

# LEWIS ARMY MUSEUM

*Inspire, Educate, Preserve*

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Army Birthday Celebration**

*Saturday June 16, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm*

### **Family Day**

*Saturday July 21, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm*

### **Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration**

*Saturday August 11, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm*

### **Family Day**

*Saturday August 18, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm*

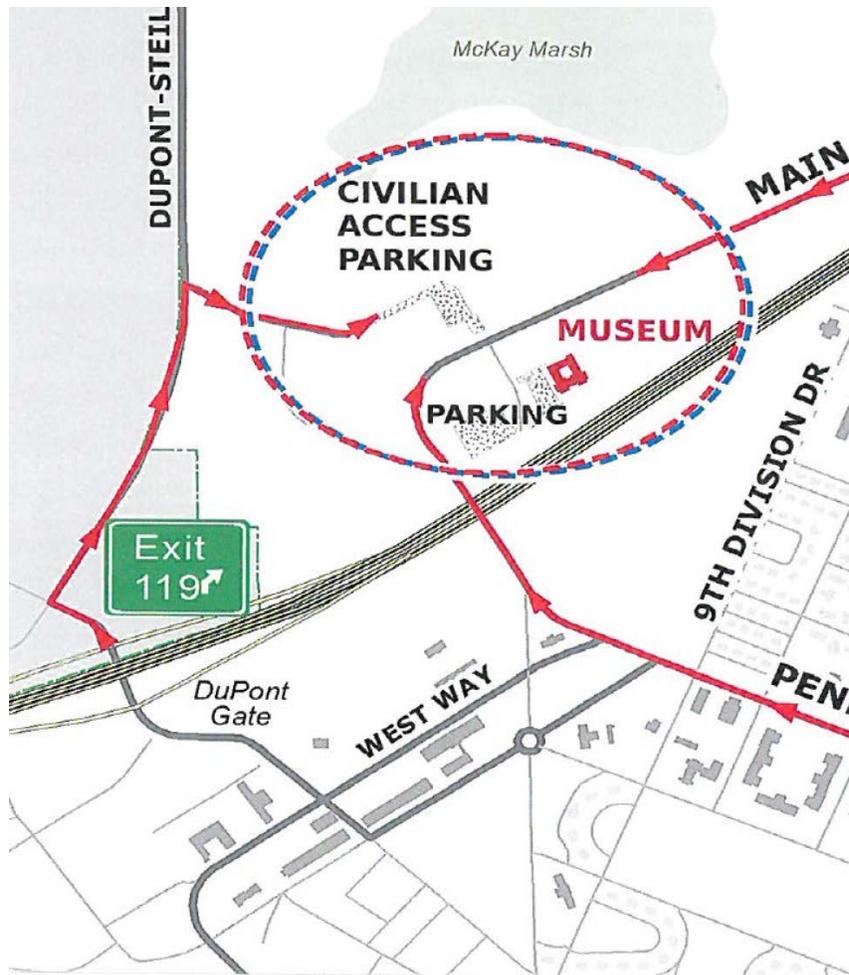
### **Family Day**

*Saturday September 15, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm*

### **World War I Armistice Commemoration**

*Saturday November 17, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm*

During these events our Civilian Access Parking will be open!



Lewis Army Museum Civilian Access Parking: from I-5 take exit 119, turn right on Dupont-Steilacoom Road, and right again on Pendleton – during events there will be an a-frame sign directing visitors to the parking lot. Once parked you will access the museum through the pedestrian gate. The pedestrian gate only allows access to the museum and grounds.

We will also be attending a number of events this spring and summer, on-post and around the region. Stop by and see us at:

Armed Forces Day (May 19, McChord Field), Tank Fest (May 26, Flying Heritage and Combat Armor Museum), Freedom Fest (July 4, JBLM), Lakewood SummerFest (July 14, Fort Steilacoom Park), and Lakewood ArtsFest (September 28-30, McGavick Center)

## Featured Artifact: The M1 Carbine

By Emily White, Museum Intern



*An M1 Carbine from the Lewis Army Museum collection.*

During World War II Fort Lewis, with its growing number of infantry units and training, increased its inventory of infantry weapons. Although the United States Army has had a substantial number of small arms at its disposal, the M1 Carbine .30 caliber semi-automatic is usually the first to come to mind. It is the most produced American infantry firearm of WWII. On July 1, 1925, the U.S. Army began using a naming system where the "M" is the designation for Model and the number (1, 2 and so on) represents the sequential development of equipment and weapons. The M1 Rifle was the first rifle and the M1 Carbine, a light automatic rifle, was the first carbine developed under this system. Starting around 1941, over six and a half million were manufactured in the United States. This rifle has a reputation for being reliable, trouble free, low recoil, and is one of the most user-friendly rifles to date. The M1 Carbine was intended as a weapon for non-combat personnel, vehicle crewmen, and other troops who couldn't carry a full-sized rifle. Despite this many frontline infantrymen carried it for the reasons listed above.



*Lewis Army Museum intern Emily White holding M1 Carbine*

The M1 Carbine was meant to be a personal defense weapon, and not for use past 200 yards due to poor wound potential. It is a traditional rifle with exposed barrel, with the cut down stock of carbine, and a low power cartridge. The idea behind this rifle was to arm soldiers with something superior to a handgun yet easier to manage than a full size, full powered service rifle.

Winchester hired David M. Williams, inventor of the short stroke piston, to help design the M1. There were a total of ten companies that made M1 Carbines for the United States government, including Winchester and Inland, along with sixteen hundred sub-contractors manufacturing parts. The first were delivered June 1942 with the last in August of 1945. This light rifle was used in WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam. Its original cost was \$45.00 and currently can sell for up to \$700-\$800. The M1 Carbine is just one of the historic weapons we have on display here at the Lewis Army Museum.