

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE XXIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 1993

## See you at our picnic on Sunday, June 27!

It's time again to come socialize with those who have a love and appreciation for West Seattle and White Center history.

That's right, our annual membership picnic is coming up later this month.

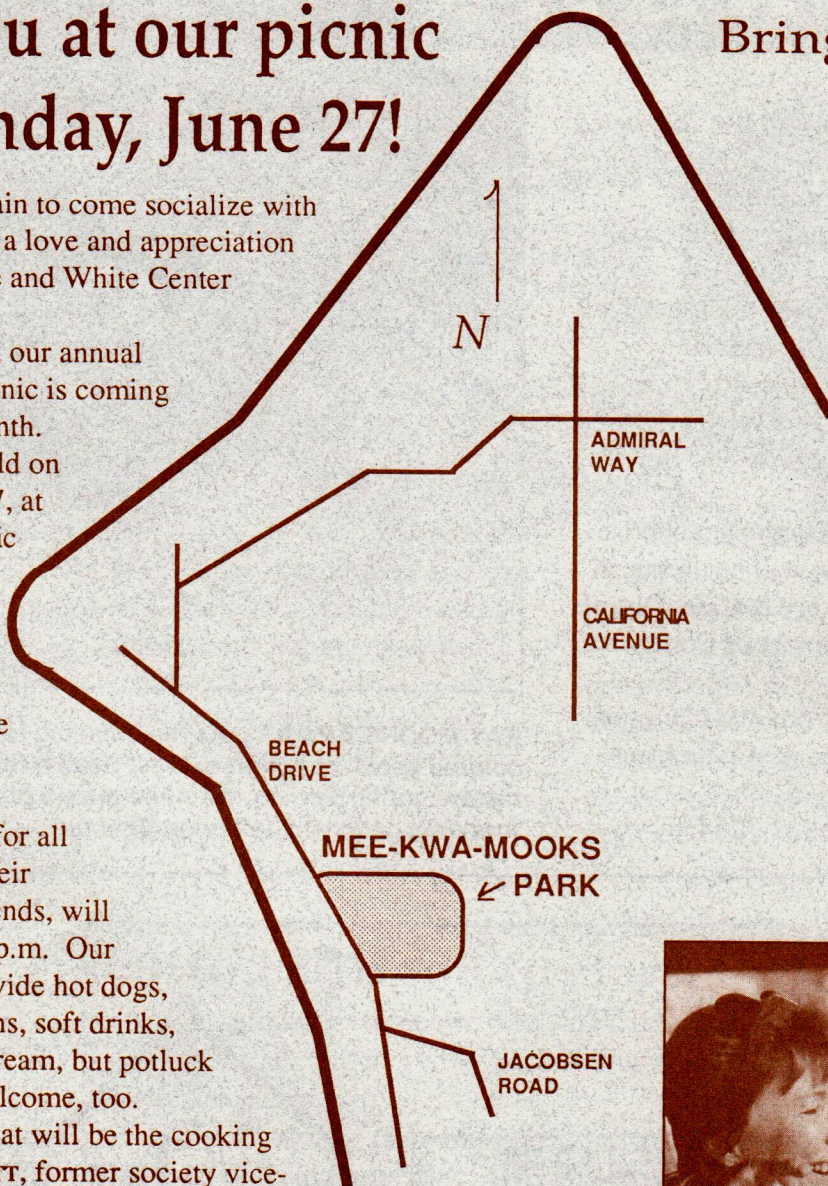
It will be held on Sunday, June 27, at the quiet, historic and easily accessible Mee-Kwa-Mooks Park on Beach Drive, the same site as last year's picnic.

The picnic, for all members and their families and friends, will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Our society will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, soft drinks, coffee and ice cream, but potluck offerings are welcome, too.

A special treat will be the cooking of **NEAL LOCKETT**, former society vice-president, who has graciously volunteered to return as grill chef after handling that duty so well at several previous gatherings.

The city's Mee-Kwa-Mooks Park lies in the 4000 block, on the east side of Beach Drive Southwest (see map).

Remember, this is a family picnic, so bring one and all. See you there!



Bring your enthusiasm,  
bring good spirits,  
bring a Frisbee,  
and be sure to  
bring friends  
and family!



**MOE BEERMAN** (left) gets a hamburger grilled to perfection from **Neal Lockett**, who will serve as chef this year.



Photos by Clay Eals

**ENJOYING A LAUGH** at the 1991 picnic are (from left) Mollie Tremaine, Elliott Couden and Roberta Weeks.



Historic art show, driving-tour booklet  
result from artist's

# West Seattle Wanderings

Art and history are combining in a most rewarding way in West Seattle next month.

West Seattle artist **KAY MOORE DEWAR** has completed 25 drawings and paintings of local historical sites, and her works will be on display throughout July at the ArtsWest (formerly West Seattle Cultural Society) gallery at 4720 42nd Ave. S.W.

Our society has joined forces with Kay to produce a 20-page driving-tour booklet featuring Kay's art.

The booklet, which will debut at Kay's ArtsWest show, is called "West Seattle Wanderings" and will be on sale for a donation of \$1.25. Proceeds go to our society, to pay printing costs.

Seventeen sites and a detailed locator map comprise the vertical-format booklet, which also will be on sale at Northwest Art & Frame, the Alki Bakery & Cafe, Olsen's Valu-Rite Drug, the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Pony Express in White Center.

A reception for Kay will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, at the ArtsWest gallery. Come meet our society's new historical artist!

For more information, call Kay at 937-7784.

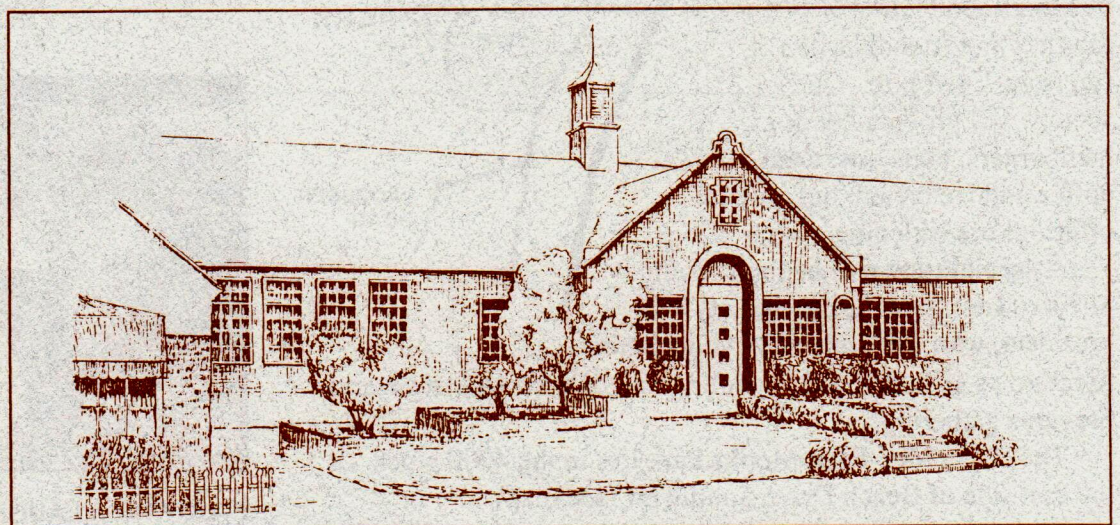


Photo by Clay Eals

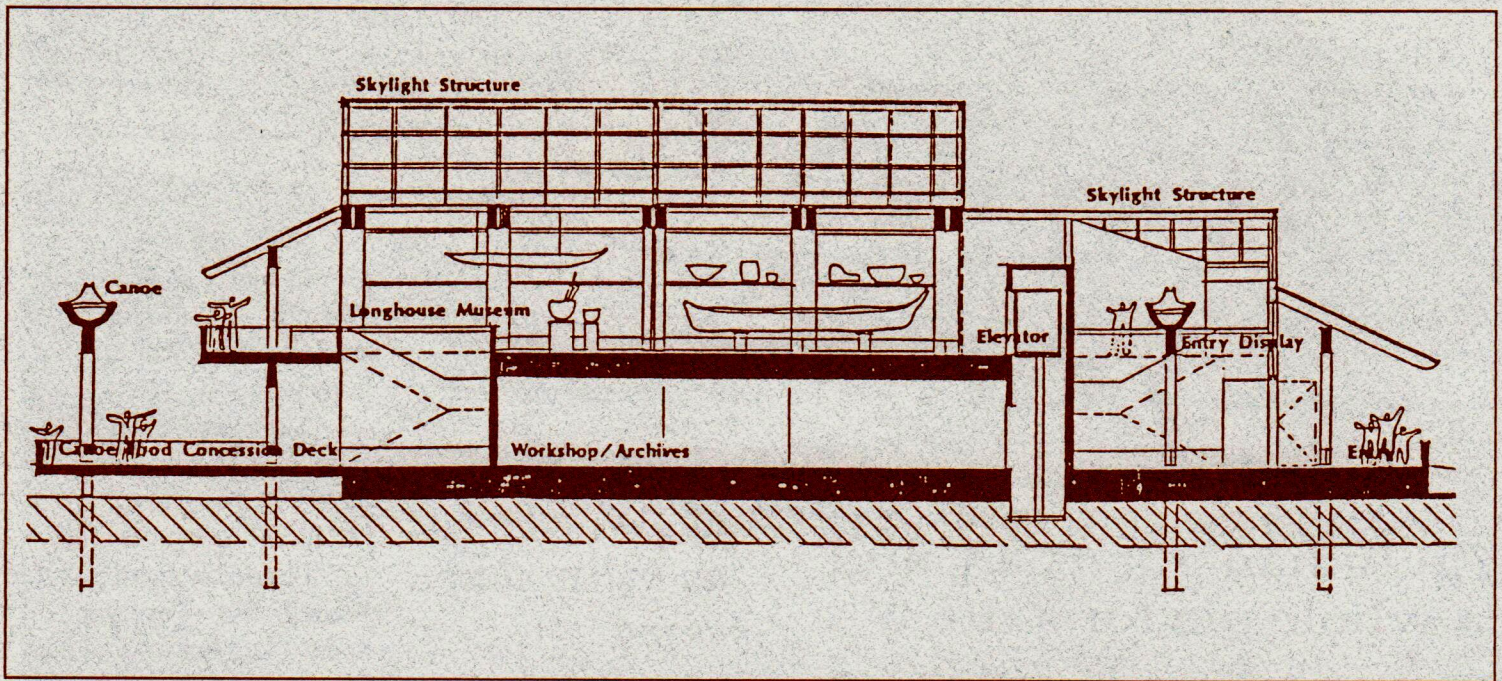
**KAY MOORE DEWAR** puts the finishing touches on a colored pencil rendition of West Seattle High School. Her historic art show runs the entire month of July at the ArtsWest gallery in Jefferson Square.

**FAUNTLEROY SCHOOL,** as drawn by Kay Moore Dewar, is one of 17 sites appearing in the "West Seattle Wanderings" booklet, which will debut at Kay's show at the ArtsWest gallery throughout July.

The show features 25 drawings and paintings of local historic sites.







THIS CROSS-SECTION view of the proposed Duwamish Cultural Center will be part of the Greater Harbor 2000 Design Workshop discussions on June 29-30.

## Lend your voice to Harbor Avenue talks

A process that will change the face of Harbor Avenue kicks into high gear this month.

As a result, everyone who loves and appreciates West Seattle's rich, diverse heritage can do something to preserve that heritage.

The Seattle Design Commission holds a Greater Harbor 2000 Design Workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 29-30, at Alki Elementary School, 3010 59th Ave. S.W.

On those two days, with the help of the public, the commission will put together a plan to guide development for Harbor Avenue.

That's no tiny step, for big development is coming soon to the area. Metro will dig an east-west tunnel beneath West Seattle at about Hanford Street, and the Port of Seattle will enlarge Terminal 5 to accommodate an expanded American President Lines.

Those moves alone will spring loose "mitigation" money in the millions of dollars. That means a big potential for projects to spruce up what, for many years,

has been a neglected roadway with deep ties to West Seattle's past.

Our society's Executive Board has initiated an Alki/

Harbor Avenue Master Plan, which includes a series of coordinated historical markers, two bronze beach sculptures, a Duwamish Tribal Cultural Center (designed by the Duwamish Tribal Council), and perhaps even a mini-museum at Alki Point Lighthouse.

Board member ARLENE WADE has organized our plan and represented our society at a variety of meetings.

Support for our

society's plan — and for consideration of heritage issues in general — needs to be voiced now to the Seattle Design Commission.

You can do so by writing the workshop director, ANITA LEHMANN, at 1401 N.E. Boat St., Seattle, WA 98105, by calling her at 684-0434, or by attending the workshop on July 29-30.

For more information, contact Arlene at 937-7494.

### See waterfront photos June 23

The Admiral Community Council has invited members of our society to a special meeting at which the Port of Seattle will present an historical photographic retrospective of the Seattle waterfront, with special emphasis on West Seattle.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, at the Hiawatha Community Center auditorium 2700 California Ave. S.W.

For more information, contact JIM JEFFREY, secretary of the Admiral council and a member of our society, at 935-3910, or MIKE NAGAN, Admiral council president, at 684-0582.



The pleasures of  
Harbor Avenue through

# Elvida's Eyes

## An Indian guardian, and 'a whole pie for a dime'

[Editor's note: The following is the third in a series of articles appearing in Footprints this year. The author is Ada Hallberg, a Beach Drive resident and society member. This installment focuses on Native Americans and businesses on Harbor Avenue.]

By ADA HALLBERG

ELVIDA ELLINGSEN BREWSTER was animated as her memories of landslides on Harbor Avenue turned to the turn-of-the-century Native American population.

"Now that I think of it," she said, "the Indians lived in that slide direction, but you never heard of them getting in a slide. They were down there across from Herr Lumber, sort of, along the flats and up the hill a bit. They never slid anywhere.

"They had little farms, vegetable gardens for themselves, but not for sale, but we bought eggs from them. They lived in houses like those you saw along Alki in the 1930s, just planks from the bay and other wood that was around. They were little beach houses.

"Often the Indians would sit on the benches at the ferry landing selling their baskets and other things that they made.

"One time, an Indian down there told me an Indian chief would be my guardian. He told me, too, that I was going to have bad legs. Well, he was right about that."

I remembered many times when I saw Elvida. She was sitting with her legs raised on a stool, and she would explain to me about her "bad legs":

"I liked the idea of having an Indian chief as my guardian, as I said. And for all I know, he hung around me, because I sure did get out of a lot of scrapes in my life. Some of them were when I went to work at Luna Amusement, when I married a union man — I mean a

man in the top of the Teamsters Union organization ... That wasn't the safest place to be, either. Yeah, I liked my Indian guardian."

As with the Native Americans, Elvida remembered the shops along Harbor Avenue vividly.

"A lot of people who lived on Harbor Avenue had a little business there. There have been a lot of different businesses — a meat market, for instance, and a grocery store. My dad had a cobbler business, and then a real-estate business that he went into later.

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*'I liked the idea of having an Indian chief as my guardian ... and for all I know, he hung around me, because I sure did get out of a lot of scrapes in my life. Some of them were when I went to work at Luna Amusement.'*

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"There was Vann's barber shop — old man Vann, not the sons. They have the restaurant now on the hill.

"I told you, there was the Wheelhouse — everyone knew about that — and the Last Round Up, and there was this other saloon. I don't remember much about that one. It was called the Last Chance, if I remember correctly. And there was this old lady Kennedy. She used to do cleaning and pressing for the fishermen," Elvida said.

"There was a bakery! The bakery woman took in roomers upstairs, and she baked the most fantastic strawberry pies."

Elvida smiled.

"I could get a whole pie for a dime," she said.

It was the most luxurious moment in her young life when she had enough extra pennies to be able to treat herself to a pie and to a few minutes to scrunch down in a private corner and eat that strawberry pie.

Did she go to the beach? I don't think so. She never spoke about the sand, or even the glass balls from the fishermen's nets that were in abundant supply in a cove near her house.

"Did you have a childhood friend?" I asked her once.

"I can't remember," she said.

"That bakery woman lived right down there next to the brick saloon. Further on down from where we lived were the French rooms, we called them.





Photo courtesy of Ada Hallberg

**SNOW AND ICE** covered this section of Harbor Avenue on Feb. 10, 1916.

“The fishermen had their boats tied up over there across Harbor Avenue from the saloons.... ‘Maid of Orleans’ was famous, and I think the ‘John A’ was there, too. Of course, there was seven or eight boats that went up cod fishing in the spring until they come down in the fall.

“Right across from us was a cod fish plant, I told you.

They used to tie up there and have their cod fish on top. I used to see it.

“A lot of fishing was going on then. A lot of fish in the Sound, too. You could get a salmon for 25 cents, or maybe 30.

“Well, most of the men just docked their boats there. Some might have lived down at the gulch. Some of the

fishermen, when they had too much to drink, you know, it was a strange thing. They didn’t seem to get real drunk like they do nowadays. They just got friendly, and the way you could tell they’d been drinking was they just began singing. They were happy.”

[See part 4 in the next issue of Footprints.]

## West Seattle's Luna Park

by Mary Lee

*Its barnacle-encrusted piles  
stand crumbling and awry  
as tides recede, revealing where  
once leap-the-dips and ferris wheels  
emblazoned the night sky.*

*But like to all who must outgrow  
dear playthings of their youth,  
old houses along Alki Point,  
crowded by condos, face at last  
low tide's revealing truth.*

[Ada Hallberg recommended this poem for Footprints. Mary Lee, 92, has lived on Beach Drive since 1938. She writes poetry on a variety of subjects. “I really can’t stop it,” she says with a laugh. “I just keep going.”]



# Tour of Homes draws 500-plus

Our society's fifth annual Tour of Homes was a ringing success, with more than 500 people participating.

The Executive Board of our society formally congratulated board member **MERRILEE HAGEN** for the long and hard catch-up effort she put in as chair of the tour, held May 8.

With seven sponsors and seven co-sponsors, the tour featured nine sites, including six that were new to the tour.

Remember that planning for next year's tour is under way, with eight new sites having made commitments so far.

For more information on how you can help, contact Merrilee on her pager phone at 728-4234.



Photos by Jan Box

**THIS ENGLISH frameTtudor on 49th Avenue Southwest and eight other sites drew an enthusiastic crowd to this year's Tour of Homes on May 8.**



**CHARLIE JUNG and Erma Schwartz cut the rug (floor) at the Camp Long lodge during the tour's opening ceremony. Supplying the musical entertainment was the Duwamish Dixieland Band.**

## Volunteers top 60

The volunteers on the 1993 tour committee were: **MERRILEE AND MELISSA HAGEN, KAREN CARLSON KEMPTON, RICHARD VINCENT, SHELLY SMITH DUNLOP, RUSSETT NORDLING, ERMA SCHWARTZ, DEB BARKER AND CHARLIE JUNG.**

Volunteer hosts for the nine sites were (in alphabetical order):

**BRUCE ADDISON, IRENE ANTICH, BARBARA BENSON, AURLO AND VIRGINIA BONNEY, JACK AND JUSTINE CARLILE, FRANK COOK, PAM CURTAIN, VIRGINIA CYR, CHRIS DAHER, BETSY DETROIT;**

**ROBERT AND ALISON E'STEP, KRISTI FREEBURG, JOAN SCHMITZ FULTON, TOM AND MARION GRAHAM,**

**VAL HUGHES, WALTER JELONEK, CHARLIE AND KACEY JUNG, MARK AND JAN LAUCKS, KAREN LAVALEE, MAX MAGE, HELEN MASSART;**

**NICOLE MCLAUGHLIN, BERNICE MOORE, NORMA JEAN MORTENSON, CAROL MUNOZ, RUSSETT NORDLING, BARBARA PARKER, MARIETTA PANE, DOROTHY POPLAWSKI, DAN PORTMAN, PAT PREECE, AMY PULSIFER, MOLLY REED, TARA ROSE;**

**ERMA SCHWARTZ, MAGGIE SETE, MALLORY SHIBUYA, CONNIE SHILPEROORT, MAURY SKARET, SHELLY SMITH, JOHN THOMPSON, DOUG AND JOCELYN THORNTON, JIM AND JUDIE TYRELLS;**

**LEE VANANTWERP, MARYANNE VANDERGRIF, ALAN VEVARIS, RICHARD VINCENT, KOSTAS VRANIS, HELEN WELLS, KAREN WISSING.**



# Want to write your family history? SSCC course will help you this fall!

"Someday, I've got to write that down."

"Someday, I'll get that story of Aunt Jane's down on paper."

"Someday, I'll put all of those memories together in a book for my children and grandchildren — and their children — to enjoy."

How many times have you said something like that?

Well, "someday" soon will be today.

That's because this fall, you'll have the opportunity to take a course that will help you put your memories in book form.

The course is called "Sharing Memories." It will be taught from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday nights, from Sept. 29 through Dec. 9, at South Seattle Community College.

Instructors for the course will be CLAY EALS, vice-president of our society's Executive Board, and his wife MEG BAKKEN, a society member.

Clay and Meg have more than 30 years' combined professional experience with interviewing, writing and editing, mostly in newspaper work. They are particularly familiar with West Seattle and White Center through their jobs and volunteer pursuits over the past 11 years.

For this course, they will use course materials that were originated in Glenmoore, Penn., and are used in colleges around the country. This is SSCC's first use of the "Sharing Memories" materials.

"The idea of the course," said Clay, "is that a lot of people want to write their own stories or preserve their family histories, but have never gotten around to it. The course actually helps people get started on those stories."

The course will be offered in room 16 of SSCC's

Robert Smith Building — a computer lab.

"Those who enroll will be using the college's computers, but that shouldn't scare anyone off," Clay said. "In fact, the course's software is very simple. It's designed specifically for those who don't want to learn all about computers but want the advantages of using one."

Those advantages, he said, are immense, whether a person is an experienced or "two-fingered" typist.

"Many people can get their thoughts out faster on a

keyboard than in handwriting. Plus, the computer makes it so easy to edit what you write."

The computer program also sets the material in book form, Clay said. "The final result of your work can be a professionally bound book, and we'll provide details on how you can order as many copies as you want."

Meg said the course will provide an informal, non-pressured setting.

"We hope that one of the big benefits of the course is that everyone will get one-on-one help, not just from Clay and me but from each other," she said. "We'll help not just with the computers, but with jogging memories, encouragement and even the grammar and spelling as desired."

The course, part of SSCC's Personal Enrichment series, will cost \$45, plus \$7.50 for a handbook and \$1.95 for a computer disk.

Detailed registration information will be available in SSCC's fall course catalog, to be mailed to residents of West Seattle, South Seattle and White Center later this summer.

If it is successful fall quarter, it may become a regular offering at SSCC. To pre-register, or for more information, call Clay or Meg at 935-7515.

## Sharing Memories



### Bring a friend to class

Do you know someone who isn't a member of our society but might enjoy the "Sharing Memories" course?

Our Executive Board has decided to offer an incentive for non-members to take the course.

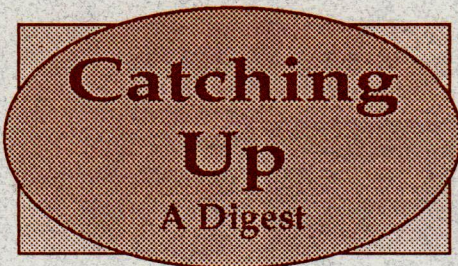
The board voted at its May meeting to offer anyone not a member of our society who takes the course a free, one-year membership in our society -- a \$10 value.



## White Center plan under way

King County planners are mapping out the future of unincorporated White Center, and they want ideas from our historical society for how the area's heritage should be preserved and enhanced.

**CAROL MUNOZ**, a member of our Executive Board, is representing our society's input on the White Center Community Plan, which covers the geographic area from the southern Seattle city limits to the northern Burien city limits and Puget



Sound to State Route 509.

Two meetings on the plan are coming on June 17 and Aug. 19, both Thursdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fire District 11 office, 1243 S.W. 112th St.

At these meetings, citizens will discuss a draft vision statement for White Center, strategies for the community plan, and recommendations for land use, King County facilities and services, and community development.

A draft plan will be the subject of two Community Summit meetings on Sept. 28 and Oct. 9 at White Center Too, White Center Park, 1207 S.W. 102nd St.

For more information, call Carol at 937-8800 or her pager, 969-8414, or call **JOSHUA GOLDFINGER**, county community planner, at 296-8611.

## More murals, sculpture coming

**EARL CRUZEN**, chair of the Junction Development Committee, reports that artists will paint two more historic Murals of West Seattle this summer.

The first, 15 by 25 feet, will be on the north wall of the Neighborhood Telephone Directories building at 4727 44th Ave. S.W., and will depict the early-day West Seattle Herald office at 4010 (Southwest) Alaska Street.

The second, 10 by 50 feet, will be on the north wall of the new Braseth apartment building on 44th Avenue Southwest between southwest Oregon and Alaska streets, and will depict

the Lincoln Park swimming pool at Williams Point, built in 1925, the predecessor of Colman Pool.

The two new murals will bring the Murals of West Seattle, which began in 1989, to a total of 11.

The Junction Development Committee also is working on a project to place a piece of public artwork — probably a sculpture — on the city-owned bluff near the "Welcome to West Seattle" sign along the Fauntleroy Expressway.

The site is the same one for which an entry mural to West Seattle was proposed last year, but public opposition to what some called a "billboard" prompted Cruzen's committee to return with the sculpture plan.

A selection jury will meet this month to preview 32 proposals that have been submitted for the site and narrow them to three to five favorites, which will be presented to community groups later in the summer. A final decision will be made in the fall.

**JAN KOUTSKY**, art instructor at South Seattle Community College, heads the selection committee. For more information, call Earl at 932-2345 or Jan at 764-5371.

## Admiral gets AKCHO award

The Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) has awarded a 1993 King County Heritage Achievement Award to our society's Save the Admiral Theater Task Force.

The award was presented at AKCHO's monthly meeting on May 25 in Maple Valley.

The task force, formed in February 1989 shortly after the Admiral was closed by Cineplex Odeon, secured city landmark status for the 1942-era moviehouse. The Admiral reopened on April 2, 1992, after its purchase by **MARC AND CECIL GARTIN**, local electric-firm owners.

## Who else would like to join?

Do you know of anyone else would like to join our society? We are more than 200 strong, but we need new members, and their ideas and help.

Individual dues are just \$10 a year, and entitle members to Footprints, our quarterly newsletter, as well as support society projects. Call Secretary **ELLIOTT COUDEN**, 932-2290, to obtain a membership application.

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### FOOTPRINTS

(Editor: Clay Eals)

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society  
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