

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE XV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 1991

## GREET OLD FRIENDS, MEET NEW ONES AT LINCOLN PARK PICNIC!

Summer's here, and the time is right for ... that's right, our society's Third Annual Membership Picnic!

The picnic is coming sooner than you might think. It will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 30, rain or shine (no cancellations this time around).

This year, the site will be different. Some people found Camp Long's trails and hills a little difficult to navigate, and others just wanted a change.

So the picnic site this year will be Lincoln Park. Our bunch will gather at the popular Site #5, right next to the wading pool at the north end of the park. Parking is plentiful in the nearby Lincoln Park lot and along Fauntleroy Way Southwest.

As in years past, the picnic is semi-potluck.

The society will provide the basics: hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, soft drinks and coffee. If that satisfies your taste buds, fine. But feel free to embellish on that menu by bringing your own food to share.

That rule applies to game equipment and other fun items such as Frisbees. Bring anything that you feel will make the event more enjoyable.

**Carol Vincent**, board Vice President who chaired last year's picnic and is doing so again this year, is promising a history-related game/puzzle/contest. So, the more adventurous of you might want to brush up on a few details from West Seattle's and White Center's past.

**Neal Lockett**, society member and former board Vice President, is fast settling into the traditional role of chief cook at the picnic. He promises good food and conversation with lots of relish.

If you have any questions about the picnic or would like to help out on the last-minute details, please give Carol a call at 937-6744.



## Welcome aboard!

Our society's 1991 Executive Board (from left): Van Peirson, JoAn Fulton, Berlena Brock, Vice President Carol Vincent, Deb Barker, Treasurer Joan Mraz, Mollie Tremaine, Membership Secretary Elliott Couden, Recording Secretary Bob Sumbardo, President Clay Eals.

## CROWD OF 664 ENJOYS THIRD ANNUAL TOUR

For the third year in a row, our society put on a successful Tour of Homes on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

The May 11 tour drew 664 ticket sales, down from last year's 927 but still a hefty bunch.

Reports were quite positive from all 10 sites, six of which were new to the tour this year.

Nearly 100 people attended the kick-off ceremony at Hiawatha Community Center, whose Advisory Council decorated the upstairs auditorium of the 80-year-old building in grand style, including period photographs, programs and other memorabilia.

The ceremony included remarks by master of ceremonies **Bob Sumbardo**, Hiawatha Advisory Council Chair **Bill Paul** and King County Council member **Greg Nickels**. The main program was a fact-filled yet light-hearted presentation from **Arthur Lee Jacobson**, noted Seattle arborist.

After the ceremony, Jacobson led an hour-long tree tour of Hiawatha Park, which was designed by the legendary Olmsted brothers.

The ceremony and tree tour were videotaped for our collection, and a copy of the tape is to be given to Hiawatha Community Center.

As with last year, our society gave each of the owners of sites that were new to this year's tour a handsome, framed now-and-then (1991-1937) photo display of the home. The mementoes were on display at the sites during the tour.

A new feature of the tour this year was a contest. Each ticket-holder left his/her ticket at the last site visited, and a drawing was held to determine the winners of three prizes. The winners, and their prizes, were:

\* **Greg Park**, \$45 gift certificate for West Seattle Nursery (\$25 donated by the nursery).

\* **Marie Chambers**, hardcover copy of West Side Story history book.

\* **Richard Barnecut**, two tickets to our 1992 Tour of Homes.

The tour took plenty of volunteer and financial help. The following is an attempt at a complete list of acknowledgments. Apologies in advance to those whose names might be inadvertently omitted.

**Home Tour Committee:** Deb Barker, Virginia Bonney (Site Selection Chair), Virginia Cyr, Elliott Couden, Clay Eals (Committee Chair), Jim Jeffrey, Charlie Jung, Jan Laucks, Erma Schwartz, Bob and Bonnie Sumbardo, and Mollie Tremaine.

**Volunteer hosts:** Elliott and Erma Couden (Captain), Frank and Joanne Cheever (Captains),

Charlie and Dorothea Cesmat, Jim and Judy Tyrrell, Ken and Fay Lowthian, Betsy Detroit, Carol Schultz, Carol Sheppard, Dick and Delores Barnecut, Andy and Doris Nelson, Dan Portman, Maggie Sete', Bonnie and Moe Beerman, Tomi Hirano, Vi Miller, Barbara Benson, Virginia Cruzen, Charlie Chong, Mary Pearson, Lee Van Antwerp, Kacey Jung, Helen Wells.

Virginia and Aurllo Bonney (Captains), Larry Merkle, Peggy Cullor, Bea Christian, Cheryl Woodring (Captain), Linda Tobey, Beverly Malagon, Ruth DeGabrielle, Kathy Todd, Dorothy Poplawski, Margaret Schmidt, Ruth Nacarrato, Margaret Bakken, Elizabeth Kratz, John Thompson and Margie Johnson (Captains), Erma Schwartz, Jenny Nash, Tom Kuzniarek.

Merrilee Hagen (Captain), Melissa Hagen, Cindy Peeler, Morey Skaret, Betty and Julie Gordon, Carol Vincent, Karen Spiel (Captain), Lois Constantine, Kendra Peterson, Van Peirson, Dorothy Johnson (Captain), Helen Svendsen Smith, Blythe Strong, Lillian Cox (Captain), Jim Jeffrey, Ada Rhodes, Pearl Ebert, Berlena Brock (Captain) and the residents of the Kenney Home.

**Co-sponsors:** Ron Turner Realty (50th anniversary year), ERA Bianchi-Zaar Realty, Cayce & Gain Realty, Northwest Art and Frame, Hiawatha Advisory Council (Center Director John Hermann), and West Seattle Herald/White Center News (General Manager Roger Hollings, Owner Joe Blaha).

**Poster and ticket printer:** Graphics Plus (Georgia Peterson, owner).

**Publicity:** West Seattle Herald/White Center News, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Seattle Times, Morton's Drug and ReMax Realty readerboards.

Preliminary plans already are under way for next year's tour. Several new sites, including a kick-off ceremony site, are in the works, and those who worked on this year's tour have supplied a number of well thought-out suggestions for alterations.

A Site Selection Committee will be appointed this summer, and work will begin in earnest for 1992. Anyone wishing to play a role in that planning should call 935-7515 for more information.

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### LETTER: Whethams say thanks

*Thank you for presenting us with the ready-to-hang before-and-after picture of our home after the recent Tour of Homes. It was a lovely gesture, and we appreciate having the picture very much.*

*We felt honored and privileged to have our home on the tour, and we enjoyed very much our association with the gracious Mr. and Mrs. Bonney (Site Captains).*

*With our thanks,*

**William and Margaret Whetham**  
5114 S.W. Grayson St.

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## RETREAT ZEROES IN ON SOCIETY'S GOALS, DREAMS

On Saturday, April 6, the Executive Board attended a three-hour retreat at South Seattle Community College to chart the board's short- and long-term goals and dreams.

The session was chaired by King County Preservation officer **Charles Payton**, who helped board members assemble what he called an institutional resume' and a list of possible projects and aims.

Recording Secretary **Bob Sumbardo** carried on the role of facilitating the brainstorming at subsequent regular meetings of the board, during which members began to decide which of the goals are most important.

The goal-setting will continue over the summer. After the goals are prioritized, the board will begin work on tackling them. Here are some of the items under discussion:

- \* Museum at South Seattle Community College.
- \* Educational program taken into all the schools, including treasure boxes, slide shows, videos and resource people.
- \* Becoming THE source of historical information for West Seattle and White Center.
- \* Public education programs/Speakers bureau.
- \* Historic sites guide.
- \* Building a large membership (current total is more than 240).
- \* Historical Papers series.
- \* Landmark designations (such as the Embers building on Harbor Avenue).
- \* Newspaper feature stories/series.
- \* Historical marker program.
- \* Financial plan: endowments/financial security.
- \* Oral history program/archives.
- \* Video history program.
- \* Neighborhood Preservation Project.
- \* Luna Park marker project.
- \* Coalitions and collaborations with other local organizations.
- \* Art Contest with historic theme for professionals, amateurs, elementary and high school students.
- \* West Seattle History class.



**JOAN FULTON (left) makes a point during the April 6 retreat, as Charles Payton and Mollie Tremaine listen.**

- \* Collections plan.
- \* Ongoing lecture/program series (Chautauqua).
- \* Neighborhood history curriculum/lesson plans.
- \* Staff/Executive Director.
- \* Marketing plan.
- \* Docent program.
- \* Publications: Book #2, Family History, bibliography of West Seattle/White Center historical publications.
- \* Student internship/research/thesis projects.
- \* Promote community histories (churches, clubs, societies, businesses, institutions).
- \* Awards and recognitions/certificates, prizes, scholarships.
- \* Technical assistance: co-sponsoring how-to's, family and community histories, historic preservation.

## Home Tour gets award

The Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) has given our society its 1990 Volunteer Event award for last year's Tour of Homes.

On hand to receive the award on behalf of our society at the May 7 meeting of AKCHO at the Nordic Heritage Museum were Executive Board member **Van Peirson** and Membership Secretary **Elliott Couden**.

# FLIGHTS OF FANCY (OR FANCY FLIGHTS)

By Win Leggitt

Boeing Field was a very active local aviation facility during the late 1920s and all of the 1930 Depression era. Many interesting people and events made history there. Here are a few of them:

In early 1930, a group of young officers from Selfridge Field, Michigan, arrived to take delivery of a dozen Boeing P-12 pursuit planes. They made quite a dramatic departure when after making rendezvous above Boeing Field they peeled off from their formation and dropped down to buzz the field with the one continuous roar and then to zoom up again to be on their way back to the home of the famous Kicking Mule squadron.

A popular flier who made more than one visit to Boeing Field was **Roscoe Turner**, winner of many speed dashes and closed course events. Aviation fans were ready with their cameras when the papers announced he would arrive in his beautiful Lockheed Air Express with the lion mascot **Gilmore**. They made quite a public relations team for Gilmore Oil Company products.

**Jimmie Doolittle** was so well-known throughout the country that we all felt he added a bit of prestige to The Field when he landed his big Northrop Gamma all-metal job. At that time he was flying for another oil company, Shell. We found Jimmie very easy to approach and talk to. Anyone. Whether they be a hangar lizard or city official, they could get an answer to anything they wanted to know about this man.

All field personnel who could manage to do so were out on the flight line to see **Frank Anderline** end a record run from Portland, Ore., in a big Fokker F-10 tri-motor in front of a very strong tailwind. Trip time: one hour and 45 minutes. Needless to say, the plane's landing speed was reduced considerably. This plane was one of the fleet for Western Air Express flying up and down the Pacific Coast.

In the early days of automobile manufacture, there were dozens of different models and makes by as many companies: Flint, Moon, Overland, Rickenbacker, Locomobile, to name a few. Then it finally narrowed down to the Big Three: Ford, Chrysler and GMC.

The same thing has happened in the general aviation category. Main producers now are Cessna, Piper and Beech. All those many makes and types through the 1920s and 1930s used surplus engines from World War I. The notorious OX-5 and the Hispano Suiza were water-cooled V-8s of doubtful reliability. The Hisso, as it was known, had the better record of continuous service with least repairs. Eventually, more reliable air-cooled power plants prevailed.

It was these open-cockpit, two- and three-place biplanes that took part in many Sunday afternoon air shows on The Field. Seattleites were treated to some exciting action. There were the dangerous Puff Race, pylon races and comedy routines. Two World War I Curtiss JN-4 Jennies, owned by Tacoma High School seniors, would make their appearance, and this brought applause from crowds at fieldside.

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## FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Clay Eals)

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