

**Long-Bell Shay Returns to Longview** by Arlen Sheldrake

*This article was published in the November 2013 issue of "The Trainmaster" and is reprinted with permission (and has been edited for space)*



*Long-Bell Lumber #5  
Vaughn, Oregon December 8, 1949.  
Floyd Adams photo,  
Martin E. Hansen Collection*

This former Long-Bell Lumber Company locomotive (built in 1924) has returned for public display! Donated to the city of Longview, WA in 1955 by the Long-Bell Lumber Company, the locomotive rusted on the library lawn for decades until it was removed for restoration by John Chilson and Jeff Wilson.

The Shay was moved from the Longview Library property in March 1998 to the Port of Longview. At the port, a crew disassembled the engine part by part. The 700 pieces were tagged, labeled and photographed. It was the intent of Chilson and Wilson to return the Shay to service but investigation found that when operational the insurance would be cost prohibitive and there would be no place for the locomotive to operate so this plan was shelved. Wayron Inc. gave Chilson a deal on sandblasting and cleaning the parts. Cloverdale Paint donated \$10,000 in painting services. Valley Rental, along with King Crane, donated crane service. Cowlitz Clean Sweep removed asbestos without charge. Chilson spent large amounts of time and money tracking down, buying or recasting pieces of the Shay that had been stolen or damaged beyond repair in the 42 years it sat on the library grounds. An estimated \$140,000 was spent by Wilson and Chilton and that doesn't include the hours donated by volunteers skilled in welding, pipefitting and woodworking.

The restoration was completed in 2005.

The weather on moving day was absolutely beautiful—perfect for bringing heavy equipment onto the grassy area that had been prepared for displaying the restored Shay. Wilson, the owner of TPI Sanitation and Septic Company and a collector of old military vehicles, sent giant ex-military trucks to help maneuver the Shay into place.

This was a very proud moment for the Longview community with the ringing the Shays bell resulting in on-looker applause.

The locomotive sits once again on the grounds of the beautiful 1926 Longview Public Library.



## Long-Bell Lumber Film

By Craig Walker

President, RALHS

In January of 2015, I was contacted by a gentleman that lives in California and collects World War I and II memorabilia. He bought a trunk that was in an estate sale in Bakersfield, CA, that had World War I items in it. He was told that the people moved into the house in the early 1930's and they believed the trunk was put in the basement and was never opened again. After he got the trunk home and went through it, he found a film box (which looked like the original film box dating back to the 20's/30's) that contained five reels of film that some said *Long Bell Lumber*" on them. This was all 16 mm film - and he did not have a 16 mm projector but he looked at the leads to the reels and thought that what was on the reels was what the labels said it was. He contacted me and asked if our group would be interested in purchasing the films. After making the purchase, I found a 16 mm projector so when the film arrived I could view it. To my surprise, the films are everything described and more. I knew that the sawmill in Longview, Washington was big but I did not have any idea of how big until watching the films. I thought we had something that maybe no one else had - original film footage. So, before anything could happen to them I took them to a company that specializes in transferring old movies to DVD's. I was told by this company these films were some of the oldest and best quality/condition film that they had ever worked with. Before the films were converted they were re-conditioned and preserved then transferred to disk. The five reels of film end up being over 55 minutes - along the lines of a silent movie. Paragraphs of verbiage explaining what you are going to see next appear throughout.



### From the President



Every year in May, we participate in the flag raising ceremony at Longview Farm Elementary school with Louie for their Derby Day kickoff. He has been the school's mascot for about eight years now. Louie is always a big hit. As we were waiting at the Church (Longview Chapel Christian Church) for the kids to come running down the street to join Louie, I asked him to walk up the steps in front of the church. When we got up to the front doors, I had Pastor Gary hold Louie while pictures were being taken. Going up concrete stairs for Louie is pretty easy – it is the coming down part that causes a problem. Louie had to make a decision: are we going to walk or jump down? He tipped his head, looked at the steps, and walked down the stairs not missing a step !!

The kids came down the street with school principal Dr. Rostine and we ran from the church down to the school. Over 750 students were there outside the school cheering for Louie. We gathered around Revelation's grave (Mrs. Combs most beloved horse) and had pictures taken with the top 10 students of the graduating class, some special needs students, and their parents.

CR Revelation, our Hackney horse stallion, is becoming a big boy. If you came out for his first birthday party, you would not recognize him! That is him in my President's picture with his head over my shoulder. He is over 16 hands and a half-brother to Louie.

Call me anytime.

*"Honoring the past while looking to the future"*

Your President, Craig Walker



## Save the Date !

Join us for dinner!

**R.A. Long Historical Society Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 15 6:00 pm**  
**Jumpin' Catfish**  
**834 SW Blue Parkway**  
**Lee's Summit, MO**



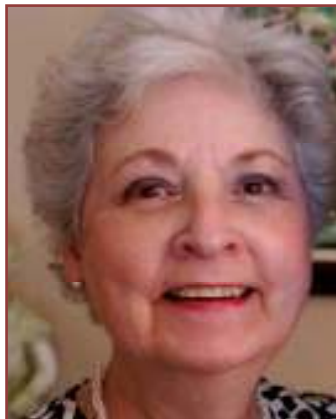
*We will be viewing original Longview, WA  
lumber mill film footage*

*We have reserved a private room for our meeting.*

*Dinner or dessert is on your own off the menu.*

*Please RSVP by Sunday, October 11  
so we have a head count.*

*Diane Quattrocchi (816) 765-6224*



*In memory of board  
member, Joyce Maxey,  
whom we lost in  
February, 2015  
following a long illness.  
She will be remembered  
for her love of  
farm history, and  
her tenacity  
against adversity.*

*We will miss both her smile and her friendship.*

*Peaceful rest.*

R.A. Long believed in re-forestation. Replace a tree cut down with a new one. To that ideal, Tim Sullivan, former Society President, several years ago planted a Red Maple at Longview Farm Elementary as a replacement tree. This spring, the Society continued that work with placement of a White Swamp Oak at the school in memory of Tim, to replace another farm tree lost.

We think Tim  
would be pleased.



## Membership

The R.A. Long Historical Society is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization.  
All programs, projects, and our newsletter are funded solely by  
membership dues and private donations.

### Membership Dues

- \$15 Student over 18 years —  
Senior over 55 years
- \$20 Single/Couple
- \$50 White Ribbon Donor
- \$100 Yellow Ribbon Donor
- \$250 Red Ribbon Donor
- \$500 Blue Ribbon Donor (Life)

Please make check  
payable to:

**R.A. Long Historical Society  
(RALHS)**

and mail to:

**Mary Ann James**  
**17675 West 113th Street**  
**Olathe, KS 66061**

## RALHS Board Members

**Craig Walker—President**  
(816) 779-4100

**Mary Ann James—Treasurer**  
(913) 541-8568

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## Celebrating 100 Years of Longview Chapel

1915-2015

*(The following excerpts from "100" Celebrating a Century of Spirit and Faith".*

*Produced by Jerry Elliott for Longview Chapel publication.)*

### **The Church on the Long Farm**

"In addition plans have been drawn by Henry Hoit, the architect, for a community church and schoolhouse, work on which will be started at once. This church and schoolhouse will be used by Mr. Long's guests and by the several hundred persons who will live on the Long farm all the year round. The church and school building will be of white stucco and will have a red tile roof in harmony with the other buildings at Longview. It will stand at the main gateway of the farm, and around this community church and schoolhouse the tent city will be erected. The church will have a basement to be used as a Sunday school and community room. The basement will be equipped with a kitchen. The church will be heated with steam. The church is after the mission style of architecture. One of the quaint features of the church building is an old fashioned belfry which will contain a bell to summon the worshippers. The church will be undenominational. The school is the rear room of the church building and will have accommodations for fifty-six pupils. R.A. Long will employ a teacher and the children of the employees of the Long farm will attend this school. It will have all modern conveniences, including steam heat and running water. The summer tent city will contain running water and all sanitary devices. The church and schoolhouse will cost approximately \$10,000.

*(Kansas City Star May 10, 1914)*



R.A. Long wanted a church on his farm, and he needed a school for the many youngsters living and being reared there. He needed a community hall for the substantial farm population and the neighborhood at large. So under the guise of the county school superintendent, the chapel was furnished with a one room school.

Children and young people who attended classes either walked or were delivered in a farm wagonette. (This was a lot like a horse-drawn trolley). It took regular trips to Lee's Summit on Saturday night to accommodate family shopping, and then back to the chapel on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Worship services. The school was kept open about five years, or until the farm bought a motorized bus to replace the wagonette. The high school students were

taken into Lee's Summit and grade schoolers went to the neighboring grade schools. It was this wider mingling with the neighbor children that brought some of the community leaders together. These helped to organize a graded Sunday School at the Chapel which proved to be a great success.

*(Excerpt from writings by Eva McCance, former church historian)*

## *Celebrating 100 Years of Longview Chapel*

**1915-2015**  
**(continued)**



A group of the church women, known as The Willing Workers, did many good works for the Chapel and the community. Many of their projects were fund raisers for the church such as chili suppers, ice cream socials, potluck dinners, craft sales, etc., most of which continue today. They helped Mrs. Combs with events on the farm for which they also received funds for the church. In addition to all this, they did many philanthropic projects for the community. They were also responsible for many of the social events help at the Chapel.

Loula attended social activities at the Chapel. It's said that a number of romances came out of these social gatherings, including the romance that led to Loula's marriage to R. Pryor Combs. They married in 1917, when Loula was age 36 and soon made Longview Farm their permanent residence.

R.A. Long had been most generous in maintenance of the property. After the Depression of the thirties, the whole country was recovering from business failures and hard times. Sadly, Mr. Long died in 1934. Following his death, the Long heirs passed the title and deed to the church and grounds to the congregation. The Chapel was renamed Longview Chapel Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and the membership assumed full responsibility.

### **The Bell Tower**

The buildings on Longview Farm were Colonial Spanish architecture with white stucco and red tiled roofs. The Chapel's bell tower is characteristic of those seen in Mexico and California at the missions.

In the early days the Chapel bell was rung at the start of the school day for the children of Longview Farm and on Sundays has called the congregation to Worship Service for 100 years.

Eva McCance may have said it best when she wrote: "Many consider the distinctive bell tower to be the most appealing physical feature. It helps establish the overall feeling of modesty, simplicity, and peace that pervades the entire setting."



*Many thanks to the congregation of Longview Chapel for allowing us to reprint portions of their publication. Special thanks to Jerry Elliott and Larry Maxey for bringing this to us. Eva McCance and Joyce Maxey, former church historians who have passed on, but made invaluable contributions to preserving the Chapel's history.*