

# PIONEER PRESENCES

Newsletter of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington March 2011 Volume XXXIII, No. 2

## Next Meeting

Saturday, March 26

Board Meeting

10:00 a.m.

General Meeting

12 noon

## Featured Speakers:

John W. Lundin &  
Stephen J. Lundin

## PIONEER HALL

1642 43rd AVE E

Seattle WA

(Madison Park)

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## Contributors for this issue:

Mary Louise Hammond,  
Saundra Selle, Junius Rochester,  
Gary Zimmerman

## Featured presentation for March 26 meeting: A journey from law school, Klondike gold, and the beginning of an icon of Northwest sports at the University of Washington



John W. and Stephen J. Lundin, brothers, Seattle natives, lawyers, and amateur historians, will share stories with us about their mother's father, Grandpa Mark Odell, who settled in Seattle in 1899. In 1898, he dropped out of Cornell Law School to seek gold in the Klondike. He left for Alaska via Seattle and, after not striking it rich, he returned to settle in Seattle. The first Odell ancestor had emigrated from England between 1620 and 1680, settling first in Rhode Island, and finally in New York State.



Back in Seattle, Mark Odell helped to start the University of Washington's rowing program, having rowed for Cornell's winning team while a student there. At the UW he worked with Hiram Boardman Conibear, who eventually became a famous UW coach. John and Stephen will share their Grandpa's experiences in the Klondike and in Seattle, as documented in his diaries, which they are so fortunate to own. As well, we will see Mark Odell's photographs of these historical times.

Of note to Washingtonians, Stephen Lundin has also authored the book, *The Closest Governments to the People: A Complete Reference Guide to Local Government in Washington State*.



Steve and John Lundin in front of the Lundin ancestral home in Lead, Idaho, in the fall of 2010. Their great grandfather, Andrew Lundin, built the house in 1886.



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 www.wapioneers.org

**Pioneer Hall Hours**

From April through September,  
 Open Houses are held on the  
 second and fourth Sunday of  
 each month.  
 1 pm to 4 pm

**Board of Officers**

President . . . . . Junius Rochester  
 1st vice president — Mary Louise  
 Program . . . . . Hammond  
 2nd vice president— Steven Rochester  
 Membership. . . . .  
 Secretary . . . . . Carla Hendrickson  
 Treasurer . . . . . Sandra Selle  
 Historian . . . . . Gary Zimmerman

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 Leonard Gayton  
 Term to June 2011  
 Joe Wert, Peggy Parietti, Kathy Durgan  
 Term to June 2012  
 Marilyn McLauchlan, Larry Puffert,  
 Carol Hawkins  
 Term to June 2013

**Pioneer Presences**

Teresa Summers, Editor

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**President’s Message**

**Please join us! The March 26 General Meeting of the Association will feature several speakers with unusual tales to tell (separate story this issue).**



You can count on the following: Your Pioneer Association INFORMS its members and guests. It also RESEARCHES data about our Pioneer ancestors. And it hosts a GATHERING PLACE and MUSEUM unlike any other facility in the Pacific Northwest. Finally, how can you beat the tranquil, lakeside setting of our heritage building in Madison Park, Seattle?

Everyone has heard of the Oregon Trail. Many of our relatives traveled that route to reach this beautiful Corner. They also came by sailing ship, sometimes around Cape Horn – an often frightening experience, or disembarked at the Isthmus of Panama, then rumbled overland to the Pacific shore and boarded another vessel heading north. A few travelers bounced over the wild Columbia Bar and struggled upstream to Portland or “Stumptown.”

What brought our family members West? First, the dream of Thomas Jefferson’s “garden” in the West never died. Second, economic conditions caused families to seek new opportunities. Third, failed field crops due to weather, fluctuating markets and imprecise information about crop rotation threatened farmers. Fourth, the so-called “Indian Wars” were over (except for one or two, such as the Nez Perce or Modoc crises). Fifth, in 1850, U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri introduced legislation called the Donation Land Law which applied only to the Oregon country, encouraging travelers to settle, cultivate and build on land that would be theirs forever, free of encumbrance. After the railroads opened up the West, 1860s-1880s, potential travelers were dazzled by multi-colored promotional brochures. Several of these publications noted that the Pacific Northwest had “No drouth [sic] nor grasshoppers nor crickets; and not a bug or wild beast in sight.” Some of these leaflets added: there was “no lightning; no disastrous floods or tidal waves . . . no pestilence or plague; no famines; failure of crops is unknown.” It was up to the prospective traveler – and up to you today – to decide how much of these lines were facts, and how much were, as Mark Twain later wrote, “stretchers.”

Welcome to the End of the Trail at our Heritage Hall on the shore of Lake Washington.

Junius Rochester  
 President

## Pioneer Association Board Minutes — 23 October 2010

**There are no secrets among the Pioneers. Instead we offer good news and a hearty welcome to regional historians and visitors. We welcome visitors to the Hall and members are invited to attend Board meetings.**

**Following is a summary of high points discussed during the last Board Meeting, edited and submitted by Junius Rochester, President:**

- Treasurer Sandra Selle noted that our budget is balanced. She added that Life Members were encouraged to become more involved with the Association in person and through donations.
- Vice President Mary Louise Hammond was excited about the line-up of prospective speakers for future programs.
- Vice President Steve Rochester described Hall maintenance issues and suggested the establishment of a Building Repair Fund so he (and others) can move quickly to accomplish repairs. The Board authorized the establishment of such a fund (\$5000/year).
- Joe Wert reviewed the work he did on our lakefront patch and suggested future steps to preserve and protect this valuable asset.
- Carol Hawkins invited Board members and members in general to participate in Training Sessions she has organized for hosts who open the Hall to visitors on specific Saturdays.
- Historian Gary Zimmerman showed us four donated overstuffed chairs. He also commented on the growing library collections in our Hall. Further, he noted that Chapter No. 1 of The Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington plan to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 11 May 2011. (The Daughters are curators of the Hall Museum, its artifacts and library).
- Thanks were extended to outgoing president and *Pioneer Presences* editor Jeff Christensen.

Secretary Carla Hendrickson recorded the original Minutes.

**January maintenance activities:** Vice President Steven Rochester trimmed the dogwood tree in front of the Hall that was obstructing the American flag. He installed a large rock on south side of the parking strip in front of the building to preclude neighbors' delivery trucks from creating tire damage by driving on the strip. Steve trimmed and re-fitted several five-paneled wooden doors, and donated an aluminum ladder to the Hall.



### MEMBER DEATHS REPORTED TO THE ASSOCIATION

**Jane (Markham) ABEL** passed away in Tacoma on July 20, 2010 at the age of 90. She had been a member of the Association since 1968. She was descended from her maternal grandfather, Alexander Young, who came to the Territory in 1874. A native of Tacoma, she graduated from high school in Centralia and from the University of Washington. She married Don G Abel, who became a lawyer following his service in World War II. In addition to her membership in the Pioneer Association, Jane was active in the P.E.O. and in Colonial Dames of America.

**Arthur B. SWAN, Jr.**, died in Anaconda, Montana on May 27, 2010. He joined the Association in 1982. Born in Seattle in 1918, he graduated from the University of Idaho in 1940 and immediately went into the Infantry Reserve. He was transferred to the Air Corps, 17th Bomber Group, at McChord Field. He soon became a squadron commander of B-24 aircraft in Italy in 1943-44 and then was on the staff for the Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Forces in Italy. Following the war, he had a long career at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and later in the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. He had many military honors, including a Purple Heart for sustaining aerial combat flak-fragment wounds. He was 92 years old when he died of natural causes.

Former Association Board Member **Robert LEURQUIN** passed away on May 4, 2010, at the age of 88. He was a resident of Port Orchard. He was descended from James Holman and Mary Garrity, who were married in Olympia in 1856. Their daughter, Fannie (Holman) McAloon was born in Olympia on February 14, 1861. Bob's roots were deep into Washington Territory.



## This fall at the Hall

Pioneer Hall has been busy during this 101st year in the Madison Park neighborhood. Between Labor Day and New Year's Day there was a steady stream of activities in the main meeting room.

The American Radio Theatre meets twice a month to practice reading vintage radio scripts and making acoustically perfect recordings. The wood floor and the high ceilings make this a favorite spot for these enthusiasts who try to keep alive the drama and the humor of "old time radio." Twice a year they do a major program and invite the public to sit in and "listen."

The Seattle Textile and Rug Society (or STARS, as they refer to themselves) has found that the Hall is a convenient gathering place for their members to hear visiting lecturers from all over the world. Their interest is in the weaving of prayer rugs and larger rugs from the Middle East and Asia areas where this kind of craft is still being practiced by village artisans. Each area has a different kind of "knot" or a characteristic pattern that is used over and over. From generation to generation, these patterns may change. The expert learns to identify weaving in terms of time and place by evaluating the patterns and knots. Speakers from Syria and from Romania have come through the Hall in recent presentations.

In October, the Artisan Tile Northwest group had a two-day tile show that drew about 400 visitors through the building to see the ceramic creations of seventeen exhibitors who set up booths on the main floor. This group also finds the Hall to be a good venue for their annual exhibition. To emphasize their interest in keeping a connection to the Pioneer Association, they offered to do a hands-on work project in the building. Last summer, they followed up on this offer, and rebuilt a solid railing on the fire-escape staircase outside of the kitchen area.

A senior citizens group at St Joseph's Catholic Parish on Capital Hill spent a morning in the museum and then adjourned to a luncheon in one of the nearby restaurants on Madison Street. The video, the fireplace, and the clothing exhibit all led to interesting discussions about pioneer life in Washington Territory.

The Hall also serves a useful function in the Madison Park neighborhood by providing a convenient meeting space for the condominium associations along 43rd Avenue East to hold meetings of their homeowners when a larger room is required. This is one kind of activity in the Hall that does not require a lot of parking, since participants can walk to the building from their homes.

Gary Zimmerman

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## Sincere thanks to all who made monetary donations this past year

The Pioneer Association was one of several local institutions receiving a bequest from the Estate of Barbara A. Krohn in 2009-2010. Many members are aware of her past contributions of time and dedication, but she also remembered our organization with a monetary gift. Her own words from The President's Corner published in the February 1994 *Pioneer Presences* might begin to capture her sentiments:



**Barbara Krohn**

*Sometimes I think that the 'markings' of my life will be as ephemeral as the breadcrumbs that Hansel and Gretel scattered to mark their way home. I suppose the urge to 'leave a legacy', to leave a record of where you have been, is most often represented by children or by artistic endeavors. Absent the former, I'd be content to leave some markings of words or memories to an extended family."*

Barbara Krohn's generosity – in excess of \$10,000 – as well as that of many of our members made a meaningful impact on our budget this past year. As expected, current economic conditions have resulted in some challenges for our organization. Thank You to all who remembered the Pioneer Association as part of their 2010 charitable giving: J. Branch, N. Dahlquist, M. Dahm in memory of Corrine Underwood Palmer, L. Dodd, S. Dunn, B. Fowler, L. Gayton, B. Leitch, J. Lundgren, B. Mathewson, R. Moore, P. Parietti, L. Peterson, R. Selene, M. Spath, R. Stack, J. Therrell, G. Zimmerman, and an anonymous donor.

Some gifts were sent in recognition of the Pioneer Hall centennial. All gifts were unsolicited and greatly appreciated.

Sandra Selle, Treasurer

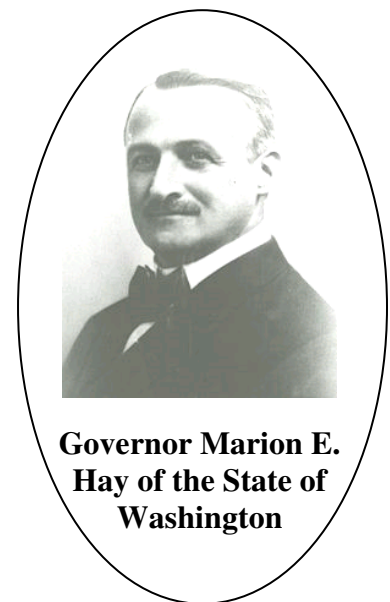
*A new pioneer’s family history*

**Jeff Rodgers, great-great grandson of Washington State Governor M.E. Hay, will speak to Pioneers at March 26th General Meeting**

Jeff Rodgers is a new member of the Pioneers, prompted to begin his family history research four years ago when his family was invited to participate in the Wilbur, WA Annual Festival. His maternal great-great grandparents, **Marion Edward Hay** and his bride of one year **Elizabeth Livingston Muir**, left Wisconsin for Washington Territory in 1888. They first located in Davenport, WA, where Mr. Hay managed a general store. He then served two mayoral terms in Wilbur after moving there in 1889. From Wilbur, they eventually moved to Spokane, WA, and from 1909 to 1913, he served as Washington State's seventh governor.

Governor Hay supported and achieved changes to the State constitution allowing initiatives, referendums and recall of public officials. In addition, he supported women's suffrage and passed one of the first Workers' Compensation Acts in the country.

Jeff’s first Hay ancestor in America was Robert Hayes, b 1628, Scotland, immigrating to America, Plymouth Colony, MA, in 1636.



**Governor Marion E. Hay of the State of Washington**



**Les Eldridge**

**Northwest author Les Eldridge is the featured speaker at the June 25th Annual Meeting.**

An expert on maritime history, an educator and author, Mr. Eldridge will share with us from his vast repertoire of Northwest maritime history knowledge: confederates on the NW Coast, Charles Wilkes, the Pig War. His popular writings include a series of four novels on the American Civil War at sea – *The Chesapeake Command*; *Gray Raiders*, *Green Seas*; *The Wake of the Woonsocket* and *The Pride of Pascagoula*.



**A second centennial**

At the June 2010 Annual Meeting of the Pioneer Association, we celebrated the centennial of the dedication of Pioneer Hall. The Hall is now preparing for a second centennial – the 100th anniversary of the founding the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington. That organization began in May, 1911, at a meeting in Pioneer Hall.

The Daughters will gather in Bellevue for their annual convention in May 2011 and on Tuesday, May 10th, all attendees at that meeting will come to Pioneer Hall for a formal program commemorating that anniversary. For many of the participants across the state this will be their first visit to the Hall.

Both the Association and the Daughters’ Chapter #1, based in the hall, will begin their spring cleaning early this year to prepare for a houseful of guests on May 10th. Volunteer window washers can call the Hall to get in on the fun!

Gary Zimmerman

## Welcome to returning, and new, members

The Association warmly welcomes back two returning members, sisters of our esteemed Treasurer Sandra Selle: Carolyn Selle Kiser (great-great-grand-daughter of Nicholas H. Martin and Major John Stratman) and Regina Selle Cornish (great-great-grand-daughter of Nicholas H. Martin and Major John Stratman). We look forward to sharing great family stories with one another.

In addition, two new members joined our beloved association in 2010: Teresa Summers in October and Jeff Rodgers in December. Their stories are included in separate articles in this Newsletter, Teresa in “Editor’s Message” on page 7 and Jeff in “A New Pioneer’s Family History” on page 5.

## Thanks to Carol Hawkins for Coordinating Docent Training Last November



As a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving local history, one of our duties is to make the pioneer experience accessible to the public. We do this via our monthly Open Houses, held the second Sunday of each month as well as the fourth Sunday of spring/summer/fall months. We are fortunate to have members willing to dedicate their free time to host these events.

In an effort to increase this pool of volunteers, Carol Hawkins and Gary Zimmerman presented an orientation to a group of members last November 13<sup>th</sup>. The training materials were well prepared – everything from opening the building to our organization’s history, with some role-playing tossed in for practice. Each member walked away with a notebook containing enough detailed information to ease his or her experience as host.

Take “opening the building” for example. Yes, we have an alarm system, but who would have thought ahead about opening the blinds and setting the thermostat coming/going? Finding the various light switches can be a challenge, and who knew we had to be mindful of the water supply to one of the restrooms? All these mechanical details are a reminder that as members, we share the responsibility for our Pioneer Hall.

Or, take a studied look at our collections. Yes, the displays draw you through the evolution of lifestyles in this land that became Washington State, and the portraiture helps bring the past to life, but it would require many visits to fully explore all we have to offer. Bibliophiles have a haven waiting for them in any of the libraries maintained by the Daughters of the Pioneers, the Fiske Genealogical Foundation, or the Pioneer Association.

The home arts displayed on the upper floor will bring on a welcome wave of nostalgia. Much effort has been put forth towards making history fun, and it shows!

Thank You Carol and Gary, for helping make Open House day an enjoyable adventure. Perhaps others will want to join in, knowing we have a supportive team in place.



Front row, left to right: Sandra Selle, Larry Puffert, Carol Hawkins  
 Back row, left to right: Mary Louise Hammond, Leonard Gayton,  
 Carla Hendrickson, Joe Wert, Regina Cornish [Sandra's sister ],  
 Gary Zimmerman

Sandra Selle



## Editor's Message



Thank you for the privilege of serving as the new *Pioneer Presences* editor. Being a recent member of the Association of Pioneers of Washington, there is a lot to learn and this seems a great way to get started. Having been born and raised in Seattle, my roots are here. I reside in Wallingford and have volunteered at the Wallingford Neighborhood Office for over ten years. The City of Seattle was my employer for 30 years, from 1969 to 1999.

My background includes some experience in non-profit archives work. I have attended national, state and local archives workshops and visited, maintained and displayed non-profit archives collections. I belong to the local Rainier Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. (This history is all on my father's side of the family, as my mother was an English War Bride in WWII. Don't know what she would think about my DAR membership!)

### Family History :

At the June meeting I'll share a bit about my family history. My paternal great-great-great-great grandfather, Etienne Lucier, came to the Northwest in 1812 as a voyageur for John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company. He subsequently resided in what became known as "French Prairie," in Oregon Country. My great-great grandfather, Francis Asbury Holt, came to Oregon from Tennessee via wagon train in 1853. I hope to share his story at a future meeting.

— Special thanks to Joan Wilson of Fiske Genealogical Library, and Pioneers Jeff Christensen and Gary Zimmerman, for guiding me through the process of my first newsletter editing ever!



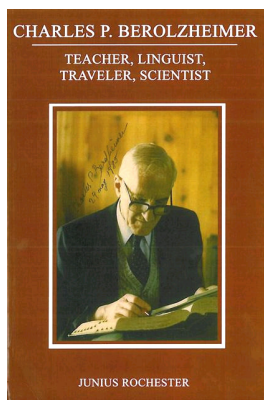
Champoeg Meetings ,  
Oregon Country, 1841-42

Teresa Summers, Editor, *Pioneer Presences*

## New Biography

Last September, JUNIUS ROCHESTER, president of the Pioneers, published his seventh book. Titled *Charles P. Berolzheimer: Teacher, Linguist, Traveler, Scientist*, it tells the story of a renowned California scientist and businessman, deceased in 1995, who owned California Cedar Products, Inc. This company was the world's leading manufacturer of pencil slats (for wooden pencils), and Duraflame, Inc., inventor and sole source of the Duraflame firelog.

The 350-page book (Tommie Press, Seattle, Washington, 2010, \$25) with sixteen pages of images, can be seen or purchased from Junius: 805 32nd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122, or email: [boobus@speakeasy.net](mailto:boobus@speakeasy.net).



Editor, *Presences*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ANNUAL MEETING AND SALMON BAKE IS SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 12 PM

**Pioneer Association  
of the State of Washington**

1642 - 43rd Avenue East

Seattle, WA 98112-3222

*<http://www.wapioneers.org>*

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:  
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011  
AT 12 noon**

**Pioneer Hall in the Snow —  
photo by Joan Wilson**