

Footprints

on the sands of time....

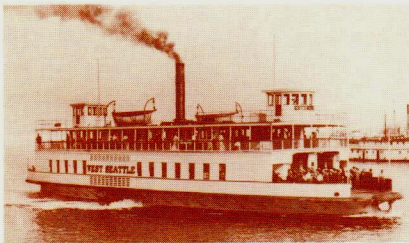
ISSUE XVIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1992

WOW!!

Don't miss our two big events during
March and April:



Our society's first **ORAL HISTORY** session at the West Seattle Library will get the nostalgia flowing on ferry and streetcar **TRANSPORTATION**.

7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18
(See page 2)

At West Seattle's historic landmark **ADMIRAL THEATRE**, the movies are back, starting with a gala 1942-style 50th-anniversary **PREMIERE**.

6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2
(See page 3)



How did we get from here to there? Come share your memories on tape!

Something new in the realm of our society's activities is about to begin -- and everyone is invited!

It's our monthly Oral History Program, which will get its first tryout at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at the West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave. S.W. The event is free, and **TRANSPORTATION** is the topic.

If you have memories of what it was like to get around in the old days -- by ferry, streetcar, trackless trolley, car, bicycle or foot -- this is the session for you! It's also a great way to find out about those bygone days of streetcar tracks, roads and bridges that don't exist anymore.

The Oral History Program is coordinated by **Carol Vincent**, our society's vice-president and a longtime staff member of the West Seattle Library.

Carol has rounded up **Bette Jean (B.J.) Bullert** -- a member of our society who teaches in the University of Washington School of Communications and is in the final stages of a TV documentary on the late songwriter **Earl Robinson** -- to moderate the March 18 program.

The idea, according to Carol, is that people interested in a particular topic -- in this case, transportation -- can gather in one place to share their memories, and those memories will be preserved on videotape for the education and enjoyment of those in generations to come.

Carol, who will operate our society's video camera during these monthly



CAROL VINCENT, Coordinator

events, is lining up several people to attend the March 18 session who can get the conversational ball rolling, including **JoAn Schmitz Fulton**, a member of our society's Executive Board. As one old-time story is shared, that will spark other memories among those in the audience.

Co-sponsoring the Oral History Program is the West Seattle Library, headed by **Karen Spiel**, and the Seattle Public Library system. You can pick up a flyer on the program at the West Seattle Library.

Other sessions in the program are scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, and Wednesday, May 20. Schools will be among the future topics. If these first three sessions are successful, the series is expected to continue on a monthly basis in the fall.



WRECK AT Avalon Way and Spokane Street, Jan. 8, 1937, worst in city streetcar history. (MOHAI photo)

If you have ideas for topics or if you have memories on particular topics relating to the history of West Seattle and White Center, Carol would like to hear from you. Her work number is 684-7444 and her home number is 937-6744.



THE SIGN on the marquee read "That's All, Folks!" for the past three years, but thanks to new owners and operators, the Admiral Theatre has new life.

Historic Admiral Theatre sets sail again with gala 1942-style premiere on April 2

The long-awaited reopening of West Seattle's historic Admiral Theatre is now less than a month away!

The 50-year-old city landmark will be the site of a gala 1942-flavored premiere on the evening of Thursday, April 2. Tickets to the event were so popular that they sold out between March 4 and March 8. Because of the heavy demand for tickets, the Admiral's new operators have added a second set of later shows!

Organized by our society's Save the Admiral Theatre Task Force, the night-time celebration will be an upbeat catharsis for a community that has worked hard and waited more than three years for the theater to be reopened to the public.

The festivities will include searchlights, the showing of two classic 50-year-old films ("Woman of the Year" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. and "The Maltese Falcon" at 7:30 and 10 p.m.) and several nostalgic shorts, free popcorn and soft drinks, free souvenir postcards and bumper stickers, and an old-fashioned ship's launching of the nautical-style moviehouse at 6:30. Our task force also will announce formation of a Restoration Fund for the theatre.

Tickets for the premiere, at \$5 each, are limited. The 800 tickets for the early programs (7 and 7:30) are sold out. The 800 tickets for the newly added programs (9:30 and 10) went on sale March 11 at Admiral Thriftway, 2320 42nd Ave. S.W. and are sure to go fast.

Proceeds from the premiere tickets for the sold-out early shows will go to West Seattle Helpline, a community agency that offers referrals, clothing and financial aid to the needy.

On Friday, April 3, the night after the premiere, the twin-screen Admiral will hold its grand reopening as a \$2-per-feature second-run movie house. The regular fare will consist of four films per night. The initial slate is not certain yet, but will consist of recent family-oriented movies such as "Hook," "The Addams Family" and "Star Trek VI."

Operators of the Admiral are Jack Clark, president, and Al Dabestani, chairman of the board, of A Theater Near You, Inc., a Marysville-based company that runs several theatres in Puget Sound and British Columbia, including the historic Bay Theatre in Ballard.

The owners of the Admiral are Marc and Cecil Gartin, of C & R Electric in West Seattle. They bought the moviehouse from Cineplex Odeon in December 1991.

Society gets new president

Bob Sumbardo, a member of our society's Executive Board during 1991, was elected society president for 1992 at our November 1991 annual membership meeting.

He replaces **Clay Eals**, who served as president from 1989 through 1991. The change of leadership amounted to a switch of Executive Board roles for Sumbardo and Eals.

Continuing in 1992 as vice-president, secretary and treasurer are **Carol Vincent**, **Elliott Couden** and **Joan Mraz**, respectively. Board members, and the expiration years of their terms, are **Berlena Brock** and **JoAn Fulton**, 1992; **Deb Barker** and **Van Peirson**, 1993, and **Eals** and **Mollie Tremaine**, 1994.

Home Tour coming May 9

Planning for our society's fourth annual Tour of Homes is proceeding, as the tour committee, headed by **Mollie Tremaine** and **Deb Barker**, is busy assembling a final list of sites.

The tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 9, the traditional yearly date, the day before Mother's Day. The ticket price again will be \$5.

Most of the sites will be in the Admiral and Alki neighborhoods. They will include some old favorites and some homes that have never been part of our tour before. The Admiral Theatre will be the site for the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. that day.

Committee members and their tasks this year include **Virginia Bonney**, site selection and volunteers; **Clay Eals**, publicity; **Jim Jeffrey**, finance; **Bob Sumbardo**, opening ceremony; **Barker**, site description, photos and video, and **Merrilee Hagen**, volunteer coordination.

Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts/hostesses at the tour sites. If you can do so, and if you have ideas for what sites you would like to see on the tour, call the Bonney household at 932-9570.

More advance information on the tour will come in the next edition of Footprints, in April.

Maribeth Morris dies

Maribeth Morris, editor of the White Center News in the early 1960s who went on to larger fame as a Seattle Post-Intelligencer reporter and "Action" line columnist, died Feb. 24 at Moderncare nursing home in West Seattle after a prolonged illness. She was 62.

Morris, society member #117, was a resident of the Arroyos neighborhood. She was known as a warm and feisty advocate for the needy, and her work led to the establishment of the P-I's Readers Care Fund, which has distributed more than \$2.4 million to community agencies over 14 years.

Born Maribeth Balthaser in Seattle on Jan. 7, 1930, Morris graduated from Garfield High School, where she was editor of the school paper, and the University of Washington, where she majored in journalism. Her career spanned nearly 40 years.

She "brought great vitality and sparkle" to her editorship of the White Center News, wrote **Elliott Couden**, our society's secretary, in a letter to the West Seattle Herald/White Center News.

Membership notes

Eugene N. and Mary E. Allen have moved out of town to 1301 S. Third Ave., #93, Sequim, WA 98382.... **Deb Barker** has moved to her newly acquired home at 4131 37th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98126.... **Oscar Mraz** has moved into town at 2026 N. 78th St., Seattle, WA 98103, phone: 527-1884.... **Roy Morse** is back in action after eye surgery. Welcome back, Roy!... **Nancy Couden Williams** is bouncing between here, Hong Kong and Boston. She can be contacted through her grandfather, **Elliott Couden**.... Want an updated roster of members? Call Elliott at 932-2290.

FOOTPRINTS

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