

Footprints

on the sands of time....

Issue V

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1988

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

I Venture to suggest that the way we treat our historic artifacts tends to reflect ourselves as we truly are.

Some share their talents, energy and substance freely and cheerfully and, in so doing, provide a legacy to others far beyond their life-span.

Others minimize their God-given ability and some cling to their possessions as tightly as to life, itself. To what avail?

We all (should) know that it is the quality of our life experience that is most important, not our attained age nor our possessions.

My point is simply that all of us who can offer our abilities and who can donate items of enduring interest to the community, through this society, do so while we can enjoy the transaction.

As the old saying goes, "You can't take it with you." Appears to be a salutary reason to share those talents and "precious" material objects.

WE RECEIVE AN AWARD!

On May 12, 1988, Executive Board member Clay Eals received, on behalf of our society, our first recognition award. The ceremony took place at the County Landmarks Commission meeting at the King County Courthouse.

We were honored by the Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) with a certificate for our input leading to publication of the "West Side Story", "an outstanding effort toward the heritage of King County", according to a letter received from the Association.

We could not have appointed a happier representative, as charter member Eals was the Editor of that excellent publication.

OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

TO:

All Members,
Southwest Seattle Historical Society

FROM:

Elliott N. Couden,
President.

The Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6, 1988 at South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Avenue S.W., Seattle, WA 98106, in Room RS-79, commencing at 9:00 A.M.

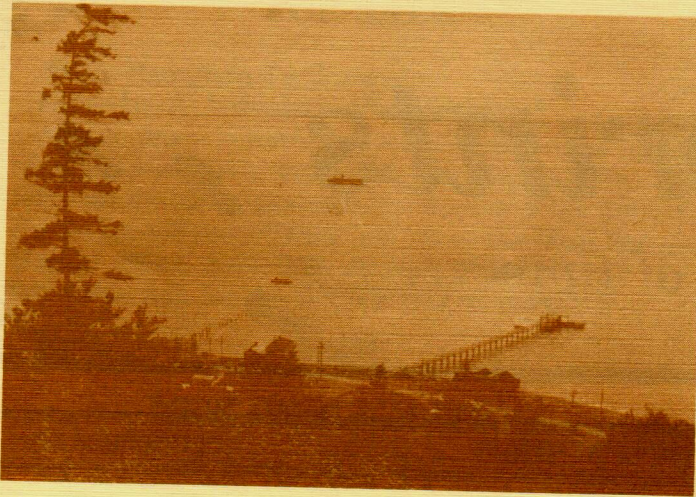
The agenda will include nomination and election of Officers and Trustees, annual reports, updates on the Centennial and other projects and business.

- Refreshments
- Rosters available
- Artifact display

All of you are urged to attend and participate. Questions? Call Mr. Couden at 932-2290.

NOTICE

Nominations For Honorary Members will be received and acted upon by Executive Board members at the Annual Meeting. All members may submit recommendations, with supporting data, to Executive Board members prior to the meeting date.



CARROLL STREET PROJECT

On August 30, 1988, a hearing was held before the City of Seattle Board of Public Works where Lezlie Jane, member of the society, sought a use permit.

The improvement in question is the proposed "West Seattle Weather Watch", to be constructed at the west end of S.W. Carroll Street, on Beach Drive S.W., abutting Puget Sound. This historic spot, one short block from the original Alki School site, and the first Congregational Church site, once had a long pier that served South Alki for both passenger service and supplies.

Little remains of the original pier and many are surprised to hear that it ever existed. The structure was built by the City of Seattle under Ordinance #34753, in 1915. The photograph was taken about that time by Mrs. Alice Seargeant from her original home at 3820 57th Ave S.W., looking southwesterly, and we express our gratitude for her gracious assistance. The building at the shore side (north) of the pier was a public rest room. In the photo one can see the steamer "Clatawa", docked at the end of the pier.

At the aforementioned hearing several spoke for the proposal, several spoke against it. The Board concluded that more people needed to express themselves on the matter and tentatively scheduled a second hearing on October 7, 1988. They meet in Room 402, 400 Yesler Way. Call Ms. Jane at 938-4922 for time.

Letters in favor of the project are heartily encouraged. We seek to show that we are celebrating the historic and natural setting of the

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Editor: Elliott N. Couden
Editorial Board: Margaret Mary Davis, Clay Eals,
John F. Van Gilder.

150 feet wide site. The beach below would not be altered. In place of the weed and waste cluttered landscape would be plantings of wild heather, lavender, sea grasses, roses and rosemary.

WRITE TO: Board of Public Works
City of Seattle
400 Yesler Bldg, Room 403
Seattle WA 98104

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

"Win" Leggitt wore the white coveralls of a Northwest Air Service Mechanic from 1929 to 1940 on Boeing Field. He attended the recent reunion of contemporaries of that period. Here's his report.

What a beautiful day! July 15, 1988. It couldn't have been more perfect for a birthday party celebrating Boeing Field's 60th birthday. (About 50,000 people attended the opening of the field in 1928).

The celebration took place at the Terminal Building in an unused passenger waiting room. There, the noise level rose constantly as arriving "Grey Eagles" shouted greetings to each other and then immediately began to open their memory banks and relate happenings in the thirties.

General aviation was moved over the mountains to airfields in the eastern part of the state during W.W.II. When that was over, there was a realization that all the 'planes of the twenties and thirties still flying had suddenly become classics due to the extreme change in design of post war models. It could be said that the men who tended and flew the early models might also be termed "classics". They were a fine group of people.

One outstanding attendee was Clayton Scott, whose flying career covers about every phase of aviation. To total up the experiences of all those gathered there would be a giant task. This was a fine event. . . right up to and including the Birthday Cake!

A.K.C.H.O. MEETING REMINDER

The Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) will be hosted by our society at its regular November meeting. The meeting will be convened by President Marian Short in Room RS-79 of So. Seattle Community College on Nov. 22, 1988, at 9:30 AM. Any of our members that plan to attend will please so notify Mr. Couden at 932-2290.

SOME HISTORIC MEMORIES

In Our last newsletter we urged members to submit, for our permanent records, memories of "days of yore", and responses have been happily received.

Two of those who attended the very earliest meetings leading to the formation of the society were Avis Larson Borgh and (Mary) Jane McInchak, nee Koenen. These two lovely ladies came up with most interesting documents from which we will glean but a few highlights for this issue of "Footprints". Our warmest expressions of gratitude to you both!

Avis recounts how, during the Great Depression, her father, Magnus William Larson, his wife Petra, and daughter Avis, located a house on a "near acre", with Sound view, just southwest of the White Center business district. The address, 9645 21st Ave S.W.

The structure needed quite a bit of work but Magnus, a man of many talents and much experience, had it ready for occupancy within three months. He later built a second rental house at the west end of the property and had a new roadway bulldozed to create what is now 22nd Ave S.W. Petra was honored at the annual Pioneer Breakfast in both 1966 and 1967 as White Center's "Oldest Living Pioneer" in attendance.

There's much more and it is fascinating reading.

Jane (nee Koenen), submitted a genealogy of her family going back to her great grandparents: Matthys Carl Joseph Koenen, born in Groningen, Holland, 1827. He died in 1902. His wife was Diana Arnold, born September 28, 1828, in Delfzyl, Holland. She died on February 18, 1861.

There's a mass of information in her submission, written by her father, Jacob M. Koenen, in 1968, a couple of years before his death.

These documents are available for perusal through our archivist, Mr John C. Ashford, 764-5395.

ETHNIC HERITAGE LANDMARKS

Our Society has been notified by the King County Landmarks Commission that through 1988 the Commission will focus its energies designating structures, sites, and objects associated with ethnic heritage.

As part of our planning for the Centennial Celebration we are encouraging all in this society to identify those properties in unincorporated King County where members of various ethnic groups have lived, worked and socialized. We need, then, to work with owners to submit nominations to the King County Landmarks Commission for review. For more details call Kathy Saunders at 296-4858.

FT LAWTON BLDGS. PRESERVED

On June 13, 1988, the Seattle City Council voted to save from destruction six historic Fort Lawton buildings following a federal judge's order to reconsider an earlier demolition plan.

The turn-of-the-century structures that will remain include the Band barracks, the guard house, a stable, civilian quarters, the administration building, and the PX-gymnasium.

Ultimate preservation will depend upon a funding assist from the State.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

The King County Historical Preservation Program retains its address at 1115 Smith Tower, 506 Second Ave., Seattle 98104. However, the office has a new telephone number: 296-4858.

The Cultural Resource Specialist may be reached at 296-8682; the Community Museum Advisor at 296-8693.

MARITIME PHOTO EXHIBIT

Here's One for you "sea dogs". An outstanding exhibit of maritime historical photographs, covering the period on Puget Sound between 1893 and 1905, is available through September 30, 1988.

The Wilhelm Hester photos may be seen at the "Water Link" interpretive center on Pier 57. One may contact Scott Powell at 543-0206 for further information.

WELCOME TO FEDERAL WAY

Following A trend that began about a dozen years ago, a new local historic preservation society in Federal Way has been added to a steadily growing list of such organizations in King County.

On June 26, 1988, the Historical Society of Federal Way was formed. The President is Shirley R. Charnell. We salute this new entity and wish it well in the days ahead.

RENTON HISTORY BOOK

A New illustrated history of Renton is under development, with both the Renton Historical Society and the Renton Chamber of Commerce as sponsors.

Author/Historian David Buerge will be the writer and the book is expected off the presses in November, 1989.

FOR SALE

Best Bargain In Town! Once-In-A-Lifetime Publication!

A 288 page historical book chock full of great photographs and information. Only \$4.95!!!! Buy 'em for your children, grandchildren, your folks back in Peoria, or wherever! Pick 'em up at the West Seattle Herald office, 3500 S.W. Alaska Street, or call 932-0300. Ask for the **WEST SIDE STORY**.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

"Washington: Images of a State's Heritage" is sponsored by the state Centennial Commission as its "official" history. (Melior Publications, \$29.95)

"Historical Atlas of Washington" (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, \$27.95)

MEMBER EXPIRES

Charter Member Eaver O. Northquist died on June 9, 1988. Eaver was a fine gentleman and an enthusiastic supporter of our society. He is "sore missed" by all who knew him.

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KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Authorized By Ordinance 4828 in 1980, the Commission has designated 39 landmarks in King County. Additional properties are in process.

Members include:

Stephen Kenyon, Chair, Vashon Island
Dorothy Cordova, Seattle
LaVern C. Williams Hall, Bellevue
Marjorie Phillips, Seattle
Joan Robinson, Bellevue
John Williams, Seattle
Jean Young, Seattle
Tracy Owen, Jr., Bothell

The Commission has voted to request expansion to 14 members. Meetings are open to the public from 9 A.M. to noon and are held in the Executive Conference Room (#400) of the King County Courthouse, 516 Third Ave., in Seattle. Future dates are Oct. 6, Nov. 10, and Dec. 15, 1988.