



PIONEER PRESENCES

Newsletter of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington

March 2012 Volume XXXIII No. 3

Next Meeting

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Board of Trustees Business Meeting — 10:00 a.m.

General Membership Meeting
1:00 p.m.
Pioneer Hall

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Summers, Gary Zimmerman

Pioneer Presences (USPS 533-750) is published four times a year as part of yearly membership dues (allocated at) \$5 per person, per year, by the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 42nd Ave E., Seattle, WA 98112. Postage paid at Seattle, WA.

Postmaster: send address changes to Pioneer Presences, 1642 42nd Avenue East
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March General Membership Meeting

Local Pioneer Family's History in the Northwest



Carver Gayton, grandson of John T. Gayton, will share his grandparents' story at our March general meeting.

Carver is the sixth child of John Jacob Gayton (1899-1969) and Virginia Clark Gayton (1902-1993). His father was the first child of Seattle pioneers John T. Gayton (1866-1954) and Magnolia S. Gayton (d. 1954). John T. Gayton came to Seattle from Yazoo County, Mississippi, in 1888. He became an involved and respected member of the Seattle community and retired as U.S. District Court Librarian in 1953 after a stellar 20-year career.

Featured Speaker, Storyteller

Storyteller and teacher Roy Wilson was born on the Yakama Indian Reservation and is an enrolled member of the Cowlitz tribe. He lives in Chimacum, Washington with his wife, Cheryl. We look forward to hearing him share ancient legends, and describe native culture prior to arrival of White settlers. Wilson's Website may be found at www.turtleislandstorytellers.net



The Cowlitz Tribe has lived in Southwest Washington for centuries. Radiocarbon dating of artifacts at an ancient village site near Cowlitz Falls shows their presence at least 4,000 years ago. Villages — comprised primarily of cedar plank longhouses — were concentrated along the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers, and many tribal members still live in this area. Although divided into two main groups, the Upper and Lower Cowlitz, the Tribe was more cohesive than many coastal tribes. In 1919, Special U.S. Indian Agent Charles E. Roblin described the Cowlitz as "a powerful tribe" that "in the early days constituted the 'blue blood' of western Washington." The Tribe was unique in the area for its mastery of horsemanship and its intricately woven baskets. One of the earliest historic records came from fur traders at Fort Astoria who, in 1811, encountered a group of Cowlitz in canoes. In 1855, the Cowlitz Chief Umtux was murdered in Clark County, giving the town of Battle Ground its name. (Information gathered from Tribe's Website, www.cowlitz.org)



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Pioneer Hall Hours

We hold open houses the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4: pm.

Board of Officers

President	Junius Rochester
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Mary Louise Hammond, Peggy Parietti,
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Carol Hawkins , Larry Puffert,
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(Term to June 2014)

Pioneer Presences

Teresa Summers, Editor
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President's Message — Tantalizing World's Fairs

My bedroom dresser holds a thin lead plate. I absently drop loose change, cough drops and hard mints in it almost every day. One side has a broken chip . The old plate is bronze in color, with embossed replicas of five Seattle historical edifices arranged in a circle: 1) The American Bank and Empire Building (now the Alaska Building – Seattle's first "skyscraper"); 2) the battleship *Nebraska* (built by Moran Brothers shipyard – Robert Moran was mayor of Seattle during the 1889 Great Fire); 3) Union Depot (now converted to business and conference use); 4) King County Courthouse (since razed and replaced); and the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (now St. James). At the top of the old plate are the words: "Souvenir of Seattle, Washington." In the center is the statement: "Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition; Seattle 1909."



On April 21, 2012, our city will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, also known as Century 21. The fair itself grew from dim memories of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific event, which created much of the present University of Washington campus. Those memories were held by a 13-year-old boy who operated a bread-slicing machine at the AYPE. The idea took shape when that young boy – now a man – presented it to both the City and later in in the State Legislature the mid -1950's. His name was Alfred R. Rochester, member of the Seattle City Council and lifetime member and former Board member of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington.

World's fairs were big events in the 19th and 20th centuries. Usually called expositions, they tended to revitalize big cities and attract visitors from everywhere. The shows mixed entertainment, culture, history, gastronomic treats and scientific wonders. Our AYPE was more or less shaped by the Chicago-based World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 – an event in which Al Rochester's mother, Julia, won a national third-prize for singing; and his uncle, Percy, served as Washington State's deputy director. The 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition was next, and is remembered by many for Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien singing their hearts out in the film "Meet me in St. Louis." Al Rochester's older brother, Junius Caldwell, got a job selling water at the St. Louis fair.

Michael J. Herschensohn, Ph.D., spoke to the Pioneers about the AYPE at our June, 2009, Annual Meeting. He titled his talk "Putting Seattle on the Map." With the Seattle World's Fair 50th anniversary just around the corner, it's time to take another look at tantalizing, historic fairs of the past. With electronic gadgets at hand and travel opportunities burgeoning, perhaps old-time "World's Fairs" have seen their best days? The responsibility for preserving and presenting our past and future may now lie in the capable hands of museum boards and directors, including Pioneer Hall. Today, the wonders of tomorrow are almost too easy to see and experience without crossing the grounds of a sprawling exposition. Or are they?

My daughter, Julie, born a couple of weeks after the Seattle World's Fair opened, is our "World's Fair baby." Her brother, Steve, born two years later, collects artifacts, photos and souvenirs from the Seattle show. They are both members of the Pioneers. And it's no secret that their grandfather (my father), Al Rochester, remains a clear presence as we salute the 1962 Seattle World's Fair during the coming months.

(see **FAIR**, page 3)

<FAIR

Want to know more?

The World's Columbian Exposition: The Chicago World's Fair of 1893, by Norman Bolotin and Christina Laing

All the World's a Fair, by Robert W. Rydell

Washington's First World's Fair: Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, by Alan J. Stein, Paula Becker & the History-Link Staff

Century 21: The Story of the Seattle World's Fair, by Murray Morgan

Meet Me At The Center: The Story Of Seattle Center From The Beginnings To The 1962 World's Fair To The 21st Century, by Don Duncan

The Future Remembered: The 1962 Seattle World's Fair and its Legacy, by Paula Becker and Alan J. Stein

— Junius Rochester, President

Minutes — Board Meeting, JANUARY 21, 2012

(To save space the following is a summarized version of the Minutes by Junius Rochester. Kathy Durgan, Secretary, took the original minutes.)

Secretary Kathy Durgan introduced Alan Murray to the Board. Alan has agreed to accept an interim Board appointment, replacing retiring Larry Puffert.

Maintenance: •After taking new measurements, Steve Rochester reported that no significant changes have occurred to the Hall foundation during the past eight months. The Board agreed to continue monitoring the situation, with Steve coordinating that effort. •Gary Zimmerman reported that an inspection of the Hall's fire extinguishers will take place the end of January.

Hall Rentals: It was suggested that a story about our unique Hall renters, especially Stars (Seattle Textile Society) and American Radio Theatre, be prepared for a future edition of Pioneer Presences. Teresa, newsletter editor, will follow through. Donated bookcases to the Fiske Library may be available for use on the third floor. Gary noted that all Hall libraries are accessed through Fiske.

Treasurer's Report: Liquid assets of \$33,000 are in hand.

Ad Hoc Committee on Investments: Louise Jones-Brown identified advantages of using new banks for our checking and savings accounts. Gary noted that the Pioneer safe deposit box (which holds the Hall's original deed of land, etc.) remains at a Queen Anne bank branch.

National Trust: Gayle Johnson will continue to investigate whether the Association should make application to the Trust.

Program/General Meeting, March 24: VP Bob Selene has booked speakers.

Training/Volunteers: Carol Hawkins reminded Board members that several Saturday Open Houses need volunteers. This led to a discussion of rearranging first floor furniture (some of which was accomplished after adjournment). The Daughters will be consulted about any proposed major changes.

Newsletter: Teresa Summers handed out spare copies of the last newsletter and set a February 15 deadline for submitting articles for the next edition.

New Business: Mary Louse Hammond reminded Board members that reaching out to the community is important. Membership concerns were raised, to be addressed by the ad hoc committee for membership procedures and operations, Teresa chair.

Fort Lawton Closes and Opens

Saturday, February 10, 2012, Seattle lost its last U.S. Army garrison. On that day, Fort Lawton was officially closed as an Army base, but simultaneously opened to the City of Seattle. This historic event was observed with a Battery and Flag detail, a Cannon Salute, the lowering of the flag, formation of troops and brief and often poignant statements by distinguished guests. The guest roster included Major General William D. Frink, Jr., Commander, 79th Sustainment Support Command; Jim McDermott, Washington’s 7th District Congressman; and Mike McGinn, Mayor of Seattle. The U.S. Army lost one; the City of Seattle gained one.

Fort Lawton once occupied most of Seattle’s Magnolia Bluff, with a wide-angle view of Elliott Bay and Admiralty Inlet (the northern reach of Puget Sound). Dating from 1896, the fort was an artillery battery. A year later local citizens and municipalities, in what must be recorded as an impressive display of patriotism, donated another 703 acres. In 1900, the fort was named for Major General Henry Ware Lawton, Medal of Honor recipient for his service during the Civil War’s Battle of Atlanta in 1864. General Lawton later served in the Apache Wars, the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine-American War, where he was the only general officer killed in that conflict.

The fort was converted to infantry use in 1902. At that time famed landscape architect John C. Olmsted, as part of his City of Seattle work in anticipation of the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, prepared a master plan for officer and enlisted men housing. During the Great War (World War I) my father, Alfred R. Rochester, recalled his time standing on Fort Lawton’s Parade Ground before being mustered out after serving in France. World War II saw the fort assume several roles: 1) the second-largest deployment site on the West Coast; 2) a major troop training site; 3) a prisoner of war detention site (see Jack Hamann’s book, *On American Soil*, for the riveting story of a court martial allegedly caused by the hanging of an Italian prisoner of war by U.S. African American troops).



Photo of Fort Lawton residences

Fort Lawton continued as a processing center during the Korean War, and later saw Nike anti-aircraft missiles installed.

Another controversial episode at the fort occurred in March, 1970, when Bernie Whitebear and United Indians of All Tribes claimed title to parts of Fort Lawton. A confrontation with U.S. Military Police ensued. Jane Fonda showed up, as did a number of national Indian leaders. Eventually, with the support of U.S. Senator Henry M. “Scoop” Jackson, Natives were provided acreage within the fort for construction of Daybreak Star Center, Discovery Park.

— Junius Rochester

Remembering a Pioneer

We mourn the passing of Chandler Watkin Jones, who died on February 20, 2012 at the age of 96. He had been a member of the Association for more than 20 years. A native of Albion, Whitman County, Washington, he worked for a Seattle firm that marketed planing mills and woodworking machines. He was the author of four books on machinery for the woodworking industry. He was a resident of Bayview Manor in Seattle in recent years. His wife, Melba, passed away in 1990.

Chandler was descended from pioneers George and Mary Elbert, who came to Washington in the 1870’s. We will tell you more about him and his family, and their extensive involvement with Pioneer Hall, in our next newsletter.

— Gary Zimmerman

An Early History of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington

In the late summer of 1911, Miss Donna Jacobs and Mrs. LeRoy Conway Stetson (Rose Sheehan) invited a few of their friends in for tea and explained their idea for founding a pioneer daughters' organization. It was decided to limit membership to native-born daughters of pioneers who were in the territory before 1870.

The first meeting was held November 27, 1911, at the home of Mrs. Stetson and the Native Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington, Prior to 1870, was formed. They decided that the group would meet regularly on the first Tuesday of each month at Pioneer Hall, and that a motto in Chinook would be selected at a later meeting. That happened much later on April 5, 1916, when Miss E. Inez Denny suggested "Quonismus Tillicum," Always Friends.

April 1918 was a momentous month – The Daughters held the first breakfast celebrating creation of the Washington Territory. On April 20, the group decided to incorporate and issue charters throughout the state. Its Certificate of Incorporation arrived June 18, 1918. In April 1922, members voted to change the official name to "The Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington (prior to 1870)." A change in bylaws allowed female descendants of Oregon Territory pioneers to join. The state association was formed on May 11, 1936, at a Seattle meeting of delegates from seven chapters. By 1977, 23 DPW chapters were chartered.

Projects were begun to collect biographies of pioneer ancestors and create the Daughters of the Pioneers Library to collect and preserve Washington State history, biography, fiction, research, folklore, Indian customs and legends. This collection was housed in the Hall of Justice in Olympia. In 1939, the Daughters purchased the L. D. McArdle Memorial Library. McArdle, who came to Washington Territory in 1883, had a collection of books, pamphlets and scrapbooks that were 20-187 years old. In October of 1981 The Daughters' Historical Library was moved to the Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma. In 2002, this DPW Historical Library was permanently moved to Pioneer Hall in Seattle where it can be accessed through the Fiske Genealogy Library housed on the first floor.

In 1941, the association sent a resolution to the Superintendent of Public Schools requesting that an authentic history of the State be included in the curriculum of our schools. The bill was introduced in the 27th Session of the Washington State Legislature and became law on March 24, 1941. Two other important projects in our early history were establishing the Memorial Education Funds in 1940 to aid deserving college students who are pioneer descendants, and requesting a U.S. Postage stamp to commemorate the Washington Territorial Centennial in 1953.

Other notable dates include 1972 when a history of the Naches Trail was published by James Payne of the Snoqualmie National Forest Service after the Daughters urged research on the condition of the pioneer trail. In 1975, "Incidents in the Life of a Pioneer Woman" was published with 95 stories told by Daughters' members, including Miss Donna Jacobs – then 102 years old. In 1986, Louise Rice's book, *Soap Suds to Sunday School*, was published. On May 10, 2011, the Daughters celebrated "The First Hundred Years" Seattle Chapter #1 with their Centennial Birthday Tea in Pioneer Hall with over 60 attendees from all State chapters.

The Daughters continue to meet monthly and be involved in meaningful activities such as the awarding of a \$1,000 scholarship every other year to a University of Washington candidate majoring in Northwest History.

Fundraising supports the Union Gospel Mission during the holiday season, and our ambitious museum and library collection housed in Pioneer Hall are maintained and open to the public from 1-4 pm during second and fourth Sundays (except winter months January and February). Docents are Pioneer Association and Daughter members.

If you think you might be eligible for membership (Daughter, Associate, Friend or Junior) or would like to receive further information, please contact:

Kathy Durgan kldurgan@comcast.net 425-771-9513 or

Sally Kinsman s.kinsman@comcast.net 425-402-8014

—Submitted February, 2012, by Kathy Durgan, DPW member since 1979 and Pioneer Association member since 1998; descendant of J.E.C. Durgan – founder of Washougal, Washington)

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of the State of Washington**

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“George Washington” Weeping Willow, March 2012

**UPCOMING MEETING:
SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2012**

Board Meeting 10 a.m.

**General Membership Meeting- 1:00
p.m.,**

followed by speakers

All Are Welcome

Future Meetings:

May 5, 2012: Board Mtg. only, 10:00 a.m.

**June 23, 2012: Annual Membership Mtg. with Speakers at 10:00 a.m.,
Followed by Salmon Luncheon, 12 Noon**