

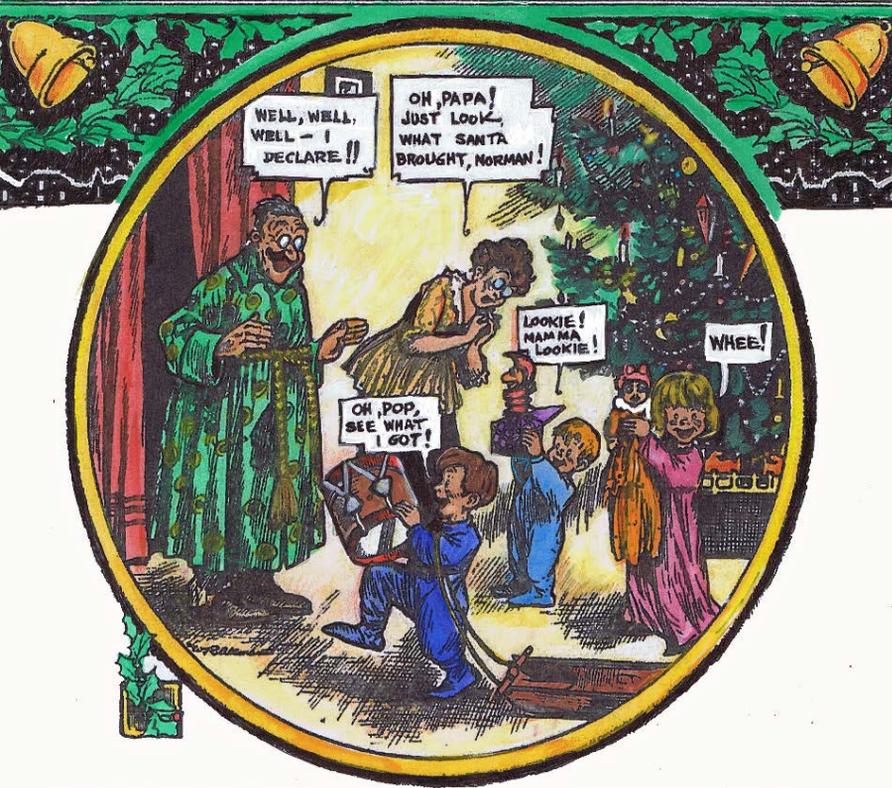
Autumn 2016

Vol. 29, No. 4

## The Holiday Season of 1916 and the Campaign for an Army Camp

# The Tacoma Times

25¢ A MONTH THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN TACOMA 1¢ A COPY.  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1916. VOL. XIV, NO. 4



**Nothing, After All, Is Quite Like  
Christmas In the United States**

*The front page of the Tacoma Times featured a typical American family celebrating on Christmas morning.  
(The original illustration was in black and white).*

In December 1916, the citizens of Pierce County were not only preparing for the Christmas and New Year holidays, but were also being vigorously courted by a committee, formed by prominent Tacoma businessmen, to bring an Army Camp to the American Lake-Nisqually Plain region. By the holiday season of 1916, the effort to establish a permanent Army installation in Pierce County was nearing fruition with the vote on the bond issue to raise the money to purchase the acreage set for January, 1917.

The Tacoma Times newspaper was one of the leading proponents of the plan to offer the War Department 70,000 square acres of land to be used as a Army Post and maneuver area. It was long known that this area was an ideal site for a military installation. The area offered a wide range of terrain and the temperate climate allowed for year-round training.

The city fathers of Tacoma, as well as the business community, knew that a major Army installation would bring prestige and prosperity to the area.

(continued on page 3)

It is 7 December as I write this – the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. I watched some of the television coverage of the ceremonies honoring the survivors returning to Hawaii for the occasion. May their legacy and that of their fallen comrades always be remembered.

In this issue of *The Banner* we look back 100 years. In December 1916, the voters of Pierce County were preparing to vote on the bond issue to raise \$2 million to buy the land that would be donated to build an Army camp. By that vote in early January 1917, one of the great military installations in the US, Camp Lewis, later Fort Lewis, was born.

Erik Flint's update provides the latest estimate on the reopening of the Museum next year. Walking through the lobby of the Museum and seeing the current state of construction, it is hard to visualize when all the work will be complete. Real progress will be seen once the new exhibits will be installed during 1-31 March. In any case, we eagerly look forward to the reopening, and seeing visitors once again come through the Museum doors. The reopening will inaugurate a full and busy schedule next year, given the Museum's outreach mission and involvement in planning for the Centennial celebration of Fort Lewis, in addition to day-to-day operations.

On behalf of *The Friends*, I want to sincerely thank the Museum staff, special duty Soldiers, and all the volunteers who assist at the Museum and the Cannon Shop. Together, this dedicated team of staff and volunteers provides a first-class Museum that is a great JBLM asset, and which will be even better when it reopens.

Finally, to each of you, thank you once more for being a member of *The Friends*, and for your loyal support to the Museum and its mission. May this Christmas season be one of true joy and peace for you and for your families.

Ian Larson

### Happy Holidays Everyone!

The team here at the museum is working hard getting ready for what will be an extremely busy and exciting 2017.

**Centennial:** 2017 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Camp Lewis. We are working closely with the JBLM installation command, as well as local community organizations, such as the South Sound Military Communities Partnership (SSMCP), to plan a series of celebratory activities surrounding 100 years of the U.S. Army in Pierce County. We would especially like to thank Sarah Luna for all her hard work in building relationships between JBLM and the surrounding communities. Please check out the joint SSMCP/JBLM website: [www.MyJBLM.com](http://www.MyJBLM.com). If you get a chance, share your own memories of the installation on the website.

**Volunteers:** One of our major goals for the reopening year is to have the Friends' volunteers as docents to greet guests, answer questions, and lead tours. We will begin recruiting our new docents after the New year with the goal of being up and running when we reopen in the spring. In the past, Soldiers on special duty to the museum have served as docents. However, managing our new public access parking lot and general museum security will be the new focus for our Soldiers. If you are interested in working as a volunteer docent, or in the Cannon Shop, please contact any member of the museum team or the Friends' Board.

**Reopening:** Based on current projections, we are on our way to re-opening in mid-April. This time may adjust as the final preparation work and exhibit installation progresses, but spring is looking good! Our hours will be expanded as well. The museum will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays.

As always, thank you all so much for your continued support of the Lewis Army Museum. We look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

Carry On,

Erik



**ONE CENT**  
 Edgar G. Wheeler's story about  
 Rev. Shaw's church is to be found  
 today on page five.

# The Tacoma Times

**WEATHER**  
 Tacoma: Occasional rain tonight  
 and Tuesday.  
 Washington: Same west portion,  
 fair east.

25c A MONTH THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN TACOMA. 1c A COPY.  
 VOL. XIII, NO. 302. TACOMA, WASH., MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1916. 25c A MONTH.

# ARMY POST FOR TACOMA

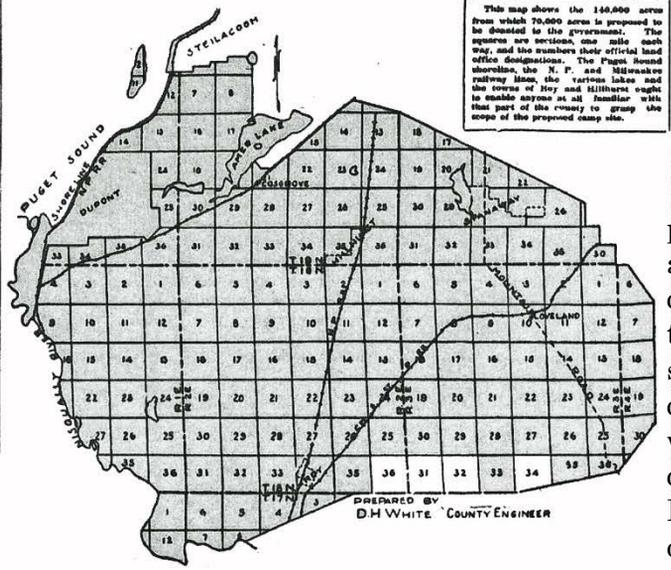
## Permanent Camp of 15,000 Men Practically Assured

### MAYOR HEADS MOVE!



MAYOR A. V. PANCKTY

### Vast Tract Where Huge Army Post May Rise



This map shows the 140,000 acres from which 70,000 acres is proposed to be donated to the government. The squares are sections, one mile each way, and the numbers their official land office designations. The Puget Sound shoreline, the N. P. and Milwaukee railway lines, the various lakes and the towns of Steilacoom and Ilwaco are visible. It is possible anyone at all familiar with that part of the county to grasp the scope of the proposed camp site.

## UP TO PIERCE COUNTY

### Tacoma at Last Justifies Name, 'City of Destiny'

by The Editor

The greatest newspaper story ever printed, as far as the future growth and prosperity of Tacoma is concerned, you will find spread upon this page. This U.S. Army post, if seized by Pierce County, as it certainly will, almost immediately will increase the population of this city one quarter.

It will make Tacoma at a single step one of the most important military centers of the nation.

Together with our mountain and other natural attractions, it will convert this city into a spot no tourist will think of missing.

It will broaden and metropolitanise (if you will pardon the invention) the whole character of our life.

Following as it does on the heels of the announcement of industrial enterprises of astonishing magnitude, it seals the future of Tacoma. It determines now, once and for all, that our city is to go forward into a day of big things.

The Times rejoices with the rest of Tacoma in this turn of fortune. 'Way back on January 1 we christened Baby 1916 "The Year of Promise." Never was a forecast more completely vindicated. The year has been increasingly good to this community and now in 1916's concluding month it is heaping up treasures for us.

Yes, it has been The Year of Promise, and in large measure a year of fulfillment as well.

The front page of the Tacoma Times, dated December 4, 1916, is one of several issues of the publication that prominently features the newspaper's support for the proposed Army post.

The headline appears optimistic that the voters of Pierce County would support the bond issue to purchase 70,000 acres of land for two million dollars, which would be donated to the War Department. The text by the map states, "This map shows the 140,000 acres from which 70,000 acres is proposed to be donated to the government. The squares are sections, one mile each way, and the numbers their official land office designations." Other articles from the newspaper follow:

### County Has Protection

Should Pierce County give the government the desired 70,000 acres for an army post and should the United States ever cease to maintain the training camp agreed to, title to all the lands will revert to Pierce County. This proviso is made a part of the written agreement signed by Newton D. Baker, secretary of war.

### Second West Point, Maybe

There has been much agitation in congress and elsewhere for a second West Point, to be located on the Pacific coast. If such a school is established, Tacoma would be the logical for it, provided it now has an army post.

**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 Fort Lewis Museum. Articles may be submitted to the Editor or left with the Director of the Lewis Army Museum. The Friends assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or other materials submitted for publication. Contents copyrighted by The Friends; contact the Editor for permission to reproduce any portion.

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*Red Cross stamp from 1916. The American Red Cross would play a major role at Camp Lewis beginning in 1917.*

Visit the Friends web site for more information and purchases from the Cannon Shop.

<http://www.fortlewismuseum.com>



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