

The Puyallup Heights School

by Jerry Bates

The Forest Grove School District (*the school's name was later changed to the Puyallup Heights School*) has been gone since 1944. However, the old schoolhouse remained a center of community activity long after that date. From its beginnings, the school and its adjoining community center served as a center of social life for over sixty years. Only our old-timers have any memory of it. The school district was established in 1910, well after South Hill's other two early districts, Woodland and Firgrove. By 1910, there were enough school-age children living on the crest of the Hill and just south of it to justify having their own school.

While researching this topic I discovered an early written record describing the creation of Forest Grove School District, a paper written by Edith Mosolf 78 years ago in 1936. Her husband, John Mosolf, was one of a group of neighbors who petitioned for the school's creation. Over the years, articles about the school have appeared in the *Puyallup Herald*—all based on Edith's account. Rather than attempting another rewrite for this

publication, let's read her words taken from the original document. (*Edith's maiden name was Peters, but she was called "Dollie Miller" because her stepfather was Arthur Miller, one of the earliest Puyallup settlers.*)

School District No. 114

by Edith Mosolf 1936

For many years the population of what is now School District No. 114 remained unchanged. The earliest settlers were the Kupfers and Mosols. Mr. Alois Kupfer with his family settling here in 1879, and George Mosolf, senior in 1890. Their children attended the Woodland school. In 1900 A.H. Miller moved his family from Puyallup into this district, and the William Price family came a few years later. The children from these families went



This painting of the old Forest Grove/Puyallup Heights School was given to the South Hill Historical Society by Mary Jean (Davidson) Grimes. Painted by family relative Sam Hunter.

to the Puyallup schools.

By 1910, however, a great many changes had take place. Several families — the Zimmermans, Goelzers, and Enslins had moved here from the

East and had several children of school age. The matter of organizing a new school district was generally discussed, but nothing special had been done about it until one Sunday evening we had as guests my father, A. N. Miller, Louis Kupfer and his sister, Lizzie. The conversation was about the many new families in our community, and the need of a petition to create a school closer than Puyallup.

This petition was later presented to the County School Superintendent, and in the spring of 1910 a meeting was attended by C. C. Hale, Louis Kupfer, Charles Fullager, representing the Fir Grove district from which we hoped to grab a few sections, — Miles Edgerton, and John Mosolf. After some discussion our petition was granted and we were given Sections No. 2, 3, 10, 11, one half of Section No. 4 and one half of Section No. 9. Not a very large district, but quite valuable because at that time it contained much timber land.

In 1911 our present school was built at an approximate cost of \$1800. The contract was awarded to S. C. Nicholson. Warrants were issued to pay for our building and were retired, I believe in about one year. Our taxes, of course, were much higher for a time and a few non-resident property owners register a kick, but we of the district thought the money well spent.

At the present time I wish to pay a tribute to our only bachelor director, Mr. Louis Kupfer, who in those early days gave so generously of his time and business ability in administering the affairs of the district.

Many admired the location of our school, and the beautiful grove of fir trees surrounding it. That the trees were left standing was due to the suggestion of another faithful director, the late Mr. William Goelzer.

In September 1911 our new building was ready with Miss Dorsey installed as the first teacher. A neat sign inscribed, "Forest Grove School," the work of Herbert Taylor, Allen and Roy Goelzer, hung over the front steps. Due to the similarity of the names, Forest Grove and Fir Grove, we later changed this name to Puyallup Heights.

The School now became the center of the social life of the community. Entertainments were held here and as is the custom in rural communities,

Sunday school and church also. A library was started. Mr. William Goelzer and Miss Lizzie Kupfer being appointed to select the books. No doubt some of those old volumes are still in existence. January 1, 1915, the Puyallup Heights Improvement Club was organized and held monthly meetings at the school house many years. This club took an active interest in school affairs, sponsoring many projects of value. The recreation hall was built in the summer of 1915. Later a kitchen was added to this building by the Improvement Club. This club also assisted materially in the purchase of a piano for the school, and installing a lighting plant.

Personally I am very proud of our little school, — proud that my four children passed the eight grades here well equipped to enter high school in town. And I am also sure we who helped to establish this district are proud of the boys and girls, who were the first pupils here, many of whom now grown to manhood and womanhood, have established homes of culture and refinement in our midst. Happy too to think that much good was accomplished by those who had the vision twenty-seven years ago to organize and establish School District No. 114.

Editor's Note: After the Puyallup Heights/Forest Grove School District was consolidated with Puyallup District 3 in 1944, the children were bused to a new facility in Puyallup.



The Forest Grove/Puyallup Heights School as it once was. The old school and community center were razed in the 1970s. Today the Meridian Firs Apartments and the 7-Eleven Store occupy this site at the corner of 31st Ave. SE and Meridian, across from Hilltop Service auto repair.

Specialists in senior living care address Society

by Jerry Bates

We strayed a bit from our usual history-oriented presentations for the November meeting. Our guest was Monica Chopra, recent recipient of the Assisted Living Nurse of the Year Award given by the Washington Health Care Association (WHCA), and employee of Brookdale Senior Living Solutions, founded in the 1970s. Accompanying her was Executive Director Webb Peterson who discussed some of the issues with senior living communities.

Following the flag salute, host Paul Hackett informed us until 1999, Monica Chopra was not saluting the American flag. She and her husband and two young sons migrated to America from India. Monica began by telling us of her American career. She started as an interpreter helping patients and nursing staffs communicate; working in this environment inspired her to return to school and become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Soon after graduation, the assisted living center Emeritus at the Courtyard, on South Hill, hired her. She continued her nursing studies in the evenings and on weekends, while working days, and graduated from Clover Park Technical College's very popular registered nurse program. The Clover Park RN program has a current waiting list to 2021.

Monica is now a Resident Care Director with a staff of 35 to 40 at Emeritus. She loves her work—especially getting close to the residents under her care—talking with them, and offering comfort and understanding. “A smile from them is my reward,” said Monica.

Emeritus merged with Brookdale in 2014

Joining Monica at the microphone was her boss, Webb Peterson, Executive Director of Emeritus at the Courtyard. Mr. Peterson explained the pending merger between Emeritus and Brookdale assisted living companies, the two largest providers of senior solutions in the nation. The organizations decided to merge as they had been “head-to-head” said Peterson, with Emeritus operating 535 facilities and Brookdale approximately 600

nationwide. The merger became official during the third quarter of 2014. The name Emeritus was dropped and the facilities are now known as Brookdale Senior Living Solutions. The organization will have 1,140 communities spread amongst 46 states. The new company is “seven times larger than its nearest competitor,” said Peterson.

Webb and Monica continued to answer many questions from the Society regarding assisted living quality of care, food, living environment, and cost of residency. Mr. Peterson concluded by stating that “after 40 years in the business, his major advice was this: “Most people wait too long to come to an assisted living facility—don't wait so long that you end up in trouble!”



Monica Chopra and Webb Peterson of Brookdale Senior Living Solutions.

Help the newsletter

Do you have a story about old times on South Hill?

Personal experiences and past events are of interest to all our members, and it makes for a better newsletter! We are glad to assist with writing or editing your article.

Contact Jerry Bates

mail@southhillhistory.com

A new historical society is born

by Jerry Bates

Our neighbors in Graham are forming a new historical society called the *Graham Community Historical Society*. The new organization is reaching out to South Hill's Historical Society for help and advice. We are glad to help them out. Our senior leadership has sympathy for this fledging organization as they remember well, fifteen years ago, when they were faced with similar challenges forming our Society.

Graham's Society founding members Wayne Cook, Lyn Mahler and Kevin Mosley attended our January 2014 *officers'* meeting and gave a progress report of their work so far. Along with offering help, tips, and ideas, we invited them to give a talk at our January *general* meeting.

At the January general meeting, Lyn Mahler thanked our officers for all the advice and support, especially with paperwork such as release forms needed for interviews. Lyn proceeded to tell us the story of their Society's formation. A year ago, Wayne Cook approached her because both were worried about the loss of historic sites in the Graham community. The two history buffs began asking, "What can we do about it?" They soon realized they needed to create a non-profit organization to fulfill their mission. They have collected about half of the \$400 in donations—the amount needed by the IRS to initiate the 501-C-3-application process for tax-exempt status. They are busy getting the word out, letting the Graham residents know about their new society. Their first public meeting is February 7 and Lyn passed around a flyer announcing the event.

Currently the trio are arranging interviews with Graham old-timers and gathering research on the old Graham Hotel. They have contacted Bruce Thun, exploring the possibility of reviving the Pioneer Village/Logging Museum started by his late father, John Thun.

Lyn responded to many questions from the audience such as, "How did Graham get its name?"

"There are different versions of the story," said Lyn. One of them is that logging foreman Smith

Graham would distribute mail to the area's loggers. The post office told its carriers to "take the mail to Graham..." Another frequently asked question: "What constitutes the borders of Graham?" Lyn said they are basically using the Graham zip code, which takes in a very large area including Kapowsin and surrounding communities. SHHS member Carl Vest suggested defining a "historical" boundary based on township numbers, such as our Society has done. Carl said it makes research of old records much easier.

South Hill's Paul Hackett suggested that member Jerry Bates speak to the group regarding his family's roots in early Graham. Jerry told of his great-grandparents store and post office established there in 1909, making his great-grandfather Graham's first postmaster.

Many at the January meeting's audience had connections to Graham and provided Lyn with much information including recollections, personal stories and names of contacts she may find useful. The SHHS looks forward to working with and supporting the young *Graham Community Historical Society* and wishes them success in their effort!

The *Graham Community Historical Society* can be contacted by calling Wayne Cook at 253-847-4614.



Lyn Mahler of the *Graham Community Historical Society*

BSA: It's in the Zeiger DNA!

By Debbie Burtnett

When I first met Ed Zeiger, we were working the SHHS booth at the Puyallup Fair. While getting to know him, I learned about his dedication to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). With tears of love and joy in his eyes, he told me about his scouts. And, in his memoirs, Ed writes about the value of scouting. Thus, it came as no surprise that Ed Zeiger was named the BSA Pacific Harbors Council "2014 Alumnus of the Year" at the elementary school named for him in South Hill, WA, last October.

"Scouting teaches so much about initiative and taking care of yourself...but instilling values. The Scout Motto, the Scout Slogan, the Scout Oath, and Scout Law—if you live by those, you're not going to go very far wrong ... It's certainly a guide for living that would be useful to anyone, anywhere, anytime," Ed writes.

His grandson, state Representative Hans Zeiger, stated, "This is the first time that a local chapter of the National Scouting Alumni Association has given out an Alumnus of the Year Award. The

Pacific Council chapter gave its first award to my grandpa Ed because of his 50+ years of service as a volunteer leader in Boy Scout Troop 174 on South Hill. Troop 174 was founded by George Newcomer in 1951 and is now led by Scoutmaster Doug Preston. My grandpa attained the rank of Life Scout as a boy, and then he began volunteering for Scouting in the 1950s and for Troop 174 in 1963. He has hiked thousands of miles and spent hundreds of nights on camping trips. He is legendary with generations of Puyallup and South Hill boys for his integrity, humility, humor, practical wisdom, thrift, and dedication. He has helped struggling boys to become successful young men. Four of his own sons went through the troop and several of his grandsons. Today there are six Eagle Scouts in the Zeiger family. It was wonderful for the Scouting Alumni Association to be able to present this award after all of the time and energy that he has put into Troop 174."

Congratulations, Ed!

Member Lori Stock in the news

Congrats are in order for member Lori Stock. A featured story in the *Tacoma News Tribune* January 9th issue written by Larry Larue, told of her unusual pet—a pig! Amy, the pet pig, will be part of special exhibition at the Seattle Kennel Club's show March 7-8. She is being trained along with dogs at the Family Dog Training Center in Kent. The article says she and the dogs get along fine. Amy picks up dog tricks and obedience training faster than they do, retrieving, tunnel-runs, etc. Amy is a mixed breed miniature piglet who weighs about 26 pounds and could top out at 55 pounds.



Members Hans Zeiger and his grandfather Ed, BSA Pacific Harbors Council "2014 Alumnus of the Year"

All *History On The Hill* newsletters, are available for download or online reading on our Website: www.southhillhistory.com.

ASTORIA, OR—the Jamestown of the West Coast

By Debbie Burnnett

A Book Review: *ASTORIA*, by Peter Stark
Astoria could be the Jamestown of the Pacific Northwest and both John Jacob Astor and his friend, Thomas Jefferson, knew it. Both Astor and Jefferson grasped the importance of the Pacific Rim—“that one day it would serve a role equal to or greater than the Atlantic’s, and finally knit the glove into one great trading empire.” For Astor, the vision included establishing a private “emporium” in the years following the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Louisiana Purchase. Indeed, Meriwether Lewis had urged President Jefferson to create such a seaport on the Pacific for trading with China. For Jefferson, it was more about the nation “living free of royal rule.”

The role of fur (bear, beaver, sea otter pelts) in American History is perhaps underestimated. While Jefferson was concerned about geopolitics and establishing an American presence, or a sister country, in the Columbia River Basin to spite Great Britain, Astor’s vision was of international trade with China and Russia while amassing great personal wealth through a monopoly in the fur trade.

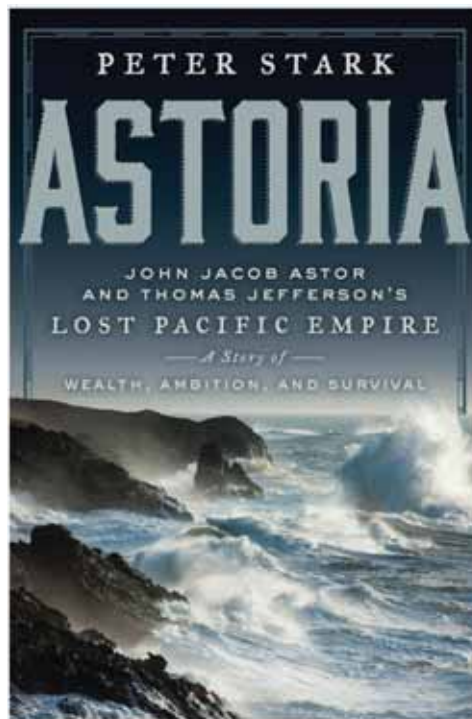
Astor could help Jefferson reach his goal through private enterprise. After 1809, Astor sent two groups—one by sea and one overland. They planned to meet at the Columbia River and establish the seaport and a trade route not unlike the Atlantic’s ‘triangular trade route’ between American and European markets and Asia. It was a huge endeavor.

A U.S. Navy man, Captain Jonathan Thorn was hired to command the *Tonquin* with a crew of clerks, “mechanics” (tradesmen), woodsmen, sailors and Scottish Highlanders and partners of Astor. Wilson Price Hunt, a businessman, who started out in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, then digressed through Blackfeet country—an unknown region, through which the Oregon Trail would later forge, led the Overland group. The land enterprise had its own Sacagawea, Native American woman, Marie Dorion, who survived to tell the tale.

Only one factor could not be planned for—that of exposure “meaning one’s level of physical risk in a particular situation...when a small mistake can result in major consequences.” Author Peter Stark’s description of exposure on the “wild edge of the North American continent—with its brutal

North Pacific storms, hostile natives, extreme remoteness, difficulty of communication, vulnerability to foreign empires, dense rain forests, and surf-battered coasts—was as exposed as any habitable place on earth,” makes an exciting reading adventure even more thrilling knowing that it all truly happened. Their sufferings and privations are difficult reading. Nearly half of the 140 men involved in both efforts died from disease, Indian attacks, starvation and hunger and internal dissent. The clash of cultures force the reader to analyze the morality of the key players.

Peter Starke’s bibliographical resources included New England writer Washington Irving’s story, “Astoria,” who wrote the story in 1836 using documents, journals, and interviews from those involved. Many of these primary sources have been lost so his work was important to Stark. The notes are meticulous and extensive, chapter-by-chapter. Maps abound throughout the book and the Epilogue includes the ‘Fate of the Astorians.’



From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

Please call, e-mail or write any change of address to me, Ben Peters, 253-845-7028, poppa-ben2002@yahoo.com, 14602 106th Avenue Court E., South Hill, WA 98374.

Also, don't forget that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dues, donations, etc., are fully deductible from your income taxes if you are able to do so. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, contact Ben.

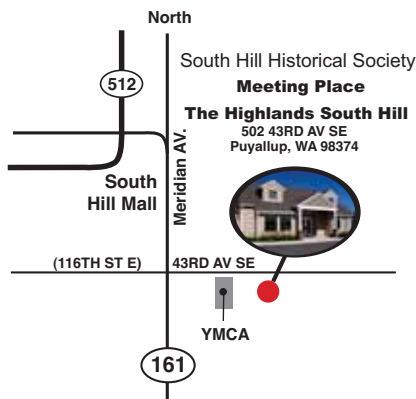
Dues Reminder

I will attach a sticky note to the Society newsletter mailed closest to your renewal date. **No need to fill out the membership form unless there is a change of some kind.**

The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month, 11:00 AM, (no meetings July and August) at The Highlands in the Community Center. This complex is located at 502 43rd Ave. SE, adjacent to and east of the Mel Korum YMCA.

We welcome you to our monthly meetings. For more information, contact Paul Hackett at (253) 845-7691.

Where to Find Us



In Memoriam

The South Hill Historical Society regrets the passing of

Gloria O'Kelly

Our Current Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Andy G. Anderson | Terry Maves |
| Andy & Ruth Anderson | Laurienne Stewart Minnich |
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| Bob Ballou | Dorothy Nelson |
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South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

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Signature _____ Date _____ Renewal, *check here*

Annual Dues: Society membership \$25.00

Note: Please do not send cash.

Make check or M.O. payable to South Hill Historical Society
and mail with this application to:

**SHHS Membership, 14602 106th Avenue Court E.
South Hill, WA 98374-4905**



14602 106th Avenue Court E.
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To: