

Footprints

on the sands of time....

Issue I

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1987

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

Another long-held aspiration becomes reality with this inaugural issue of our Society's newsletter.

Since our very earliest days we have avoided calling membership meetings where the agenda might be a bit too narrow to warrant the required time and effort. However, too long a period without communication is neither proper nor beneficial in any organization.

This first issue will attempt to bring you up-to-date on your Society's involvements to date, its current status, and a peek into the future.

The primary message I wish to convey is that our efforts have been directed toward building a membership sufficient to develop a set of priorities; to look at long-range plans; to gradually activate those within the Society who wish to become involved in its processes and objectives.

I hope that in this and future letters you will become: much more aware of the historic community in King County; along with myself and others, educated in the processes in historic preservation; active advocates of this society and all others who strive to bridge the gaps between generations, cultures and communities.

Our mission is to become a meaningful entity in Seattle, energized by exciting discovery, shared experience, and an enhanced sense of appreciation for the gifts of heritage.

My gratitude for your patience and support runs strong.

MEMBERSHIP GOAL EXCEEDED

With only 37 members on the books in mid-1986, we set an ambitious goal of 100 by the end of our Charter period, December 31, 1986.

The Society listed 118 members at year-end, with classification breakdown as follows: Annual, 96; Life, 9; Corporate, 6; Honorary, 7.

This was a most satisfactory response to our primary activity of generating a constituency capable of dealing with the objectives stipulated in our By Laws.

New membership forms are available and we shall continue to seek additional support for the foreseeable future. We hope that every member will set a goal of bringing at least one new member into our ranks during 1987. A membership form is attached just for that purpose!

YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

| | |
|--|----------|
| Elliott N. Couden President | 932-2290 |
| John F. 'Jack' Van Gilder Vice President | 938-0550 |
| Mary A. Bondeson Secretary | 937-1688 |
| John C. Ashford Treasurer | 764-5395 |

TRUSTEES

| | Term Exp. |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Charles E. Jung | 1987 |
| Elsie A Pollock | 1987 |
| Gerald Robinson | 1988 |
| Dr. Aurlo A. Bonney | 1988 |
| Allan R. Cunningham | 1989 |
| Candace Lein-Hayes | 1989 |

A.K.C.H.O.

Does that "name" mean any thing to you? If not, it soon will. It is an acronym for Association of King County Historical Organizations, and we are an active member thereof.

AKCHO was incorporated in July, 1977, as a non-profit entity and also has tax-exempt status. Its purpose is: A) to coordinate local historical organizations for mutual assistance; B) to facilitate obtaining grants and funds for historical purposes; C) to establish and promote minimum standards for the organization and operation of historical organizations.

Since its inception AKCHO has achieved note as one of the most effective heritage groups in the State of Washington. It has a large, growing membership, meets monthly (Exc. December) and its members have been very helpful to us since our earliest days.

We will attempt to keep you apprised of upcoming dates and locations. Marian Short, of the Greater Maple Valley Historical Society, is President of AKCHO. Our member, Betsy Detroit, is Recording Secretary.

WASHINGTON STATE CENTENNIAL

Our Society, expects to take responsible leadership, locally, in developing plans and activities relating to the upcoming State Centennial Celebration in 1989.

As short a time ago as the middle of the last century this was one of the remaining pristine, undeveloped areas of this nation. We have a great history and a marvelous heritage deriving from those whose foresight, courage and fortitude have brought us, the 42nd State in the Union, to our present recognition as one of the most livable areas in the nation.

The upcoming Centennial will touch every citizen in this State and we can all play some role in honoring the achievements of our past generations. Plan now to make your personal commitment to become involved.

FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.
c/o SSCC, 6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106
Editor: John F. Van Gilder
Editorial Board: Elliott N. Couden, Margaret Mary Davies,
Clay Eals.

THE "WEST SIDE STORY"

The West Side Story began as a dream by Normie Beers, well-known and beloved former "Y" executive, and Exec.-Sec'y. of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce until his retirement several years ago. Normie has collected photos and historical data over a period of years and hoped to develop this into a local history book. It remained until 1986, when the Robinson Newspapers gave the project a pickup, before its consummation became guaranteed. The entire West Seattle Herald-White Center News staffs have worked on expanding the content and planning production for the past year. Our Society, and many individuals in the community, have given support to this landmark production including West Seattle and White Center history. Publication date is set for July 1, 1987, in both softbound and hardbound copies. These will be a wonderful gift for all family members, former residents, etc.

Orders are now being accepted at the News office.

LOOKING PAST "WEST SIDE STORY"

The research that has brought forth a treasure of photographs and historical data for the upcoming "West Side Story" is a boon to our Society. We have been promised, for our collections, a fair amount of these findings and much will remain for negotiation. Our Research Director, Allan R. Cunningham, will be expanding the work done to date by coordinating our Society's plans to deal, eventually, with every aspect of history in this area. Al's message to you is, "This year we want to get as many photographs of West Seattle and White Center as possible. People, old buildings, events, etc. are needed for our collection. PLEASE don't write on pictures, either front or rear, nor attach anything to them. It could reduce their historic value. On a separate sheet of paper inscribe the date the picture was taken; what is shown in the photo; where it is or was; and identity of people, if possible." He cautions, "Old pictures are delicate and we must handle them most carefully. Call me at 937-0592, and I will pick them up." Al is also looking for volunteers who will work on any of a number of historic projects.

Tape recorders are available.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

It is important that we be notified of any changes in address or telephone numbers of members. There will be mailings going out with some frequency to all members in good standing and we need accuracy to do the job.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

We have an official "DONOR FORM" to be used when receiving historical materials for the Society. Call any officer for forms, as required. Mr. John C. Ashford, Director of the Instructional Resources Center at South Seattle Community College, is our Archivist, and our collections are stored at the college. He may be contacted at 764-5395.

WE LOSE A MEMBER

We note with sadness the passing of pioneer merchant EDMOND J. DUPREE, who began his career in White Center in April, 1925. Ed was probably our oldest member (Charter No. 34) and would have celebrated his 92nd birthday on May 7th.



EDMOND J. DUPREE
(5/7/95 - 3/17/87)
with wife Della, March, 1986

HONORARY MEMBERS

Our By Laws provide for Honorary Memberships in this Society, nominated and elected by the Executive Board. No special criteria are specified. Honorary members enjoy dues-free, full membership privileges but, while enjoying that status, shall not hold office as an officer or trustee. Those who have been so honored to date are:

Member No. 25: Mr. Jerry M. Brockey, former history teacher in Seattle Public Schools (Chief Sealth in particular), dynamic President of South Seattle Community College (which is our host meeting place, our mailing address, and repository for our collections). Mr. Brockey has been totally supportive and he has our deepest respect and admiration.

Member No. 26: Mr. Charles G. Payton, Community Museum Advisor of the King County Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Payton has been helpful in the formation of this Society from day one. He is a highly respected and knowledgeable member of the historic community and we are proud that he is "one of us".

Member No. 27: Mr. Norman A. Beers. "Normie", as he is known to his many admirers, has devoted his entire career in service to people and "people-activities", as a "Y" executive and as a West Seattle Chamber executive. As an avid historian he is one of our most prized citizens.

Member No. 72: Mr. Ferdinand Schmitz, Jr. Mr. Schmitz, member of an outstanding West Seattle pioneer family, has identified with South Alki for his entire life. He is supportive of our Society and its aspiration to become a significant entity in this community.

Member No. 73: Mr. Jesse Neiswender. The mere mention of Mr. Neiswender brings nostalgic memories to the surface for untold numbers who came under his influence as teacher and principal in the Highline School District. His devotion to public education will ever be remembered.

Member No. 74: Mr. David N. Lillevand. Known as "Bob" or "Bibs" to old friends, Mr. Lillevand is an outstanding graduate of West Seattle High School, Class of 1919, and still active in its "Monogram Club". He prepared, primarily for his own satisfaction, a scrapbook and reminiscences of "South Alki-Spring Hill Villa" that is a touching expression of most aspects of that area since 1903. He has donated this two-volume creation to this Society, and is one of our avid supporters. Bob is a retired Vice President of the Grace Lines and now resides in Alameda, California.

Member No. 75: Mr. Phares H. Metzler. Mr. Metzler, member of a pioneer White Center family, still resides in the old family home. His father was active in many early improvements in the area, especially in education and in transportation. We are pleased to thus honor a family so identified with development of White Center.

Members of this Society are invited to make suggestions for further honorees, with appropriate data, to any member of the Executive Board.

? ? ? ? ? ?
? ? **EARLY SCHOOL QUIZ** ?

? **DID YOU KNOW?** ?

That the first school district to serve West Seattle children was King County School District No. 9 created in 1869 to serve the area from the Duwamish to the Sound from now Southwest Alaska Street to Southwest 112th Street?

The district has several names over the years but the last name was "South Park" because that was where the school was located at 10th Ave. So. & S. Sullivan Street in South Park.

The second school district to serve West Seattle created in 1889 was "Riverside". The two room building constructed in 1891 is the gray building inside the lumber yard at 5900 W. Marginal Way. It served the area east of 16th Avenue Southwest to the river between Southwest Alaska and Southwest Kenyon Streets.

When created in 1890, the West Seattle School District served the area from Southwest Alaska Street to Duwamish Head, and 35th Avenue Southwest to the Sound, with the school at 47th Avenue Southwest and Lander Street.

BAGLEY'S HISTORY OF KING COUNTY

One of this Society's earliest acquisitions was the four-volume "History of King County, State of Washington" (1929), by Clarence B. Bagley. The first volume is entirely King County history, the other three are biographies.

We purchased our set from the White River Valley Historical Society and these helpful folk advise us that a few new sets are still available at reasonable cost. If interested in acquiring a set call Al Leslie at 833-2496.

Meanwhile, we have placed our set in the South Seattle Community College library. Volumes, as available, may be checked out of the library by members of this Society without charge.

CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Our present plan is to produce this newsletter on a quarterly schedule. Material for our next issue will be assembled from this point in time with a deadline early in June. All members are invited to submit contributions. Mail to the Society, c/o S.S.C.C., and mark "newsletter" on the envelope. Be sure that your name is affixed to material submitted.

FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.
c/o SSSC 6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106