

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

Issue VIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 1989

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

*By: Clay Eals*

Let's make a date, OK?

Or how about two or three or four or more?

Our historical society has exploded with activity during this Centennial year, but the schedule of events will go into high gear during the next few months.

So get out your calendar and a pencil or pen. Ready? Here goes:

**Friday through Sunday, July 14-16:**

We operate a booth at the West Seattle Street Festival, along California Avenue in the Junction. New Save the Admiral Theatre postcards will debut.

**Saturday, July 15:** We dedicate the first mural of the Centennial Mural Park at 11 a.m. in back of Morton's Drug, in the Junction.

**Thursday, July 20:** Southwest Seattle Historical Society executive board meeting at 7 p.m. at the South Seattle Community College library.

**Saturday, July 29:** We sponsor a float and sell Save the Admiral Theatre bumper stickers at the American Legion Grand Parade as part of the Hi-Yu celebration, which starts at 11 a.m. and runs along California Avenue from the Admiral district to the Junction.

**Sunday, Aug. 6:** We gather at Camp Long, 5200 35th Ave. S.W., for a membership picnic, from 1 to 5 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 25:** The State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation meets at 10 a.m. at an as-yet unspecified site in Bellingham to hold a hearing on state landmark status for the Admiral Theatre.

**Saturday, Oct. 7:** Annual membership meeting of Southwest Seattle Historical Society, from 10 a.m. to noon, at South Seattle Community College, room RS-79.

**Saturday, Nov. 11:** We sponsor a Centennial re-enactment of the Nov. 13, 1851, landing of the schooner Exact on Alki Beach.

Other articles in this eight-page Footprints (the first time this big!) provide details on all of these events. Here, I want to highlight just one -- the picnic on Aug. 6. If you do one thing for the historical society this summer, come enjoy the picnic. Here's why:

Dozens of our historical society members have accomplished great things, and we have much to show for that dedicated work. The successful Centennial Cruise on Dec. 10 and Centennial Tour of West Seattle on May 13 and the June 7 designation of the Admiral Theatre as a city landmark are among the highlights.

But one thing has been missing. Except for a well-attended and wonderfully productive Centennial planning meeting on Jan. 10, we haven't held any gatherings targeted just for our members. Our ten-person executive board has worked hard and met often, but it's not the same as a membership meeting.

We are at the point in our development that we need to hold regular membership meetings. We have many projects to get started. We need to get a group together to look at possibilities for a museum. We ought to put another group together to examine our collection of photos and other artifacts. Another group could put together a policy on which buildings in West Seattle and White Center that we should seek to give landmark status. (The Admiral was an obvious and timely initial choice, but we need to map out an overall approach to the issue.) We also need to assemble another group of people to plan our second annual Tour of West Seattle.

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This summer's picnic will be a start. But don't get me wrong. The picnic will be all the word implies -- a family get-together, a time to socialize in the summer sun at a jewel of an historic park in our area. It'll be a chance to have some fun. To relax. To play games. To eat hot dogs. To walk on nature trails.

But most important, it'll be a chance to meet other historical society members, to get the lowdown on what's happened in the past year and start talking up new projects and ideas. We'll get to know each other a little better, and we'll dream.

That's what the historical society is all about, actually. You may think it's documenting or saving physical things. But it's really people and their dreams. Without them, we would accomplish nothing.

Come and share some dreams on Sunday, Aug. 6.

## Come one, come all, to our membership picnic at Camp Long!

The date is Sunday, Aug. 6.

The time is 1 to 5 p.m.

The place is Camp Long, the beautiful, wooded city park at 5200 35th Ave. S.W.

The food is of your own choosing, although there will be plenty of hot dogs, coffee, ice cream and soft drinks available, courtesy of the society.

The dress is informal, suitable for a warm, relaxing day at the park.

The event is the 1989 membership picnic of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

The idea is simple: Let's get to know each other and have some fun!

You and anyone from your family are invited. We have reserved a large shelter and a kitchen, so bring whatever additional food you wish. Bring the kids and any games you wish (softballs, Frisbees, you name it). And bring a smile!

Coordinating the event is Klarinell (Kacey) Jung. If you would like to help organize a particular aspect of the picnic, or if you just have a question about it, please call her at 935-9489.

One last point:

Yes, the picnic will be on the same day as the Seafair Hydroplane Race on Lake Washington. But come to our picnic. We guarantee you'll have a better time.

### FOOTPRINTS

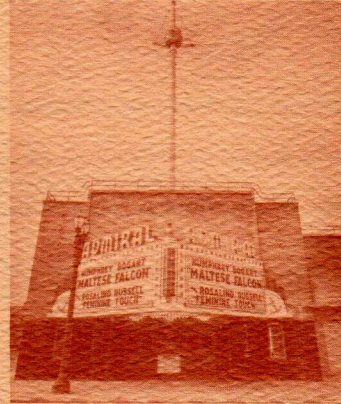
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Editorial Board: Elliott N. Couden, Editor, Margaret Mary Davies, Clay Eals, Florence K. Lentz.

## THE ADMIRAL

**West Seattle --** Admiral Theatre fans, take heart.

The unanimous June 7 vote of the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board to designate the Admiral a city landmark is triggering a new phase in the effort to preserve and reopen the 47-year-old moviehouse.



Admiral Theatre front facade:

Humphrey Bogart and Rosalind Russell star in one of the first double bills at the Admiral Theatre in 1942. Notice the marquee, mast and crow's nest that were removed with the twinning of the theatre in 1973.

*Photo courtesy of Richard McCann*

The Save the Admiral Theatre Task Force has entered into talks with Richard McCann, a West Seattle and Pasadena-based theater preservation expert who plans to execute a business plan for the Admiral building at 2343 California Ave. S.W. over the coming year.

McCann's architectural firm is the successor to that of B. Marcus Priteca, the legendary architect who designed the Admiral and many other theaters along the West Coast, including the Pantages chain.

The task force is a committee of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society that formed last Feb. 10, following the Jan. 29 closure of the Admiral by its owner, Toronto-based Cineplex Odeon.

When a three-member steering committee and about 25 active members, the task force mounted a massive campaign of public support for the theater. The task force has gathered more than 4,000 signatures on petitions and has sold more than 1,300 "Save-the Admiral Theatre" buttons.

In addition to working with McCann, the task force is launching a number of other efforts to eventually restore the Admiral's role as the hub for the northern West Seattle business district. Those activities include:

- Monitoring of the progress of talks between Seattle preservation staff and Cineplex Odeon in the Controls and Incentives phase of the city landmarks process.

(The negotiations are a direct follow-up to the 9-0 vote by the landmarks board to designate all of the exterior and most of the interior of the Admiral



**Admiral Theatre groundbreaking:**

Seventeen men pose at the groundbreaking for the Admiral Theatre in 1941. Of particular interest are B. Marcus Priteca (eighth from left), the Admiral's architect, and John Danz (10th from-left), the theatre's owner. Third from the left is Clyde Dunn, editor of the West Seattle Herald. Can you identify any of the others, some of whom are West Seattle business leaders?

*Photo courtesy of Richard McCann*

building a city landmark. The vote means that the owner of the Admiral must get permission from the landmarks board before attempting to modify designated portions of the building. The Admiral's owner, Cineplex Odeon, intends to sell the Admiral and has had the building on the market for several months.)

Publishing a limited-edition series of postcards, featuring historic and modern views of the Admiral's exterior and interior, including the beautiful underwater murals on the interior walls of the original auditorium that haven't been seen since the theater was twinned 16 years ago. The postcards will debut at the annual Sidewalk Sale on Thursday through Saturday, July 13-15, in the West Seattle Junction. Proceeds will go toward mailing costs and the McCann business plan. The task force is also working on the production of special Save (and Reopen) the Admiral bumper stickers.

Preparing a float for the American Legion Grand Parade that tops off West Seattle's annual Hi-Yu celebration. The float will resemble the Admiral, including special messages on the marquees. This year's parade will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 29.

Anyone interested in helping prepare for the Sidewalk Sale and Grand Parade, or in joining any of the task force's other efforts, should attend the next planning meeting at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 9, in the basement of the West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave. S.W., just a block east of the Admiral Theatre.

Further information is available from the task force's steering committee: Lynn Cornelius (728-9696 daytime, 938-4767 home), Clay Eals (543-0585 daytime, 935-7515 home) and Deb Barker (935-3591 home).

## Annual Meeting

We're going to try an experiment.

The annual membership meeting of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society won't be on a weekday morning this fall. And it won't be on a weekday evening.

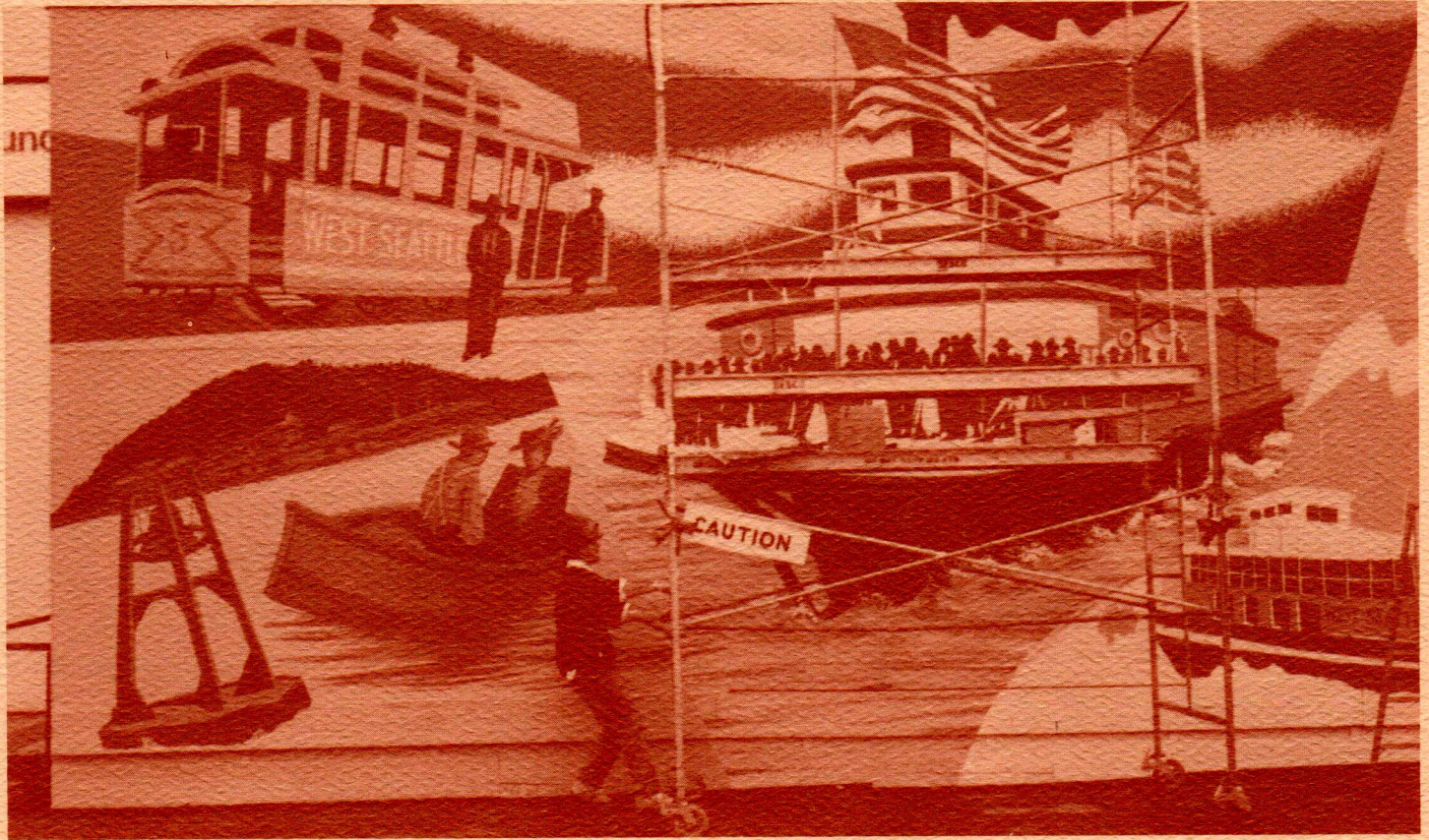
It'll be on a Saturday morning -- Oct. 7, to be exact.

We've had comments in the past about how weekday morning meetings left out those who have weekday jobs.

We've also heard that evening meetings don't work for many of our senior-citizen members who don't go out at night.

So this year, we'll hold the annual meeting on a Saturday. It'll begin at 10 a.m. in room RS-79 of South Seattle Community College. It should be over by noon, so that you can have a large, uninterrupted chunk of the weekend left.

We'll elect officers, review the past year and take care of other business. Mark the date on your calendars. We hope to see you there!



*Photos by Clay Eals*

## First Mural Goes Up; Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, July 15

The West Seattle Junction's first Centennial mural will get a full coming-out party on Saturday, July 15.

A dedication ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. that day in front of the mural, which is grandly painted on the rear wall of Morton's Drug and faces the Junction parking lot off 44th Avenue Southwest, just south of Southwest Alaska Street.

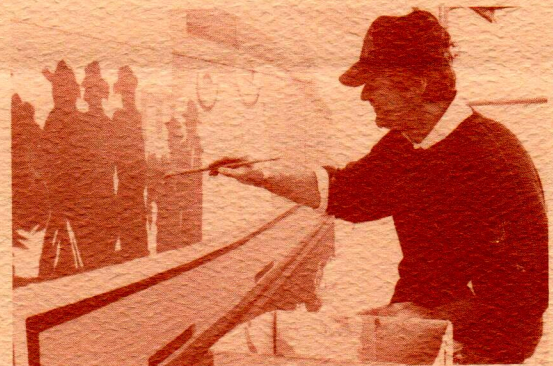
The ceremony will come at the height of the annual West Seattle Junction Street Festival.

The muralist, Portland artist William Garnett, will be present for the ceremony, as will officials of the Centennial Mural Park project, whose sponsors include the Junction Development Committee and South Seattle Community College.

Our historical society played a big role, too, in helping select the topics for the mural and providing photos to insure historical accuracy.

Garnett painted his mural in late June and early July. It is the first of two that are paid for by a \$17,661 grant from the King County Centennial Commission. The second mural, by Seattle artist Eric Grohe, will go up later this summer on the south wall of the Junction Feed & Seed building.

The theme of Garnett's mural is the role of transportation in the development of West Seattle 100 years ago. The giant work of art depicts the City of Seattle ferry, which began its runs between



Duwamish Head and downtown Seattle on Dec. 24, 1888. The first ferry to operate on Puget Sound, the City of Seattle operated until 1913.

Also shown on the mural is the ferry West Seattle, which operated on the Duwamish Head-to-downtown run from 1907 to 1921, and the West Seattle Cable Railway car that operated from the ferry landing up Ferry Avenue to what is now the Admiral district from 1890 to 1897.

Rich with earthy colors, Garnett's mural also shows Luna Park, the amusement park that operated from 1907 to 1913.

The second mural, by Grohe, will focus on Junction history. It will feature the West Seattle and Fautleroy streetcar lines, which crossed to form "the Junction" in 1907, and the Campbell Building, which was constructed in 1918 and is the Junction's oldest commercial structure.

For more information on the Mural Project, call Earl Cruzen, coordinator, at 932-2345.

## OUR FIRST HISTORIC TOUR

**The Weather** was glorious, the politicians waxed eloquently, and the volunteers were out in force for the Centennial Tour of Historic West Seattle.

Even Puget Sound yachtsmen obliged us that May morning with a colorful sailboat race past Alki Point.

This society's Centennial Cruise last December was a hard act to follow, but from all accounts we can regard the "Tour" as yet another smashing success. Over a dozen local businesses got involved and over fifty volunteers participated. Ticket sales reached the four hundred mark and, after expenses, the Society netted around \$1,400.00. Compliments flew thick and fast on the day of the event and for many days thereafter.

Among the many reasons for this happy ending was a hard-working (and **working** is the key word here) committee of about eight folks who met bi-weekly from January through mid-May. We were fortunate in bringing on board five great supporters, Ron Turner Realty, Inc., Soroptimists International of West Seattle, Sound Investments Realty, Inc., West Seattle Herald, and Windemere Real Estate. These generous businesses donated money, time and considerable expertise to the project.

Dozens of volunteers from our own membership and from supporting organizations pitched in on the day of the tour. Other businesses helped out with donated services, ticket sales, and advertising. Last, but not least, eight brave property owners opened their doors for the good of the cause.

The highlight of the entire day had to be the festive opening ceremony at the Hainsworth Mansion. Local politicians turned out in force, the mansion sparkled, and a table overflowed with fresh strawberries and home-baked muffins. It was a propitious beginning.

The Centennial Tour was a lot of work but, judging from the feedback, it was well worth the effort. Our Executive Board agrees and voted at its June meeting to sponsor the Second Annual Tour of Historic West Seattle next year!

Will we make any changes next year? Yes, indeed! We've learned a great deal; earlier planning, more private homes, better publicity will be our goals.

If you missed the Tour this year, don't make that mistake again. Better yet, be a part of the event by helping out. Watch your "Footprints" for later details!

## BY-LAWS UNDER REVIEW

**The Executive** Board has created a By Laws Review Committee which has submitted its recommendations and suggestions to the Board. There is still time to accept input from the membership at large. If you have any suggestions, please call Mr. Couden at 932-2290. Final action will be taken at our next Annual Meeting.

## PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

**Our Society** co-sponsored a Neighborhood Preservation Workshop on June 21, 1989, at the Hiawatha Fieldhouse. Other sponsors included the City of Seattle's Office of Urban Conservation, the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, and the Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority. There were both oral and slide presentations, all of which touched upon the unique qualities of this area, the historic preservation program, and the Landmarks designation process.

One thing we learned: the Landmarks Board is "high" on West Seattle. They seem to hold a bit of affection for this society, too!

## GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

**Genealogy Buffs Take Note.** A regional conference will be held as a centennial event on August 18-19 at the Red Lion Inn, 18740 Pacific Highway South, Sea-Tac. There are expected to be 50 sessions and up to 10 nationally known speakers. Cost is \$25 per day. For information call the sponsor Seattle Genealogical Society at 682-1410 or write P.O. Box 1708, Seattle, WA 98111.

## NEW ROSTER

**By The** time you receive this newsletter a new roster should be available for distribution. Your old rosters are out-of-date. We have many new members and there have been a number of other changes. To receive one simply call Mr. Couden at 932-2290 and one will be directed to you.

## ADDRESS CORRECTION

**The February 5, 1989,** roster contained a small, but important, mistake in Executive Board member Brad Chrisman's address. It should be 1834 40th Avenue S.W. Please correct your copy.

## NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

**When Clay Eals** took office as President of this society, a vacancy was created on our list of Trustees. At our March 22, 1989, meeting of the Executive Board Ms. Deb Barker was unanimously elected to fill the unexpired term of the vacated position. Deb is Vice Chair for Public Affairs of Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority of the City of Seattle. She is on the steering committee of our Admiral Theater Task Force. *Welcome aboard, Deb!*

## MEMORIES OF SOUTH ALKI

*(David N. "Bob" Lillevand moved from Highland Drive on Queen Anne Hill, with his family, to South Alki in 1903 when he was 1 year old. In later life he wrote a number of personal, informal, essays about observations and experiences that are a delight. He donated these memoirs to this society before his death on Sept. 17, 1987. We plan to publish more in later issues. Ed.)*

### THE WOODS

**Before 1907**, when West Seattle became a part of the City of Seattle, the area south of Alaska Street, both east and west of California Avenue, was literally a forest except for the Spring Hill area and a few farms serviced by Jacobsen Road leading from Alki Avenue\* to 12th & California (Dawson Street).

A history of the Seattle railway system described the 1907 Fauntleroy Park Line as "traversing country that was almost a primeval wilderness south of Youngstown"; and, Fauntleroy Park Line was extended during 1907 through almost uninhabited country to terminus at 45th Ave. S.W. and Roxbury Street, a tiny station known as "Endolyne", and a loop through the tall timber.

The forest included all the typical Northwest growth, including first growth Douglas Fir, hemlock, cedar, spruce, maple, alder, etc., with splashes of beautiful dogwood. In addition, there was abundant growth of ferns, salal, Oregon grape, as well as flowers and berry bushes previously mentioned.

Starting at Jacobsen Road back of the Svendsen property, there was a narrow, winding trail leading to the "Junction", 8th and California (Alaska). When raining or snowing it was prudent to use a tree branch to be worked ahead to shake off moisture and straighten up the overhanging growth. I always enjoyed the trail route to the Junction and other countless hours of hiking and exploration.

I had even more respect and admiration for the tall Douglas Firs when I learned that they were there, looking down on the HMS DISCOVERY in 1792, when anchored off Restoration Point on Bainbridge Island, this point sheltering Port Blakely from the more severe southwest storms. Captain Vancouver dispatched Peter Puget through the channel on the west side of Vashon Island, where he discovered a bay, a half century later to be named "Commencement Bay", Tacoma's harbor.

These first growth trees also witnessed Chief Seattle and members of the Suquamish and Duwamish tribes welcome the Denny-Terry group land on the north side of Alki Point in 1851, the beginning of an era that would lead to the destruction of all first growth timber, except in Schmitz Park, in Alki and West Seattle in less than a century.

Forest fires, one particularly devastating, in the Fauntleroy area, destroyed many of the old trees and growth, and the development of homes made necessary their continuing elimination.

The last giant fir tree in the area above Jacobsen Road was east of the Svendsen property. Trees, like people, do not seem to get along very well without companions, so when it obviously was becoming tired it was necessary to remove it while there was still open space into which it could fall without property damage. At that time there was only one resident in the area of the tree. Because of the potential risks experienced loggers were employed. With all the advance planning and precautions, notwithstanding, the tree landed directly on top of the small home, completely demolishing it! Call it justive, retribution, or whatever, it just seemed proper that the last of the giant Douglas firs, following the victims of fires and so-called progress, should go down fighting, a last futile gesture of defiance.

As related to our fishing, they also took with them our only means of locating the great sole fishing area, which we had always sited using the position of certain tall fir trees.

We always referred to the hillside forest as "The Woods".

\* At that time what we now call "Beach Drive" was called "Alki Avenue".

### CARROLL STREET UPDATE

**Lezlie Jane**, creator of the "Weatherwatch" Centennial rest stop concept at the foot of historic Carroll Street, reports substantial personal and financial support from the community. On behalf of the society, the Executive Board has underlined our long-time support and sponsorship with a \$250 pledge toward eventual expenses.

## Editorial

### LANDMARKS POLICY

When The Admiral Theater closing was on the agenda of an Executive Board meeting earlier this year, a task force was created to follow through in response to the overwhelming support expressed through signed petitions, to seek Landmark status for the closing theater. We have never been involved in this kind of situation nor had we ever adopted a clear policy or guideline. One of our board members, Allan Cunningham, suggested that we adopt such a policy and we have been looking into the subject matter since that time. It looks to as though we are plowing fresh ground because we know of no other local society that has taken this action. In view of our highly successful first venture Al's advice is well taken. There are a number of properties in greater West Seattle that could be candidates for landmark designation. We need to have a clearcut rational and sense of direction before we make another move. Input from the membership is invited.

### "MOONSHINE '89"

That's the name of the "Dogpatch Style" frolic put on by the Issaquah Historical Society on Sat. July 22, 1989. It will include dinner, wine, soda, dancing, entertainment, and just plain FUN!

The bash will run from 6 P.M. to 11 P.M. and will convene in the Tibbetts Manor Barn in Issaquah. Cost is \$25 per person. Proceeds to benefit the completion of the Issaquah Historic Railroad Depot. For tickets and info. call 392-3500 or 392-0247.

### NEW EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER

The vacancy left on our Editorial Board by the passing of Jack Van Gilder has been filled by selection of Florence K. Lentz, effective with this issue of "Footprints".

By virtue of both education and experience "Flo" is highly qualified to handle any assignment she may receive in this society. She, as a free-lance writer, prepared a series of articles for the National Park Service and the Seattle Times on historic sites in King County that exemplify the first 25 years of statehood. These have run Sundays in the Northwest section of the Sunday paper.

We are proud to announce that Flo has now been commissioned by the Kent Chamber of Commerce and Winsor Publications, Inc., to write a history of the City of Kent, Washington. The book will be comprehensive from Kent's earliest beginnings to the present and will include many illustrations.

The publication is scheduled for next Spring, in time to tie in with Kent's Centennial Celebration in 1990.



Photo by Clay Eals



Photo by Dick Hill

Centennial Cruise Memories. Brad Chrisman and Clay Eals sported great outfits, but the lady with the bustle was outstanding!

### CRUISE CERTIFICATES

If You participated in the Washington State Centennial Ferry Cruise on the Virginia V and did not receive a certificate attesting to that involvement, you may call our Secretary, Mr. Couden, at 932-2209 and he will see that you obtain this attractive memento.

### IN MEMORIAM

Ms. Lynn Boettger, member #144, and one of our youngest members, died on April 27, 1989. Our sincere sympathy goes to her family and friends.

John F. (Jack) Van Gilder II, charter member #63, died on April 15, 1989. Jack served as Vice-President of this society, Editor of this newsletter, and on the Editorial Board up to the time of his demise. The death of this good friend has sent a shock-wave through the kite-flying community and condolences have come in from around the world. To his wife, Viola, and family we extend our sense of shared loss.

## RECOMMENDED CENTENNIAL EXHIBITS

**The Washington State Centennial** celebration has encouraged the development of a number of exhibits documenting the history of our state. Members of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society are encouraged to visit two excellent exhibits relating to Native American culture currently on display in Seattle.

The first of these exhibits is "A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State" on display at the Burke Museum on the University of Washington campus until October 1, 1989. This exhibit, organized by the Burke Museum and partially funded by the Washington State Centennial Commission, explores the history and culture of Native Americans in Western and Eastern Washington. The exhibit includes artifacts on loan from around the world, as well as from the Burke Museum's extensive collection, contemporary Native American artwork, and statements from each tribe currently found within the State. The division of the exhibit between Western and Eastern Washington highlights the great diversity found in the Native American cultures of the Pacific Northwest. A visit to "A Time of Gathering" will provide the viewer with greater understanding and appreciation of the rich heritage of Native American cultures in our area.

The Burke Museum is open from 9:00 am-5:30 pm every day and on Thursdays until 9:00 pm.

Admission to the exhibit is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.00 for students with ID and Seniors 62 and over, and \$1.00 for children 6-12. The exhibit is free to museum members and children 5 and under. Admission is free every Thursday. Tours of the exhibit can be arranged through the Education Department at (206) 543-5591.

The second exhibit is "Crossroads of Continents: Cultures of Siberia and Alaska" on display at the Seattle Center until October 15, 1989. This exhibit is presented by the Museum of History and Industry. The exhibit was developed by the Smithsonian Institute and the Soviet Academy of Sciences as a result of 10 years of research effort by scientists from the U.S., Canada, and Soviet Union. It is the first major international exhibit to explore the history and culture of native people on both sides of the Bering Strait. Over 600 artifacts dating from prehistoric to contemporary times have been collected from the three countries for display in the exhibit. Many of the artifacts are on display outside the Soviet Union for the first time.

"Crossroads of Continents" is open from 9:00 am-9:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 10:00 am-9:00 pm on Sunday at the Seattle Center Pavilion. Admission is \$8.00 during the day and \$10.00 evenings. A family pass (for 5 members) is \$25.00. Group tours can be arranged by calling (206) 728-7616.

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