Tacoma’s Span to Destiny

Work was under way on the new 11th Street Bridge over City Waterway when photographer Asahel Curtis captured this scene in 1912. Construction began in June of that year on the $600,000 span, which opened the Tideflats to industrial development. On Feb. 16, 1913, a throng of 10,000 celebrated its opening. Details of the campaign to save the Murray Morgan Bridge, page 4.

Photo by Asahel Curtis, Courtesy University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Division Negative No. A.Curtis d3467.

INSIDE:
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- Complete record of Tacoma Historical Society programs since 1989 .................................................. 5–8
- Memories of World War II on the homefront .......... 9–10
Editor’s corner

Is there a pattern here?

Recently we stopped by the Steilacoom Historical Museum at 3 on a Sunday afternoon. The door was locked, although the sign said they’d be open until 4 p.m.

On two Saturday afternoons we stopped at the Working Waterfront Museum about 3. Though according to the posted hours they were supposed to be open, there was a “closed” sign in the window.

We went to the annual meeting at Fort Steilacoom Oct. 12. The membership voted to open the site to visitors Sunday afternoons – if they can find enough volunteers.

If there’s a lesson here, it’s that those of us with an interest in and enthusiasm for local history need somehow to find an extra hour or day to keep our historical sites and museums staffed with volunteers. If we don’t keep the torch burning, who will?

—Dale Wirsing

TacomaHistory.org wins acclaim

We invite you to check out the Tacoma Historical Society’s website at www.tacomahistory.org. We think you’ll want to bookmark it.

You can use it to check our schedule of meetings and events, download a membership application, check on volunteer opportunities, contact the society by e-mail, read selected articles from the City of Destiny Newsletter, or find links to other local historical societies and museums.

We plan to add new features. Please let us know what you think.

The sort of e-mail we like to get:

“I am absolutely thrilled with this website! I was born in Tacoma in 1948; my mother in 1922; my grandfather in 1896....! I…wanted to let you know that it is wonderful! It is amazing how the memories pop up when touring your pages!”

The Tacoma Historical Writers invite your participation

2nd & 4th Tuesdays – 1:30 to 3:00
Martin Luther King Jr. Library / 19th and S. Pine
752-7722
Read, write and enjoy refreshments

Recent months have been marked by the deaths of several longtime Tacoma Historical Society members and supporters.

• Robert G. (Bob) Doubleday died March 4, at his home in Bremerton Born in Tacoma on Dec. 15, 1915, he was active in the Kitsap County Historical Society. Both he and his wife, MaryEtta (who died in 2000) were members of the Tacoma Historical Writers.

• Bonnie O. Battle died June 21. A lifelong writer, she was a member of the Tacoma Historical Writers. A native of Spokane, she came to Tacoma in 1936.


• Lt. Col. (ret.) William A. Daugherty died Aug. 26 in Tacoma at the age of 80. He was born at West Point, N.Y. He served on the Tacoma Historical Society Board. His article, “A whirlwind construction effort turned Camp Lewis from prairie to military post in just 3 months,” appeared in the summer issue of The City of Destiny Newsletter.

We also note the passing Oct. 6 of Margaret Olson Richards, who donated the priceless Richards Studio collection — nearly 1 million negatives and photos – to Tacoma Public Library. Mrs. Richards was born in Fife in 1920.
Six new plaques mark locations of historic sawmills along Ruston Way

More than a dozen lumber and shingle mills operated along the shoreline between Old Town and the Tacoma Smelter for a span of more than a century. Some lasted more than a decade, some only a few years. They disappeared due to hard times, fire or exhausted sources of timber.

These mills contributed to Tacoma’s reputation as “The Lumber Capital of the World.” The Tacoma Historical Society is placing bronze plaques to mark some of these important sites. The plaques feature an image and text about each mill.

Paul R. Michaels, the artist for this project, installed the first six markers this fall:

1. Tacoma Mill Co.  Jack Hyde Park
3. Puget Sound Lumber Co.  3015 Ruston Way
   Sponsor, Tacoma Longshoremen
4. Port of Tacoma Plaques  3835 Ruston Way
   Facts about Tacoma shipping history
5. Gange Lumber Co.  3939 Ruston Way
6. Defiance Lumber Co.  4601 Ruston Way

THS plans to expand this project and mark more mill sites in the future.

The project was initiated by Gordon Russ and assisted by Jayne Fortt. Funding has come from THS, City of Tacoma through the North End Neighborhood Council, Tacoma Longshoremen, the Port of Tacoma, and T-shirt sales.

Artist Paul R. Michaels does some touch-up work on the Puget Sound Lumber Co. plaque on Ruston Way. The marker notes, “Puget Sound Lumber Co. was built in 1901 and operated almost exclusively for the export market until it burned in 1930.”
Save Our Bridge, an organization devoted to saving Tacoma’s Murray Morgan Bridge, won a major victory Sept. 23 when the Tacoma City Council voted 9-0 in favor of saving the bridge.

The non-profit Save Our Bridge group has incorporated – with the help of an initial grant of $300 from the Tacoma Historical Society.

The society’s board of directors went on record in June in opposition to closure and removal of the bridge. Its reasons were:

1. The bridge is a signature architectural feature of Tacoma’s cityscape. For instance, for many years the profile of the bridge was a key element of the nameplate of The News Tribune. Other cities would not countenance destruction of such a significant landmark.

2. Bridging the City Waterway, as it was known then, was a major step in the development of the city and opening the Tideflats region for industrial development.

3. The historic importance of the bridge is recognized by its being on the city, state and national historic registers.

4. The bridge’s name honors the pre-eminent historian of the Pacific Northwest, Murray Morgan.

The Washington State Department of Transportation intends to demolish and remove the bridge, which has served the city since 1913. The department has backed off from its intention to close the bridge to traffic by the end of this year. Save Our Bridge contends that the state has failed in its obligation to rehabilitate the bridge and that closure would jeopardize economic development on the east side of the Thea Foss Waterway.

The bridge was renamed for Murray Morgan in 1997. It was previously known as the 11th Street Bridge.

Save Our Bridge meets at 4 p.m. the first and third Monday at Johnny’s Dock restaurant, 1900 E. D St. in Tacoma. The group has already obtained some 5,000 signatures on petitions and plans a number of events to raise public awareness of the importance of the issue.

The Tacoma Historical Society has developed an exhibit telling the bridge’s story which was on display in Tacoma Public Library’s Handforth Gallery and is now being rotated to branch libraries.

Correspondence and contributions may be sent care of the Tacoma Historical Society, PO Box 1865, Tacoma, WA 98401. Additional information is available by phoning (253) 759-0401 or logging on to the Save Our Bridge website, www.saveourbridge.com. The Save Our Bridge Committee can be reached by e-mail at info@saveourbridge.com.

Be it hereby resolved…

Key points in the Tacoma City Council resolution:

- For 90 years, the Murray Morgan Bridge…has been a Tacoma landmark and is listed on the local, state, and national historic registers; it was designed by J.A.L. Waddell, one of the most prominent civil engineers of the early twentieth century.

- The bridge has great historical significance as a classic example of industrialized bridge building and is one of the few vertical lift bridges in the western United States.

- The bridge provides an essential vehicle and pedestrian link between downtown Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma industrial area.

- The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), which owns the bridge, entered into turnback agreements with the City in 1995 and 1998 in which WSDOT agreed to rehabilitate and/or replace the bridge then transfer ownership of the bridge to the city.

- The City Council is opposed to demolition of the Murray Morgan Bridge…and intends to make every feasible effort to preserve and restore it.

- The city manager is directed to make every feasible effort to preserve and restore the bridge, including identifying potential sources of funding and working with the Washington State Department of Transportation on plans for preservation and restoration of the bridge.

Voting in favor: Mayor Bill Baarsma, Deputy Mayor Bil Moss; council members Bill Evans, Connie Ladenburg, Mike Lonergan, Sharon McGavick, Doug Miller, Kevin Phelps, and Rick Talbert.
Since its beginnings in 1989, the Tacoma Historical Society has presented an impressive number of programs. We’ve attempted to list them all here. The list is in reverse chronological order.

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<td>Gary Emmons, Alan (Bud) Emmons</td>
<td>“The remarkable life of Tacoma historical novelist Della Gould Emmons”</td>
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<td>Babe Lehrer</td>
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<td>Tom Stenger</td>
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<td>Jennifer Schreck, the City of Tacoma’s new Historic Preservation Officer, Thomas Hudson and Sally Perkins</td>
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<td>Caroline Gallacci, author, founder of and former president of THS</td>
<td>City of Destiny and The South Sound: An Illustrated History of Tacoma and Pierce County (new views on local history)</td>
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<td>Dr. Ronald Magdlen, President of THS, Professor at Tacoma Community College</td>
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<td>Gordon Johnston, former mayor</td>
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<td>Paul Herlinger</td>
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<td>Med Nicholson, former reporter, expert on Tacoma-Pierce-Lewis County History</td>
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<td>Jim Fredrickson - reads from his new best seller</td>
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<td>History of the Tacoma Rescue Mission</td>
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<td>History of Tacoma Police Department</td>
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<td>Tacoma Voices of the Past, Vol. II</td>
<td>Dr. Ronald Magden</td>
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<td>&quot;Headlines of Tacoma: A Whimsical View&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Dale Wirsing</td>
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<td>The Weyerhaeuser Company Celebrates Its First 100 Years in Tacoma</td>
<td>George Weyerhaeuser</td>
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<td>Weyerhaeuser Mansion 4301 N Stevens Stree</td>
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Tacoma’s working waterfront, a walk along the Thea Foss Waterway Dock
July 8, 1996 Meet at Johnny’s

THS fundraiser
“The Man of La Mancha”
June 19, 1996 Tacoma Little Theatre

Christine Palmer & Associates report their findings
The City of Tacoma’s new archeology policy, from the survey completed for the City of Tacoma Historic Preservation Dept.
June 10, 1996 TPL

Ray Siers, Tacoma native, writer and educator
“Down the Hill”
May 6, 1996 Fort Steilacoom

Dr. Brian Magnusson, UW professor
“Aspects of Swedish Immigration in the Tacoma-Pierce County Area” / Annual Meeting
April 8, 1996 Roof Garden, Masonic Temple

Jess Giesel
“Little Known Tacoma Architectural History”
March 11, 1996 TPL

Katheren Armatas
“History of Tacoma Greeks and Their Religion”
Feb. 12, 1996 TPL

Entrants: Merna Hecht, Norma Jean Verhul, Joan Smith, David Ingram, Steve and Joan Hansen
Story telling contest
Jan. 8, 1996 TPL

Grand Homes Tour
Dec. 3-4, 1996

Dave Knoblach, geologist, Marenkos Rock Center, Issaquah
“Geologic History of Western Washington”
Nov. 13, 1995 TPL

Ron Karabaich, photographer, owner Old Town Photo
“Early Tacoma Photographers, 1860-1960”
Oct. 9, 1995 TPL

Robert Fletcher
Masonic Temple tour
Sept. 11, 1995 Masonic Temple, 2413 E. C St.

Paul Raymond
Presentation on marine history entitled “Sail and Steam on Puget Sound, 1850-1935”
Aug. 14, 1995 TPL

Valerie Switski, Tacoma historic preservation officer
“Nationally and Locally Landmarked Properties and Sites”
July 10, 1995 Studio V.H. Auditorium

Ken Swanson, military author
“The Evergreen Past: A Pictorial History of Fort Lewis”
June 12, 1995 TPL

Robert G. Walker, former general manager
“The Walker Cut Stone Company: Producers of Wilkeson Stone in many prominent Tacoma buildings”
May 8, 1995 Tacoma Art Museum, S. 12th and Pacific

Cy Happy
“Dance Halls in Tacoma’s Past” / Annual Meeting / Volunteer Park Conservancy Orchestra
April 10, 1995 Crystal Ballroom, 725 Broadway

Patrick M. Steele, former Pierce County prosecutor, state representative and Tacoma city councilman
“Joke Bird and Other Famous Tacoma Murder Cases”
March 13, 1995 TPL

Mavis Stearns of Points Northeast Historical Society
“History of Dash Point and Brown Point 1792 to the Present”
Feb. 14, 1995 TPL

Joe Kossi
“World War II Japanese Situation”
Jan. 9, 1995 TPL

Grand Homes of Tacoma Tour
Dec. 3-4, 1996

Adm. James S. Russell (USN, ret.)
“Growing Up in Tacoma and Going to Sea”
Nov. 14, 1994 TPL

Architects Bob Jones & Alan Liddle, graphic designer John Vlahovich
“Tacoma’s Contemporary 1950 Architecture, Residential/Commercial”
Oct. 10, 1994 TPL

Valerie Switski, Tacoma historic preservation officer
“Endangered Tacoma Public School Buildings”
Sept. 12, 1994 NW Baptist Seminary

Gene Godlich, architect
Early Tacoma churches, 1873-1920
Aug. 8, 1994 TPL

Gene Godlich, architect
Tour of Richard Vautrin mansion, 1898, designed by Ambrose Russell. A members-only event.
July 13, 1994 TPL

Murray Morgan
Early Tacoma Theatres, 1879-1927
June 13, 1994 TPL

Brian Kamens, Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room
“How to Research Your Home and Some Interesting Tacoma Historical Homes”
May 9, 1994 TPL

Adm. James S. Russell & Peggy (Mocce) Bal, son & granddaughter of A.H. Russell
Ambrose J. Russell, noted Tacoma architect. / Annual Meeting
April 11, 1994 Roof Garden, Masonic Temple

Judith Kipp
Memorable black and white Tacoma highlights from the Richards Photo Collection
March 14, 1994 TPL

Bert Ripp
“Historical Tacoma Post Cards from the Bert Ripp Collection”
Feb. 14, 1994 TPL

Cy Happy
“Old Settlers and Summer People, 1840-1928, Steilacoom and the Lakes District”
Jan. 10, 1994 TPL

Grand Homes of Tacoma Holiday Tour
December 4-5 1993

Jack Curtwright, owner of Curtwright Gallery
“Where Have All the Indian Baskets Gone?”
Nov. 8, 1993 TPL

Jerry Eckrom, author of Remembered Drums
Picnic and program: “Indians, Soldiers and Settlers: Voices from the Puget Sound Indian War”
July 12, 1993 Fort Nisqually, Point Defiance Park

Michael Aljeidle, editor of Sea Chest, published by Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society
“History and Growth of Tacoma’s Hilltop Area, 1880-1926”
Oct. 11, 1993 TPL

Ronald Magden
“Tacoma on Film, 1911-43”
Sept. 12, 1993 TPL

Caroline Gallacci, Ron Karabaich
Historic boat tour; old and new Tacoma industrial waterfront tour
Aug. 8, 1993 Johnny’s Dock parking lot

Jerry Eckrom, author of Remembered Drums
Picnic and program: “Indians, Soldiers and Settlers: Voices from the Puget Sound Indian War”
July 12, 1993 Fort Nisqually, Point Defiance Park

Michael Aljeidle, editor of Sea Chest, published by Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society
Old and new Tacoma marine history
June 14, 1993 TPL

Michael Sullivan, manager of cultural resources for City of Tacoma
The story of immigrants Andrew and Theo Foss
May 10, 1993 TPL

George W. Walk, author of “Fighting Fawcett”
The story of Angelo Vance Fawcett, one of Tacoma’s feistiest and most colorful mayors
March 8, 1993 TPL

Mrs. Samuel Nathalie (Laird) Brown, lumber family historian
“Puget Sound’s Lumber Barons” / Annual Meeting
April 1993 Roof Garden, Masonic Temple

Helen Stafford, farm teacher and longtime advocate for Tacoma’s black community
Black History Month presentation: Thoughts and experiences
Feb. 8, 1993 TPL

Doug Bowen, Asarco spokesman
The story of the Tacoma smelter, a night of farewell to the stack, to be imploded Jan 17, 1993
Jan. 11, 1993 TPL
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Ralph Decker
“Ira Davison and the Cushman Power Project.” Slides from the collection of Jean Sienko December 1992

Alex Coloeos, teacher and researcher
“New Method for Teaching History” October 1992

Dr. Thomas Douglas
“Pioneer Medicine in Washington Territory.” October 1992

Linda Sheffer, Mary Olson, Ottilie Markholt
Labor History Month program on the role of women in Tacoma labor September 1992 Guided tour, Pierce County Central Labor Council Bldg.

Brian Kamens
Tour of Union Station area Aug. 10, 1992

Ralph Decker
“Fire Fighting in the City of Destiny” November 1992

Alex Coloeos, teacher and researcher
“New Method for Teaching History” October 1992

Dr. Thomas Douglas
“Pioneer Medicine in Washington Territory.” October 1992

Linda Sheffer, Mary Olson, Ottilie Markholt
Labor History Month program on the role of women in Tacoma labor September 1992 Guided tour, Pierce County Central Labor Council Bldg.

Bill Allard presented his collection of gasoline station paraphernalia. May 1992

Charles Moore, architect for the University of Washington Tacoma Branch and Washington State Historical Society. April 1992

Janice Baxter and Jane Russell
Program celebrating the 100th-year anniversaries of the Aloha and Nesika study clubs. March 1992 TPL

Architect Alan Liddle
Spoke on historic preservation and presented his award-winning slide show, “Whither Tacoma.” February 1992

Tacoma Historical Writers Group
Told the story of their publication, Tacoma Voices from the Past. January 1992

Tour of Fort Lewis Military Museum. December 1991

Paul Raymond
Presentation on marine history entitled “Salv and Steam on Puget Sound.” November 1991

Tour of the renovated Rialto and Pantages theaters. October 1991

Labor historian Ottilie Markholt and researcher Robert Gunovich. Program on the ASARCO Smelter and the ethnic history of Ruston September 1991

Tour of the Masonic Temple led by Robert Fletcher. Organ music provided by Homer and Jane Johnson. February 1991 47 St. Helens Ave.

Mary Suder
Slide presentation on pioneer artist Abby Williams Hill. January 1991 Carnegie Library

Gary Fuller Reese
Members shared their reflections on Christmas in Tacoma over the years. Mr. Reese spoke on Christmas in Territorial Days. December 1990 Carnegie Library

Fred Haley
History of Brown & Haley Candy Co. November 1990 Rhodes Post, American Legion

Ottilie Markholt, author; Roy Parent, and Clyde Hupp, Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFT-CIO.
Program on labor history and the production of the book To Live In Dignity. October 1990 Carnegie Building

Tribal Archivist Judy Wright

Downtown Walking Tour; picnic at Wright Park and tour of the park. August 1990

Downtown walking tour July 1990

Jim Fredrickson
Shared his knowledge of railroading in Tacoma area June 1990 King Branch

Gary Fuller Reese
Gave a presentation on the history of the newly restored Carnegie Bldg., then spoke on the history of Tacoma’s African-American community. May 1990

Barbara Fox of Fox’s Book Store
“51 years of book-selling in Tacoma.” Participated in the Point Defiance Line celebration held by Pierce Transit and the Proctor District community. April 1990 King Branch

Ran Kornbach
History of Old Town March 1990 King Branch

Longshoremen Phil Lelli and “Tiny” Thronson and author Dr. Ronald Magdlen
History of Tacoma’s waterfront and the Longshoremen’s Union. February 1990 King Branch

Business meeting and election January 1990 King Branch.

Curator Lynn Anderson updated the remodeling project at the Washington State Historical Society. December 1989 King Branch.

Business meeting November 1989 McCormick Branch, Tacoma Public Library.

Fred Haley
Organizational meeting and tour of the Knights of Pythias Bldg. September 1989 Edward B. Rhodes, American Legion Post.
On December 7th, 1941, we had been invited to a friend’s place for dinner in Tacoma. She had taken in two young boarders and had a larger than usual meal prepared. We were all sitting around the dining-room table enjoying our meal. The radio was on in the next room. Suddenly the voice of our president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, came on loud and clear. We all listened. Pearl Harbor had been bombed by the Japanese – “a day that would live in infamy.” We were at war.

We did not learn it until much later, but my brother, Leslie Cullison, was on the battleship USS Nevada. The Nevada was badly damaged in the attack and was beached. At the time I was staying at my mother’s place in Tacoma. I had left my first husband and had two small children with me at the time. Bill was two and Darlene just one year old. This husband loved to drink, and when he did he became very angry and mean. One of his cousins lived a few doors from us and had taken me back to Tacoma to my mom’s place.

I tried to get a job at the telephone company but they would not hire you unless you had graduated from high school. I had had to quit school after the 10th grade since Mom could not afford to keep both my brother and me in high school. (After the war started, the phone company forgot about that rule and hired anyone. But I did not know that till much later.) I decided that perhaps the war meant keeping families together, and I returned to my husband one more time!

In 1941 we rented a house in Lacey. We stayed there perhaps two months. One day I was told we would be moving again. My mother-in-law had loaned my husband $100 to put down on a 2-acre place just off Union Mill Road on the highway to Olympia. The two of them made the deal before I even saw the place.

There was a small house and a barn, and a little fruit cellar was dug into a small hill. It was earthen but had a wooden door and roof on top of it. In the small inner yard there was a woodshed and one tall fir tree. The rest was woods and fenced in. Later on my husband bought a cow and a couple of pigs and rabbits.

A few months later I found out there was a new child on the way. My husband was working at Fort Lewis for one of his friends. He received 50 cents a haircut and had to pay his friend inasmuch as he managed the shop.

Then he found out the shipyards were hiring and the pay was better than barbering. So he got a job at the Tacoma shipyards. He chose the worst shift for a family with children – graveyard.

Shortly after we moved in, a block warden appeared at our door. She lived on a large acreage next door. She told me to always have a bucket of water and a bucket of sand at hand. We were supposed to have dark shades drawn at night so no light could be seen outside No lights were to be turned on outside the house or sheds.

I don’t know how necessary this really was since we lived miles away from Fort Lewis, and also many miles from Lacey or Olympia.

We received books of ration stamps for meat, sugar, and butter. Gas was rationed, too. When we had our cow and she had a calf, we had plenty of milk and I churned my own butter. Later I would give my mother butter, and in return she would give me stamps for sugar so I could can fruit and make jam and jelly. I would give her butter stamps, too.

Along with rationing, people also saved their aluminum pots and pans. We took them to town and put them in large piles as one of the things we could do for the war effort.

As I accumulated quite a lot of butter, I asked my mother how was I going to keep it. She told me to get a crock and put water in it and add salt till I could float an egg. This was all new to me! I kept adding salt and trying to float an egg. At last the egg floated so I started putting my butter into the brine in the crock. I
put a plate on top of it and a large rock on top of that so nothing could get to the butter. It worked fine, and we stored the crock in the fruit cellar.

When I worked for a Mrs. Stien, she had an electric churn. She patted her butter down and wrapped it in butter paper. I used to help her so I knew how to do that. My butter was patted down and made into squares and wrapped and put into the brine. Sometimes one of Mom’s friends would have company and want butter for dinner. Mom would give it to them. It was a good feeling to share with friends in Tacoma, too.

During the war it was hard for people to have a dollar to spare, and if you did have a dollar you might not be able to buy what you wanted. It was difficult to buy long dress-stockings since the material was scarce. Then nylon came in, but one had to wait in line to get that, and if stores could get nylons at all, the lines were long.

Dresses sold for $1.00 or $1.98 at the Mode O’ Day store. They were usually made of cotton but some were of a cute style and we would wear them for dress occasions. One friend of ours went to J.C. Penney and bought four cotton dresses for a dollar. (Her husband worked for the railroad and usually had a job.)

One could lay away a coat for 50 cents a week. Perhaps the coat cost $8.00. One of my favorite coats I found on Broadway at Montgomery Ward. It was gray with little flecks of colors and tied in the front. I bought it on sale for $1.50.

Feed, sugar and flour came in cloth bags. People would wash them, bleach them, and hang them on the line to dry. After a short time all the writing would bleach out, and you could make curtains, tea towels, and often clothes. My mother-in-law once dyed her sacks and made my daughter a pretty little yellow sailor dress. She really looked cute in it, and it lasted a long time.

Once I wanted to buy a larger table. I went into town and looked at furniture in a fine department store. The only thing I could purchase was a colonial-style table. There were no chairs to go with it. All I could get was the table, which I purchased. I’m sure we had other chairs since we all had a place to sit. I needed curtains, too, but all I could find was paper ones. They were colorful and had flowers and were a pretty color of pink with ties. It was hard to keep them tied, however, with little children running around. The ties kept falling off as the children raced around in their games.

That’s how things were for one young mother during the World War II years in Tacoma and the South Sound.

_A longtime Tacoman, Betty Tschida is a member of the Tacoma Historical Writers. She is an active volunteer for the Tacoma Historical Society and the Working Waterfront Museum._

Tacoma remembers

A bronze sculpture by Larry Anderson captures the moment when Marvin Alan Klegman led Kelcy Allen to safety during the April 13, 1949, earthquake. Marvin, 11, was killed by falling bricks at Lowell School. Griselda (Babe) Lehrer organized and led the campaign to finance the memorial, which was dedicated at Lowell Sept. 11, 2003.

**REGRETTABLE DEPARTURES:**

- **Gary Fuller Reese**, the man who fostered and ran Tacoma Public Library’s remarkable Northwest Room, from the library staff, after 38 years of service.
- **Jennifer Schreck**, from her post as City of Tacoma historic preservation officer, to devote more time to her family. The city is advertising the position.
Plans on track to bring 1910 railroad dining car to Tacoma

In this 1915 photo of Northern Pacific dining car No. 1672, Tacoma’s Albers Mill is in the background. It is one of the 15 Barney & Smith dining cars built for the Northern Pacific in 1910. The car currently in Easton is the only one left.

By David Burns  
*President, Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society*

The 1910 Northern Pacific dining car we plan to bring to Tacoma is still in Easton, east of Snoqualmie Pass – but we are making progress.

We have received bids from several contractors on transporting the dining car by truck. The cost to move the car will run approximately $25,000.

The president of Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Matt Rose, has responded to my request to investigate whether or not the car can be transported by rail. I will be talking with BNSF’s general manager, Ron Jackson, to discuss the possibilities.

The Port of Tacoma has been helpful in assisting us in our search for warehouse space that can accommodate the 10-by-80-foot car. I am confident that we will have a storage site secured soon.

I met with Tacoma City Councilman Kevin Phelps Oct. 15 to discuss having Sound Transit consider incorporating the dining car into its South Tacoma Station design. Councilman Phelps represents the City of Tacoma on the Sound Transit Board.

We had great attendance for our old-fashioned “Ice Cream Social” Sept. 28 at South Park Community Center. We will be planning our next fundraiser soon, so stay tuned! A special thanks to Olympic Mountain Ice Cream, R.G. Forestry Services, South Park Community Center and those volunteers who helped organize this event.

The Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society is compiling a list of volunteers for a variety of upcoming tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, contact David Burns at (253) 566-1579 or the Tacoma Historical Society at (253) 472-3738. No railroad experience is necessary, just a good attitude and a willingness to have fun working as part of a team.

Most urgently, we are in need of volunteers to help prepare the car for transporting. We need to do some work to the roof, (removal of a false roof that lies over the existing roof as well as providing patchwork to a few areas that have obviously failed).

I was in the car the other day and observed a couple spots that are leaking — a big problem that we need to address as soon as possible. The car’s interior cannot afford to have any more moisture. Over the years, moisture has ruined nearly half of the mahogany veneer. The car has a number of areas that need attention prior to transporting it to Tacoma. Any carpenters, welders or roofers out there? We’d love to hear from you. This work will be performed on site in Easton.

A permanent location for the car has not yet been determined, though we are quite confident we’ll have no problem choosing a site.

The long-term goal of the Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society is to see that Tacoma gets a Museum of Railroad History; a museum that not only reflects Tacoma’s history through memorabilia, artifacts, documents and photos, but an interactive museum with rolling stock, rail, and a roundhouse that demonstrates how the early railroad operated. A Museum of Railroad History is long overdue in Tacoma, a city so rich in railroad history.

Bringing back this vintage dining car to Tacoma, where it was retired from service over 50 years ago, is the first step toward reaching this goal. The success of this project will help pave the way for our Museum of Railroad History. The project is currently being sponsored by the Tacoma Historical Society, while the Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society applies for its own non-profit status. THS is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization.

We rely solely on donations to fund the preservation and maintenance of this vintage dining car. By contributing, you are helping to preserve a part of our rich railroad heritage. Donations can be made to the Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society c/o Tacoma Historical Society, PO Box 1865, Tacoma, WA 98401

Visit the Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society website for additional information, photos and updates: [http://NPDiningcar.home.comcast.net](http://NPDiningcar.home.comcast.net)
November 10, 2003 – Monday, 7 pm

“The Music of Tacoma”

A one-time only extravaganza devoted to music written about Tacoma in the 1890s and early 1900s. Megan Magden Postle will perform such songs as “Tacoma: Rose of the West” and “Moonlight on the Sound.” She will be accompanied by Vicki Day Melton.

December 8, 2003 – Monday, 7 pm

A railroad doubleheader:

Railscapes: A Northern Pacific Brasspounder's Album.

Railscapes is the third of Jim’s books. He is also the author of Railroad Shutterbug: Jim Fredrickson's Northern Pacific and Steam to Diesel: Jim Fredrickson's Railroading Journal. He will have copies of Railscapes available for sale and signing.

David Burns, organizer of the Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society, will bring us up to date on his quest to bring a 1910 Northern Pacific dining car from Easton, WA, to Tacoma.

January 12, 2004 – Monday, 7 pm

Program to be announced