

## "PE ELL'S POLISH HERITAGE"

A new book, "Pe Ell's Polish Heritage", has been released just in time for Christmas giving. While its appeal may be primarily to those of Polish ancestry, it gives an interesting history of logging and farming in this western Lewis County town (including adjacent Walville and McCormick) from about 100 years ago through the World War II period. Pe Ell was settled predominantly with Polish immigrants, most of who came to work in the saw mills and logging camps; their customs reflecting their Polish culture of food, music, language and religion are described in detail. The stories of over 70 families are told, often in the words of their descendants today, describing their life and times during the heyday of the lumber industry during the early part of the last century. "When Yeomans locomotive returned to town during the day blowing its whistle, everyone knew this meant serious injury or death in the logging camps." When the depression of the 1930s came, the mills closed down and many moved away to better opportunities in the Willapa Harbor and Grays Harbor areas.

"Pe Ell's Polish Heritage" is 267 pages in attractive hard cover and is now available at the Lewis County Historical Society Museum in Chehalis. A companion book, "Pe Ell's Polish Pioneers", 125 pages, published in 2007, is available for \$20.00 postpaid from the author  
Leo Kowalski, 1700 Miracosta Street, San Pedro CA 90732. .

