

**The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum
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The *Banner* is printed four times a year and is mailed to all members of The Friends of the Fort Lewis Museum. Articles may be submitted to the Editor or left with the Curator of the Fort Lewis Museum. The Friends assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or other materials submitted for publication.
 Editor Alan Archambault

President's Report

While on a visit to the Philippines in December, my wife Evelyn and I visited the island of Corregidor, 26 miles west of Manila. The four mile by half mile island, dubbed the "Rock," is where an embattled force of American and Filipino soldiers fought overwhelming Japanese forces in one of the great delaying actions of World War II. A guided tour lets visitors see the ruins of the barracks, post headquarters, BOQ, theater and other buildings which provide a glimpse of what life on the island was like before the war; the island defense system of 12-inch mortar and coastal gun batteries, many still in place, which could fire in any direction; the Malinta tunnel (835 feet long by 24 feet wide with 24 laterals branching from it) which was the underground headquarters and hospital of the defenders; and many other points of interest such as the Lorcha Dock where General MacArthur departed by PT boat to Mindanao and from there by aircraft to Darwin, Australia, where he uttered the famous words, "I Shall Return."

The memorable tour concluded with a visit to the museum at the Pacific War Memorial. The museum has an impressive collection of Corregidor and other war artifacts. The artifacts include weapons, uniforms, old photographs, maps and documents that help preserve and tell the heroic story of Corregidor.

As we were touring the museum, I could not help but think of our own Fort Lewis Military Museum and the vital role it plays in helping to preserve and tell the story of Fort Lewis and the military in the Pacific Northwest. Your continued support of *The Friends* and the Museum is very much appreciated and helps insure the mission accomplishment of this important Fort Lewis asset.

Best wishes to you and your families for a Happy New Year!

Ian Larson

Curator's Report

It is hard to believe that the New Year of 2006 is here already! The coming year promises to be a busy one for the staff of the Fort Lewis Military Museum. I am currently working on a series of historical posters designed to interpret the history of I Corps and Fort Lewis with special emphasis on the "Warrior Ethos" that has sustained our soldiers in times of war and peace. The posters are designed for the hallway of the I Corps headquarters, but I hope to have duplicates made that can be exhibited throughout Fort Lewis.

The project of entering all the Museum's historical property records into the Army's centralized computer system is moving along nicely, in large measure due to the assistance of Jill Kiah-Saslav. Jill is an employee of the LGB company, which has a contract with the Center of Military History to assist with the review and entry of the Army's historical collections. When Jill's husband, a captain with the Ranger Battalion, was transferred to Fort Lewis, we were able to request her assistance. As Greg Hagge reviews and inventories the collections, Jill is able to enter the data in an accurate and efficient manner. It is our goal to have our artifact collection records completely automated as soon as possible. We welcome Jill to the Museum "team" and hope she enjoys working at the Fort Lewis Military Museum.

The Museum has a new full-color brochure designed by Synthia Santos. Through the generosity of the Friends we have had 10,000 copies of the brochure printed. Please let us know if you need any of these brochures to distribute to interested parties.

During the coming year, we hope to create a number of new exhibits and update existing ones. The history of Fort Lewis continues on during these historic times and we regularly obtain new and exciting materials to display.

I sincerely wish all our Museum Friends a great New Year and hope you are able to visit the Museum to see what we are doing to preserve and promote our priceless military heritage.

Alan Archambault



As the rifle you have is loaded
 So this card is loaded, too,
 With friendly love for the one who fights
 For our honor and the red, white and blue.

Saint Valentine's Day and the Power of Love

Throughout history, the power of love has endured in times of both war and peace. In fact, it is believed that the origins of Saint Valentine's Day and its traditions began with a decidedly military connection.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II, Rome was engaged in many military campaigns, which eventually began to effect military strength. Claudius, often known as "Claudius the Cruel," was having difficulty in recruiting and keeping new recruits for his legions. He believed that many young Roman men did not find military life attractive because they did not want to leave their wives, families and lovers.

In order to induce recruitment, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. In spite of the decrees of Emperor Claudius, couples still wanted to marry and sought out priests who were willing to defy the emperor. Valentine was a priest who would not only marry the young lovers, but also aided Christian martyrs.

Valentine was discovered by Roman authorities and brought before the Prefect of Rome. To please Emperor Claudius, Valentine was condemned to be beaten with clubs and then beheaded. Valentine suffered this

martyrdom on the 14th day of February, in the year 270 A.D.

In Rome, it had been an ancient custom to celebrate the feast of Lupercalia in the month of February. During this pagan holiday, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by young men who would then court them during the festivities.

When Christianity began to take hold throughout Rome, the early church began to replace the ancient pagan holidays with appropriate Christian holidays. The story of Saint Valentine and his devotion to young lovers was a perfect substitute for the existing feast day in February. So, from the earliest days of Christianity, Saint Valentine's Day has been a day for honoring love and courtship.

As the photographs published in this issue of the *Banner* illustrate, Fort Lewis has been proud to honor the customs of Saint Valentine's Day. We will never know how many soldiers found the loves of their lives at Fort Lewis activities, but the post has certainly played a significant role in "affairs of the heart" throughout the years.



Valentines Day dance, Service Club Number 1, Fort Lewis Washington, 12 February 1946.

Why be a Friend of the Fort Lewis Military Museum

If you value our military heritage and think it is important to preserve the history of Fort Lewis and the units that served here, then you should be a **Friend** of the Fort Lewis Military Museum.

Over the years, the **Friends** have supported the Fort Lewis Military Museum by obtaining funds to build exhibits, purchase and preserve significant artifacts for the collection, and publish and distribute the *Banner* newsletter. The Museum **Friends** have represented the Museum at conferences and meetings, given wonderful programs at schools, military units, and civic organizations and greeted tens of thousands of visitors to the Fort Lewis Museum. Members of the **Friends** have encouraged Army leaders to support the Museum and been great spokesmen in the cause of preserving military history.

In our ever-changing and "politically correct" world, it is more important than ever to have an organization that is dedicated to preserving and promoting the priceless military heritage of Fort Lewis and the soldiers of the United States Army. If we do not take an active role in supporting our military heritage, then no one else will.



The importance of Friends is illustrated in a World War I era postcard.

2006 Membership Annual Dues

We need and value your kind support to help keep history alive on Fort Lewis. Check your newsletter mailing label to see if your 2006 membership dues are due in January. Please continue to be a **Museum Friend**.

ANNUAL FEES	
Individual	\$ 10
Family	\$ 15
Sustaining	\$ 25
Benefactor	\$ 50
Life	\$100

(Please make checks payable to *The Friends*, at the address shown to the right.)

**The Friends of the
Fort Lewis Military Museum**
Post Office Box 331001
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-1001

**FRIENDS OF THE FORT LEWIS
MILITARY MUSEUM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2006**



Place: Cascade Community Club
Time: 1115 – 1200 Social Hour
1200 – 1300 Brunch
1300 – 1345 Program

Program:

Our first speaker for 2006 will be Dr. John P. Jewell, sculptor of the new Captain Meriwether Lewis and Seaman monument. The monument was dedicated on 30 September 2005 at the new Memorial Park near the Main Gate of Fort Lewis. Dr. Jewell is a retired school principal who now devotes full time to his avocation of art, design and sculpture. The program will feature an audio-visual presentation on how Dr. Jewell develops an artistic project from the concept stage to the casting and installation of a finished bronze statue. This is a very special program that you will not want to miss!

Please join us for this informative and enjoyable program and show your support for our Museum. Return your reservation form and check by Friday, January 27, 2006. Last minute reservations may be made by calling COL (Ret) Paul Knoop at (253) 279-2598.

Return this form to LTC (Ret) Donald A. Simpson, 6615 79th Street W., Lakewood, WA 98499
Here is my check, payable to "The Friends" for the following:

Cost of Brunch for members and their Guests: \$16.00 each.

Number of Reservations: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Name of Member: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Names of Guests: _____