

## Memorial Day Weekend Events: May 24, 25, 26

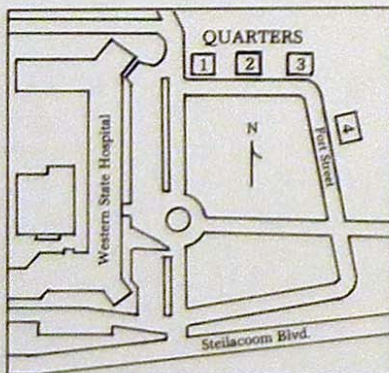
### Fort Opening

The 1997 season opening of Fort Steilacoom will coincide with the 4th annual Civil War Reenactment. See the new fort diorama and other displays in the original fort buildings and browse in the relocated Sutler's Store in the Interpretive Center. There will be guided tours of the officers' quarters, history talks and presentations, and special activities for children. Mingle with the soldiers and Ladies of the Fort from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Civil War Reenactment

Battles of the Civil War will be recreated with infantry, artillery and cavalry units at Fort Steilacoom Park on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Memorial Day weekend. Visit Union and Confederate camps and be transported back to the 1860s. See soldiers drill or talking around their campfires, wives and children going about their daily activities, and sutlers selling their wares in well-stocked tent stores. Bugle calls summon the troops to rousing battles daily at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Historic Fort Steilacoom  
P.O. Box 88447  
Steilacoom, WA 98388



Over 300 reenactors participated in the Civil War events and battles at Fort Steilacoom Park in last year's annual event—coming again this Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26. Bring the whole family to this awesome pageant of history.

Scouts on horseback gallop through the meadow seeking out the enemy; cannons belch fire and smoke; the blue and the gray converge — bayoneted rifles firing and swords flashing in the sun.

The event is sponsored jointly by the Washington Civil War Association and Historic Fort Steilacoom Association. Camps open daily at 10 a.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person and \$1.00 for children 12 years old or younger.



## Membership Month

April is membership month for Historic Fort Steilacoom Association. Please renew your membership by returning the enclosed card with your check to the Association. The last year for which your dues were paid is shown above your name on the mailing label.

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# Fort Steilacoom

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## Robert Demorest Completes Fort Diorama

Robert Demorest began building a model of Fort Steilacoom in 1996. It is now completed and will be the featured display in the fort's Interpretive Center during the Memorial Day weekend opening and Civil War reenactment, May 24-26.

The 7' X 9' diorama contains a total of 29 buildings, including the Catholic church which was not a government building. The model, built at a scale of 1/8" to 1', is quite impressive in its scope and attention to detail. The four remaining buildings of the original fort are easily recognized, and now visitors can get a view of the barracks, magazine, hospital and surgeon's quarters, blacksmith shop, granary, commissary, guardhouse and all other structures that were at the fort between 1857 and its closing in 1868.

Along with the buildings, Demorest has designed vignettes that depict events that could have been happening in 1858: Chief Leschi being led to the guardhouse for incarceration, Father Rossi in the doorway of the Immaculate Conception church, Mrs. Casey receiving guests from the town of Steilacoom. Various units of the Army are seen on the parade ground, including the band, the color guard, the commanding officer Colonel Casey and his adjutant, and Company M, First Artillery, firing a salute. Other vignettes include delivery of supplies at the commissary and men working in the woodshed. A canoe suspended from the ceiling waits for them to finish and go fishing on the Sound. The people, cannon, caissons, ambu-



Robert Demorest displays his diorama of Fort Steilacoom prior to its completion.

lance and wagons are all finished at 15 mm scale.

Bob says that one of the more difficult tasks was constructing buildings with dormers and copulas. It also took some figuring to ascertain the height of the buildings. "The boards on the outside were 5 to 6 inches wide....I counted the boards, added up the total and divided by 12."

Materials used in research for building the diorama included:

1. A map of Fort Steilacoom drawn by 1st Lt. Smith, 2nd. U.S. Artillery, dated 1867.
2. An unpublished manuscript, *Nothing Worthy of Note Transpired Today*, the Northwest Journals of August V. Kautz, edited by Gary Fuller Reese. Kautz was in charge of most of the construction during his tour of duty at Fort Steilacoom.
3. Blue prints, old photographs, and scale drawings from the archives of Historic Fort Steilacoom Association.

A display case and table for the exhibit was constructed by Lyle Dunkin, Chuck Collier, Jack Langston, and Loren Gilbert.

Bob Demorest is a retired civil service illustrator, model maker and training aids designer for Fort Lewis. He has an extensive collection of models in his shop. He also has the distinction of having designed the Washington State Medal of Merit in 1986.

Demorest built a number of models for Fort Lewis that were used in strategic and tactical planning. One, built before détente, was a complete German village, such as the Soviets would have encountered if they invaded through Fulda Gap.

Bob also built architectural models for the Army, including one for a new building at the Yakima Firing Range in the 1970s.

Bo Cooper



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## President's Message

As you have noted elsewhere in this issue, it is time for us to renew our memberships. Please note that this year your Board had to raise the dues. Why? Well, like all museums, yours needs the money. More specifically, the total income from your membership dues is only just enough to cover our insurance expenses—and that's about it. So please consider sending in a gift, along with your dues, to help finance the cost of the diorama and other new exhibits, which we hope to have in place by Memorial Day weekend. How many more exhibits we can offer touring school children, and other visitors, is so dependent on how much money we can raise, that we simply must ask for your help.

We also need you—and you. And you, too. We need docents, we need tour guides. We need someone to help with publicity, to help us add new members, to clerk in our Sutler's Store, to clean windows and display cases. To do a myriad of things. We're having an orientation meeting for new volunteers in Quarters 2 at 7:00 p.m. on May 15th. Please do come and, at least, look in on us. There's no obligation, of course.

At a recent Board meeting the idea was broached of being open one Saturday a month all year around. This would be a significant change from our present schedule of opening

## What's So Important about Fort Steilacoom?

Well, several things, actually. First of all, when it was established on August 24, 1849, Fort Steilacoom became the first, permanent U.S. American government presence on Puget Sound. Ironically, it was located on English land owned by a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company, to whom the government paid \$50 a month in rent for the next nineteen years.

Almost immediately the fort created jobs, paying the local settlers in "cash money" which was quickly spent by the recipients. Virtually from day one, the fort was an important cash-paying buyer from the hardy farmers, the several mill owners, and the wide variety of tradesmen and artisans, who almost immediately followed on the heels of the soldiers. Many were attracted to Puget Sound by a sense of adventure or by its wealth of untapped resources. But most came because the fort generated business, and because its presence created a sense of security, stability, and a feeling of "connectedness" with the government back in the United States.

For the early, lonely settlers on Puget Sound, the fort also served as a center of social activity. The soldiers were highly involved in the establishment of the first library in the territory. The soldiers built a Catholic church on the fort grounds, which

to the public every Saturday, *but only during June, July and August*. It is likely that we will adopt the proposed revision. Quite likely, too, we will schedule an attractive event on each of the days that we open. It would be very nice—and we would serve the public better—if we could be open more often. But we just don't have the volunteers. (Have you noticed that this is a second appeal for volunteers?) For more information, please call President Ray Egan at (253) 584-1528 or Secretary Orville Stout at (253) 582-5838.

Raymond Egan

served the local settlers as well; and participated in the establishment of the first Protestant church north of the Columbia River. The only source of medical care was from the post surgeon. And the July 4th and other holiday celebrations attracted participants from Fort Vancouver to Victoria.

During the Indian War—which on the west side of the Cascades lasted from October, 1855, to May, 1856—the fort housed all the refugees it could hold. And when the war was over, the fort's officers were as dedicated to saving the lives of the Indian war chiefs as they had been to killing them only months before. The most famous of these "chiefs" was Leschi, a Nisqually. Fort commander Lt. Col. Silas Casey and his officers publicly and vigorously opposed the territory's trial and execution of Leschi.

In 1857-58 a massive rebuilding program took place, and some 26 permanent buildings were erected, of which four officers' quarters remain. Today, these comprise the Fort Steilacoom museum complex.

Soldiers from the fort, under the command of Captain (later Confederate General) George Pickett manned San Juan Island during the "Pig War."

During the Civil War, the federal soldiers were reassigned back to the United States, and the fort was manned by Territorial Militia. When it closed on April 22, 1868, the fort had come full circle. It had been created by a company from the 1st Artillery, and nineteen years later it was closed by a unit of the 2nd Artillery.

In 1868 the Territory bought the fort structures, at bid, for \$850. In 1871 the United States government gave the fort's land to the Territory for use as an "insane asylum." So, the fort continues to serve the public—its land as a hospital and the four remaining buildings as a reminder of its crucial role in the settlement of "Puget's Sound."

Raymond Egan

## August V. Kautz and His Indian Family

The following article is extracted from "Native Prince Lives Nearby," an article by Lee Wise appearing in the Tacoma Daily Ledger, August 15, 1926.

Seventy years ago [c. 1856], Lieutenant August V. Kautz, a veteran of the Mexican War, was sent to Oregon to assist in quelling the Indian insurrections. After service there he was transferred to Fort Steilacoom and spent several years at this post. He distinguished himself by bravery in action, being wounded in one encounter with the Indians.

On his visits to Fort Nisqually, the Lieutenant became enamored of the pretty little Princess Haide, who was staying at the home of Dr. Tolmie. They were married and the result of the union was two stalwart sons, August and Nugent.

War clouds of rebellion were gathering in the South. Lieutenant Kautz was ordered to Washington and, with three brother officers sent to Europe to study ordnance. After the outbreak of the war, he was returned to active service, rapidly rose to be a general in command of a cavalry brigade and none served with greater glory. After the assassination of the President, Kautz was appointed a member of the military commission composed of officers of high rank and distinction to try the Lincoln conspirators.

The Kautz sons grew to manhood before their father returned west. Nugent is at present [1926] in Oregon. Augustus lives on the Marshall road within three miles of our city hall. He has lived in the valley since 1879 and saw the Puyallups pass from a tribe of goodly proportions to a dwindling band of one hundred seventy-five patient Indians, of whom he is the spokesman.

He remembers clearly many of the people of prominence in the early history of the Puget Sound region. He



August V. Kautz

holds deep respect and reverence for his venerable grandfather, Lashimere, the friendly chief of the Puyallups who preferred to dwell at peace with the soldiers and settlers. His character was molded after the Indian fashion; they treated their own crown princes rough. In his youth he was subjected to excessive hardships.

At one time the tribe was at what is now known as Camas Prairie, digging the camas root, which was used by the Indians as a food in the same manner that we use the potato. The horses strayed and Lashimere, then a young buck, was sent by his mother to search for them. He spent hours in the futile attempt to locate the band. The ground was dry and no tracks nor traces of them were visible, so he returned to rest and refresh himself. The mother came upon him sitting there, and noting his failure, clouted him over the head with her camas stick, knocking him cold. When he recovered his senses, she proceeded to voice her opinion of him as the coming ruler and drove him from the camp.

He wandered about. Darkness found him on the shore of a small lake. The wolves commenced to howl, and he decided to swim across. On reaching the opposite shore, he

found it similarly infested and started to swim back. Suddenly ahead and out of the water an apparition arose in the form of a beautiful maiden who told him she was Haide, his guiding spirit. She directed that he should go to the land of the Duwamish, and there meet and marry a maid. There would be a girl papoose to be called Haide. Haide grew up to be the wife of the paleface warrior [Kautz] and the mother of his two sons.

Chief [Augustus] Kautz is nearly seventy, yet his appearance scarcely places him at fifty. His abundant black hair and erect carriage bespeak a sturdy stock from which he sprung. He ascribes the short stature of the average Sound Indian to his easy mode of living, diet of fish, food and many hours in the canoe. His brothers of the barren country beyond the mountains were up against a harder struggle to exist, and it crops out in their rugged make-up.

He recalls a trip east of the mountains and recounting to a group of Indians dwelling there, the delights of living in the charmed land on Puget Sound, the abundance of food to be found here, fruits, berries, fish, etc. He was detailing the mode of preparation of the clam duck for the festive board. Now, it seems that clam duck is the last word in Siwash epicurean delight. This duck lives on the necks of clams for which he dives at a certain point in the tide time when they are stretched above the sand.

He was enlightening his listeners with the method of broiling the fowl, "Slowly toast above a glowing coal bed of cottonwood bark, allowing the savory juices to drip into an upturned clam shell to be used later to sop your bread in as the balance of the duck was devoured." He glanced at the faces of his spell-bound listeners and was startled to see water dripping from the mouth of one of the poor Piute braves.