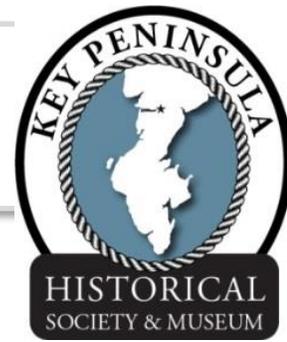


July 2020 Museum Mini Messenger

Quarterly Newsletter of the Key Peninsula Historical Society



Dear Members and Friends,

It's not often that you get a mini Messenger. However, I feel it's important to share some information with you regarding the status of the Lakebay Marina.

The Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) Marine Parks Conservancy is in the process of purchasing the marina, and needs an assist from all interested parties to top up the asking amount of \$1.2 million. The agreement they have in place with Mark Scott, the owner, is currently slated to end Sept 30. They have raised over \$400,000 so far, but need the additional \$800,000. And COVID-19 has thrown a spanner into some of the fundraising. I know it seems impossible, but who knows? With a little help from everyone who loves this icon of the Key Peninsula, it just might happen.

As you may remember, I worked with Mark to get the marina both county and state historical landmark status. In researching the history of the marina building, I learned that before it was a marina it was the Washington Co-Operative Egg & Poultry Association. Built in 1928 by ancestors of some us still living here on the KP, it kept the KP alive because of the urgent need for cheap protein during the Great Depression and World War II that followed. The Mosquito Fleet carried our eggs on to Tacoma, where they were shipped across the United States in specially built refrigerated railcars to customers up and down the East Coast. They favored our eggs over their more locally available eggs because of their freshness, the whiteness of the shell and the large size. Our eggs then continued their journey across the Atlantic Ocean where they fed the troops serving in Europe.

In the 1940 census there were about 2,000 people living on the KP. There were 370 members of the co-op. That means that almost every family on the Key was involved with the co-op in some way. Dulcie Schillinger told me that the co-op was VITAL to life on the Key, and that without it, families would have been forced to leave to look for a living elsewhere.

You might be able to tell that I have a passion for this old building. It has served our community and lives for close to 100 years, first as the co-op and lately as the Lakebay Marina. We all were thrilled when Mark bought it several years ago with the intent of restoring the building to its former glory while retaining the important historical aspects of it. His heart was certainly in the right place. However, the costs of permits and repairs have skyrocketed.

The president of RBAW is Bob Wise, who personally owns 4 other marinas. He knows how to run them. RBAW's plans for the building is to restore it and the pilings and docks, and turn it into a viable and working community asset. Bob envisions weddings, reunions, family parties, art shows, live music, community picnics, etc. in addition to being a marina. With the proper permitting, it will have marine gas available again. RBAW is prepared to gift the property to either the State Parks (same as they did with Sucia Island and Blake Island) or to another State agency such as the Dept. of Natural Resources, who also manages and maintains public access to many properties. One other option would be to maintain it in a non-profit trust.

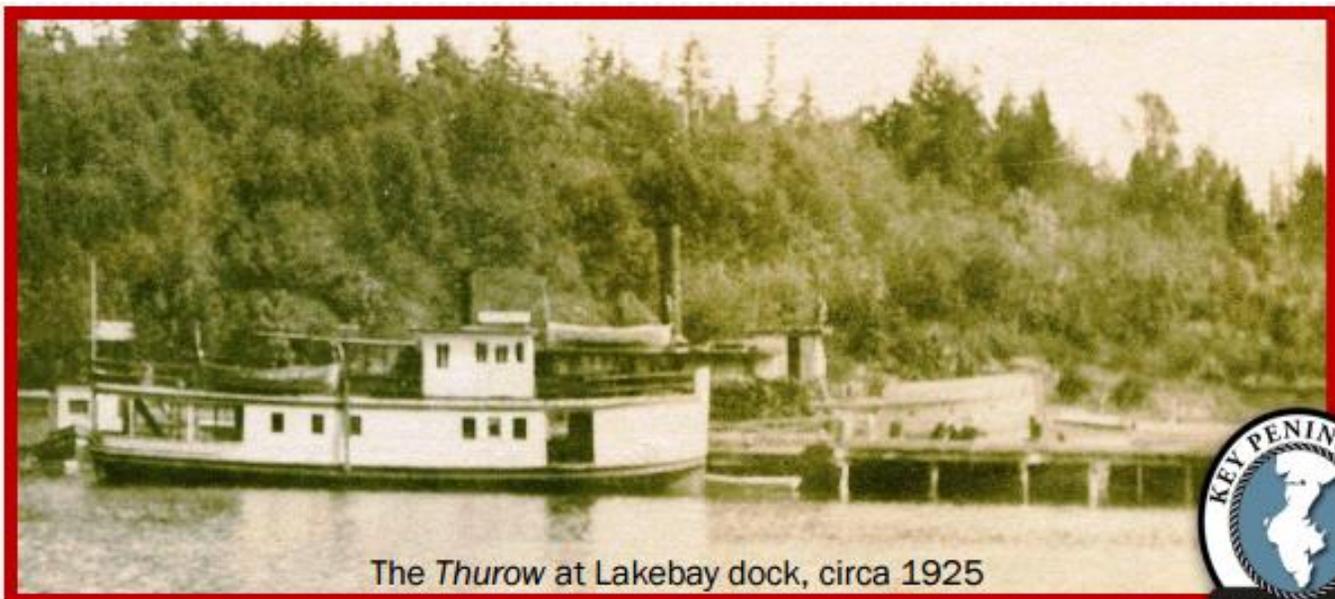
You can read more about the work the RBAW has done by clicking on this link to their website. <https://rbaw.org/> If you feel moved to do so, there is a link to a page where you can make a donation to help with the purchase of the marina. The RBAW Marine Parks Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) and gifts are tax deductible.

I've included some more information and pictures. If you need more clarification, don't hesitate to email me. If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.

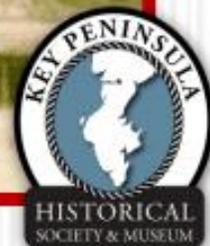
Cathy Williams, president KPHS

tedandcathywilliams@gmail.com

Save Our Historic Lakebay Marina!



The *Thurow* at Lakebay dock, circa 1925

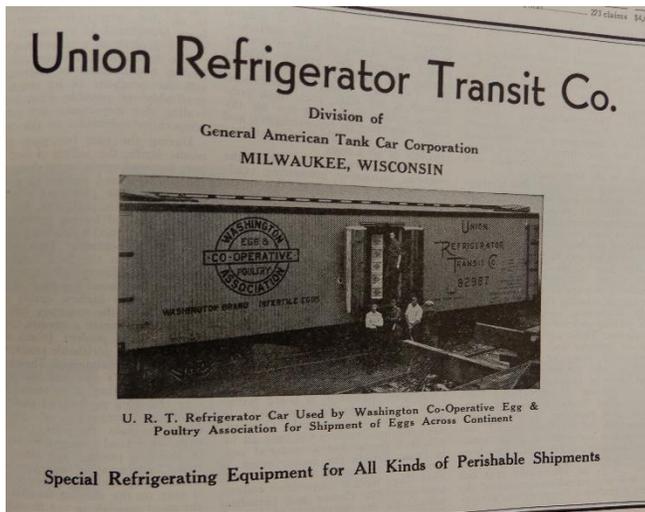


Lakebay Timeline

Gateway to the Lower Peninsula

- 1877 The Crevistons arrive in the area and name it Lake Bay.
- 1878 Settlers land here in their rafts and shallow-draft boats.
- 1884 Carl Lorenz builds a dock, and the first Lorenz steamboat *Sophia* is launched. For the next 74 years, Lakebay steamboats haul passengers, produce, livestock, merchandise and the mail.
- 1911 Pierce County leases land from state to build pier.
- 1928 Washington Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Association, Lakebay Station, is built by the local men and women.
- 1930s Lakebay Co-op is said to have 378 members. An average of 150 cases of eggs are shipped each week (216 eggs/case).
- 1956 The *Burro* is the last Mosquito Fleet boat to transport freight to and from the co-op. The Lakebay co-op merges with the Gig Harbor co-op and moves to Purdy.
- 1958 Bill Durerden converts the co-op warehouse to a marina.
- 1960s Ronald Streich operates the marina. Floats are added to the pier and a kitchen to the store. His wife Bernie cooks for boaters and the community. It becomes a popular stop for cruisers.
- 1967 Dewey Hostetler purchases the marina.
- 2013 Mark and Cindy Scott re-open the marina.

Save Our Historic Lakebay Marina for the KP



Specially built refrigerated rail cars that took the eggs to the East Coast.

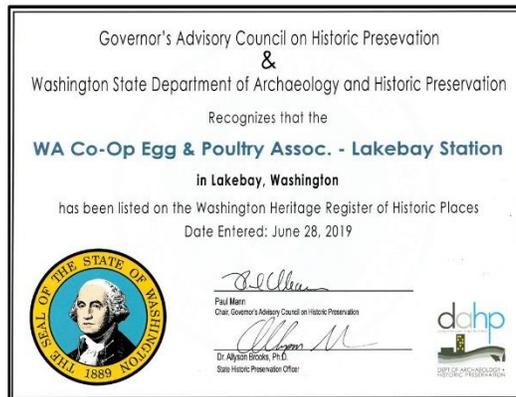


The *Burro*, one of the many boats working in the Mosquito Fleet, docked at the co-op to pick up goods headed to Tacoma and beyond.

Lakebay Marina with the Egg Co-Op logo. 1956



Egg crates the local farmers used for shipping eggs to Tacoma aboard a boat from the Mosquito Fleet. It holds 216 eggs.



Listed June 2019 on the Washington Heritage Register of Historic Places

Listed October 2018 on the Pierce County Register of Historic Places



RBAW MARINE PARKS CONSERVANCY

A NON-PROFIT DEDICATED TO EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

We are excited to announce that the RBAW Marine Parks Conservancy has received its IRS Determination Letter! This means that after months of waiting, the IRS has now determined the Conservancy to be a 501(c)(3) and donations are tax deductible. If you have been waiting for the official word to donate to our [Save Lakebay Marina](#) effort and save this fantastic location for future boating, now is the time!

Donate today through our new dedicated [conservancy website](#) or send your tax deductible donations to:

RBAW Marine Parks Conservancy
PO Box 17591
Seattle, WA 98127

If your donation is coming from a giving trust, please contact the trustee, advising them of the Conservancy's 501(c)(3) status, and have the trustee make the donation.

The Tax ID for the RBAW Marine Parks Conservancy (Employer Identification Number) is: **84-2485855**