road" from Steilacoom to Bellingham at $93 a mile. Bids on the project were called, with Philip Keach, a Steilacoom merchant, winning the contract. Most of the work nearby involved improvement of the old road. As the need for military protection diminished, the roads came under the purview of the counties.

The Russian-American Telegraph line was established, and extended from California through Washington in 1864, running from Olympia across North Fort Lewis and down into Steilacoom where an office had been set up. From Steilacoom the line followed the Military Road across the Puyallup River, over the hill via Five Mile Lake, and down the White River to Seattle where service began on October 26, 1864.

As the communities of Puyallup and Sumner developed, there was no need to travel to the mill near Steilacoom. The road fell into disrepair, especially the part extending over Fern Hill and down into the Puyallup Valley. A Fern Hill Improvement Club was formed, and by 1939 a pioneers' petition was sent to the State of Washington

...requesting the preservation of the old road's history by making it a state road, built and paved and kept up in a shape worthy of the memories of the days when it was one of the state's most important roads and the backbone of the roads of the Puget Sound area.

By legislative action, Washington State Historical Road No. 1 was created in 1941, becoming part of the state highway system. Formal dedications took place on October 8, at Steilacoom and Puyallup, with Governor Arthur B. Langlie
presiding. Markers at each town were unveiled and small signs placed about a mile apart the length of the highway. The stone marker at Western State Hospital is one of the signs. Forty-seven years later on November 12, 1988, a new marker was dedicated in Steilacoom commemorating the historic road and its value to the early settlers. It is a fitting tribute in celebration of Washington State's Centennial.

FROM THE MUSEUM
The following artifacts and items have been donated to the Museum since November, 1988:

From the Ethel Jordan Estate
2 Victorian side chairs of walnut with caned seats
1 Victorian desk pen/pencil holder
1 Victorian parlor lamp, with two decorated globes/pink flowers with gold and green leaves (electrified)
1 Kerosene lamp (electrified)
1 Low base kerosene lamp
2 Folding coat racks, early 20th century (now used in office)
1 Tapestry wall hanging, c. 1915
1 Ledger book, c. 1918, from E.W. Jordan, teacher in Lane County, Oregon

From Gloria Mooerer
1 Linen motor car duster, full length (in perfect condition)

From Linda Evanson
Clothing and sewing accessories, including black lace hosiery

From Herb Hunt
Chair from the Bair Store, given to Herb by Cub. Mike McMullin restored the back of the chair. Decision is to be made whether to display without restoring and glueing or to restore it for use in the Bair Store.

Donations from Gary Reese have added to the Steilacoom Museum Library. These include Early Times in Pierce County by Erasus A. Light and The TerriBest Route of All, the story of the Longmire-Byles wagon train of Light, Van Ogle, George H. Himes, and David Longmire, with supporting documents. From his personal writings, Gary also donated copies of A Documentary History of Fort Steilacoom, Washington; Leschi, the Officers and the Citizens; They Came to Puget Sound, and Nothing Worthy of Note Transpired Today, The Northwest Journals of August V. Kautz.
BACK TO THE “ROARING TWENTIES”

Step back into the fabulous, carefree “Roaring Twenties” with Girvan and Burr on Saturday, April 22. The Association is sponsoring an evening of outstanding entertainment, complete with an ice cream social.

Johnny Girvan and Susie Burr are two carefree characters out of the 1920’s. He’s a platinum-haired, tuxedo-clad singer who’s the ideal straight man to Susie’s wacky observations. She’s a bobbed-haired flapper with a fringed dress and Gracie Allen voice, in perpetual motion. Their performance includes freewheeling comedy, dozens of songs from the era and remembrances of a marvelous decade. Girvan & Burr have performed throughout the United States and Canada.

The evening starts at 8 p.m. at the Community Center. Tickets are $8 per person. Consider reserving a table of ten for you and your friends. It is important to make reservations early, by calling Eileen Weller, 588-8092 or Genny Sumner, 582-5091.

Front Page Photo:
Original forty-two star flag donated to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wade Marsh and Claudia Sing.

Address Correction Requested

Janet and Dave Langford Duris
214 Martin
Steilacoom WA 98388