

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

Issue III

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 1988

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

There aren't many "perks" in this position of "President" in our historical society. However, there are a lot of "kicks" if you can keep your sense of humor intact. Today I was invited to give an 8-lecture presentation, at an educational institution, on "History of Washington State". The request was graciously declined. (Reason? Totally unqualified!) But, it was surely nice to be asked.

I get calls from folks in other communities who wish to do their version of our "West Side Story"; how to fight City Hall on a preservation issue?; and where can one obtain some "Alki" pins? On some of these I can provide a bit of assistance. Most of the time, though, it's just plain old work that must be done: meetings, agendas, reports, correspondence, follow ups, newsletters, committees, you name it!

But, I love it! How great it is to get acquainted with the world of historic preservation; the organizations, the museums, the people. I'm grateful to our membership, to my family, and to many others, for their support and encouragement. I have a hunch that '88 will be another interesting adventure. C'mon along and share the experience!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## WHENCE COMETH "FOOTPRINTS"?

The name of our newsletter has an impeccable source, and is relevant to our aspirations. It is a portion of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "A Psalm of Life", written in 1839, as follows:

"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time."

## ERRATUM

Our Sept. '87 issue carried the date of death of our late Charter Member Chet Hill as July 5, 1977. The year should be 1987. Our deepest apologies.

## WE'LL NOT FORGET:

### DAVID N. "BOB" LILLEVAND

Honorary Charter Member, who died in Alameda, Cal. on Sept. 17, 1987. A 1919 West Seattle High grad, he rose to Vice-President of the Grace steamship line. He donated his pioneer days memoirs of South Alki to this society.

### BEN WEEKS

Life Charter Member, who expired on Dec. 2, 1987. A noteworthy gentleman, Ben was CEO of The Leckenby Co., and served his community in many significant ways. He is survived by his wife, Roberta, 6 children, and countless friends.

## YOUR 1988 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### OFFICERS

Elliott N. Couden	
President .....	932-2290
Neal Lockett	
Vice President .....	763-2883
Mary A. Bondeson	
Secretary .....	937-1688
John C. Ashford	
Treasurer .....	764-5395

### TRUSTEES

### Term Exp.

Dr. Aurlo A. Bonney .....	1988
Gerald Robinson .....	1988
Allan R. Cunningham .....	1989
Candace Lein-Hayes .....	1989
Clay Eals .....	1990
Brad Chrisman .....	1990



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our Third Annual Meeting convened at South Seattle Community College on October 6, 1987.

27 members and 3 visitors were in attendance.

The meeting, chaired by Pres. Elliott Couden, opened with a time of remembrance for those who have died since our last Annual Meeting, including Mr. William Pollock, husband of Trustee Elsie Pollock; Mr. Edmond J. Dupree; Mr. Chester A. Hill; and Mr. David N. Lillevand.

Officers and Trustees were duly nominated and elected. Several reports were presented. (See other column for entire '88 slate)

Dorothy "Dottie" Harper, South End Community activist and historical preservationist, was elected to Honorary Membership.

Mr. Jerry Brockey, S.S.C.C. Prexy, greeted all in attendance and, on behalf of this society, presented a Meritorious Service plaque to Mr. Jerry Robinson and Mr. Clay Eals. The inscription is as follows:

### MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

THIS RECOGNITION IS PRESENTED WITH  
GREAT APPRECIATION FOR  
AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION  
TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION,  
THE WEST SIDE STORY,  
A HISTORY OF  
WEST SEATTLE/WHITE CENTER,  
FULFILLING A DREAM OF LOCAL  
HISTORIAN NORMAN A. BEERS.

OUR HIGH ESTEEM TO  
ROBINSON NEWSPAPERS,  
GERALD ROBINSON, PUBLISHER;  
THE WEST SEATTLE HERALD  
AND THE WHITE CENTER NEWS,  
CLAY EALS, EDITOR,  
AND THEIR EXCELLENT STAFFS.

GIVEN THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1987.  
SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Couden announced that: a) Three committees would be activated in the near future.

1. Membership
  2. Centennial Planning
  3. Long Range Planning.
- b) The I.R.S. has confirmed our tax exempt status.  
c) We are highly supportive of the Statue of Liberty Renovation Project.

Research Director Al Cunningham provided a display of a part of our historical collection.

## FLIGHTS OF FANCY (A/K/A Fancy Flights)

We can reasonably be termed the "AVIATION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD". King County (Boeing) International and SeaTac International are two of the busiest airports in the nation. It wasn't always thus, of course. Long before SeaTac was constructed Boeing Field was the local hub for flyers and flying. In the 1920's and early '30's "field" was the proper word, for that is all that they were, fields.

The Duwamish River once meandered across the area that later became "Boeing Field" and aircraft had to take off from cinder runways. Interest in early local aviation activities is well within our area of concern. The flyers and mechanics of those days lived in nearby residential locales such as Greater West Seattle. Many Boeing Company personnel live in this area.

We're going to try to relive some of that early flying scene in this column. One of our own members was very actively involved in those "Golden Days" of aviation. He will serve as one of our top contributors in his own inimitable style. May I introduce Mr. Winston Lee "Win" Leggitt.

Let's take off on our first "flight", Win . . . . .

"I soloed in an Arrow Sport (LeBlond 60 H.P.) on June 15, 1930. I chuckle when I recall a reclassification flight in 1936 with Dept. of Commerce inspector Bill Moore. We had on seat packs but Moore said just do two 360 degree vertical turns and two gentle stalls with recovery . . . and nothing else, because, "I've got a heck of a hangover!!" So we got up there and I laid the Kinner-Fleet over and watched Mt. Rainier go past the nose twice . . . then stuck'er up in the sky and we floated to a straight down position. Moore turned around and signalled . . . "That's enough . . . LAND!!"

### FOOTPRINTS

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



## CENTENNIAL UPDATE

**Brad Chrisman** is Chair of our Centennial Committee. The committee has adopted the following stance:

1. Our upcoming State Centennial is deserving of a broad-based celebration across the state.
2. There are many interesting and innovative ways in which organized groups and individuals may participate.
3. The committee is sorting through a number of suggestions appropriate to our area of concern.
4. The committee will act as an enabler and broker of ideas, bringing potential projects and interested groups together.
5. Time is of the essence. The celebration will begin on November 11, 1988, and continue for the ensuing year.
6. Members of this society who wish to be active members of this committee may call Mr. Chrisman at 932-0300.

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**King County Centennial Commission**  
Co-Chairs:  
Rosanne Zemp/North Bend  
Lloyd B. Robinson/Seattle  
Staff: Deborah Swets, King County  
Centennial Coordinator ..... 340-4779

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

**On The** basis of information at hand we closed out 1987 with a total membership (since inception) of 141. We continue our invitations-to-membership with a goal of 175 members at the end of 1988.

## STATUE OF LIBERTY PROJECT

**The 17 foot** copper replica of the Statue of Liberty situate at Alki Beach will be renovated as soon as funds are available. Sale of Alki Lighthouse lapel pins is very brisk (\$2.00 each). The 1000 pins will become collectors items when sold out. We continue our support of this worthy activity initiated by the Southwest Seattle Community Relations Team of Pacific Northwest Bell.

## THE FORT LAWTON ISSUE

**The Destruction** of buildings that are recognized historical sites at Fort Lawton (Discovery Park) has raised the hackles of historic preservationists across the nation.

Despite the fact that twelve of the remaining buildings were nominated as Seattle City Landmarks and that the Mayor and the Parks Department signed an agreement to save and restore seven of the twelve, demolition proceeded this past Fall.

The historic old Snoqualmie Lodge has suffered the same fate. Only intervention by concerned persons and organizations can stem the trend toward elimination of many historic structures.

With respect to the Fort Lawton issue, a suit has been filed in Federal Court against the City of Seattle for alleged violation of a 1978 "Memorandum of Agreement" by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.

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**For General** information relating to King County Historic Preservation call: Cheryl

Cronander,  
Acting Deputy Preservation Officer ..... 587-4859  
Charles Payton, Museum Advisor ..... 340-4781  
Flo Lentz, Cultural Resource Specialist ... 340-4782

## TO MEMBERS WITH ARTIFACTS/PHOTOS

**We Urge** those members who have indicated that they have items that can enhance our society's collections to do so at earliest opportunity.

S.S.C.C. has allocated storage space that should provide adequate security for all donated objects. Donor forms are available on request. Please call any one of our officers (names and phone numbers printed elsewhere) and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Our long-term plans for storage, display, and other matters will be developed early this year.

## 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.



## PUBLICATIONS

**THE 1871 Territorial Census for King County, Washington Territory.** First known business directory for Seattle. 45 pages. Cost is \$7.72, tax and postage included; from M.C. Rhodes, P.O. Box 85005, Seattle, WA 98145-1005.

**SUSTAINING A Vital Downtown Community: A Study of the Market Foundation.** Social history of the Pike Place Market. 100 pages, illustrated. Cost is \$10.00. For info. call 682-PIKE.

**FORT NISQUALLY, A Documented History of Indian and British Interaction.** A Nisqually Indian's insights into the Hudson's Bay Co. 208 pages, illustrated. Cost is \$13.95 plus \$2.59 Postage and handling. Contact: Tahoma Research Service, P.O. Box 44306, Tacoma, WA 98444.

**SEATTLE IN THE 1880's,** by David Buerge. Life and times of Seattle's first boom period. 115 pages, illustrated. Cost is \$11.95. Avail. through Museum of History and Industry gift shop. Call 324-1125.

**The KING COUNTY Landmarks Commission Anniversary Report 1982—1987** Brief description of 30 designated landmarks. 16 pages, illustrated. Avail. from Historic Preservation Programs, 1115 Smith Tower, 506 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98104. Cost is \$1.00 (in postage stamps only).

**FRONTIER JUSTICE: A Guide to the Court Records of Washington Territory 1853—1889.** Indexing of over 37,000 files from probate and district court cases. Two volumes. For info. contact King County Regional Branch, Washington State Archives, 1809 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168. Or call 764-4276.

**Members of the Legislature 1889—1987.** A biographical guide to those who have served this state over the years. For info. contact your area senator or representative.

**The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History.** By Richard K. and Lucile McDonald. A rare glimpse into an industry and a way of life that has almost entirely disappeared. 121 pages, photos, maps, diagrams. For info on cost and availability: The Issaquah Alps Trails Club, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027.

(Excerpts from "Community History" newsletters)

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c/o SSCC, 6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106