



# The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills  
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

September 2021

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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## Co-Chairman's Report – September 2021

*By Doug Hoople*

Fair Winds and Following Seas is an old sailor's farewell salutation.

At the August Bluebills meeting, Richard Vaughn asked if I could join him in writing comments for this issue of the newsletter.

At the meeting he had challenged the attendees to volunteer to write comments for the newsletter following the lack of volunteers to take over leadership roles in the Bluebills.

Seems most people want the Bluebills to continue meeting, but nobody is willing to provide leadership to make that happen.

As previous newsletters have lamented, the current three Co-Chairs need to get a break from their many years of commitment to keeping us going. I need to depart because of my Wife's medical situation.

For the past several years we have been working to improve our recruiting and communication. For over four years I've been attending SPEEA retirement seminars to spread the word about the Bluebills. Boeing doesn't provide us with any venue to make the Bluebills known within the company. For three years we have been looking for members to step up to leadership roles. Earlier this year we called all our members to obtain email addresses so we could email the newsletter out to members since Boeing is no longer providing us with mailing privileges.

In this modern age of communications, I'm continually amazed at how difficult it is to get the word out, talk to people and get help.

Don Hilt has volunteered to be our speaker at the September meeting. If there will be meetings beyond that is unknown at the present time.

Over the twenty plus years I've been a member of the Bluebills I've enjoyed the friendship and company of a lot of people dedicated to their communities and volunteering. I've been able to volunteer over twenty-five thousand hours to support agencies of interest. More than half was used to support the USO, Veterans, Boy Scouts, and the Human Services community.

As he left the Army, General MacArthur, famously said "Old soldiers never die they just fade away."

I'll simply wish you "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

*Doug*



## August In Person Meeting Summary

By Mary Ulibarri

Doug Hoople called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. There were no August birthday attendees, but I have a few on my list: Bill Baker, Keith Johnson, Milton Piatok, and Howard Syder. You may remember those birthdays were announced in the July newsletter. My bad! Especially since that was my month to celebrate. Tsk tsk! Here are the July birthdays: Jerome Durbin, Ted Leyden, Lana Mitsules, Elfrieda Noble, Robert Osrowske, Jean Syder, Stu Vessey and, oh yeah, me.

Millard Battles shared that our great Editor, Richard Beham, has had some health issues lately, which involved some hospital visits, but is doing much better now. Keep it up, Dick. And yet, he soldiers on faithfully on behalf of our newsletter, including paying for the internet service (subsequently covered by Boeing).

Doug once again brought up the subject of the Bluebills desperate need for a new Chairman. Doug can no longer serve as current co-chairman but Richard Vaughn and Don Hilt have once again agreed to share the position, for a limited time. Our monthly meetings are at risk of being discontinued. We thank each of them for their services.

In addition, there followed a prolonged discussion, with good input from various members, about the issue of getting the word out to former Boeing employees. Unfortunately, Boeing doesn't pass along information about the Bluebills to retirees. There are several members who speak at the SPEEA retirement meetings, but that is not enough. We need NEW members to stay alive. Spread the word.

Here is a reminder of the upcoming Fairwood Golf & Country Club on September 13<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Randall Morris Foundation. The arrival time is 8:30 a.m. and will run through approximately 3:00 p.m. It entails driving a VIP such as retired Seahawks Jim Zorn, Walter Jones, Steve Largent and other retired national teams' members around the links in one of the golf carts. Interested individuals may contact NancyLee at 206-290-9506.

Volunteer hours may be submitted to Mary Ulibarri at [marybarri@centurylink.net](mailto:marybarri@centurylink.net) or Dick Beham at [bbbeditor@live.com](mailto:bbbeditor@live.com).

The meeting was adjourned after the door prize drawing.



## Eastside Stories

## European Contact: White Settlers Part 2

By Barb Williams, EHC Volunteer

Following the signing of the Point Elliott Treaty, many Indian people needed a way to make a living. Some worked in laundry and lumber while providing a valuable workforce that contributed mightily to the successful growth of Seattle. Some came from miles away to work as paid help for the hops farmers in Issaquah, Fall City, and Auburn. These were good jobs for the men, women, and children. Others helped White settlers transport their provisions in their big canoes. It is said that the canoes could carry as much as two tons of goods. Indian guides showed White settlers water and land passageways and how to survive in the new land. In his journal, Reverend R. W. Summers writes that on July 17, 1871 Indian guides took him by canoe to their sacred place, Snoqualmie Falls. The Perrigo family set up a trading post in Redmond. They traded with members of four different Indian tribes and used Indian ponies to expand their business to farms between Redmond, Tolt and Novelty Hill.



L 88.029.003.7 - Snoqualmie Valley Native American hop farmers and workers, 1890.

Some Indians were both hostile and friendly to White people. Chief Patkanim of the Snoqualmie people was one of them. In 1849 he and his warriors attacked the settlers at Fort Nisqually, but during the Indian Wars of 1855-1856, he gathered eighty warriors of his tribe to help the White people. However, the Castro family of Issaquah was not so fortunate when they were murdered by Indian people as revenge for Indians that had been killed by White people. The years following the signing of the Point Elliott Treaty in 1855 resulted in a mixed relationship for both the Indian people and White settlers living in the Puget Sound and Eastside regions.

As more and more White settlers came to the region bringing with them their values and need for wood, coal, farming and industry, the area was greatly changed. In 1916 the Government Locks were built to connect the northern end of Lake Washington to Puget Sound. Because Lake Washington is higher in elevation than Puget Sound, the water levels throughout the Eastside dropped 9 to 12 feet. This greatly impacted the Indian peoples. The Wapato plant they

depended on for food disappeared and the Black River all but dried up causing the large village on its banks to be abandoned and the southern water link to Elliott Bay to be blocked. Instead, the Cedar River began to flow into Lake Washington and the lake drained north past the University of Washington through the locks to Puget Sound. By this time many Native Americans were living on reservation lands. Some groups had been recognized by the United States government which entitled them to government programs and aid. Others had set up their own businesses, graduated from schools and universities and had become part of the new way of life.

However, there is one group, the Duwamish, that is still awaiting United States Government Recognition. At present there is a movement towards gaining Recognition and a petition (**#StandWithTheDuwamish**) circulating asking for support towards that end. The Duwamish people have built a beautiful community center near the mouth of the Duwamish River on the western side. They offer public programs, artworks and a wonderful place in which to connect with their culture.

Let us remember the Indian peoples who first inhabited these lands. They deserve our respect and gratitude for the gifts they have given to this region we all call “home”.

*For more information about the Indigenous communities of Washington state, please visit the American Library Association at the link below.*

**[INDIGENOUS TRIBES of WASHINGTON](#)**

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### ***Did You Know...***

**Rice mortar:** Rice can be used for more than just food. Centuries ago, builders of the Great Wall of China used mortar made from rice flour. The Wall remains one of China's most popular tourist attractions.

### ***Quotable Quotes...***

“We don't seem to be able to check crime, so why not legalize it and then tax it out of business.” - *Will Rogers*

“There is no accomplishment so easy to acquire as politeness, and none more profitable.” - *H.W. Shaw*

### ***Wisecracks & Quips ...***

“You know you're getting old when you bend down to tie your shoelaces and you try to think of other things you ought to do while you're down there.”

*(Continued on page 5)*

## An Open Letter to the Boeing Bluebills, Heritage Chapter Membership

*Submitted by: Millard Battles*

I attended the regular monthly “in person” meeting of our chapter today when there was extensive discussion about the future of our chapter. I noted that the main concern was regarding the logistics of having an organization, e. g. serving in officer positions, arranging for the monthly meetings with a speaker and refreshments, keeping up the “office” and associated equipment, etc.

After over 4 months of pleading with members to step up into leadership positions, there have been zero volunteers. COVID has challenged many gatherings and restricted our ability for socializing. I left very frustrated by the lack of any constructive discussion or planning for our future.

I believe it is time to address:

- 1) a review of the objectives of our organization,
- 2) the positive activities that we do,
- 3) problems associated with how we are functioning today,
- 4) how we are organized now and/or should be for the future,

Perhaps there could be a small group of interested parties to assemble and address these items. A new direction may be forthcoming, or a new way of doing things may help resolve the current problems. Or, we may find that, our current membership has done what we joined to do and now, we are reaching the age when we are not able or capable to continue.

*Is dissolution the only way out?*

I know that these are hard questions to answer but I feel that they are necessary for our continuing as a group of Boeing “retirees”. Please consider how you feel and what you could contribute to a small group of open-minded thinking members. I will be willing to chair this group and try to achieve some recommendations by October 29.

Since the meeting last Friday, I understand that Richard Vaughn and Don Hilt are willing to continue as co-chairs. That is wonderful news. Now, let’s help them plan our future.

Please contact me, Millard Battles, on 206-954-4927 or email to [mtbattles@aol.com](mailto:mtbattles@aol.com) by September 10, 2021.

Thank you. *Millard*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **Pandemic Relief and Supplemental Security Income**

Dear Colleague,

We recently changed our rules about what financial assistance can affect an individual's eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or monthly SSI payment amount. Usually, we consider any item an individual receives in cash or in-kind that can be used to meet his or her need for food or shelter income. Generally, the more countable income someone has, the less their SSI monthly payment will be. If their countable income is over the allowable limit, they cannot receive SSI payments. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we no longer count most types of pandemic-related financial assistance against eligibility or payment amount. This includes:

- Economic Impact Payments (EIP)
- State Stimulus Payments (*Some exclusions may apply.*)
- Unemployment Assistance (also includes regular unemployment)
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): Loan Forgiveness to Employers and Self-Employed Individuals
- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program – Direct Payments to Farmers and Ranchers
- Emergency Rental Assistance Fund
- Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing/Rural Rental Assistance
- Homeowner Assistance Fund
- Housing Assistance and Supportive Services Programs for Native Americans
- Emergency Assistance to Children and Families through the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund

A full list of Covid-19 financial assistance that no longer counts against SSI eligibility or SSI payment amount is available at [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) | SSA](#).

To address situations where an individual's SSI application was denied, or their payment amount was reduced by receiving assistance, we are reviewing SSI claims and other SSI records going back to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect our review will take several months to complete. In most cases, if an individual's payment amount was affected, and we do not need any additional information, we will automatically restore their SSI payments. If we need to take a new SSI application or need any additional information, we will mail a letter explaining what is needed. Individuals do not need to call our offices unless they have moved and need to update their address. They can find the phone number to their local office by accessing our [office locator](#).

Thank you for your continued support as we work together during these unprecedented times. I encourage you to share this information with your members, colleagues, affiliates, and other interested parties.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Buckner  
Associate Commissioner  
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications

## The Dance Halls of the Federal Way Area

*A history of the Dance Halls in Federal Way in the first half of the 20th Century. By: Dietrick Jones Oct.8, 2000, with minor revision by Dick Caster July 17, 2003*

During the twenties, thirties and early forties there were numerous dance halls in the Federal Way area. Generally these were on one or another of the several lakes in the area and were usually a part of a “park” or “resort”. These terms were generally next to a picnic ground which would include a swimming beach. The dance halls varied in size from minimal to quite large. The music was always live and usually good. As one of the few areas of entertainment the dance halls were well patronized but the extra-curricular activities were sometimes rather unruly. Starting in the north end of the area a brief description is offered of the various establishments.



**STAR LAKE:** The best known and longest lived business on Star Lake is the Star Lake Inn (it is still in operation but on a much reduced scale). Located on the south side of the lake, it had been owned and operated by the Hanemann family from its beginning until the 1960’s when they retired and sold the inn to new operators. There is also a report that there was a Star Lake Resort on the north side of Star Lake but since no record has been found of that it is not possible to know whether it included a dance hall or not.

**STEEL LAKE:** There were two dance halls on Steel Lake next door to one another on the southeast corner of the lake. Both of these dance halls had numerous owners over the years and both remained popular. Ultimately these were both acquired by King County and made into Steel Lake County Park (now a Federal Way city park.) Prior to these there was a park on the west end of the lake, but it is not known whether there was a dance hall there or not. This Park was originally operated by Leta and Clagt Smith and later by Cliff Holmes.

**NORTH LAKE:** There was one dance hall on the north end of North Lake which was originally operated by the Goldens. They operated it for a number of years before selling to the Poores who in turn sold to Glen Ryan. Business had been good for the Goldens but began to dwindle during the Poore’s regime. Ryan, however concentrated on the park operation and did well for a while. He finally sold to Weyerhaeuser for the rumored price of \$500,000. Weyerhaeuser burned the dance hall on a New Years Eve in the sixties. I was living in a new house on the south end of the lake at the time. A group of our friends always got together for a New Years Eve party and that year it happened to be at our house so we were entertained by watching the big fire all evening. The North Lake Park was used by large groups such as labor unions, organizations and employee groups for organizational picnics. Living directly across the lake from the park at that time we could clearly hear the broadcasts when the speaker system became operational. The first announcement was usually, “Come and get your free

*(Continued on page 8)*

beer.” Upon hearing this one or the other of us neighbors would get in a boat and row over and get enough free beer for all of us.

The North Lake dance hall had a reputation for being the roughest one around.

There was certainly much outside drinking going on there. As a matter of fact, many parents declared it off-limits. It didn't seem like this had a very serious effect on the profitability of the dances since many of the teenagers went there anyway. In fact the ban probably made it all the more attractive. As business began to dwindle, the Poores decided they would like to travel in the wintertime. So in 1951 an arrangement was made with the North Lake Improvement Club for the latter to manage the dance hall during the winter months in exchange for the profits. The early winter months were a disaster. Attendance was poor and the dances lost money. New Years Eve was another story. A huge crowd turned out and the Club made enough money to pay off the lot for a clubhouse with enough left over to pay for most of the clubhouse construction.

**LAKE KILLARNEY:** There was one dance hall at the north end of the lake before the property became Lutherland, the Lutheran Church Summer Campground. The name is not in the records at this time.

**LAKE GENEVA:** This lake, though small, enjoyed two dance halls. Jardin's on the north side and Carl Broome's Lake Geneva Resort on the east side. Broome was something of a character that was somewhat active in the community. This alone caused his dance hall to be popular. Both of these parks have now been replaced with housing developments.

**FIVE MILE LAKE:** Another lake which was blessed with two dance halls. Karl Ulrich's Lakeside Park on the east side which is now another King County Park and Neal's Glendawn on the north side. Neal's was nice because though small it was right on the lake and had a deck on the lake side. Getting there could be something of a challenge, however. None of the roads were outstanding at the time and the one leading into the park was just a one-car lane. It opened from the main road between two very large fir trees and on a dark rainy night it could be a challenge finding it.

There were other places to dance where dancing was incidental. They were first Roadhouses during prohibition - at least for a short time. These included the following:

**TROUT LAKE:** An old log cabin which, after it was closed down a Roadhouse became Mickey's Chicken Dinner Inn. The log cabin is still there and is now a private home.

**BROOKLAKE:** There is actually a lake there if one were to stretch a point. It also started as a Roadhouse where one could buy drinks (bootleg moonshine, of course) and dance. The activities expanded to gambling and prostitution which is when the Sheriff shut it down. It was then operated for many years as the Brooklake Clubhouse used by the Brooklake Community Club, the Brooklake Women's Club, the Brooklake Dance Club, etc. It is now operated by a consortium of local civic clubs.



In addition to the smaller local dance halls in or near the local parks there were two large dance halls out of the area which were very popular:

**THE CENTURY BALLROOM** in Fife. This ballroom was located on what is now 54th Avenue East just behind the Poodle Dog. It was a very large dance hall with an excellent floor. The music was always live and the Century frequently had big bands there. In the summer of 1941 Jan Garber had played at the Evergreen Ballroom on the old highway 99 above Nisqually (destroyed by fire on July 20th, 2000). The Century was packed and the temperature sweltering for Garber's appearance. However, everyone enjoyed himself or herself just standing and listening. Shortly after Pearl Harbor Jan Garber returned to the Century. Due to the timing the crowd was very small. Garber commented on this with some dismay, but he continued to play a full dance program and the few who were there had a delightful evening. The following summer Kay Kaiser was at the Century on another hot evening. By then the tension had eased and the place was so crowded that all one could do was stand - had anyone fainted he or she would remain standing and have to be carried out upright.

Of course, during the intermission everyone trooped over to the Poodle Dog which undoubtedly contributed to its prosperity. There was another smaller fast-food place diagonally across 54th and 99 called the White Spot but few dared to attempt that crossing. It eventually went out of business.

**THE SPANISH CASTLE** at Midway at the intersection of Highway 99 and the Kent-Des Moines Road was a very popular dance hall. It was large with a very acceptable floor but as typical of the era, no air conditioning. Along with the latter it insisted on very strict behavior. The men had to wear jackets and could not remove them unless the orchestra leader permitted it. The women could not wear slacks or other inappropriate clothing. In addition, no kind of rough stuff was condoned. Any person starting any kind of conflict would find him or herself deposited on the street (perhaps not gently) by the bouncers.

Nearby were a number of eating establishments including the Halfway House, the Blockhouse and the Barn. The latter was interesting because it was originally built like a barn with a markedly sagging roof but it was added to and since there was no way to extend the sag the ridge on the addition on the rear was level making the addition eternally obvious. These were on the same side as the Castle and were very busy during intermission. There were other smaller, less busy places on the other side of Highway 99 and they were patronized by those willing to risk an early demise by crossing the road with its heavy traffic.



"Today's topic is 'public awareness.'"

**In Person Meetings**  
*Resumed June 2021*  
**Calendar of Events 2021**

Jan 14	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Jan 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Feb 11	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Feb 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Mar 11	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Mar 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Apr 15	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Apr 30	Chapter Monthly Meeting
May 13	Heritage Leadership Meeting
May 28	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jun 10	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Jun 25	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jul 30	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Aug 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Sept 16	Heritage Leadership Meeting
<b>Sept 24</b>	<b>Chapter Monthly Meeting</b>
Oct 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Nov 19	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Dec 9	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Dec 17	Chapter Monthly Meeting (Potluck - TBD)

**Food Bank Schedule For 2021**

Cash donations collected at each monthly meeting to be given to a different food bank each month.

January	Highline	Heinz Gehlhaar
February	Bellevue	Doug Hoople
March	Federal Way	Lonnie Stevenson
April	Maple Valley	Vaughn's
May	Kent	Melinda Stubbs
June	Auburn	Martha Battles
July	West Seattle	Heinz Gehlhaar
August	Tacoma	Ted & Judy Leyden
September	Renton	Eleanor Skinner
October	White Center	Heinz Gehlhaar
November	Des Moines	Lonnie Stevenson
December	Issaquah	Eleanor Skinner

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <b>Don Hilt</b>         | <b>Vice-Chairman</b><br><a href="mailto:dphilt1980@aol.com">dphilt1980@aol.com</a>                                   |
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| <b>(Open)</b>           | <b>School Supplies for Children</b><br><a href="mailto:bluebills@boeing.com">bluebills@boeing.com</a>                |

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

# Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting

**“In Person Chapter Meeting”**

**September 24, 2021 10:00AM**

**Social 10:00AM, Meeting 10;30 - 11:30AM**

**Speaker: Don Hilt, Bluebills Co-Chairman**

**Subject: “A Trip to Africa”**

*Coffee and Doughnuts provided*

*Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.*

**Please Note:**

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

## Bluebills Monthly Volunteer Hours

**Volunteer Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hours worked** \_\_\_\_\_ **For** \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year) (agency name)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hours worked** \_\_\_\_\_ **For** \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year) (agency name)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hours worked** \_\_\_\_\_ **For** \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year) (agency name)

Please send completed hours form to Bluebills, PO Box 3707 1K-B02, Seattle, WA 98124  
Email to [bluebills@boeing.com](mailto:bluebills@boeing.com) or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting