

ROBERT (BOB) K. LEICK

(Written for the May 22, 2010 annual membership meeting to introduce myself to the membership as a candidate for the Board of Directors.)

I was born in Jamestown, North Dakota in 1936. I attended Auburn High School, Auburn, Wash., but never graduated.

I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954 and was honorable discharged in 1957.

I attended Western Washington College of Education from 1957 to 1960, but never graduated.

I attended the University of Washington School of Law from 1961 to 1963 and graduated with a LLB.

I married my wife, Claudia Young, in 1961. (She was raised in Camas, WA. Her father, Al Young, operated a small country grocery store at LaCamas Lake.)

We have three daughters: Shelley, Sallie and Susie, who all started grade school in Stevenson, and graduated from Stevenson High School and the University of Washington.

Claudia and I first came to Stevenson from Vancouver, WA in 1967. I served as the county prosecuting attorney and coroner for 27 years. Then I served as the Stevenson municipal court judge for ten years.

Although we no longer live in Skamania County, through our 40 years of living, working and raising our family, here we have formed a deep and lasting friendships and ties to the community.

As an attorney, I have had the privilege of working on many public and private projects that have resulted in significant and historical changes to the community. They include the Skamania Lodge and the facility we are in today, but all of you are more or less familiar with those events. So, what I would like to tell you about is some little known and relatively recent history of the downtown Stevenson area and about how three of your old time residents made that history happen.

Louis Joseph. Louis was the owner of an old time general merchandise store. He was a dreamer. He always wanted to build a new store but never quite knew how to get it done. He saved for years and would acquire one at a time, a little cabin or shack that dotted the hillside next to his old general store, until he owned all of the hillside.

Ann Jermann. Ann was a clerk in a small grocery store across the street from Louis'. It was owned and managed by a man named Carl Arnold. Ann had always dreamed of some day having her own store.

Rudy Hegewald was a mill owner, entrepreneur and dear friend of Louis Joseph's and mine. Rudy prided himself as being a guy you could count on to get things done for the benefit of the community and friends.

United Grocers was a multi-million dollar association of small to medium size

grocery store owners that was headquartered in Portland, Oregon.

Carl Arnold, the owner of the small store in Stevenson, as previously mentioned, was experiencing some personal problems, when suddenly, without notice or warning, left his store and moved from the area. Ann and I worked out a plan that allowed her to buy the store's inventory and pay off Carl's creditors. United Grocers worked with us. Ann was so successful running Carl's little store that we were able to convince United to agree to be the anchor tenant in a new shopping center if Louis would build it on his hillside property. United agreed and they would sublease it to Ann.

Armed with a "triple A" tenant, United Grocers, Louis and I went to the Small Business Association and got a loan to build the new grocery store and his own store on Louie's mountain.

Now, the expense of tearing down all the old buildings and leveling off Louie's hillside seemed like an insurmountable hurdle. Tens of thousands of yards of dirt and rocks had to be removed to make way for the proposed project. Enter Louis' old friend and my client, Rudy Hegewald. Rudy told Louis not to worry. He would do it next to nothing. Then Max (Hegewald) showed up with a big (back) hoe and knocked the buildings down and dump truck after dump truck hauled that mountain of dirt and rock away.

We got the loan and built the shopping center that stands there today. Louis had his dream come true. He had his new shopping center.

Ann had her dream, too. She was not only the owner of a brand new grocery store, but was so successful that she later went on to become the first woman to serve on the board of directors of that multi-million dollar corporation, United Grocers.

Rudy Hegewald had once again done what Rudy did so well. He had made it possible for his old friend to have his dream come true by removing Louis' mountain and left yet another footprint in this community.

But, what about Louis' mountain and all those thousands of yards of rock and dirt? How does this tie into this story? As we look around at the spacious and beautiful site that this great facility sits upon, most of it, if not all of it, is comprised of Louis' mountain.

I believe that there are many stories like these that are part of the recent history of the county, and I would like to see (the) work done to preserve that history. (It is my reason for today being a nominee for the Board of Directors.)

**BOB LEICK'S ROLE IN ADVISING THE
COLUMBIA GORGE INTERPRETIVE CENTER
By Sharon Tiffany, Museum Director**

Bob Leick, as prosecuting attorney, advised the Museum Director, in 1973, and assisted her with developing the Loan Agreement, Donor Agreement and Receipt of Delivery. He also assisted the Board in developing the By-Laws for the Historical Society and the museum. He advised to keep the CGIC registered in both states with the importance of the one in Oregon to make the Lawrence and Lena Pierce Trust Fund easier to be the recipient of 25% of the interest of the trust through the Oregon Community Foundation. He also was instrumental in convincing Don Brown to donate his rosary collection to Skamania County. This helped create leverage for the request from the Historical Society to have a museum in the courthouse annex basement and be funded by the county. He did the research of the RCW's to advise the county commissioners as to how to fund a museum. He worked to obtain the collection of early man from Emory Strong to be gifted to Skamania County in 1985. Ruth Strong was convinced that the county was a more liable recipient than any historical society and would underwrite the care of the collection as they had the rosary collection