

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XVI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 1991

WEATHER WATCH PARK TO BE DEDICATED AUG. 25; MANY BRICKS STILL AVAILABLE FOR ENGRAVING

West Seattle's newest park, the Weather Watch along Beach Drive at Southwest Carroll Street, will be dedicated at noon Sunday, Aug. 25.

Mayor **Norm Rice** is among the invited speakers for the free event. Society members are encouraged to welcome this beautiful addition to the area's heritage.

The site, a beachfront street-end owned by the city's Engineering Department, is now a pleasant wayside for people to wait for the bus, eat lunch or explore a small landscaped path to a section of Puget Sound beach.

Weather Watch was built in the same spot as a former Mosquito Fleet dock that operated on the site some 75 years ago.

That historical role is captured at Weather Watch with a column containing inlaid historical photos. The area's people-oriented history is enshrined as well with a collection of bricks containing the engraved names of West Seattle residents along with the years they came to live here.

The bricks, which cost donors \$45 or \$65 (for one or two lines of lettering), also include whimsical sayings and poetry.

Lezlie Jane, coordinator of the project who started planning it more than five years ago, said several dozen blank bricks still are available for donors to have engraved.

Jane, 41, is an artist and member of our society who has lived within two miles of the site all her life and now lives two buildings south of it.

She is responsible for the intricately planned details to be found at the park, which include a four-bird, blue and green weathervane, various inlaid items, and a relief map of the Olympic mountain range that is incorporated into a



WEATHER WATCH Park, along with its creator Lezlie Jane (inset).

semicircular bench. The landscaping includes seagrass and wild roses.

The park was funded by a \$20,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund grant from the city and a like amount in cash and in-kind donations.

Jane can be contacted at 938-4922 for more information on the bricks and the park.



BOB SUMBARDO snaps a photo of the Ballard group in front of the Morgan Street Market mural.

BALLARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS GUIDED TOUR OF WEST SEATTLE

Eight members of the Ballard Historical Society were treated to a driving tour of West Seattle by five members of our society.

The tour covered a lot of ground, starting with the fabulous display at the Westwood Village Keg Restaurant of historic photos of Luna Park, the West Seattle ferries and other maritime topics.

The group drove through Fauntleroy, up Beach Drive, along Alki and Harbor avenues, through the Admiral district and the West Seattle Junction. Highlights included stops at Me-Kwa-Mooks and Schmitz parks and the Morgan Street Market mural and a snack break at the Sumbardo Mansion.

Members of our society who led the tour were board members **JoAn Schmitz Fulton**, **Bob Sumbardo** (and his wife **Bonnie**), and **Clay Eals** (and his wife **Meg Bakken**).

The idea for the tour came from **Susan Cook**, co-president of the Ballard society, who also suggested that a contingent from our society take a similar tour of Ballard in the near future. At the end of the tour, the Ballard society presented us with a generous check as a token of appreciation.

The success of this first attempt at a driving tour of West Seattle has led some board members to think that our society should establish such a tour on a regular basis, either guided by society members (as the Ballard society does) or self-guided. Anyone interested in working on the idea should contact Fulton at 935-1018, Sumbardo at 937-9234 or Eals at 935-7515.

MURAL PROJECT TO GET \$30,000 SHOT IN THE ARM

Get ready for more murals in West Seattle!

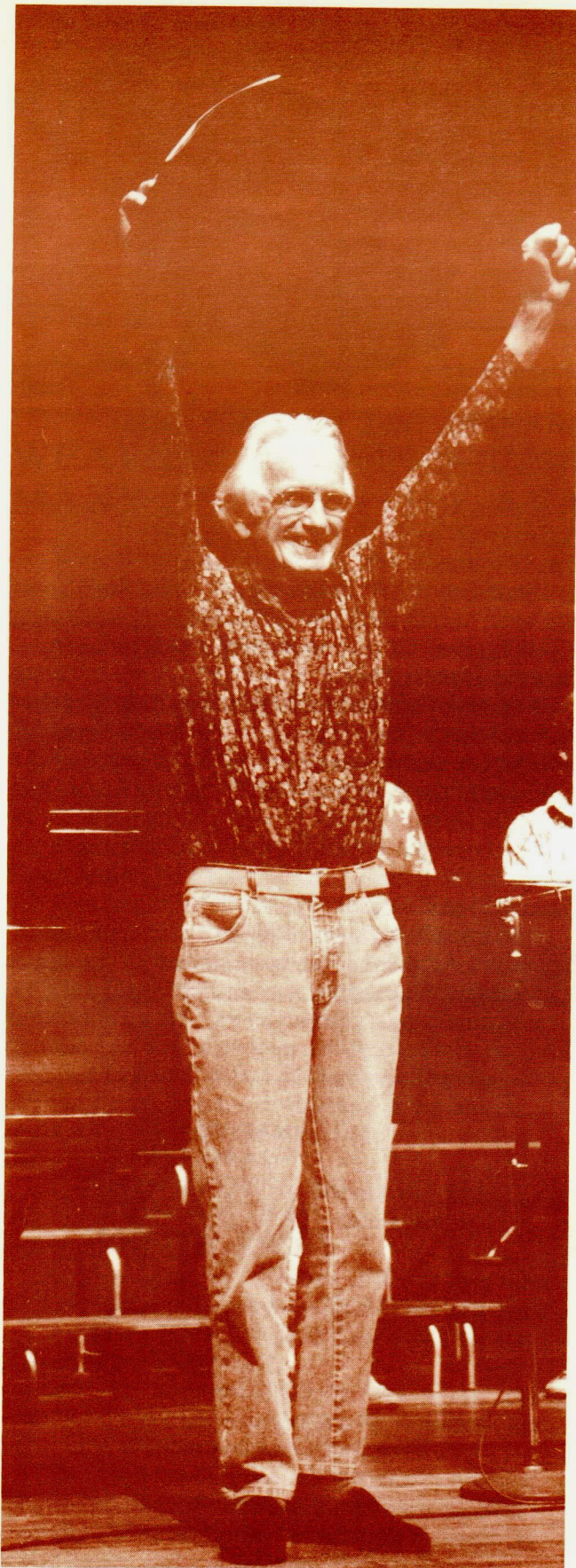
This month, the Seattle City Council is expected to approve a \$30,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund grant that will help pay for four new murals in West Seattle in 1992.

To match that money, society member **Earl Cruzen**, who heads the Murals of West Seattle

project, is sending out a fundraising letter. A copy is enclosed in this newsletter.

West Seattle already has six murals, two funded by a \$17,600 Centennial grant and four by a \$25,000 city grant and matching donations.

Our society co-sponsors the project. For more information, call Cruzen at 932-2345.



EARL ROBINSON, 1910-1991

CELEBRATION COMING SUNDAY, AUG. 18, ON LIFE OF EARL ROBINSON

A concert celebrating the life of the legendary songwriter **Earl Robinson** will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, at University Unitarian Church.

The concert will serve as a musical memorial to Robinson, who died in an auto accident on Southwest Admiral Way the evening of July 20.

Robinson grew up in West Seattle, graduated from West Seattle High School and returned to West Seattle to live in 1990. He had turned 81 on July 2.

His last concerts included the West Seattle Library Centennial in April and the Seattle Folklife Festival in May. His death was noted in lengthy Seattle newspaper articles and prompted singer **Joan Baez**, in a downtown waterfront concert a few days later, to sing one of Robinson's most famous songs, *Joe Hill*, in Robinson's memory.

Robinson, who was the main program for our society's annual meeting last November, is the subject of a video documentary produced by society member and West Seattleite **Bette Jean (B.J.) Bullert**. Our society is the documentary's financial sponsor.

Bullert, who originally planned the documentary to last a half hour, plans to extend it to an hour. It will include footage of Robinson singing and explaining the background of many of his notable songs, which included *The House I Live In*, *Black and White*, *Same Boat Brother* and *Ballad for Americans*.

The celebration concert will feature samples of Bullert's documentary-in-progress, interspersed with performances of Robinson's songs by his relatives, friends and members of the cast of a Pioneer Square Theater tribute to Robinson that was performed during 1990.

Among the performers will be the Blue Knights, Robinson's instrumental group from high school days. The eight-piece group will include Robinson's brother **Duane**, son **Perry** and nephew **Gregg**.

The concert will last a little more than an hour, with plenty of time for visiting and refreshments afterward. The church is at 6556 35th Ave. N.E.

Bullert's documentary project, supported by a matching grant from the King County Arts Commission, still needs funds. Contributors can make checks payable to Southwest Seattle Historical Society, c/o South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106. Bullert can be reached by calling 932-8973.

Lincoln Park picnic draws 30

More than 30 members of our society attended the Annual Membership Picnic at Lincoln Park on Sunday, June 30.

Those who came included society and Seattle City Council member **George Benson** and his wife **Evelyn**.

Virginia Bonney was given a Presidential Award for her many contributions to the planning and execution of our 1991 Tour of Homes.

A highlight of the picnic was a jigsaw puzzle constructed by society member **Brad Chrisman**. The puzzle depicted the *Bird's Eye View of Seattle*, including West Seattle, from 1891.

Carol Vincent, who chaired the picnic, and **Neal Lockett**, cook extraordinaire, deserve a big round of thanks for putting on a most successful and enjoyable affair!

A double dose of Dorpat

West Seattle was recently featured in back-to-back installments in **Paul Dorpat's** *Now and Then* series in the Seattle Times' Pacific Magazine.

In the July 21 issue, Dorpat featured a rare photo overlooking the snowy Alki neighborhood and beach, taken from Southwest Stevens Street in 1916. It had drawn Dorpat's attention when it ran in our April 1991 Footprints.

In the July 28 issue, Dorpat featured a familiar view of the Riverside neighborhood, next door to the new low-level Spokane Street Bridge, which was formally dedicated on Aug. 9.

Thanks, Paul! We like the attention.



BARBARA HILL (left) and Heidi Lockett work the picnic puzzle.

Admiral gets \$50,000 grant

State Sen. **Phil Talmadge** of West Seattle managed to include in the 1991-1993 state budget a \$50,000 grant for the renovation of the landmark Admiral Theater.

The grant will be available to any owner of the Admiral that wishes to preserve the 49-year-old building. A Seattle developer has been negotiating purchase of the Admiral from Cineplex Odeon, the current owner.

Our society led the effort to win landmark status for the building from the city's Landmarks Preservation Board.

The board's approval of a final Controls and Incentives Agreement has been stalled by the sale negotiations. The Admiral closed in January 1989.

FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Clay Eals)

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c/o South Seattle Community College
6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106

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