

Footprints

on the sands of time....

Issue VII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1989

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

By: Clay Eals

If there's a theme for our historical society for the past three months, it's been **VISIBILITY**. We have leapt to the attention of the public. I realize that's due in part to my ex-newsman's instincts for drawing media coverage. But the reasons are deeper than that. We've gotten the coverage because we've taken on events and activities full of substance, full of the stuff that truly is worth the public's attention.

Some of what we've been doing deserves note because of its scale, charm, uniqueness and timeliness. The Dec. 10th Centennial Cruise aboard the *Virigina V*, which drew more than 200 people, falls into that category. So do the three other upcoming major Centennial activities that grew out of the wonderfully productive Jan. 10th planning meeting. This is the year of the Centennial and our community's activities (which include the fast-approaching "Tour of Historic Homes and Sites", on May 13th), stack up well against those of any other community.

And then some of our activity deserves note because of its inherent conflict and controversy. I'm referring, of course, to the effort to save the Admiral Twin Theatre. The ingredients are potent: A community's groundswell of affection for and attachment to a 47-year-old landmark; a secretive conglomerate that is anything but community-oriented; political help from the city, the fears of some that we might be tying up the economic potential of a piece of private property; our Save-the-Admiral effort begs the question of a detailed policy on saving the area's other treasured structures (and that's a topic the executive board plans to address and get the membership's feelings on later this year).

I feel that the approaches represented in both the Centennial and the Admiral efforts are valid and exciting. They stir healthy discussions, pump

up the adrenaline and tell ourselves and the rest of the world we're an organization of some stature, an active bunch with a lot of spunk and pride.

We're going places, and I'm glad for all the visibility. It certainly will broaden our base of members allowing us to do even bigger and better things in the years ahead.

SEATTLE LANDMARKS INFORMATION

The Seattle Landmarks Board meetings this year will be held on Wednesdays at 3:30 P.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Arctic Bldg., 700 Third Avenue, Seattle, 98104, as follows:

March 1 and 15th

April 5 and 19

May 3 and 17

June 7 and 21

July 5 and 19

August 2 and 16

September 6 and 20

October 4 and 18

November 1 and 15

December 6 and 20

Chair of the Board is Mary McCumber.

A brochure describing the work of the Board, entitled, "Historic Preservation in Seattle: A Guide to Incentives and Programs", as well as a list of City of Seattle Landmarks, is available from the Office of Urban Conservation, 700 Third Avenue, Sixth Floor, Seattle, WA 98104.

WHAT'S COOKIN'

1. **The well-touted Centennial Cruise** on the Virginia V on December 10 is now history but for the benefit of all our members we consider it to have been our premier project of 1988.

We had a wonderful time swinging to the marvelous music out of Ray Johnston's Duwamish Dixiland Band, admiring the large number of vintage outfits, the T.L.C. given by "High Profiles Hostess Agency", and fine cuisine by "A Taste Divine" catering. It took a year-and-a-half to put it all together, but it was worth the effort!

2. **By now** you are probably aware that we have been up to here in the Admiral Theater closing-landmark-designation-controversy. Hearing of Admiral's closure on Sunday, Jan. 29, 1989, just two days in advance, we generated a demonstration in front of the theater in which 50 persons participated. Petitions for Landmark Status were circulated then and subsequently and over 1,500 signatures have been obtained to date. We salute members of West Seattle Cultural Society who joined the demonstration; Boyd Swanson and Moe Beerman, who constructed signs; politicians Talmadge, Heavey, Valle and Nickels (they're all members, folks), who joined in the parade; and media coverage by the Seattle Times, the Post-Intelligencer, the West Seattle Herald, KIRO and KOMO T.V.

Most of the people entering the theater that evening were shocked to learn that this would be the end of a 47 year-old West Seattle tradition. Since then, the City of Seattle has expressed strong support of seeking Landmark Status and has contracted with a professional preservationists, Flo Lentz, to handle the requisite procedures and paperwork on behalf of the city. (She's a member, too, folks).

3. **On Jan. 10** we held an Executive Board meeting at the college and established some priorities and objectives for 1989.

Action included: Activation of a formal Membership Committee, with Betsy Detroit as Chair; Activation of a Collection Committee, with Flo Lentz, Chair. Centennial activities will be top priority.

Following that meeting an open-to-the public membership meeting was convened for the purpose of selecting Centennial projects. Fifty-one suggestions were listed.

The outcome was the formation of three committees, with leadership and projects as follows:

(a)

A Tour of Historic Sites (local)
Flo Lentz - 937-7525

(b)

Reenactment of the Alki Landing, 1851
Brad Chrisman, Chair - 935-9366

(c)

Indian Heritage
Candi Lein-Hayes, Chair - 937-2823

4. **A late-spring** concert by reknowned composer Earl Robinson is being negotiated.

5. **The Weatherwatch** project is moving ahead steadily.

6. **The Junction** Mural Project. Entries by three finalists are on display through March 10 at Pacific First Federal Bank, 4209 S.W. Alaska St. You can vote for your favorite at the bank.

Additional information:

Joan Mraz or Mike McCrath
at 764-5371, or

Earl Cruzen at 932-2345.

AKCHO INSTALLS

At the Association of King County Historical Organizations Annual Meeting held at the Nordic Museum, in Ballard, on January 24, the following officers were installed:

President: Leslie Martin

Vice-President: Bob Frazier

Recording Secretary: Linda Van Nest (backup, Flo Lentz)

Corresponding Secretary: Marie Folkins (backup, Betsy Detroit)

Treasurer: Bea Mathewson

Trustees:

Fred Holmquist
Joe Warner
Marcie Williams

FOOTPRINTS

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

KENNEY HOME HAS FIRST WEST SEATTLE CENTENNIAL PROJECT



Mr. William Barnet, age 96, poses by one of five Japanese Flowering Cherry trees at a tree-planting ceremony at the Kenney Retirement Home, 7125 Fauntleroy Way S.W. The occasion was the first day of the year-long celebration of the Washington State Centennial.

At the suggestion of this society the folks at the Kenney Retirement home held a ceremony on the home grounds on the first day of the Centennial Celebration. They planted five (5) Japanese Flowering Cherry trees, and Mr. William Barnet, age 96, (pictured), led the pack! Congratulations to you go-getters at the Kenney.

BELATED RECOGNITION

Space considerations only has us failing, until now, to recognize Jack Van Gilder's selection, last Fall, as "Kiteflier of the Year" by the American Kitefliers Association (AKA). This distinguished member of our Editorial Board is well-known in kiting circles across the world.

RECEIVED YOUR DEC. '88 FOOTPRINTS?

In an attempt to curb postage costs we enclosed a large number of end-of-year membership renewal notices in our December, 1988 issue of this newsletter, mailed First-Class.

The renewals have been so minimal that one suspects that many of our members did not receive that issue. If such is the case will you please call me at 932-2290 and another copy will be sent to you. Meanwhile, second renewal notices have been mailed.

Elliott N. Couden,
Editor

HISTORIC THEATER PRESERVATION

A Special program on "Historic Theaters: Efforts to Save Them", will be presented on March 8th between 7:00 and 9:15 P.M. at the landmark Paramount Theater, 901 Pine Street, Seattle, by the Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority.

For information call 622-6952.

BUERGE PRESERVATION

Author/Historian David M. Buerge will present a slide show of traditional native sacred places in the Seattle area on Sunday, March 5th. Site of the program is Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 19th & Madison, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. \$5.00 donation.

NEW BOOKS

"The Way to the Western Sea", by David Lavender. Harper & Row, \$22.95. Adventures of Lewis & Clark. 400 pages. Recommended.

"Good Schools: The Seattle Public School System. 1901-1930", by Bryce Nelson. University of Washington Press.

YOUR OLD PHOTOS PLEASE!

One of the greatest assets of any historic society is its collection of old photographs. For instance, the noteworthy Renton Historical Society reports a remarkable 2,725 photos in hand. We know that our membership has scads of old pictures. We'd like to have them ... originals, copies, negatives.

REFLECTIONS

At the White Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation Banquet on Feb. 24, I was presented with a very nice recognition plaque. It occurs to me that I share this honor with an awful lot of persons who supplemented, augmented and supported my efforts. Therefore, dear friends, know that when I look at this trophy in the days ahead I will see a reflection of you!

Elliott N. Couden

PLEASE PAYS DUES PROMPTLY

One of the largest expenses is POSTAGE. You can save your society a a lot of effort and money by responding to Dues Renewal Notices as soon as possible. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

RECOLLECTIONS

Here are the names that West Seattle resident Gloria McCarty recollects when thinking of "old timers" in the district:

The Wylde family, Allan, Norma and Sam
Lester and Rose Ainsley
Virigina Johnson
Mary Durkee
Hill McIvor
Herman Grotle
John Wickstrom
Vivian Mackey
J.W. Katner
Mildred Rubertson
Mrs. Fiset
Mrs. Lilly Moss
Mrs. Ruppert (Ruth) Thomas
Who do YOU remember?

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