



Highline Historical Society News

Volume 41

October 2006

The Mission of the Highline Historical Society is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret the history of the Highline region and its people, and promote appreciation of the region's heritage.

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Historical Society
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Volunteer Appreciation Picnic



Curatorial Assistant Nancy Salguero McKay (left) and Kathy Glenn (right) at the 2006 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

Society volunteers were honored at an outdoor barbecue in Burien on August 18th. Hosted by the Board of Trustees at the Upthegrove home on Lake Burien, forty seven volunteers and guests dined on hamburgers, potato salad, watermelon and pie. Each was given a plant in appreciation of the many hours of service they have donated in support of Historical Society activities and programs during the past year.

“We need you, we appreciate you, and we thank you,” said Society President Terry Anderson. “If you were paid hourly for the time you have donated to us, our budget would have to increase by more than \$75,000 this year. I hope you will always understand your value to our organization.”

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From the President

Dear Friends,

Again I write to you to thank all of those who have helped this organization become such an interesting part of the lives of not only the Board and me, but to those who will follow us. Each and every month some new inspiration comes along to let us know our efforts are valuable and worthwhile.

One of the first events we ever produced and one that continues to be a favorite is our annual Salute to Pioneers. It is our pleasure and honor to celebrate memorable events and people at our Annual Meeting each year. Each time we do this we come away with a feeling of gratitude to those who had the wisdom to preserve our history. I hope you will come to the event that remembers Boulevard Park School this year.

November 11th (Veterans Day) is when we remember with reverence those who have put their lives on the line to protect this great country that we are privileged to live in. For some time now there has been an effort to redo the image of Des Moines Memorial Way. One of our Trustees,, Kitty Milne, has put a great deal of time and effort into this project and now it is ready for dedication. Please join Kitty and all those others who have worked so hard to bring this about. The event will be at 2:30 on November 11th at Sunnysdale Elementary School.

Again I personally thank you for all your support.

Terry Jarvis Anderson



Fifty Years Makes a Difference 1956 National News

- * Supreme Court ruling outlaws racial segregation in intrastate public transportation.
- * Dwight Eisenhower is re-elected President, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson.
- * Martin Luther King organizes a boycott of Montgomery, Alabama public busses.
- * In Boston, the Brinks robbery gang is brought to justice.
- * "As The World Turns" debuts on CBS.
- * The Federal Interstate Highway System act signed.
- * Congress authorizes private atomic energy plants.
- * Thomas Watson, founder of IBM, passed away.

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CULTURE

KING COUNTY PERCENT FOR ART

The Society is a
proud member of
Discover Burién,
the Assn. of King County
Historical Societies,
the South King County
Cultural Coalition,
Washington Museums Assn.
and the
American Association of
State and Local History.

Upcoming Society Events & Programs

New SeaTac City Hall
exhibit is open

Annual Meeting
& Salute to Pioneers
Remembering Boulevard
Park School
November 5

Road of
Remembrance
Honored
November 11th
2:30 PM

Founders
Award Dinner
March 16, 2007
Rainier Golf &
Country Club

Highline Garden Tour
June 9, 2007

On September 26th, the Society opened a new exhibit in the museum cases in the lobby at SeaTac City Hall. Members and the public are encouraged to visit this exhibit, designed by Society Curator Micki Ryan, honoring the veterans of **World War I and the history of Des Moines Memorial Boulevard**. SeaTac City Hall is located at 4800 South 188th Street and is open from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM weekdays.

Annual Meeting and Salute to Pioneers Remembering Boulevard Park School

Sunday, November 5th, 2:00 - 4:00
SeaTac City Hall, 4800 South 188th Street

This year's panel discussion will feature former teachers and students and their recollections of the school. Guests are welcome to bring photos and memorabilia to share.

Veterans Day, November 11, 2006. 2:30 PM

You are invited to join the Highline cities, King County and the Society in commemorating Veterans Day at a special celebration in the auditorium at Sunnydale School. The County Executive and local officials will speak and commemorate veterans. The Society will have an exhibit about Des Memorial Boulevard.

Fourth Annual Founders Dinner

Rainier Golf and Country Club

March 16, 2007, 6:00 PM

Mark your calendars for this event to honor an individual that has contributed to the preservation of Highline's history. The event consists of dinner, the awards ceremony, and an opportunity to fund certain items needed in our future museum. Proceeds benefit our museum building campaign.

Highline Garden Tour

Saturday June 9, 2007, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

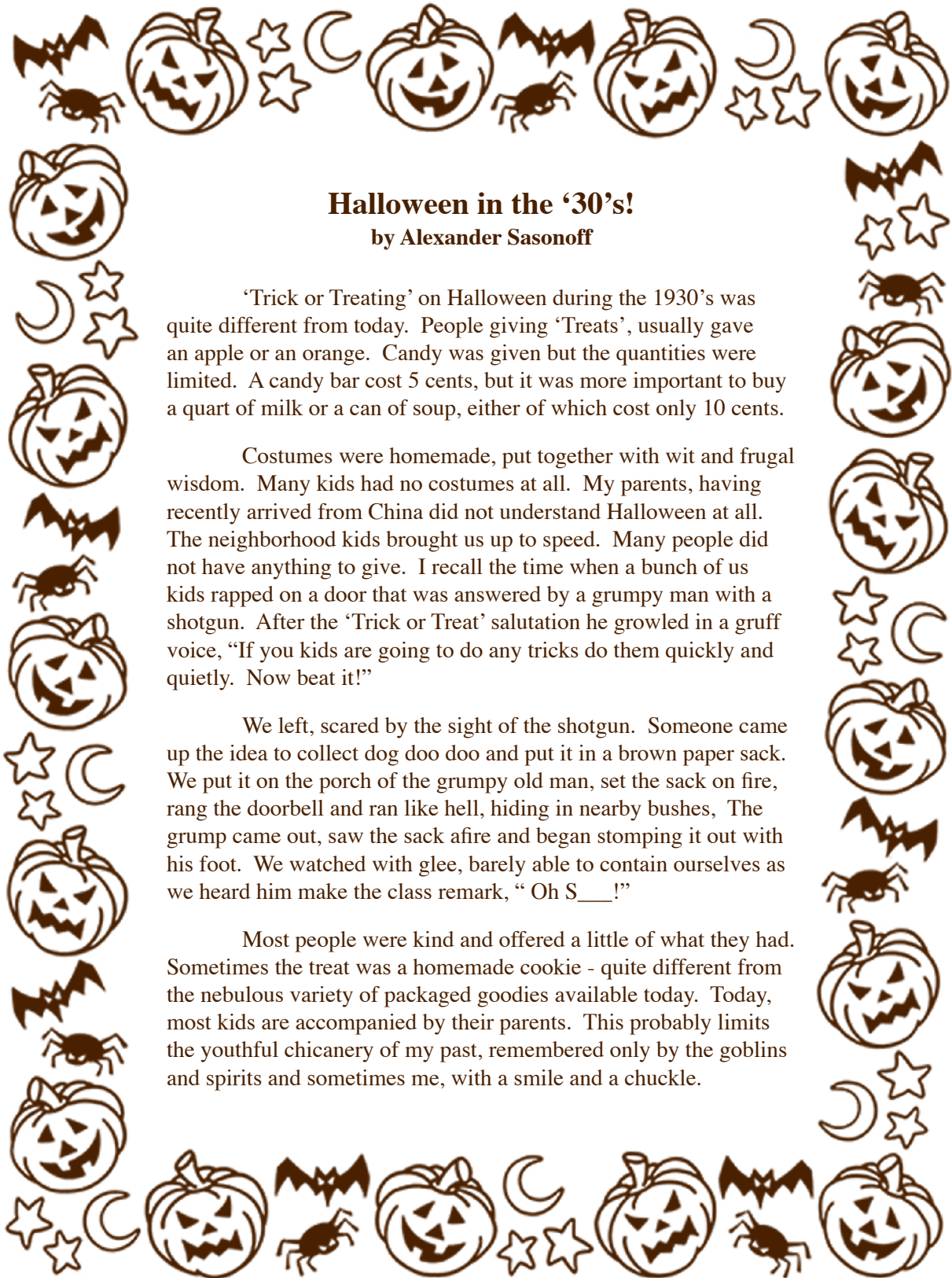
Back by popular demand. The Society is continuing to build on our second Garden Tour last year. We are finding wonderful gardens for you to explore. Contact Cyndi Upthegrove at 206-246-6354 if you are interested in volunteering part of a day in exchange for a ticket.

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Halloween in the '30's!

by Alexander Sasonoff

'Trick or Treating' on Halloween during the 1930's was quite different from today. People giving 'Treats', usually gave an apple or an orange. Candy was given but the quantities were limited. A candy bar cost 5 cents, but it was more important to buy a quart of milk or a can of soup, either of which cost only 10 cents.

Costumes were homemade, put together with wit and frugal wisdom. Many kids had no costumes at all. My parents, having recently arrived from China did not understand Halloween at all. The neighborhood kids brought us up to speed. Many people did not have anything to give. I recall the time when a bunch of us kids rapped on a door that was answered by a grumpy man with a shotgun. After the 'Trick or Treat' salutation he growled in a gruff voice, "If you kids are going to do any tricks do them quickly and quietly. Now beat it!"

We left, scared by the sight of the shotgun. Someone came up the idea to collect dog doo doo and put it in a brown paper sack. We put it on the porch of the grumpy old man, set the sack on fire, rang the doorbell and ran like hell, hiding in nearby bushes. The grump came out, saw the sack afire and began stomping it out with his foot. We watched with glee, barely able to contain ourselves as we heard him make the class remark, "Oh S___!"

Most people were kind and offered a little of what they had. Sometimes the treat was a homemade cookie - quite different from the nebulous variety of packaged goodies available today. Today, most kids are accompanied by their parents. This probably limits the youthful chicanery of my past, remembered only by the goblins and spirits and sometimes me, with a smile and a chuckle.



In the early 1980's, Superintendent of Highline School District Robert Sealey asked former Superintendent Carl Jensen to record his recollections of the founding of a number of Highline School district institutions. This is the fourth of a series of articles from Superintendent Jensen's recollections. We thank Dr. Sealey for sharing this document with the Society. - Ed.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HOW IT CAME TO BE

Part II

By Carl Jensen

(Note: The previous issue of Highline Historical Society News carried the first half of this article. It covered the topics: Early Background, The Seed Was Planted, Law Change Sought, Highline's Request for a Community College, Funding Considerations, Site Selection and Acquisition, and Opening in Temporary Quarters. - Ed.)

INITIAL COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

When authority to establish a community college in Highline was assured, it was important to find an administrator to serve as president of this new venture which was to be the first community college in the state under the new regulations. The local superintendent interviewed several candidates. One well qualified person was recommended to the school board for appointment as president. This person was Dr. Rodney Berg, a vice president at the Everett Junior College. Dr. Berg had the experience needed to organize this new program and met with the board's approval.

Dr. Berg, with special help from Charles Carpenter and Dr. Gordon, began the process of getting together a faculty and arranging the courses for the opening program at Glacier.

During this time Dr. Berg shared office space in a district facility. The program was just taking shape when Dr. Berg quite suddenly and without warning decided to resign and return to Everett Junior College.

In discussing it with him it seems that several factors had a bearing upon his decision. One was the prospect of operating a program in 14 portable classrooms and in sharing other facilities with young high school students. A second factor seemed to be working under a local school district administration and a local school board although the Everett Junior College was also affiliated with the Everett School District but with greater autonomy evolved over the years. A third factor that emerged was the potential of becoming president at Everett in the near future, which did in fact materialize in due time.

The district was disappointed at this interruption in planning at a critical stage. However, several staff people were available to continue the process. Mr. Charles Carpenter was appointed to carry on as acting president. He was ably assisted by Shirley Gordon and others so that program planning was only slightly interrupted.

During the following months several candidates were interviewed for the position of president. Dr. Pat Allen, a staff member at Western Washington College in Bellingham, was recommended to the school board and was subsequently appointed to serve as president replacing Charles Carpenter. This was the third chief administrator to serve in a little over the first year. Dr. Allen served beyond the 1967 separation of community colleges from local school districts.

Despite the administrative changes the college moved steadily on course and enrollment grew rapidly. During the first six years of operation Highline Community College continued to develop a strong, comprehensive program and continued to attract qualified faculty members.

GROWING PAINS

During those early years adjustments were made requiring some changes in the new facilities. This was also a period when student unrest became prevalent on college campuses throughout the nation. Community colleges attracted a somewhat older and hence more mature student than did

Continued next page

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the typical four-year institutions. Thus Highline in general escaped most of the unrest of that time.

A small group of students did however become vocal and tried to start a move to oust the president. The president was concerned enough that he offered to resign rather than jeopardize the progress of the young college. Interviews with faculty members and with the students involved revealed that a certain ambitious staff member had been subtly and deviously working to incite the students. When this was uncovered, a vote of confidence in the president was renewed and the staff member was advised to seek employment elsewhere. Said advice was quickly heeded.

The only other major issue during those first six years had to do with the role of the community colleges and the governance of same.

THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

At the outset of the surge of new community colleges throughout the state under the revised law, local school districts played a major role. Other colleges in Port Angeles, Moses Lake, Bellevue, Shoreline, Pierce County, Seattle and a number of other districts were also initiated by the existing public school districts. At that time there was no other alternative structure in existence. The local school districts alone had the power of taxing through bond issues or special levies to finance these new ventures. Furthermore, state support for construction and operations was already established through the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The nine existing junior colleges were similarly affiliated with local school districts.

With the rash of new community colleges being processed, concern was arising regarding the added burden being placed upon always limited public school funding. Seattle in particular voiced this concern and delayed for a while getting on the bandwagon of starting community college branches.

From the beginning of this movement there was another concern that surfaced. Community college staffs and administrators in general were anxious to be viewed as part of high education rather than as an adjunct of a local public school system.

There were segments within faculties and administrators that wanted to be affiliated with four-year institutions as a lower division partner. There were, of course, others who were fully committed to the broader community college concept.

This debate on governance was carried on openly and privately. As time went on this issue became more prevalent. Legislators were being lobbied. The University of Washington

and certain other four-year colleges were involved in supporting the concept of junior colleges as an extension of institutions of higher education.

As a sidelight, the president and the superintendent were approached by the University of Washington coaching staff to establish a football program under a university coach whereby potential varsity players could improve their grades for eligibility. This being an extension of the university for athletic purposes was quickly rejected. When Shoreline Community College opened some time later this arrangement was accepted including a coach from the University of Washington. Shoreline eventually withdrew from this liaison and, like most all community colleges, discontinued football.

As this issue accelerated, the Legislature was called upon to resolve it. A statewide meeting was held in the state capitol to a standing-room-only crowd. Dr. Charles Odegaard, president of the university, was invited to present the case for a university-related junior college system. He stressed the advantages of such a system.

The Highline Superintendent was invited to present the case for a community-related system tied closely to the needs of the area being served. He stressed meeting the needs of various ages for college transfer, for occupational training, for upgrading skills, for avocational needs and other lifelong learning opportunities. This was the essence of the community college mission as contrasted to the junior college philosophy as exemplified, particularly at this time, in California.

As it turned out, neither the position taken by Dr. Odegaard nor that of the Highline superintendent prevailed. The Legislature responded to intensive lobbying and charted a different course. In 1967, a state level of independent community colleges was established. This Community College Act of 1967 separated the colleges from local school districts and created a College Board of Trustees governance system. Community College District Nine was established encompassing Federal Way, Highline and South Central School Districts.

Community colleges prospered under the new system. They also joined the real world of the public four-year institutions and of the K-12 school districts in their annual scramble to receive a share of the always-scarce educational dollar.

It is appropriate to add here that through all of the early

Continued next page

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trials and tribulations one member of the Highline staff from the opening days played a significant supporting role. Dr. Shirley Gordon was a steadying influence through changes in college presidents and growth problems. She finally became the sixth president, in which position she served with distinction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the interest of brevity many anecdotes and memorable details of this early process have not been included. Since separation from the local district in 1967, events and the history of Highline Community College have been well documented by the college. The intent of this narrative was simply to insure that the early beginning and motivation for establishing the college be part of the recorded history.

In closing, a tribute is due many people.

THE HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Stanley Little, Jr., Dr. Victor Thompson, James Rice, Clay Myron and Mrs. Jane Armstrong deserve recognition for their support and for their policy-making responsibilities during those early years.

THE CITIZENS OF THE HIGHLINE

SCHOOL DISTRICT: The many citizens who voted favorably on a bond issue thus taxing themselves so that a college could become a reality.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT MRS. PEARL

WANAMAKER AND HER STAFF: For their unwavering support of the Highline effort.

STATE SENATOR ANDY HESS AND STATE

REPRESENTATIVE ED MUNRO: For their roles in getting legislation through that allowed community colleges in counties having four-year colleges.

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE: For their support and efforts in helping to inform Highline residents.

COLLEGE STAFF MEMBERS: To those early staff members who endured many inconveniences during those formative years. These dedicated instructors and administrators established the character of Highline Community College and helped set the course leading to today's fine institution.

EARLY STUDENT BODY: Finally, a tribute to those first students who found in Highline Community College an answer toward meeting their personal goals.

In conclusion, may it be said that it is hoped that Highline Community College may redouble its efforts to regain its role and relationship with the local communities which it serves. And further, that it will continue to strive to fulfill the real community college mission.

Respectfully submitted by Carl Jensen



Comments on the first half of our story in the previous issue about Highline Community College

“Great story on Highline Community College. My late husband Vin Mennella was on the Board of Trustees from 1967 to 1977. I have a picture of Dan Evans appointing him and also one of his him retiring. Vin is the one that promoted painting the College name on the roof, to be seen when the planes were landing north.”

- Madeleine Mennella

Hello from Barbara Reamer.

“Did you know that when Highline Community College was “new” and didn’t have a drama/theater department, an arrangement was made with Burien’s community theater organization, then called WORKSHOP THEATRE, so that interested students could work with the group and get a theater credit? A lot of coordinating was necessary, and changes were made in the theater group’s plans and scheduling to accommodate this project, etc. I am still a member of the theater group, now called Burien Little Theatre.”

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Chuck and Patti Burgess, Carl and Helen Hove, Society President Terry Anderson



Trustees Lynda Isernio and Alexander Sasonoff



Left to right: Patti Burgess, Helen Hove, Carl Hove, Helen Kludt, Micki Ryan, Miriam Curran and Chuck Burgess.

That best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love

-William Wordsworth

2005-2006 Highline Historical Society Volunteers

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Terry Anderson | Maggie Larrick |
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| Nicole Isernio | Dave Upthegrove |
| Kathi Jones | John Upthegrove |
| Helen Kludt | Diana Van Winkle |
| Stephen Lamphear | Beth Williams |

Thank You

Recent Accessions and Donations

The following items were recently donated to Highline Historical Society. Special thanks to these far-sighted individuals for helping HHS preserve authentic artifacts and archival materials of the recent and not-so-recent past, as well as for both restricted and unrestricted cash donations.. For more information about donating items to HHS, please call 246-6354 or send an email to editor@highlinehistory.org.

Veryl Glithero Toms has made a memorial donation in memory of **Margaret Burel Allsopp**, who died June 21, 2006. Mrs. Allsopp was a member of the Highline High School Class of 1938.

A scrapbook was donated containing **Seafarers Club** materials at Highline High School. It is a record of girls clubs and other programs at the school. It was donated by **Highline High School**.

A collection of **Pirate's Logs** was donated by Highline High School. The Society now has an almost complete set.

From **Madeleine Minnella**, for the collections, a US Navy airman's uniform with Commander's insignia, and a US Navy khaki uniform with Captain's insignia, worn by her late husband, **Vin Minnella**.

From **Marie Francis**, for the collections, a 1904 Kendall pump organ. According to the Francis family, the organ, which is in excellent condition, was first used in a Burien funeral parlor, then in a chapel in Burien, then was subsequently sold to Mrs. Francis. The Society is interested in learning more defined detail about the early uses of this beautiful instrument. If any reader knows of this organ, please contact us so that we may more thoroughly document its history.

A 'Tidbit' from Carl Jensen:

During the late 1930's, Learn to Swim campaigns were held at Angle Lake each summer. Classes included beginning, intermediate, advanced and life saving. Large army tents served as dressing rooms. School busses picked up youngsters at various schools. Thousands of youngsters learned to swim through these classes.

Join The Highline Historical Society

Benefits of an annual HHS Membership Include...

- Quarterly newsletter
- Bi-Monthly E-News about heritage-related events
- Patron members receive the quarterly magazine of the Washington State Historical Society
- Free admission to Society programs
- Free admission to our future museum

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Please indicate your membership classification below:

- ___ Individual - \$20
 ___ Family - \$30
 ___ Commercial/Business - \$50
 ___ Patron - \$125

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(necessary to receive Monthly E-News)

Make checks payable: *Highline Historical Society*, or charge your membership to:

_____ Visa _____ MasterCard

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Signature: _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 317, Seahurst, WA 98062

This application is for **new members only**. Renewing members will be notified by mail.

From the Collections



Do We Have One of Your Family Photos?

This beautiful photograph of May Lingwood Pendergrass, taken in 1926, is representative of a number of fine local family photographs that have been donated to the Society. A donation to the Society is a good way to preserve your family's history in the community.

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Seahurst, WA 98062

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Please make the corrections on your label.
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return to the Society. Thank you.*

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