

## Dan Peterson's Past Presidents Report

In response to Chuck Richards patient request I offer several examples of some of the issues the Guild was dealing with in 1992. That summer the Guild rode Amtrak to Centralia which was in the news as a student paper questioning events of the Centralia Massacre had renewed interest in a review of those events of 1919.

Richard Engeman gave a moving rail car review of some of the political, economic and cultural history as we saw a geography from a perspective different from the I-5 freeway. As we stepped off the train Junius Rochester noted the slogan "The IWW Lives" painted graffiti style on the wall outside the station waiting room.

We walked north to the IWW hall, site of exchange of gunfire between the American Legion and the Industrial Workers of the World. I was surprised to see how small the hall appeared and that it lacked historical signage.

We viewed the walls-filling murals that traced Centralia early history, when it hoped to become the "Pittsburg of the West". The city father George Washington mural covered the side of a bank building, appropriate for this African-American whose generosity provided a work program to keep Centralia alive following the hard times of the panic of 1893. We posed under the American Legion statue dedicated by President Harding. The new proposal of a mural to tell the IWW side of the story was only a proposal but had already generated some letters to the editor in opposition. A few years later several Guild members did attend the dedication of a mural, which offered a history that Wesley Everest would have approved. Everest was executed by angry Centralians, and some of his descendants were at the dedication and spoke of their pride in the IWW.

In September of 1992 the Guild worked with the Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest on a conference timed for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II's Manhattan Project. This "Atomic West" conference included Guild members, Phil Lothyan and Sue Karren, who discussed archival documents related to the Atomic West theme. Guild member Bob Ficken reviewed the Grand Coulee Dam in relation to the Hanford Atomic plants need for huge blocks of hydro-power. Several other members of the Guild presided at several sessions held on the University of Washington campus.

Guild-members Fred and Dorothy Cordova spoke on Filipino American History Month in our September meeting. Phil Lothyan and Sue Karren reported on the mid-August teachers' workshop held at the National Archives. MOHAI was also involved with an exhibit "Nuclear Landscapes" showing changes created with the inception of America's nuclear age.

On March 5 of 1993 Guild members Barbara Davis, David Buerge, and Richard Engeman presided and commented on film on Longacres Race Track and Paul Dorpat presented his Seattle Chronicle VHS. Saturday's sessions moved to the museum of Flight where Guild-member Paul Spitzer presented a paper on the commercial aircraft industry as "A Tough Business". The remainder of the conference "A Local Company Enters the International Market Place" included five papers by University of Washington faculty, Professors Kirkendall,

Hevly, Bridgeman, Mouden and Hancock. They covered subcontracting strategies, political history of Boeing from 1945-52, Military Space Program, Seattle's impact on Boeing and Boeing's impact on Seattle's urban planning. A tour of the Museum of Flight followed the presentation of papers.

Some personal memories came to mind, the first meetings of the fall quarter were given to reporting by members of progress or lack thereof on graduate work and/or research and publication in progress. The board meetings were held at the Peterson's house where pizza was consumed while doing business. The rambles set up by Junius Rochester, Bill Woodward and Richard Engeman were social times as well as history with several spouses joining on treks to Port Townsend and Fort Simcoe. I was honored to give our annual award to Carlos Schwantes who, with his family had just completed touring all of the counties west of the Rocky Mountains and spoke of the significance of county governments in the development of the West. I was pleased at one of the conferences held at the Nordic Heritage Museum to introduce Erasmo Gamboa. It was my good fortune to hire him at Seattle Central Community College and I have been pleased to see him complete his Ph.D., secure a position at the University of Washington, and gain recognition for his work on Chicano contributions to our local history.

Finally I close with thanks to all of the Guild members who edited our newsletter, folded items to be mailed, set up and took down chairs and tables, provided coffee and treats, and shared their knowledge of local and regional history. Most of all this has been twenty-five years of discovering new perspectives on local history while maintaining friendships with those interested in advancing the Mission Statement (1994-95).

#### Pacific Northwest Guild Mission Statement

- To increase the opportunities and means for research, writing, and publication of Pacific Northwest history.
- To provide consulting and referral services in history to private and public groups, business, and individuals.
- To encourage the collection, preservation, and presentation of historical materials.
- To improve the standards of museums, libraries, schools and archives.
- To foster the teaching and appreciation of history in the schools; and
- To promote communication among regional historians