

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1990

PLANT YOUR PLANS NOW FOR FOUR SPRING EVENTS!

It happens every spring, right? Activities, energy, hope -- all are reborn.

So, catch the zing of spring and dig into at least one of our historical society's four events and activities.

No question about it: We've planted a garden of varied delights.

You can find out about all of them inside this special, eight-page issue of **Footprints**.

But before turning the page, grab your calendar, scan the list below and jot down all the ones that you just can't miss.

Then jot down one more.

With your participation, our historical society will flower once more this spring.

-- Clay Eals, President

EYE-POPPING PHOTOS OF STREETCARS

What: Our society's first 1990 membership meeting, featuring a slide show on the South-End Interurban and West Seattle streetcar lines by West Seattle native and respected photo historian Warren Wing.

When:

Monday, April 30, 7 to 9 p.m.

Where: South Seattle Community College Little Theater, 6000 16th Ave. S.W.

Who should come: Anyone interested in local transportation history. Free to members and non-members.



HOLES IN THE ADMIRAL'S FRONT WALL?

What: Public hearing on preservation of the Admiral Theater's front wall by the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board.

When:

Wednesday, May 2,
3:30 p.m.

Where: Arctic

Building, Seventh Floor, 700 Third Ave., downtown.

Who should come: Anyone who wants to see the Admiral's historical and architectural preserved.



TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY HOME TOUR

What: Our second annual Tour of Homes, featuring 7 homes (5 new to the tour!) and 3 other sites.

When: Saturday, May 12 (the day before Mother's Day), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ceremony at 9 a.m.

Where: Start at any of the 10 sites. Kickoff ceremony will be held at West Seattle Library.

Who should come: Members and non-members. Tickets, available at 25 local outlets and at each of the tour sites on the day of the tour, are a donation of \$5.

OUTDOOR FAMILY FUN AT CAMP LONG

What: Our society's second annual Membership Picnic, featuring great food, a trivia contest, an awards ceremony and, for the kids, supervised games and rock-climbing.

When: Sunday, June 10, 1 to 5 p.m.

Where: The west shelter of Camp Long, 5200 35th Ave. S.W.

Who should come: Members and their families. Admission and parking are free.

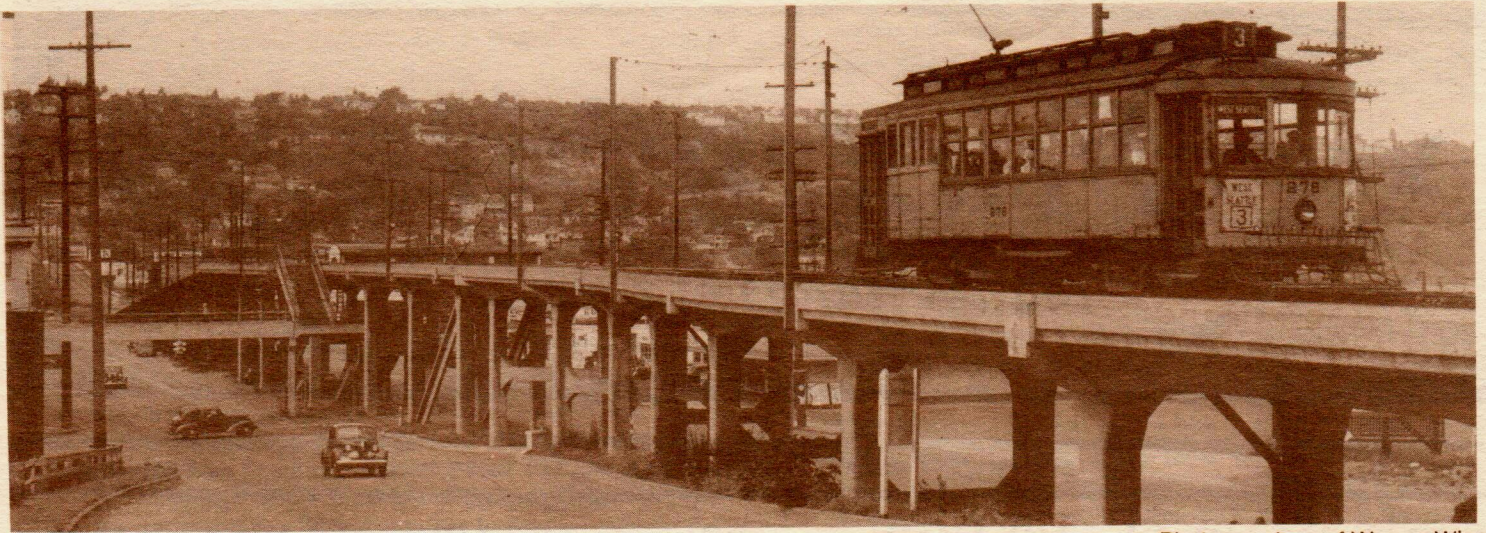


Photo courtesy of Warren Wing

West Seattle streetcar #278 heads east on the Spokane Street Viaduct at its intersection with 24th Avenue Southwest (Youngstown) in August 1940, mere days before the city terminated the line.

STREETCARS COME ALIVE IN SLIDE SHOW APRIL 30

Want to relive the days when four streetcar lines criss-crossed the Duwamish peninsula and served as the main transportation link to downtown Seattle?

Or were you born too late to ride the rails that ringed West Seattle but would love to get a glimpse of what the experience was like?

Our historical society has just the ticket for you.

Warren Wing, a West Seattle native and founder of the Northwest Rail Fan Group, will show a plentiful sampling of slides from his formidable collection of old-time photos at an upcoming membership meeting of the historical society.

The meeting, open free to the public, will be at 7 p.m. **Monday, April 30**, in the South Seattle Community College Little Theater.

Wing's slide show will consist of two 45-minute segments, with a break (and refreshments) inbetween.

The first segment will focus on the Interurban lines that ran south from Seattle and passed through Allentown, Riverton and Tukwila on their way to Renton and Tacoma. The lines ran from 1902 to 1928.

The Duwamish peninsula will take the limelight in the second segment. Wing's collection includes photos from all four of the peninsula's streetcar lines: the West Seattle, Fauntleroy, Luna Park and Lake Burien runs. Those lines ran from 1904 to 1940.

Wing, 71, has published two books: [A Northwest Rail Pictorial](#) in 1986 and [To Seattle by Trolley](#) in 1989. Both of the large-format, coffee-table books will be available for purchase at the membership meeting.

Wing is working on sequels to both of his books. Because [To Seattle by Trolley](#) focused on the Interurban lines between Seattle and Everett, the sequel will feature on the south-end Interurban lines. Those

who come to the April 30 meeting will get a sneak preview of some of those images.

An accomplished photographer, Wing has visually recorded many passing scenes, including the construction of Interstate 5 in the early 1960s.

But many of Wing's photos -- including those of the West Seattle streetcar lines like the one above -- come from a former city collection. The original purpose of the photos was to document streetcar accident scenes, but half a century later the photos hold a richness of detail that give them far greater value for historians and the general citizenry alike.

Wing is no stranger to West Seattle. Born and raised on 36th Avenue Southwest near the Southwest Myrtle Street water towers, Wing lived in West Seattle until he was 19. Later, he lived in north Seattle and Portland, Ore., finally settling down in 1952 with his wife Pat in the south-end community of Allentown, which recently became annexed to Tukwila.

During his first few years in Allentown, Wing was a parcel post carrier in West Seattle and came to know West Seattle's streets intimately. He has kept close touch with West Seattle, visiting family over the years and loaning photos for use in the [West Side Story](#) history book, published in 1987.

Wing became a fan of rail transportation when, as a child, he could hear the electric motors of the streetcars running from Fauntleroy past Gatewood Elementary School and on to the West Seattle Junction. He founded the Northwest Rail Fan Group in 1953.

His collection of photographic images, numbering in the thousands, is well-known in Seattle historical circles.

Wing has given several recent slide programs, and he is supplying research and photos for an upcoming, city-funded history of Tukwila.

Anyone with old rail-related photos or just memories of the streetcar lines will be welcome to share them with Wing at the April 30 meeting.

ADMIRAL FACES HEARING, COULD GET GRANT MONEY

The historic Admiral Theater is still afloat, but the next few weeks will tell whether the 48-year-old moviehouse will find calm waters.

Here's a roundup of the latest developments:

* The city's Landmarks Preservation Board will hold a final hearing on a proposed Controls agreement at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 2. The enclosed flyer (which was sent this week to the 4,000 who signed Save the Admiral petitions last year) spells out the details.

The gist is that Cineplex Odeon and city landmarks staff are proposing a Controls agreement that would allow up to half of the theater's front wall to be cut through. The proposal also would allow the destruction of one or both of the interior auditorium murals.

The Save the Admiral Theater Task Force of our society has been proposing ways to open up the building without ruining its historic features. One option is windows in the north wall and overhead skylights (see drawing below).

Please read the flyer to find out how you can help during this crucial time.

* State Sen. Phil Talmadge, a member of our society who has provided legal representation in our dealings with Cineplex, managed to secure passage of a bill in the 1990 Legislature that provided \$500,000 in state matching money for the purchase of historic theaters by community groups.

All \$500,000 could be spent on the Admiral, says Talmadge, who is working with the recently formed Admiral Theater Renaissance and Restoration Association (ATRRA) and other

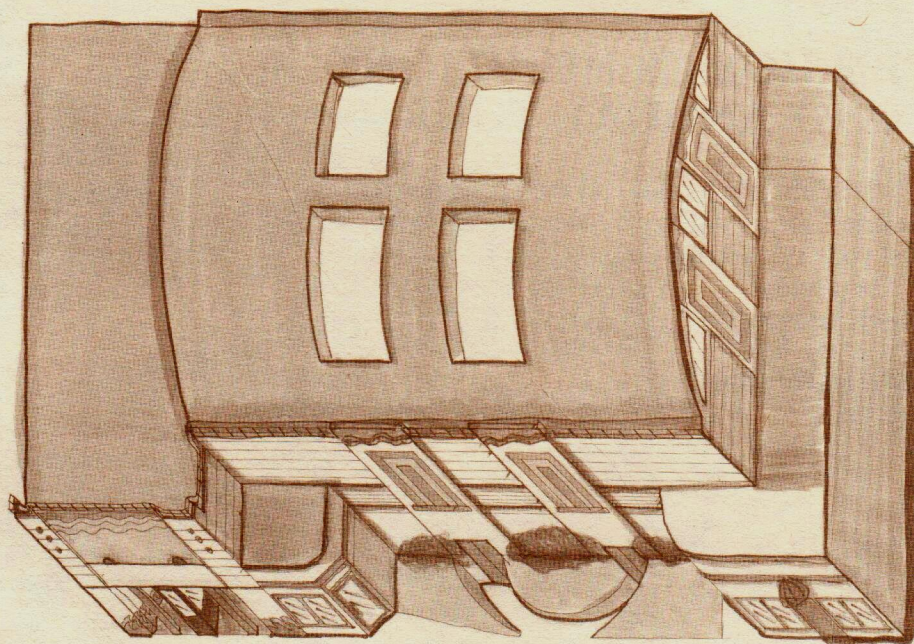
West Seattle-based officeholders from city and county government to put together a purchase package for Cineplex to consider.

* ATRRA held a fundraising dinner/auction at Angelina's Trattoria restaurant on April 2 that brought in close to \$2,000 for that group. ATRRA has applied for IRS non-profit status.

The group also has two applications pending for grants that would pay for a feasibility study for converting the Admiral to a theater/cultural center.

The applications are for a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (down from an original \$148,400 application) and a \$73,000 grant from the City of Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund.

For more information on ATRRA, contact Freddie Gillogly, president, at 935-9941 (late mornings and early afternoons are best).



CALIFORNIA AVENUE

Sketch by Deb Barker, UW graduate student in urban planning, indicates how a developer could open up the Admiral without damaging its historic features.



Photo from Washington State Archives

The Green house, at 1503 42nd Ave. S.W. (shown in 1937), and the Sifford house at 1533 42nd Ave. S.W. were the only ones on the block when they were built. Both are on the tour.

SEVEN HOMES HIGHLIGHT SECOND ANNUAL TOUR

Seven historic homes and the Carnegie-funded West Seattle Library will be showcased during our historical society's second annual Tour of Homes.

The popular tour, which drew more than 400 people last year, will be held on Saturday, May 12, the day before Mother's Day.

Hours for the tour will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A \$5 ticket will allow entry to all 10 sites. Tickets are on sale at 25 outlets in all neighborhood business districts in West Seattle and White Center, including most banks.

As with last year, the tour will be self-guided. Participants will choose which sites they wish to visit and when they wish to do so during the six-hour event. Details on the 10 sites, photos, and a complete map of the tour will appear in a special *Homes with History* guide that will be published as part of the May 2 editions

of the West Seattle Herald and White Center News.

To kick off the tour, we will sponsor a ceremony from 9 to 10 a.m. on the day of the tour at the West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave. S.W.

Refreshments will be served at the kickoff, which is free to the public and will feature brief welcomes by dignitaries.



Photo from Washington State Archives

A 1937 view of the Anderson house at 4106 S.W. Findlay St. It is on the tour.

The library branch was built in 1910 and is celebrating its 80th anniversary. Library staff plan to dress in period costume for the day.

By popular request, the tour will feature two distinctive homes from last year's event:

-- Hainsworth House, 2657 37th Ave. S.W., built in 1907.

-- Sumbardo Mansion, 1715 Sunset

Ave. S.W., built in 1910.

Two other returnees are the Kenney Presbyterian Home for the Retired, 7255 Fautleroy Way S.W., built in 1908, and Alki Point Light Station, 3201 Alki Ave. S.W., built in 1913.

New to the tour this year are five other pre-1920

houses. Their addresses and owners are:

- 1503 42nd Ave. S.W., Webb and Conny Green.
- 1533 42nd Ave. S.W., Doug Sifford.
- 2715 Belvidere Ave. S.W., Garth Rogers.
- 4106 S.W. Findlay St., Stephen and Sharon Anderson.

Co-sponsors of this year's tour, which also serve as ticket sites, are Cayce & Gain Realtors, ERA Bianchi-Zaar Realtors, Northwest Art and Frame, Ron Turner Realtors, Soroptimists International of West Seattle and the West Seattle Herald/White Center News.

Members of this year's planning committee are Peggy Alonso-Thorburn, Deb Barker, Moe Beerman, Aurlo and Virginia Bonney, Elliott Couden (ticket coordinator), Clay Eals, Elaine Hilden (volunteer coordinator), Charles and Kacey Jung, Marilyn Rayner, Erma Schwartz, Morey Skaret, Helen Svendsen Smith, Bob Sumbardo, Karen Wissing.

The committee needs 65 volunteers to host/hostess at the tour's sites. At press time, Elaine had rounded up about 40. Anyone interested in volunteering for a three-hour shift (10 a.m. to 1 p.m., or 1 to 4 p.m.) should call Elaine at 782-3450.

GET TICKETS AT 25 OUTLETS

Here are the ticket outlets for the tour, listed by neighborhood:

Alki: Alki Bakery & Cafe, Seaside Pharmacy.

Admiral: Angelina's Trattoria, Cayce & Gain Realty, University Savings Bank, Windermere Realty.

The Junction: ERA Bianchi-Zaar Realty, First Interstate Bank, LaGrace Apparel, Northwest Art & Frame, Pacific First Federal Savings Bank, Puget Sound Bank, Ron Turner Realty, Seafirst Bank, Security Pacific Bank, U.S. Bank, Washington Mutual Bank, West Seattle Herald/White Center News.

Morgan/Gatewood: Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan, Olsen's Drug.

Fautleroy: The Original Bakery.

Westwood Village: Seafirst Bank.

White Center: Puget Sound Bank, Seafirst Bank, U.S. Bank, Washington Mutual Bank.



Photo from Washington State Archives

The Sumbardo Mansion at 1715 Sunset Ave. S.W. stood in a stately manner in 1937.



Photo by Earl Cruzen

Several of the 50 at the dedication ceremony pose in front of the mural. At left, under the lifelike mural umbrella, are building owner Phyllis Thurston and artists Bill Garnett and Eric Grohe.

FIFTY HELP DEDICATE THE JUNCTION'S SECOND MURAL

Want to take a trip back to the 1920s, when streetcar routes defined the first era of growth in the West Seattle Junction?

Go no further than the Junction itself, and its second historic Centennial mural.

Fifty people turned out on Saturday morning, Feb. 10, for a blustery half-hour ceremony to dedicate the colorful mural, which was grandly painted on the south wall of the 67-year-old Junction Feed & Seed Store, 4747 California Ave. S.W., last fall.

The mural is the work of Queen Anne artist Eric Grohe, who was present at the dedication along with West Seattle resident Phyllis Thurston, who owns the Feed & Seed Building.

A street scene framed by a mock chisled concrete arch, the mural looks north along California Avenue Southwest. It displays the crossing of the West Seattle and Fauntleroy streetcar lines that formed the shopping district that became known as the Junction (with a capital J) beginning in 1907.

Also shown is the two-story, brick Campbell Building, which was built in 1918 and remains the

Junction's oldest landmark. Other highlights in the mural are shoppers in period dress and authentically reproduced automobiles of the era.

Grohe's mural is just half a block south of the Junction's first Centennial mural, which was painted by Portland artist William Garnett last summer and depicts transportation on Duwamish Head before and at the turn of the century.

Both murals were funded with a \$17,661 grant from the King County Centennial Commission. The murals are a joint project of the Junction Development Committee, South Seattle Community College and our historical society.

At least two more murals will go up in the Junction this summer, depicting two structures that are no longer standing: the Spokane Street streetcar trestle and the Junction fire station and police precinct. Another, depicting the old Morgan Street Market, is slated for the back wall of Olsen's Drug.

Do you like the murals so far? Do you have any other questions or comments about them? Call the project coordinator, Earl Cruzen, at 932-2345.

OUR SECOND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC IS TWO MONTHS AWAY!

Carol Vincent, a member of our Board of Trustees, is organizing this year's picnic, which will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, in the west shelter of Camp Long, 5200 35th Ave. S.W.

Fun will be the order of the day, both for kids and adults.

Last year's picnic drew more than 50 people. This year, with better planning and a day that doesn't conflict with the Seafair hydros, we should have an even bigger turnout.

If you would like to help Carol plan the food and the program, call her at 937-6744.

NEW BOOK HONORS FAUNTLEROY'S EARLY FAMILIES

By **BRAD CHRISMAN**

Dust off your bookshelves,
West Side historians.

And make room for Fauntleroy Legacy, an informative, 172-page history of the Fauntleroy community.

Researched, written and published last fall by Fauntleroy residents E. Richard (Rick) Brown and Roy W. Morse, the medium-format paperback is true to its title, emphasizing the role of the area's early settlers and the lasting impression they made on the community.

Within that focus, the authors do a commendable job of piecing together the area's early history. The book also adds significantly to the West Side's historical record, rewarding the reader with facts and photos that had not previously found their way into print.

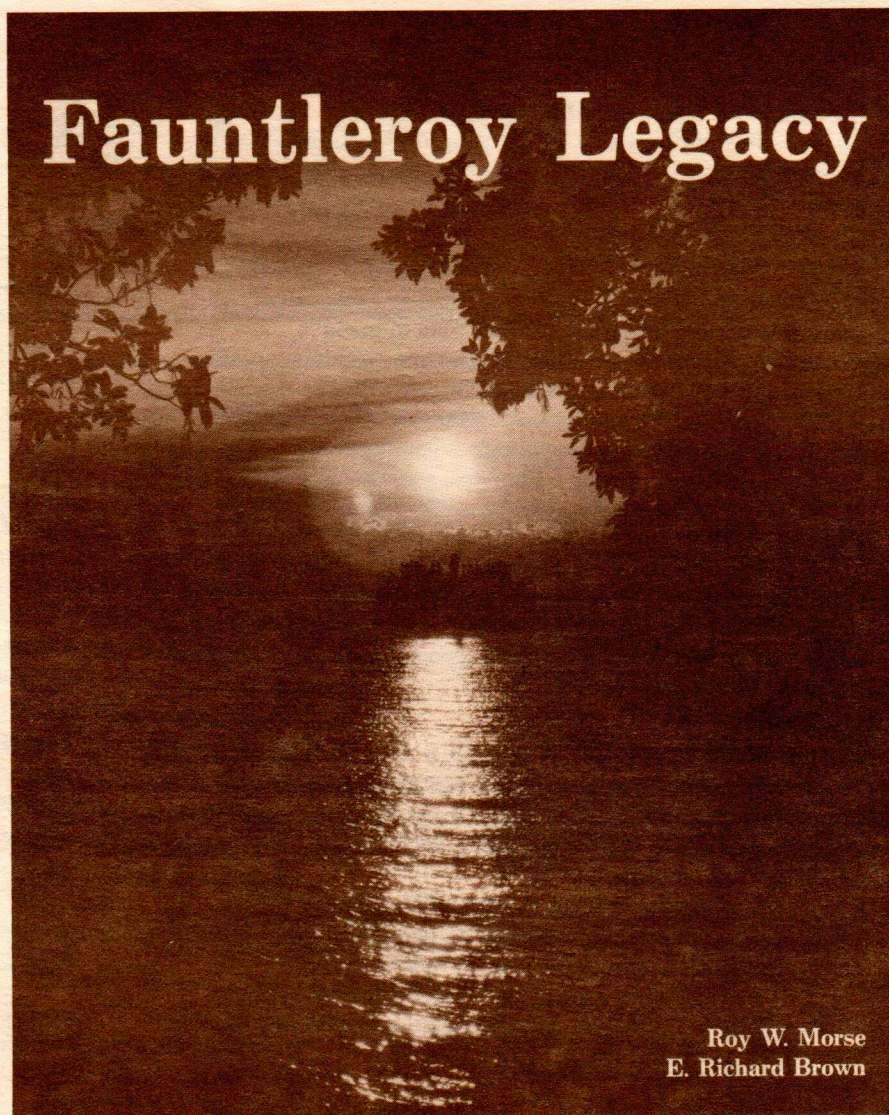
The photos alone are worth the \$15 price. One of the earliest shows Fauntleroy Chapel, "the church that was built in a day" on July 25, 1908. Somewhat ironically, photos of the church in 1914, 1917, the 1940s and 1960s testify that, while the structure might have been built in a day, it took more than 50 years and four remodeling jobs for it to take its present shape.

Other photos, such as James M. Colman's 1905 tent home on Fauntleroy Cove, a 1917 shot of newly built Fauntleroy School, and a 1925 view of the Lincoln Park swimming lagoon, will made readers want to flip through the book quickly before reading in earnest.

Part I of the book traces the history of various institutions: the church, the school, the YMCA, Camp Colman and the Kenney Home. Part II includes chapters on the business center, community parks, development of Fauntlee Hills, and transportation and utilities.

Part III, which makes up roughly two-thirds of the book, focuses on Fauntleroy's early families. Here, the authors blend genealogy with anecdotes and glimpses of Fauntleroy's early days.

In Chapter 46, for example, Jane Wilson MacGowan recalls when "trips to town were few, perhaps four to six a year. The streetcars moved slowly, stopping at each station, around the Kenney Home and up the hill to Gatewood, along California Avenue to the Junction with its board sidewalks, down Avalon Way and up the high trestle across the



Of the 1,200 copies of Fauntleroy Legacy printed last fall, only 300 remain unsold.

Duwamish and over stretches of open water with the track taking those terrifying right-angle turns, because while the wheels turned, it took the car body a long time to respond. One was really suspended. ... We usually kept the conductor company on the open rear ends; we were car sick!"

Copies of Fauntleroy Legacy, can be purchased at The Original Bakery, 9253 45th Ave. S.W. Only 300 copies of the book, of which 1,200 were printed, remain. Profits from the book, Morse says, will go to the church, the YMCA and the Fauntleroy Community Service Agency.

[Brad Chrisman, a member of our society's Board of Trustees, works in public relations for the YMCA of Greater Seattle. The former sports editor for the West Seattle Herald/White Center News, Brad also was Editorial Coordinator for the West Side Story history book, published in July 1987.]

Silver Editions program at library

Do you remember life in the years 1914 to 1945? The West Seattle Library at 2306 42nd Ave. S.W. has a program for you.

It's called Silver Editions. It runs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays through June 13. Longtime residents are invited to share their reminiscences, which will be tape-recorded in preparation for an oral history project.

The Washington Commission for the Humanities is co-sponsoring this free series. To register, call Librarian Karen Spiel at 684-7466.

Buy a brick for the WeatherWatch

Lezlie Jane, a West Seattle artist and member of our society, is making progress with her plan to install a WeatherWatch mini-park along Beach Drive Southwest at its intersection with Southwest Carroll Street.

The park, at the same site of the old South Alki ferry landing, will include a 225 square-foot landing consisting of a bench, an historical column with maps, and a weathervane. Laid in the surface of the landing will be bricks engraved with the names of donors.

The bricks, at \$45 each, will have room for donors' names and the year the donor came to West Seattle.

For more information on this worthy project, which our society has formally endorsed and supported with a \$250 gift last year, call Lezlie at 938-4922.

Seattle Yacht Club seeks materials

Mike Butler, a West Seattle resident and descendant of the landmark Hainsworth family, is on the historical committee of the Seattle Yacht Club, which will celebrate its 100th birthday in 1992.

The club, which got its start off Duwamish Head a century ago, will publish its history in book form by December 1991. Seattle historian James Warren will be the author.

Anyone with materials or ideas for the book should contact Mike at 4565 54th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116. You can call him at 935-8915.

Buy a book and help our society!

Our society has been given 1,500 softcover copies of the West Side Story history book, published in 1987 by the West Seattle Herald and White Center News.

The gift of books is in lieu of a cash donation that was originally intended by the publisher. The supply of books is

stored at South Seattle Community College.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the 288-page, large-format publication can do so at the April 30 Warren Wing slide show and at selected sites at the May 12 Tour of Homes.

The price is \$5, with all proceeds going to our society.

Executive Committee takes action

Our society's 10-member Executive Committee, consisting of the officers and trustees, has taken action on a variety of concerns in recent months. Following are a few items that aren't covered elsewhere in this edition.

The committee:

- * Donated \$50 to a Highline School District history education project.

- * Sent a letter to South Seattle Community College President Jerry Brockey asking him to allocate a large, prominent space in the college's proposal for an expanded library.

- * Accepted the donation of an extremely heavy (three to four tons) 1888-vintage safe that once belonged to the West Seattle Land and Improvement Company. (See Chapter Three of West Side Story for the company's key role in developing West Seattle.) The donor was Gerry Kingen, owner of Salty's on Alki restaurant. Kingen's staff found the safe in a Ballard warehouse they were cleaning out.

- * Applied for a \$640 Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund grant to help pay for design and production of a professional brochure and membership mailer for our society.

Fauntleroy co-author takes his life

Rick Brown, who researched, wrote and published the Fauntleroy Legacy history book along with Roy Morse (see page 7) died of an apparent suicide on March 6, 1990.

His death came as a shock to many associates. Neighborhood history buffs, Boeing co-workers and church members familiar with his dedicated landscape work filled Fauntleroy Church for a memorial service on March 12.

Rick's love for local history ran deep, and his contribution to the preservation of Fauntleroy's heritage will long be appreciated.

Do you have an item for Footprints?

Is our newsletter missing the boat on items of interest? Would you like to write or submit something to be printed?

By all means, members should feel free to be a part of Footprints. If you have ideas or materials for this newsletter, which is mailed quarterly, please call Clay Eals at 935-7515.

FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Clay Eals)

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