



LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**QUINAULT**  
AND MUSEUM

P.O. Box 35  
354 South Shore Road  
Quinault, Washington  
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# Newsletter

Spring & Summer 2012

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Looking back 12 years ago at our humble beginnings with little more than numerous ideas, enthusiasm and energy, we find that we have arrived full circle to become a museum that's beyond our greatest expectations, a museum of which we can all be proud.

On Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, we had an Open House, celebrating Armed Forces Day and featuring our newly designed Veteran's Exhibit. The response to our effort was overwhelming and gave us the assurance that the Lake Quinault Museum is a notable part of our community, worthy of the most discernable critic.

Each year, besides the ongoing renovation of the building, we strive to make changes, upgrading the existing displays, adding new ones or perhaps just rearranging here or there. This year we have the addition of our final room, the loft area over the stairs which has been transformed from a storage/junk area to a vintage child's bedroom and playroom. A small bed is set up in a corner with a baby photo and bronzed shoes sitting beside it on the nightstand. A couple of dolls of the 50's are enjoying their afternoon tea while little DyDee doll is nestled in the cradle made by Carl Weatherwax for Mernie (Locke) Mathews in '35. Across the way is a sad little rocking horse (sorry, a few parts missing) a vintage monopoly game with real "wooden" game pieces and houses, a few comic books scattered around and a



Radio Flyer tricycle with one flat tire and another in poor shape. Also upstairs we have the home arts room which we have been fine-tuning, the photo gallery and the homestead farm exhibit that now includes a split-rail fence with live moss and algae. We fear that without a daily squirt from the water bottle or a hole in the ceiling, the moss will soon be turning to gray!

Native American photos and baskets are in the upper great room as well as downstairs. We are beginning to acquire a fair collection of these treasured items. Just recently Gene and Donna Osborn donated his mother's vintage basket crafted by Grandma Black.

# Veteran's Exhibit

Throughout this winter Kathleen Praxel has been working on a project to recognize and honor the veterans of our communities. Hours were spent talking with the vets, recording their histories and writing up their stories. Initially it was slow but as time went by and the word got out it became evident that our communities were well represented in the military. She then compiled all into a book titled, "Hear Us!"

Over the years we have gathered many military items, including a WWI uniform and mess kit belonging to George Washington Streater. After starting this project many more uniforms, medals and military representation came our way. For proper display of this honored material we had local woodcrafter, Steve Rutledge, make us a large cabinet which we designed.

With our Veterans Memorial arranged, on Armed Forces Day, May 19<sup>th</sup>, we had an Open House in honor of all branches of the military and the men and women who served their country.

Kathy Praxel is showing Gene Osborn the page from "Hear Us!" of his brother, Floyd Halonen. Floyd served in the Army Airforce 1941-1945. He was killed while test flying a plane during WWII in Pima, Arizona. Gene Osborn donated the burial flag presented to Floyd's mother, Agnes. Floyd was a 1939 Quinault High School graduate.



Nan & Steve Rutledge delivering the display cabinet

"Hear Us!"

The stories told by the veterans in this book were to have been a short chronicling of an individual's service time. However, as each veteran was interviewed, it became obvious that the book was taking on a direction and life of its own.

An often spoken comment was, "...it was the best experience of my life and made me a better person..." Another, "...I didn't do much, compared to others."

Years after their service veterans are locating pictures from time past, insignias, medals, etc. and along with these, memories are revived.

Joining the military, whether by draft or volunteering, was an impressionable experience; from traveling the world, to carrying out assigned missions, to being in combat.

Some veterans talked of the initial adjustment to living in confined areas with strangers, the regimental drills and routines of military life, and having no preparation for this but even so, that it was character building and they came out of the service a better person. A number actually enjoyed the experience.

Many veterans come from families of servicemen and in this book there are father and daughter, mother and son, and brothers.

All branches of the service are represented and both enlisted men and officers have contributed their experiences.

Highlights were the often humorous predicaments and stories – from stealing chickens out of a pot in the mess tent, to throwing firecrackers at buses, to waiting in line while an enlisted man passed out socks, shouting down the line, "what size socks do you want," only to find out that they were all size 12!

*The book is in time periods from the present to past. The stories were either written by the veterans themselves, told orally to this interviewer or in some instances researched through newspapers and the internet.*

## Excerpts From "Hear Us!"

### Personal stories and experiences of the service men and women of the Quinault Valley and nearby communities

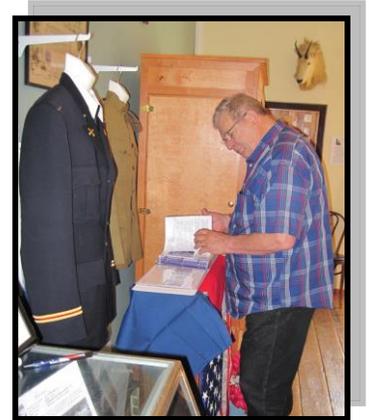
...At Oak Ridge I rode guard in civilian semis such as P.I.E. (Pacific Intermountain Express) and Consolidated Truck Lines where my job was to escort the civilian drivers to the base gate. There the drivers would get out, have a cup of coffee and wait for me while I drove the truck into the base, back it up to a building and wait while others loaded an atomic detonator into the truck. This was similar



to a large stainless steel basketball and it was suspended from the inside of the truck by piano wire strung up from the sides of the truck and connecting to the sphere that then hung suspended in the center of the truck. I would then get back in the truck, drive out to the gate where I picked up the civilian drivers. They would then take over driving and I would sit in the cab with them and we would then transport our "cargo" to various Nike missile sites all over the United States. The truck was always escorted by an Army station wagon in front and one in back with Army personnel in each..."

"...My day job was working with the sensitive items and I would be sent out to exchange and replace the problem item and then bring it back to either discard or rebuild it. Besides my day job I would go on convoys and was also a perimeter guard at night. I was in both Tet Offensives and up where we were it was continuous explosives every day - like the 4th of July. Being up north was not like being in Saigon. The base felt too close and confining and I would wonder, "Where should I stand today?" Sticking around Phu Cat was mentally stressful and I volunteered for everything so I wouldn't be on base that much..."

"...I spent 8 1/2 months in Oregon and then was transferred to San Francisco and Oakland, California where I was put on a troop transport, and, on the way to Honolulu, Hawaii I learned that Normandy had been hit. After a few months in Honolulu I transferred to a 121 foot Army tug boat, **LT-58**, where we eventually wound up in Milne Bay, New Guinea and Hollandia, New Guinea. I made two trips in the **LT-58**, to Maui Bay and Kauai, where we transported Sherman tanks back to Honolulu. Orders were given and we were on our way to Sydney, Australia towing a 263 foot disabled ship. We encountered typhoon weather conditions with waves from 20 to 25 feet high and guess who spent most of the time at the wheel? We arrived safely after the 1200 horse power motor overheated, cut out for awhile, and then restarted..."



"...I was with the 5th Army, 1st Infantry Division, or, "Big Red One." I spent my whole service career at Ft. Riley, Kansas where I thought that I would just deliver babies, etc., but I was selected for "CBR" (Chemical, Biological and Radiological Warfare) training. I had to know how to treat victims of a nuclear bomb explosion - we had to figure wind speed and how long it could take to reach a certain area. Whenever a B-52 bomber carrying nuclear warheads flew over our area we were on alert until the plane landed. Sixteen people were on a team - I manned the radar..."

# Open House....

It was a warm, sunny day with lots of yummy cookies, punch and coffee and most importantly, the happy faces of our families, friends, and neighbors. We again enjoyed the music of Brian "Muddy Shoes" Edwards who entertained us with song throughout the afternoon.





## Lake Quinault High School 1937

Left to Right

Front Row: Lawrence Fishel, Ed Brim, Jack Ambrose, George Johnson, Neil Osborn, Bob Mason, Jack Brittain (kneeling), Ray Voorhies (behind), Gael Mulkey, Claude (Buster) McCully, August Streater, Bob Turner, Betty Olson, June Randall, Rose Randall, Louise Haas, Unknown, Unknown, Floyd Halonen, Unknown, Arvid LaGreide, Bud Fenton and Unknown.

Second Row: Rosamaye Slough, Modena Coleman, Unknown, Mary Haas, Maize Stevenson, Bessie Northup and Lucile Dedman.

Third Row: Euple Coleman, Margaret Kirkemo, Isabelle (Skippy) Wilde.

Fourth Row: Rose Mulkey, Frances Dickey, Dorothy Olson, March Dickey and Unknown.

Top Row: Harriet Thomas, Unknown, Roxanne Sawyer, June Fishel and Florence Northup.

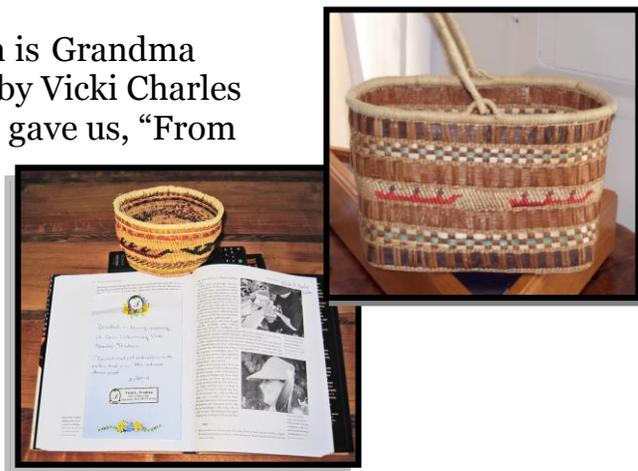
*Note: The left/front addition to the school hadn't been constructed at this time. Our 1939 photos of the school show the building as completed.*

We are entering the 2012 season with a few new faces. After a couple of years respite, Becky Hanson has come back to us as hostess every other Wednesday. Incidentally, Becky is one of the veterans featured in "Hear Us!" Newcomers to the museum line-up are Vivian and Ken Snow who have graciously volunteered to host every Thursday. They took over the Amanda Park Mercantile from Jerry and Mary Carroll in 1972 and operated it for 21 years, retiring in 1993. Since then Delilah Snow has been the current owner.

Returning hosts include Carol Miller, Elizabeth Carlyle, Tobie Knaack, Kathy Clayton, Willa Jones and Dorothy Davis. Liz Tarbox and the museum board members are substitute hosts when needed.

Our video program of the Dell Mulkey photos is up and running thanks to the expertise of Brooke Pederson. The television, which was generously donated to us by the Lake Quinault Community Circle, is downstairs in our library area. It plays the 15 minute Dell Mulkey video continuously throughout the day. Brooke did a professional job and we owe her a debt of thanks. In addition to this, she wrote up a grant application to Grays Harbor Tourism for "Museum" signage along the highways and a large sign which will be installed on the porch roof of the museum. The grant was approved so this is what we'll be working on this summer.

Adding to our Native American collection is Grandma Black's basket and another, made and donated by Vicki Charles Trudeau in memory of Criss Osborn. Vicki also gave us, "From the Hands of a Weaver," a book on "Olympic Peninsula Basketry Through Time," in which she is represented. Vicki's baskets and other works are available for purchase through her at her home. Call: 360-288-2425. (Basket is made of red cedar with raffia tied rim.)



## In our Store

Members, don't forget that we have our "Bite of History" cook-booklets available, either at the Museum or by order. Not only do they have long-lost recipes of years gone by but also feature art graphics of our earlier years, including the Old Quinault School, the Amanda Park and Quinault Mercantiles, Halbert's Tourist Park, (Bergman's in the 1940's-1960's and now known as the Rain Forest Resort Village) the Neilton General Store and Eudie's Lunch. Most of the graphics are circa 1920's and 1930's.

This year we are also offering the *Lake Quinault Circle Community Cookbook*, year 2000, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition which has 250 pages of favorite recipes from local kitchens in the Lake Quinault area.

To order either of these books contact board members at these numbers: (360) 288-2317 or 288-2417, or write to: Lake Quinault Historical Society, P.O. Box 35, Quinault, WA 98575. Suggested donation: \$10.00 each, plus postage.

The Museum is open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, 12 pm – 5 pm. Closed Mondays. Winter schedule varies; will open by appointment. Admission by donation.

Officers: President: Tom Northup, Vice President: Harry Creviston, Secretary: Phyllis Miller, Treasurer: Tobie Knaack.