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# The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills  
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

JUNE 2024

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 06

[WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG](http://WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG)

## BLUEBILLS 30th Anniversary Year

With Boeing support, Bluebills began organizing in 1994. At the beginning of 2003, we had 1,500 voting, hardworking members in addition to scores of others who have not made a formal connection. We were the company's largest and most active retiree volunteer organization.

**Boeing-built airplane, the B&W, makes its maiden flight from Seattle's  
Lake Union on June 15, 1916.**

*By Walt Crowley    Posted 11/23/1998    HistoryLink.org Essay 369*

On June 15, 1916, William E. Boeing (1881-1956) pilots the B&W *Bluebill*, the first plane he helped to build, into the air above Lake Union. "B&W" reflected the initials of Boeing and his partner Navy Lt. Conrad Westervelt. Herb Munter (1895-1970) also helped to design

and construct the two-seat, single-engine float plane in the Pacific Aero Club's hangar-boathouse at the foot of Roanoke Street in Seattle.

The plane made its second, longer test flight two weeks later. A second B&W, the *Mallard* was flown in November 1916 from the same location.

Boeing founded the Pacific Aero Club in 1915 and studied flying with Glenn Martin (1886-1955) in Los Angeles. He purchased one of Martin's TA seaplanes and built the Aero Club hangar for it. Anticipating U.S. entry into World War I,

Boeing and Navy Lt. Conrad Westervelt hired Herb Munter, one of the first men to build and fly airplanes in Seattle, to assist them in adapting Martin's design to compete for a Naval aircraft contract.

On July 15, 1916, shortly after the B&W's first flight, Boeing incorporated the Pacific Aero-Products Co. Westervelt was assigned to other duties before the B&W flew, and the Navy rejected the B&W design. Following U.S. entry into World War I, Pacific Aero-Products secured a Navy contract for a new float plane, the Model C, and changed its name to the Boeing Airplane Co.

Boeing sold the B&Ws in 1918 to the government of New Zealand, where they were used for training and for that country's first airmail service.



**Boeing's first plane, a B&W Bluebill, tested in 1916**

Courtesy Boeing Archive



### **June 28th Chapter Meeting Presentation**

*By Jim Beasley*

Our presenter on June 28th will be Lori Linke, Clinical Research Manager with the Kidney Research Institute (KRI), University of Washington. Lori had worked 25 plus years with those who have kidney disease, helping with nutrition education with Northwest Kidney Centers prior to joining the KRI in 2008. Lori loves working with people, science and making a difference to help improve people's lives. She has been

published a number of times in major academic journals. She looks forward in sharing about the rich history of Northwest Kidney Centers. How dialysis started here at the University of Washington with Dr. Scribner and team. How the KRI was started and where it is going today. Lori will also discuss how all of us can give and engage in research.

As many of you know we, along with Puget Sound square dancers, collect pop tops and crushed aluminum cans for recycle with the proceeds going to the Kidney Foundation for Dialysis research. . Over the last few years, we have donated, with additional funds, \$17,000.00.

We encourage you to bring your Aluminum Pop Tops and CRUSHED soda cans to the meetings each month for collection and recycle.



## **May Meeting Summary**

*By Mary Ulibarri*

Don Hilt opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then asked for May birthday attendees. There were Earlene Beham, Lonnie Stevenson and Elaine Curtiss. My list includes Peggy Adams, Lois Barnes, Carla Becker, Jim Ewing, Sibyl Fletcher. And one anniversary: Janice Hawes.

Jim Beasley then introduced the two speakers from Washington Talking Book & Braille Library: Reilly Curran, Outreach Librarian, and Traci Timmons, Managing Librarian.



First founded in 1906 as the Braille service of the Seattle Public Library, the library has been a Washington State institution since 1975.



## **Mission**

The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) builds community and provides equitable access to information and reading materials for Washington residents unable to read standard print.

Indeed, if you are unable to read standard print because of a condition like glaucoma, macular degeneration, dementia, diabetes, stroke, Parkinson's, or multiple sclerosis, the WTBBL offers free audiobooks by mail or mobile app.

In addition, WTBBL provides library services statewide to any Washington resident with blindness, visual impairment, physical disability (cannot hold a book or turn pages), or any reading disability.

WTBBL patrons can borrow an easy-to-use audio player, accessories including headphones and a remote control and get books free through the mail or listen any time on a smartphone or tablet.



The library collection includes over 200,000 titles and readers' advisors are available by phone weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WTBBL can also pick books for you when you tell us what authors and types of books you like to read. You can change the number of books you get, or your author or subject preferences anytime by calling or writing the library. Borrowers can receive an audio catalog of the newest books six times a year and can place specific requests using the order form or by phone.

WTBBL is a program of the Washington State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, and a regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress. Located in downtown Seattle at 2021 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue,

WTBBL's collection includes audiobooks and magazines on digital cartridge with playback equipment and accessories for reading braille books and magazines and a youth large print collection. Audio and electronic braille titles are also available for download via the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) site or by mobile app for iOS, Android or Kindle platforms. WTBBL produces audio and braille books onsite to add to the national collection and offers readers' advisory services, training and technology support, outreach,

a youth services program including summer reading, a pen-pal program, weekly multisensory store times, and more.

Return your books postage-free and the library will automatically send more for you to enjoy. Getting books from WTBBL is a great way to stay entertained, informed, and connected with your community. For more information or an application for service, please visit [wtbbl.org](http://wtbbl.org) or call 800-542-0866.

WTBBL is participating in Give Big this year with a goal of raising \$10,000 to support their Training & Assistive Technology Program. With a new librarian and goals for increased programming opportunities, additional demonstration equipment, assistive technology training and testing devices for audio and braille reading, and an upgrade to the patron computer lab, there is much to look forward to and contributions can help bring these goals to life, increasing library patrons' access to technology and independence in accessing information and reading materials.

Reilly and Traci answered a number of questions during and at the end of the presentation and passed around two of the manual listening devices for the hearing impaired.

The meeting was adjourned following the prize drawing.

## **Busy Bees Report**

*by Sibyl Fletcher*



The Bees have been busy. The cabinet housing our finished products is bursting at the seams. We may soon be transporting quilts to grateful recipients.

Recently, we gathered at the home of our most prolific quilter, Janice Hawes (far left in the photo). Left to right, Lisa Nyreen, Melinda Stubbs and Sibyl Fletcher enjoyed show-and-tell, displaying and describing everyone's recent creations. If you look closely, you might see a chicken on Janice's quilt in the foreground.

We are true fanatics and love every part of the process. Well, except the process of ripping out mistakes. The tactile feel of the fabrics, the mental gymnastics of pulling together coordinating colors, the whirl of the machine as the pieces are connected, and the ultimate satisfaction as the threads are snipped from the last stitch of a finished piece – it all combines to make a physical demonstration of care and warmth for someone who is hurting. The recipient might be a veteran, a family going through hard times during a transition, or a babe born to an addicted mother.

*Janice Hawes*

I am so lucky to belong to the Busy B's still, even though I resigned as the "leader" a while back. They wanted to keep me involved, even though I am having some mobility problems. They, Sibyl Fletcher, Lisa Nyreen, Melinda Stubbs and Lana Mitsules all come to my home on the first Thursday of the month, each bringing their "brown bag" lunch, and tell me what's going on with the Busy B's. They bring me supplies since I have continued to make quilts and they take them back with them to distribute to various organizations and they bring some of their beautiful ones they have made to show me!

I appreciate these ladies so much for their thoughtfulness to want me to still be a Busy B! *Janice*

## **Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (1909): Hoo-Hoo House**

By Phil Dougherty      Posted 6/16/2008      HistoryLink.org Essay 8655

The Hoo-Hoo House was built by the Hoo-Hoo, a lumberman's fraternity, for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific (A-Y-P) Exposition in Seattle in 1909. The exposition took place between June 1 and October 16, 1909, drawing more than three million people. Visitors came from around the state, the nation, and the world to view hundreds of educational exhibits, stroll the lushly manicured grounds, and be entertained on the Pay Streak midway, while Seattle promoted itself as a gateway to the rich resources of Alaska, the Yukon, and Asia. The Hoo-Hoo House was open to Hoo-Hoo members and lumbermen during the exposition. The house was particularly known for its two large ornamental cats in front of the building with green electric eyes which shone brightly at night. After the exposition ended, the building served as the University of Washington Faculty Club until it was demolished in 1959.

### **The Hoo-Hoo**



**Hoo-Hoo House (detail) with leaping cats  
(Ellsworth Storey, 1909), A-Y-P Exposition,  
Seattle, 1909**

The International Concatenated Order of Hoo-



Hoo was organized on January 21, 1892, in Gurdon, Arkansas. The organization was formed to provide a unified social organization for lumbermen (later expanded to include those employed in all aspects of the forest products industry). The Hoo-Hoo name came from one of its founders, Bolling Arthur Johnson, who coined the moniker in describing an odd tuft of hair, greased and twisted to a point, atop the otherwise bald head of fellow Hoo-Hoo Charles McCarer. The name Hoo-Hoo became a buzzword among the Hoo-Hoo to describe anything unusual.

The Hoo-Hoo shunned conventionality. They adopted the black cat as their mascot, and in honor of the cat's legendary nine lives, gave the number nine a lofty status in their organization. There were nine men on the Board of Directors; the members held their meetings on the ninth day of the ninth month; annual dues were set at 99 cents; and the initiation fee was set at \$9.99. Although membership was originally planned to never exceed 9,999 men, more than 99,999 individuals have since become members of the Hoo-Hoo. The organization still exists today (2008).

### **Hoo-Hoo House**

The Hoo-Hoo built a two-story wood frame house with a partial basement for the A-Y-P Exposition. The house was designed by Seattle architect Ellsworth Storey (1879-1960), and was commonly called the Hoo-Hoo House. It was considered architecturally significant for its day, as the house marked the introduction of "prairie architecture" to Seattle; it was a surprisingly modern structure that contrasted with other buildings at the exposition that were in the "American Renaissance" style then in vogue. The building was located on the east side of the exposition grounds (now the south central part of the University of Washington campus, behind where the student union building is today), and cost \$8,500 to build, with most of the cost covered by \$9.99 donations from Hoo-Hoo members.

Two huge ornamental black cats, backs arched and tails curled menacingly, stood at the entrance to the Hoo-Hoo House, with green electric eyes that glowed at night. Two more cats crowned the gables atop the house. There was just one entrance to the house, and it came with a latchstring, the only building with such an entrance at the entire exposition. The basement to the house served as the janitor's quarters.

There was a cloakroom and a kitchen on the north side of the first floor, and the secretary's office was on the south end of the floor, but the 25-by-50 foot clubroom was the dominant room on the first floor. Finished in Douglas fir, the clubroom was painted in shades of forest browns and light forest greens; the walls were fully paneled. An enormous fireplace, 10 feet across (though hobs on both sides reduced the actual firebox opening to six and a half feet) and six and a half feet deep, was on the east side of the clubroom, directly across from the entrance.



**First-floor clubroom, Hoo-Hoo House, A-Y-P Exposition, Seattle, 1909**

The clubroom was lighted with large electric candles in massive black iron candlesticks, and by rectangular lanterns suspended from the ceiling beams. The lanterns all had a black cat with red or green eyes in each lantern's four green glass panels. There was a veranda and open terrace on the east side of the house (great views of Lake Washington and the Cascades) that stretched around to both the north and south sides of the building.

A double stairway led from the clubroom up to the second floor. Upstairs, the gentlemen's room (a smoking room), complete with redwood walls, was on the north side of the floor, while the ladies' parlor graced the floor's opposite end. A well stretched from the second story ceiling of the house to the clubroom floor below, with casement windows that opened into both sides of the well from the rooms. A musician's balcony was also on the second floor.

### **Bandersnatch's Fright**

The Hoo-Hoo House was built to be a large clubhouse, open only to Hoo-Hoo members and lumbermen during the exposition. It was a big draw, considering that no small number of exposition visitors were lumbermen. By late July more than 3,000 lumbermen and Hoo-Hoo members had registered at the house. Hoo-Hoo dances at the house every Saturday evening became so popular that before long it became necessary to invite only a certain number of members to the dances each week. The house also served as an exhibit for Washington state fir and spruce products and for Seattle-made furniture, fixtures, and decorations.

Appropriately enough, the Hoo-Hoo dedicated the house on June 9, 1909, the ninth day of the exposition. After the dedication the Hoo-Hoo held a wedding in their new quarters -- attended, naturally, by 99 persons. Following the vows, the members gave the Hoo-Hoo yell, scaring the bejeezus out of the big black house cat, Bandersnatch, who leapt out the door or the window (accounts differ) and raced off into the darkness.


Hoo-Hoo Day at the exposition was held precisely three months later, on September 9, 1909. The Hoo-Hoo House was lavishly decorated for the big day -- the

*Times*



wrote that “nine, the mystic number of the fraternity, was everywhere” -- and the Hoo-Hoo held a private celebration attended by hundreds. But memories of the Hoo-Hoo and the Hoo-Hoo House lingered long after the exposition was gone, and the building itself survived for half a century, serving as the University of Washington’s Faculty Club until it was demolished in April 1959.


## Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



**June 28, 2024**

**Social: 10:00AM**

**Meeting 10 :30 - 11:30 AM**



**Speaker:** Lori Linke, *Research Manager Kidney Research Institute, U of W*

**Subject:** *KRI Mission, Goals, and Studies*

*Come to the meeting, enjoy coffee, donuts, informative presentations, and socialize with other Boeing retirees.*

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnet Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

### Calendar of Events 2024 In Person Meetings

<i>Jan 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Jul 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Feb 23</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Aug 30</i>	<i>Chapter Picnic/Potluck</i>
<i>Mar 29</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Sept 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Apr 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Oct 25</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>May 31</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Nov 22</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jun 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Dec 20</i>	<i>Chapter Holiday Potluck</i>

**Don't Forget to  
Report Your Hours!**

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