



# Highline Historical Society News

Volume 39

April 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.

Highline  
Historical Society  
2005 Trustees

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Jerry Robinson  
Alexander Sasonoff  
Cyndi Upthegrove

## THANKS FOR THE HELP!



*Donor Hope Schultz (right) talks with Trustees Helen Kludt (center) and Lynda Isernio (right) in the Archival Storage Room (opened to the public for this event).*

In late February, the Society hosted an open house at our new home at Angle Lake School, with the invited guests being those Society and community members that had made a donation to our first ever Annual Fund. Almost fifty people took advantage of the invitation to have a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections, including the "archives storage area", the curators' work spaces and the "three-dimensional object" storage area. Many expressed their surprise at the number of items in the Society collections, with the breadth of the collections and with the amount of work both being done and remaining to be done. We were pleased to have a number of these people sign up to be interviewed by our new oral history volunteer, and several have volunteered their time to work on the collections themselves.

The Annual Fund appeal, which ran from November until February, netted almost \$8000.00 for Society operations in the upcoming year.

*See more photos page 7*

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## From the President

Last month our Highline Historical Society bestowed our annual volunteer award. To give this award was an honor for me. Jerry Robinson joins the ranks of people who are and have been the backbone of our Society. Volunteers help to make our goal of a building of our own happen in the near future.

The Board of Trustees sincerely gives its thanks to those who came to the Award Dinner and Auction, and those who contributed the auction items. The generosity of our local merchants, and those who bought tickets made this dinner a great success. It is an annual event and we hope even more of you watch for it next year and join us.



As a member of the SeaTac City Council, I have first hand knowledge of the popularity of the exhibits that have been shown at our City Hall. I personally invite all of you to make it a regular stop on your agenda. It will soon become a destination with each exhibit. You are welcome to call SeaTac City Hall for questions about times and content. The City of Burien has a local photographer's exhibit hanging now and it is spectacular.

Again, THANK YOU.

*Terry Jarvis Anderson*

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## Funding Renewed

The Society is pleased to announce the receipt of two grants this month. The first is from the W.N. and J. W. Peters Charitable Fund in the amount of \$1500.00. For the second year in a row, the Peters Charitable Fund has provided funding for preservation of the Society's photography collection. These operational dollars are especially useful as we prepare our collections for their eventual move to a permanent home. The Peters Charitable Fund monies will permit us to purchase appropriate storage materials, and assist with curator time to train volunteers in photography collections care and cataloguing.

The second grant is from 4Culture, the former King County Landmarks Commission. The 4Culture Board approved funding for the 2006-07 Heritage Sustained Support Grant Program. This unrestricted grant for Society operations is in the amount of \$3500.00, and is available to the Society for each of the two years. Operational dollars are very welcome as we build the capacity to support ourselves as we grow. We thank both organizations for recognizing the good work our volunteers and curators are doing and for supporting this work for the future.

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**CULTURE**

KING COUNTY PERCENT FOR ART

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**A special thank you to  
Wizards Casino for their  
continuing  
generous sponsorship of our  
newsletter!**



### Upcoming Society Events & Programs

June 10, 2006  
Highline Garden Tour

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June 13, 2006  
New exhibit opens at  
SeaTac City Hall

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Volunteer Recognition  
Event August 11, 2006

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Special Fall Mystery Program  
- September 2006

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The Society is a proud member  
of  
Discover Burien,  
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.

### Visit the Exhibit at SeaTac City Hall

Interurban: Historical Photographs of the Puget Sound Electric Railway  
Curated by Warren Wing

“Frequent, Fast, Safe Service,” was the motto of Puget Sound’s mass-transit system from 1902 to 1928. Indeed, you could take the Puget Sound Electric Railway’s Interurban from Auburn to Seattle in under an hour, EVERY half-hour, for about 25 cents. Stops made at every little town; between Auburn and Kent, the Interurban stopped at Christopher, Meredith, White River, and Thomas. It hauled people to work, shoppers to Seattle, and mail and express cargos around the region.

Local historian, author and everyone’s favorite guest speaker, Warren Wing curated this exhibit from his own collection of historical photographs. The 43 images will visually take you from Tacoma to Seattle, showing the cars, their interior, scenery, stations, signals, and the track unique to this electric railway. Many of the images were taken in 1915 in a survey for the Puget Sound Electric Railway’s then newly installed system of semaphores.

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### Highline Garden Tour

Saturday June 10, 2006, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Back by popular demand. The Society is continuing to build on our first Garden Tour last year. We have found wonderful gardens for you to explore. This year’s five gardens run the gamut from lake frontage, to a conference center with exceptional natural landscaping, to a garden that is an ornamental delight. There will be a raffle and sponsor giveaways. Contact the Society office at 206-241-5786 to reserve your tickets. Prices are \$12.00 advance purchase for 4 or more; \$15.00 per person advance; and \$18.00 per person day-of-tour. Tickets will be available shortly after the first of May at Burien Bark and Herr Garden Center as well as through the Society. Day of tour tickets will be available at Sal’s Deli on SW 6th in downtown Burien.

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### Hugo Ludena photo exhibit

Tuesday evening, opening reception June 13, 2006, 5:30 - 6:15 PM

Burien photographer Hugo Ludena is once again sharing his lovely photos of our Highline latino community. At the beginning of June his photos will be put on display at SeaTac City Hall for three months.

Members will receive their invitations to the opening by mail.

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**Volunteer Recognition Event!** Mark your calendars for this year’s volunteer recognition event on August 11th. Volunteers - watch for your invitation in early July. Everyone else----time to volunteer!

## Meet The Board Of Trustees

Mauricio Ayon was born in Guadalejara, Mexico and graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Philosophy from the University of Guadalejara. A Des Moines resident, he has lived in Highline since 1994 and brings experience to our board as the Liaison for the Latino Community for the Highline School District. In this capacity he works with parents groups and community organizations with a focus on keeping latino students in school until graduation.

Mauricio is one of the founders of Para Los Ninos, a local non-profit that works with latino parents in the schools, and is on the board of Casa Latina, a regional non-profit providing services and outreach within the latino community. Additionally he has recently accepted a position on the editorial board of *Sea Latino*, Washington State's largest Spanish language newspaper.

In 2005, Mauricio was recognized by the City of Burien with their Community Service Leadership Award for his contributions to the community. His involvement with the Highline Historical Society is a result of a strong interest in the preservation of his culture and of his desire to provide all of us with introductions to the local latino community and their history.



*Photo by Hugo Ludena*

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## Remembering White Center's Prizefighters!

By Alexander Sasonoff

Roxbury Street was the designated County Line that separated White Center. The north half is in the City of Seattle and the south half in King County. Roxbury runs east-west and was a graveled road from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Olson Place. This road was also graveled and extended into the Duwamish Valley.

As the story was told to me many years ago, prize fighting was not allowed in Seattle. A boxing ring was constructed on the county side of Roxbury Street. Prizefights were held there, attracting a rowdy drinking and betting crowd. The ring was built by Hiram Green and later converted to a roller skating rink by Pop Brown.

There were many prizefighters from this area. One of them, Al Hostak, at one time held the Middleweight Championship of the World. After his retirement, Al tended bar for many years at the Epicure Restaurant. This establishment was there for many years and was well attended by locals. I remember fundraisers held there for Governor Rosellini.

Another fighter, Harry "Kid" Mathews, lived on the

city side of White Center. The Kid went on from White Center to fight the famous Bostonian Heavyweight Champion of the World, Rocky Marciano. Unfortunately the Kid was knocked out in the second round. Still, Mathews career as a boxer was significant. He knocked out 43 opponents in 49 fights, fighting in three different weight divisions, including heavyweight. My former wife's family was well acquainted with the Kid and we used to party at the Angle Lake plunge.

One of my neighbors was a fighter named Jackie Moore. Jackie fought in the Lightweight Division and gained notoriety there. His dad was a retired prizefighter and used to teach neighborhood kids the fundamentals of boxing. Jackie's dad worked at the Frye Packing Plant in Seattle. He wielded a sledgehammer to put beef cattle down. It wasn't pleasant listening to stories about his work.

You may recall it was the Frye Packing Plant that was struck by a B-29 bomber that was being test flown during the war years. Of course, that is another story. It would be nice to have some of the boxing history in our new Highline Heritage Museum.



*This article, written by the late Melba Eyler, was published in the Seattle Times Sunday Magazine in September of 1955. Sadly the store (192nd and Des Moines Memorial Boulevard) has been swept away by “progress,” but reading about it may bring memories to many. Mrs. Eyler co-authored The Many Roads to Highline, as well as many newspaper columns about our area. Her estate has donated scrapbooks of her published materials to the Society. - Ed.*

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## OLD GENERAL STORE STOCKED IN MEMORIES

How many old general stores can yet be found that stock everything from antlers to zories?

A short drive on the old Des Moines Road brings you to Peabody’s General Store. Just a stone’s throw from a major air strip, a little removed from a busy freeway, yet, like a blade of grass in a crack in the concrete, it survives.

What is it you wish when you enter the store? Take your choice of lanterns and fish nets, swaying from the ceiling. They share space with granite pots and kettles.

A showcase of gift items is almost lost among a maze of toys, nuts-and-bolts and household tools. Greeting cards and canned goods mingle with camping and fishermen’s needs.

“There have been more fish caught and more deer hunted in this store than in any stream or woods,” boasted Peabody. On a top shelf a mounted deer head almost nods in agreement. A stuffed owl wisely watches as you decide what you want.

Is it a key you want made? How about kerosene for your lamp, or some white gas? There are today’s newspapers and yesterday’s night crawlers.

The apothecary candy jars reach back into yesterday’s memories. One is filled with jaw-breakers. Pop one into your cheek. Other jars house horehound drops and licorice whips. Another brings you back to the present. It offers bubble-gum.

There are tables serving you with breads, fruit and of course, refrigerated milk products.

“When we bought this business,” Peabody reminisced, “we invited all the local folk in and got acquainted. Told them we’d handle anything they wanted.”

When Peabody bought the store, it was no strange place to him. His attachment spanned the length of memory over 30 years’ time. When he was a boy of 12, in 1920, he and his buddies would hitch a ride from West Seattle by wagon. “We’d sit on the back of the rig and let our feet dangle,” he remembered. “That brick road was the main road to Tacoma, so we would come right by this store. It was our stopping-off place on the way to our swimmin’ hole at Angle Lake.”



“I never forgot the place. In 1950, after my wife and I had our share of travelin’, I came back here, and bought it. I guess I thought this was the life to retire to, and I was right.”

His General Store blends well in its small unchanged part of a rural area. Nearby, a dilapidated and picturesque old barn sags on a deserted pasture. Across the road lies a peaceful pastoral setting, complete with weathered old barns and grazing horses trying to ignore plane and auto traffic.

For one small stretch of the old Des Moines Road, one may travel back in time, even though huge jets may be gliding in, or blasting off, at the nearby airport.

A penny candy case, boys in blue tattered jeans, destination the old swimming hole - its all there at Peabody’s General Store. All you have to do is remember.

*Donor's Event continued from page 1*



*Founding Trustee Jeanne Pfeifer and Representative Dave Uptegrove*



*Members Sally and Hallie Mackey tour the photos on exhibit for the day of the event.*



*Vince Ferriols and Karen Beeson discuss the collections with John Uptegrove and Stuart Creighton (Left to right, above).*



*Guests enjoyed Fritzi Oxley's magnificent Bi-Centennial quilt, on exhibit for the day.*



*Members Lillian Isernio and Jan and Roberta Noorda enjoy the afternoon (Left to right).*

**Recent Accessions**

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. For more information about donating items to HHS, please call 246-6354 or send an email to editor@highlinehistory.org.

From **Rosella Roff** – for the archives, a copy of the historical site map of the Burien/Highline area produced for the Burien Centennial (1880-1980)

From **Jim Malone** – for the archives, copies of old maps and early development documents relating to Mayberry Creek (now known as Walker Creek)

From **Dick Dahlgard** – for the collections, Ivan Yeakel’s leather reading chair. For the archives, hundreds of photos and negatives relating to Highline as well as American history, some taken by himself and others taken by other people. One photo was taken from the cockpit of a Japanese aircraft as it attacked Pearl Harbor.

From **Barbara Piper** – for the archives, a large mounted 1940’s aerial photo of Burien and a satchel filled with reels of 8mm family films taken on Lake Burien from the ‘50’s to the ‘70’s.

From **Bruce Mennella** – for the collections, a check embossing machine from Southgate Ford (@ 50’s - ‘60’s)

From **Arbis Hughes** – for the archives, early math textbooks, schools materials, & picture cards.

From the **Radisson Hotel SeaTac Airport** - for the archives, 900 photographs, numerous publications and certificates, maps and a large schematic of future Port of Seattle plans for the site. For the collections, uniforms and costumes. For Society operations, a space heater, office supplies and a First Aid Kit.

**WISH LIST**

Can you help by donating any of the following items? If so, please contact the Society at 206-246- 6354. Thank you.

1. A filing cabinet with extra deep drawers (15” deep, or more).
2. Geological specimens typical of the Highline region - to fill in gaps in our natural history collections.
3. Taxidermy specimens of local birds.

**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

**Become a Member Today**

Please indicate your membership classification below:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(necessary to receive Monthly E-News)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa                      \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

\_\_\_\_\_ Account Number

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### THIRD ANNUAL FOUNDERS DINNER AND AUCTION

In 2004, on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society, the Society established the Founder's Award, to be given annually, to an individual that has contributed to the preservation of Highline's History. This year's recipient of the Founders Award is Jerry Robinson, owner and publisher of Robinson Newspapers. In addition to being an active member of the Society's Board of Trustees, Jerry oversaw the publication of *West Side Story*, the definitive story of White Center and West Seattle. He additionally is the author of several books, including a compilation of some of his favorite columns, and an autobiography. Congratulations, Jerry.



*Founders Don Schindler and Jeanne Pfeifer congratulate Jerry Robinson at the podium.*



*Three of the Robinsons in attendance:  
Jerry, Tim and Ken*



*Dick's new occupation:  
Auctioneer!*



*Trustees Rita Creighton (left)  
and Helen Kludt (right)*



*Jerry Robinson delivering his remarks at the  
3rd Annual Founders Dinner and Auction*



*Randy and Barbara Coplen enjoying the evening*



*Eve Dunninghoo and Will Russell preparing to bid*

### Order Jerry Robinson's Publications



*Something's Out There*, \$19.95 perfect bound

A compendium of columns written by Jerry from 1952-1974 in the *White Center News* formative years. Columns are usually about the business district activities from a humorous standpoint or about raising five boys in White Center. A light hearted look at life in those times.

*Listen To Your Father* \$12.95

A CD with stories from Jerry Robinson about growing up poor in Portland, Oregon. It centers on a family of 8 girls and boys and a dad who had a hard time holding a job during the depression. The book culminates with a more recent history of his current offspring and marriage to Elsbeth Warsow in 1968. It is a VERY light hearted and sometimes heartfelt publication as he describes his childhood friends, games they played and people he has met over the years.

To Order: Call 206-388-1850 and say you would like to buy a book!

## FROM THE COLLECTIONS



*This good series of photos is of  
a tug that ran aground on  
Three Tree Point in 1928.*

P. O. Box 317  
Seahurst, WA 98062

**Non Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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**Permit # 93**

## TIME DATED MATERIALS

*Changes?*

*Please make the corrections on your label. Circle  
the appropriate spot below, and return to the Society.  
Thank you.*

- Name misspelled*
- Contact person changed*
- Address wrong*
- Duplicate mailing*
- Remove from mailing list*