

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1990



Photo courtesy of West Seattle Herald

Emmett Watson (1988)

EMMETT WATSON TO REMINISCE AT ANNUAL MEETING ON NOV. 10 AT LITTLE THEATER

One of West Seattle's best-known native sons, the legendary newspaper columnist and curmudgeon **Emmett Watson**, will speak during our Annual Membership Meeting next month.

The meeting will run from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 10, in the South Seattle Community College Little Theater.

Watson, whose career at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the Seattle Times has spanned five decades, will headline a varied program that includes the election of 1991 officers and the awarding of honorary memberships.

As a bonus, West Seattle TV producer and society member **Bette Jean Bullert** will show a clip from her in-progress PBS documentary on famed singer-songwriter **Earl Robinson**, also a West Seattle native son.

Our board shifted the setting for this year's annual meeting to the Little Theater to accommodate a big turnout. The same site used for the **Warren Wing** slide show earlier this year, the Little Theater seats about 90 people.

Refreshments will be available at the meeting, and everyone -- members and nonmembers alike -- is welcome, free of charge.

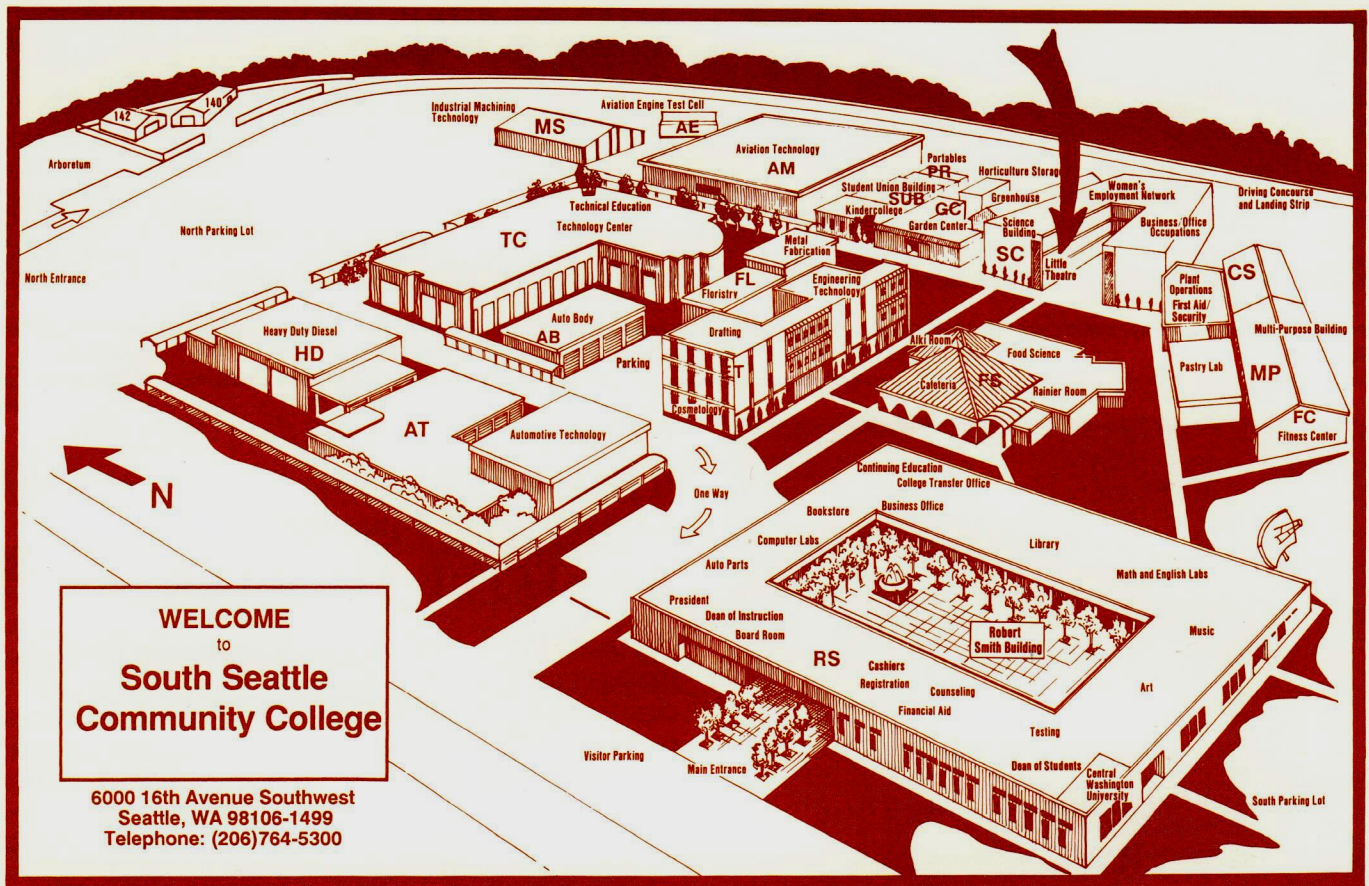
Check the map inside this newsletter.

HERE'S THE 1991 SLATE:

A three-member Nominating Committee (Betsy Detroit, JoAn Schmitz Fulton and Flo Lentz) will present for approval the following slate of officers at the Annual Membership Meeting:

Officers: **Clay Eals**, president; **Carol Vincent**, vice-president; **Joan Mraz**, treasurer; **Elliott Couden**, secretary. All are carryovers but Vincent. Neal Lockett has declined a third vice-presidential term.

Board of Trustees: **Bob Sumbardo** and **Elaine Hilden**, to fill out one-year remaining terms of Flo Lentz and Aurlo Bonney, who are resigning; and **Deb Barker**, to begin a new, three-year term following two years on the board. Nominees to fill out the two-year remaining term of Carol Vincent and to begin a new, three-year term, replacing Brad Chrisman had not been selected by the deadline for this newsletter. The remaining board member, whose term expires in 1992, is **JoAn Schmitz Fulton**.



WELCOME
to
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Community College**

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Here's where Emmett Watson will reminisce

If you're not precisely sure of the location of the South Seattle Community College Little Theater, take a look at the above map. Park in the south-side lot or the visitor lot in front, then head toward the back end of the campus to the Science Building (see black arrow at top of map). Sandwich signs will point the way.

FOR 1991 HOME TOUR, THINK OF HIAWATHA!

Hiawatha Community Center and Park, for eight decades a fixture in West Seattle's Admiral area, will host the opening ceremony for our 1991 Tour of Homes.

The yearly tour, slated for Saturday, May 11, 1991, the day before Mother's Day, will include several sites from our first two successful tours, plus some exciting new homes.

Coordinated by Virginia Bonney, a subcommittee of society volunteers including Deb Barker, Elliott Couden, Virginia Cyr and Flo Lentz began contacting site owners this fall.

Hiawatha became a natural as a kick-off site when leaders of the its center's advisory council asked for the same role the West Seattle Library played this year. An arborist is assembling a guide to Hiawatha Park's dozens of tree varieties, and the center plans to unveil the guide at our tour.

Other sites confirmed for the 1991 tour include the Junction area's Villa Heidelberg bed-and-breakfast, featured on our 1989 tour, and the North Admiral area's Green house, a big hit of the 1990 tour.

Bonney's group will continue to confirm sites, aiming to assemble a mix of attractive and intriguing structures to entice a crowd similar to the nearly 1,000 participants in this year's tour.

After Bonney's group finalizes the slate, a larger Tour Planning Committee of about a dozen people will be recruited to carry out the myriad of tasks -- including sponsorships, tickets, posters, hosting, programs, publicity and day-of-tour arrangements -- necessary to make the tour a smash.

You may want to be part of the 1991 committee. This year's group found the experience a lot of fun. The 1991 committee probably will start meeting once every two weeks beginning in mid-January. If this appeals to you, please call Clay Eals at 935-7515.

ALL HAIL THE MURALS OF WEST SEATTLE -- NOW WE HAVE SIX!

Talk about a snowball -- in the middle of the summer, yet!

West Seattle's pair of historical murals snowballed into a total of six this summer, wowing residents and visitors alike with an artistic array of portraits from the area's past.

Building on the two murals funded in 1989 by the King County Centennial Commission, the Murals of West Seattle project added the four new pieces with a combination of private donations and matching money from the City of Seattle.

The new murals didn't lack for fanfare, either. Dedication ceremonies on Sept. 14 and Oct. 3 drew several dozen civic leaders and residents, as well as wide newspaper, radio and TV coverage -- and the murals ended up as the cover story for the 1990-91 West Seattle Neighborhood Telephone Directory! (A third and final ceremony will be held Nov. 3.)

Through it all, the community got to see renowned professional artists create their works during the mostly sunny weeks of late August and early September.

Here's a capsule summary of the new quartet of wonderful walls (all of which were given the special assistance of society member and retired commercial artist **Moe Beerman**):

- * An early-day landing of one of the so-called Mosquito Fleet of vessels, by Nova Scotian artist **Susan Crighton**. Dedicated Oct. 3, it's on the east wall of the Junction's Campbell building, just north of Southwest Alaska Street.

- * A nighttime, three-dimensional view of firefighters on a horse-drawn engine dashing away from the 1913 Junction Fire Station, by Seattle artist **Don Barrie**. To be dedicated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3; it's on the south wall of the Don Swanson Insurance building, right across the street from the original site of the fire station.

- * A panoramic view of the 1910 swing bridge across the Duwamish River, by Louisiana artists **Robert and Douglas Dafford**. It's on the north wall of the Jacobson Building, a newer Junction structure on 44th Avenue Southwest. Along with the Barrie mural, it will be dedicated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3.

- * A 1937 view of the old Morgan Street Market, by Nova Scotian artist **Bruce Rickett**. Dedicated Sept. 14, it's on the west wall of the Olsen's Valu-Rite Drug building at the three-way intersection of California Avenue Southwest, Fauntleroy Way Southwest and Southwest Morgan



Photo by Clay Eals

THE DAFFORD brothers, Douglas (left) and Robert, put finishing touches on their mural of the 1910 swing bridge across the Duwamish River.

Street, right across the street from the original site of the market.

Murals of West Seattle is a project sponsored by the Junction Development Committee of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce, South Seattle Community College and our historical society.

Coordinator of the project is **Earl Cruzen**, ex-chamber president, longtime development committee chair and a member of our society.

Cruzen is already lining up sites and topics for future murals. The new six-story Bates building, next to the Jacobson structure in the Junction, has a long horizontal space reserved for a mural, for example. There, **Douglas Dreidiger** of Calgary, Alberta, is to paint a rendition of old-time West Seattle Hi-Yu/American Legion parades.

If you haven't stopped by to gaze at the murals, make a special trip to do so sometime soon. Marvel at their beauty. Then imagine the future murals they will spawn.

That'll keep the snowball rolling.

Picnic in Lincoln Park?

Our Aug. 19 Annual Membership Picnic drew a hearty crowd to West Seattle's Camp Long.

Special guests included **Susan Crighton, Robert and Douglas Dafford and Bruce Rickett**, all of whom were in town to create their historical murals in the Alaska and Morgan junctions (see story, page 3).

Our society's Executive Board is considering moving the site of the annual picnic to Lincoln Park next year. If you have an opinion on the potential switch, bring it to the Annual Membership Meeting Nov. 10 and share it!

Whatever the site, Executive Board member **Carol Vincent**, who organized this year's picnic, has agreed to head up the event again in 1991.

Admiral talks continue

The fate of the historic, 49-year-old Admiral Theater remains in limbo.

West Seattle native **Mike Brown**, a potential purchaser who wants to save the Admiral, continues to negotiate a deal with Cineplex Odeon, the owner.

Meanwhile, Cineplex has hired a soils expert to study whether tanks were removed properly from the adjacent former Shell site.

In addition, Cineplex has asked for and received yet another delay on a proposed Controls and Incentives Agreement from the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board.

The board probably probably will continue to renew the delay until sale of the theater has been successfully negotiated.

Wing draws full house

A dazzling slide show on the early-day West Seattle and South-End Interurban streetcar lines, assembled and narrated

by Allentown historian **Warren Wing**, drew a standing-room-only crowd of 110 to the South Seattle Community College Little Theater.

The widely acknowledged success of the free show stemmed from the sharp, eye-popping photos collected by Wing and by Wing's folksy commentary.

The West Seattle portion of the show was tape-recorded and will be transcribed for future reference.

Wing, 71, is a West Seattle native and former parcel-post carrier who founded the Northwest Rail Fan Group.

Society enters video age

Our Executive Board voted Oct. 11 to authorize the purchase of a video camera and tripod so that society events can be recorded and preserved on videotape.

The first event to be so recorded will be the **Emmett Watson** presentation at the Annual Membership Meeting on Nov. 10 at South Seattle Community College.

The society's treasury of more than \$7,500 (of which \$5,000 has been placed in certificates of deposit) will accommodate the video-camera purchase.

Shorts

Deb Barker, JoAn Schmitz Fulton, Joan Mraz and Carol Vincent from our Executive Board are working on the development of a flashy new membership brochure for our society.

Society member **John Kelly**, the skipper of the West Seattle Sea Scout ship the Yankee Clipper since 1954, has stepped down from the post. An Oct. 9 West Seattle Herald story profiled Kelly, who supervised the Clipper's key participation in our Centennial Finale on Alki Beach last Nov. 11.

Clay Eals, society president, has a new address: 4315 S.W. Oregon St., #104, Seattle, WA 98116.

FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Clay Eals)

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
c/o South Seattle Community College
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