

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XIX

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1992

Here comes the tour!

Six classic homes, two bed-and-breakfasts, Admiral Theatre open for viewing May 9

Discover the 20-year home and former curio display yard of J.E. "Daddy" Standley, founder of Seattle's Ye Olde Curiosity Shop! Stroll on a dance floor of three-quarter-inch bird's-eye maple that thousands used for decades at the old West Seattle Community Clubhouse!

You can do this and much more when you pull on your springtime walking shoes, peel open your eye for historic detail and join hundreds of others at the our historical society's **Fourth Annual Tour of Homes**.

Six homes (including the Standley house and the Community Clubhouse), two bed-and-breakfasts and the newly reopened Admiral Theatre will be showcased during the tour on **Saturday, May 9**, the day before Mother's Day. Hours for the tour, which has drawn a total of 2,100 people during its first three years, will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A \$5 ticket allows entry to all nine sites.

Tickets are on sale at 28 outlets in all neighborhood business districts in West Seattle and White Center, including many banks (see list on page 4). Tickets also will be on sale at each location the day of the tour.

As in previous years, the tour is self-guided. You can choose the sites you wish to visit and when to do so during the six-hour event. Volunteers recruited by our society's Home Tour Committee will host each location.

Details on the nine sites (seven of which are "new" to the tour this year), photos, and a complete map will appear in a special *Homes with History* guide to be published in the Wednesday, April 29, West Seattle Herald and White Center News.

To kick off the event, the historical society will sponsor a ceremony at 9:30 a.m. on the day of the tour at the Admiral Theatre, 2343 California Ave. S.W. Refreshments will be served at the event, which is open to the public free of charge.

The tour features two bed-and-breakfasts from the society's two previous tours: Hainsworth House, 2657 37th Ave. S.W., (built in 1907) and Villa Heidelberg, 4845 45th Ave. S.W., (1909).

New to the tour this year are the Admiral Theatre and six historic homes at 1750 Palm Ave. S.W. (the Standley house), 4209 S.W. Seattle St., 1904 47th Ave. S.W. (the Community Clubhouse), 3029 49th Ave. S.W., 5936 45th Ave. S.W. and 4408 Beach Drive S.W. (a former residence of West Seattle's Schmitz family).

The tour also offers two drive-by attractions: the new Weather Watch Park at 4000 Beach Drive S.W., and the six Murals of West Seattle, painted in 1989 and 1990.

The generous co-sponsors of this year's tour, which also serve as ticket sites, are **ERA/Bianchi-Zaar Realty, The Prudential/Benton's Realty, Cayce & Gain Realty, Northwest Art & Frame** and the **West Seattle Herald/White Center News**.



HOMES
WITH
HISTORY

The 'stars' come out on reopening night!



Photos by Elliott Couden

STATE SEN. Phil Talmadge, a backbone of the Save the Admiral drive, visits on reopening night.

Smiles abound as the Admiral 'ship' sails again

What a night!

From the last-minute installation of its beautiful new marquee to the last line of the last movie ("It's the stuff that dreams are made of"), the reopening night of the 50-year-old Admiral Theatre was a night to remember.

And West Seattleites turned out in force to welcome back the moviehouse that had been closed for more than three years.

They cheered at the champagne bottle "launching" (it took new owners Marc and Cecil Gartin and Mayor Norm Rice two tries to get the bottle to break against the wall), they heartily applauded dozens of dignitaries who were introduced during the pair of opening ceremonies inside the theatre, and they settled in to watch two smashing classics from 1942, "Woman of the Year" and "The Maltese Falcon."

Because the 800 tickets for the first set of shows sold out in four days, the new operators — Jack Clark and Al Dabestani of



AURLO BONNEY (left) of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce enjoys the festive reopening night atmosphere with ex-Seattle City Council member and West Seattleite Dolores Sibonga. (Right) State Rep. Georgette Valle, who picketed on the Admiral's closing night in 1989, proudly displays her reopening night ticket.



THE ADMIRAL Theatre's new marquee, boasting six(!) movies, beamed on the weekend after opening night. (Right) The Nickels family -- King County Council member Greg, his wife Sharon and their children Carey, 8, and Jake, 10 -- beamed on opening night as well. All four Nickels were pickets on the Jan. 29, 1989, closing night.

"A Theater Near You" — added a second set of shows that drew another 400.

It was a night to give thanks to the many people who helped save Admiral. Besides the Gartins, Clark and Dabestani, our society's Save the Admiral Theatre Task Force recognized dozens of key players, including state Sen. Phil Talmadge (whose advice, representation and legislative savvy were invaluable), state Reps. Mike Heavey and Georgette Valle, King County Council member Greg Nickels, ex-Seattle City Council member Dolores Sibonga, and the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board.

It also was a night to announce a new Admiral Restoration Fund, to be administered by our society's board and help pay for restoring the theatre's auditorium murals, mast and crow's nest. (To contribute, send a check to our society, in care of the return address on page 4.)

Carol Vincent, our society's vice president, recorded the proceedings on video. A tape of that footage plus TV news clips on the Save the Admiral effort is available for checkout at the West Seattle Library.

The Admiral's regular fare is now four to six second-run films a week. It's a slate that will change every Friday. It marks a promising future for West Seattle's only moviehouse.

Let's all continue to "save" the Admiral by going to the movies!



IT WAS a night to savor for Flo Lentz (right), who prepared the city landmark nomination of the Admiral for our society, and her daughter Laura, 14.

This was the message
on the reopening night marquee:

**'THANK YOU' WEST SEATTLE
'YOU SAVED THE SHIP!'**

Seaside Pharmacy closes after seven decades on Alki Beach

Charles Richey Jr. and his wife Joanne closed Seaside Pharmacy in mid-March, ending a 70-year reign as West Seattle's oldest family-owned business.

Originally operating for several years on the beach side of Alki Avenue (an early photo of the business is dated 1914-15), Seaside was taken over in 1922 by Charles Richey Sr., who operated the pharmacy for decades at on the southwest corner of 61st and Alki avenues southwest. In family style, as Charles Sr. retired, Charles Jr. and Joanne became the owners.

Known as "The Mayor of Alki," Charles Sr. was active in service clubs and served as a two-term representative in the state Legislature. A city viewpoint south of Alki Lighthouse was named for Charles Sr. in the late 1980s.

One treat of visiting Seaside in recent years has been the opportunity to view the store's collection of historic photos of Alki. Upon the pharmacy's closure, the Richeys generously donated the collection to our society.

The Richeys plan to take a well-deserved vacation after tirelessly serving Alki residents for many decades. Their prescription customers have been referred to Morton's Drug in the West Seattle Junction.



Photo by Elliott Couden

CHARLES JR. and Joanne Richey, March 1992.

Final spring Oral History session to focus on FUN at West Seattle Library

Our society's monthly Oral History Program drew congenial audiences and warm reminiscences in March and April, so the final session, set for Wednesday, May 20, is an event not to miss!

The topic will be how people had fun in the days gone by. Recreation, entertainment, parks, sports — everything is fair game. The program runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave. S.W. Carol Vincent, Coordinator of the Oral History Program, is videotaping the sessions.

If you have memories to share, or if you would like to hear some those memories, join us at the library!

Get your tickets for 1992 Tour of Homes at 28 area businesses

Tickets for our society's May 9, 1992, Tour of Homes are on sale at 28 outlets, listed here by neighborhood:

Alki: Pegasus Pizza, The Point Grill. **Admiral:** Angelina's Trattoria, Cayce & Gain Realty, Hart Cards & Gifts, Security Pacific Bank, University Savings Bank, Windermere Real Estate. **The Junction:** California & Alaska St. Brewery, Capers, ERA Bianchi-Zaar Realty, First Interstate Bank, LaGrace Dress Shop, Northwest Art & Frame, Pacific First Bank, Puget Sound Bank, The Prudential/Benton's Realty, Seafirst Bank, U.S. Bank Alaska Street, U.S. Bank Edmunds Street Motor Branch, Washington Federal Savings & Loan Assn., Washington Mutual Savings Bank, West Seattle Herald/White Center News. **Morgan/Gatewood:** Olsen's Valu-Rite Drugs, Windermere Real Estate. **Fauntleroy:** The Original Bakery. **White Center:** Seafirst Bank, U.S. Bank.

AKCHO to hold meetings in Tukwila and at Boeing Museum of Flight

The Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) announces the following meetings:

* Tuesday, April 28, 9:15 p.m., host is Tukwila Historical Society, Tukwila City Hall, 6200 Southcenter Boulevard, Tukwila.

Program: water transportation.

* Thursday, May 21, 9:15 a.m., host is Boeing Museum of Flight, 9404 E. Marginal Way, Seattle, joint meeting with King

County Landmarks Commission. Program: annual awards.

* Tuesday, June 30, 9:15 a.m., host is Eastside Genealogical Society, location to be announced.

FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Clay Eals)

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