Let's save the old Log House!

Mail ballots go to residents, businesses in March

The old Log House, a half block south of the Alki Homestead, will become an historic museum for the Southwest Seattle peninsula if Alki-area voters approve next month.

Our society has two complementary proposals on the mail-in ballot, to be delivered to residents and businesses by March 7 and mailed back no later than March 28:

- Purchase of the Log House at 3003 61st Ave. S.W., for $200,000.
- Installation of 12 historic interpretive markers for a self-guided tour, for $48,000.

We all need to support these two projects. For details, see pages 2 and 3.

Home tour due May 7, needs hosts

More than 100 hosts are needed for our society's sixth annual Tour of Homes, set for Saturday, May 7, the day before Mother's Day. With 12 sites, including the Queen Anne mansion at 1503 45th Ave. S.W., this year's tour could be the best yet. To volunteer as a host, call CAROL VINCENT, volunteer coordinator, 937-6744, by April 1.

Roll call

Editor's note: Following are the 225 active members of our society as of Feb. 1, 1994, as listed in the official roster. To encourage familiarity and to shake things up a bit, this listing is alphabetical by first name.

In our 10th anniversary year, we hope that all of you will become involved in the Log House campaign and encourage others to do so. It's crucial to preserving our community's history.

Ada Woodhouse Hallberg
Adah J. Rhodes
Al Bostrom
Alexandra Pye
Alice Larson
Allene M. Belanger
Andrew W. Nelson
Ann and Gary Dawson
Ann Holliday
Anna Derby Blackwell
Anne M. Hauck
Arlene G. Wade
Arlene M. Kennedy
Ame Vicklund
Auro A. Bonney
Avis Larson Borgh
Barbara E. Parker
Berlina Brock
Bernice Menhennick Moore
Bernice Showalter
Betsy Detroit
Bette Jean Bullert
Beverly Jameson
Bob Greive
Bob Logue

Continued on page 2
CHARLES PAYTON, the King County Historic Preservation Coordinator, speaks to the 30 members who attended our society's annual meeting Nov. 13 at SSCC.

Log House museum, markers stir action at annual meeting

Now is the time.
Our society is poised on the verge of the greatest step in its 10-year history -- acquisition of the old Log House as a community museum -- and we must act now.

That message buoyed 30 members who attended the society's annual meeting on Nov. 13 at South Seattle Community College.

Members signed up for various tasks, such as folding brochures and telephoning Alki voters, that will help lead to:

- Preservation of the Log House as a museum for our children's children, and
- Establishment of a series of 12 interpretive markers that will form the basis of a self-guided walking tour of the Alki/ Harbor Avenue corridor. The bronze-plated markers, with granite bases shaped like the Duwamish peninsula, would depict historic sites such as Luna Park and the Alki Bathing Pavilion.

These two projects are competing with 24 others, for a share of a $500,000 mitigation fund that Metro has set aside to compensate the community for disruption to be caused by construction of a sewage tunnel.

A poster featuring the Log House, as rendered by West Seattle artist and society member Kay Moore Dewar, has gone up this month.

Also, President Merrilee Hagen, Vice President Arlene Wade and Membership Secretary Carol Vincent have attended many community meetings on the fund.

Key meetings and activities remain. Every one of our members can get involved:

NEWLY ELECTED
President Merrilee
Hagen discusses Log
House campaign with
members David Wisling
and Ada Hallberg.

MEMBERS (from left) Carroll and
Max Mage and Erma Erickson chat
during break at annual meeting.

Continued from page 1

"Bob" Sleem
Bob Sumbaro
Bonnie Beerman
Bonnie Sumbaro
Boyd W. Swanson
Brad Chrisman
Buford W. Raabe
Candace Lein-Hayes
Carl and Charlotte Mula
Carl G. Naas
Carol Munoz
Carol Vincent
Carolyn Mihelich
Carroll Mage
Cecil Davis
Charles and Arline Kaffenberger
Charles E. Jung
Charles G. Payton
Charles O. Hauck
Charlton R. Runke
Chrysalis H. Chamberlain
Cindy James
Claudia A. Ingalls
Clay Eals
David R. Wisling Jr.
Deb Barker
Deborah Oyer
Diane Bailey Tice
Dick Kennedy
Dolores Sibonga
Donald Burdlin
Donald E. Eastly
Donna M. White
Donna Olsen
Doris Nelson
Dorner Family Restaurant
Dorothy and Wilbur Johnson
Dorothy Harper
Dorothy May Johnson
Duwamish Tribal Services Inc.
E.A. LePenske
Edith T. Bender
Edward A. Ebert
Edward L. Fatum
Elaine R.B. Hidden
Elmer Mraz
Elizabeth Hildebrand
Elizabeth Kratz
Ellen V. Sundberg
Elliot N. Couden
Elise C. Sundberg
Emmett Watson
ERA Blanchi-Zear Inc.
Erma Erickson
Erma L. Schwartz

Continued on page 3
Speaking at the Nov. 13 annual meeting, Charles Payton emphasized how the Log House could play a key role in preserving community history for generations to come. Here are excerpts:

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. There is a convergence of opportunities that you will not see again for a long, long time. ...

"The Log House is very, very impressive. ... Establishing a facility is the toughest thing that any historical group will ever do. It is the single greatest challenge to the heritage community. ...

"It could provide a focus of activity for this group. We could hold meetings there. We could put up exhibits there. This could help establish our identity in this community, and, beyond that, it could help spark a cultural renaissance in the area. ...

"Why not dream big? ... It could be a stepping stone for your future successes. ...

"You could help preserve long-term, and guarantee preservation of, a landmark. ... You're preserving a community treasure. ...

"You have an opportunity to build bridges to and partnerships with the rest of the heritage community of King County. ...

"You are a link in a chain. You are a part of a whole."

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**Wednesday, March 9 -- ATTEND a 7:30 p.m. presentation of all the proposals at Alki Community Center.**

**Saturday, March 12 -- ATTEND a tour of all sites represented on the mail-in ballot, including the Log House, at 10 a.m.**

**Monday through Thursday, March 14-17 -- HELP CALL prospective voters from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on any of these four nights, from the office of ERA/Bianchi Zaar, 4448 California Ave. S.W. About 30 of our members are needed to volunteer to telephone prospective voters and urge them to vote "yes" on the Log House and markers. Also, from your home you can WRITE or CALL voters you may know who will fill out the mail-in ballots -- those who live or work in the Alki, Beach Drive (south to Jacobsen Road) and City View (north of Spokane Street) neighborhoods.**

Of course, the most important campaign dates are **Monday, March 7**, when ballots will be delivered to voters, and **Monday, March 28**, the date by which filled-out ballots must be post-marked to be valid.

What you do in the coming weeks can make all the difference. Get involved! Call Merrilee at 728-4234 (pager), Arlene at 937-7494 or Carol at 937-6744. Remember: Now is the time.
The Woods, the Marsh and Barton Street hill

Editor's note: The following is the first installment of a series of chapters from the autobiography "Memories," started by society member SAM JONES in the Sharing Memories class at South Seattle Community College.

By SAM JONES

In spite of economic conditions, growing up in my neighborhood was a part of my life I would never trade.

There was the "Woods," as we called the area now known as Fauntleroy Park. I acquired a pair of gopher traps and spent many hours trapping what we called mountain beaver, no doubt just plain old gophers. I would skin them and stretch the hides on a shingle, hoping to tan them to make a coat or something. The final result was always a stiff, smelly piece of hide that would end up in the garbage can.

Fauntleroy Creek originated in the Woods. We preyed on the little native cutthroat trout that lived in that stream. Though less than plentiful, there were enough to quicken the pulse rate of young fishermen. Dead Man's Gulch, haunted by the spirits of Indians we knew were buried there, extended up beyond the church. We all knew the long vertical marks on the big alder trees in the gulch were made some time in the not-too-distant past by wild bears. It was a fascinating playground.

Exploring the marsh

The Cranberry Marsh was located between 32nd and 26th, from Henderson to Roxbury and beyond. It was a huge bog, laced with rabbit runs, a haven for local ducks. It was a bird habitat and home for a zillion frogs. Wild cranberries were there for the picking, and pheasants could be flushed from any brushy stretch.

This was the place where any neighborhood kid who owned a .22 could plink at stumps without fear of expulsion.

Memories

by
Sam Jones

Early school days

I entered Fauntleroy Grade School when I was seven. I had been reading and doing "My Numbers" for two years at home, so school was apparently so easy I was moved from first to second grade in a matter of months.

There was a pretty little girl by the name of SALLY HOPKINS in my classes through grade school who was indirectly responsible for my better grades as I worked diligently to best her in class. I could never get ahead of her, but the effort always kept me near the top of the class.

We had some interesting teachers at Fauntleroy. MRS. STEENSTRUP was a tall, formidable lady with one blue and one brown eye. MISS KWAPIL was young and beautiful with dark brown hair done up in a soft knot at her neck. Every boy in the class was madly in love with her. MISS MCKENZIE, the principal was not one to confront with misconduct, as she kept a rubber shoe sole in her desk drawer that was used to pound on the behinds of misbehavers.

Adventures on a sled

We lived within walking distance of school, Barton Street being the main thoroughfare for foot traffic. It also was a route for sleds during the snowy periods of winter, and the snow seemed to come earlier and stay longer in those days.

HARRY LAHER always unlimbered his big bobsled with the first snowfall. It would seat about six venturesome passengers. After a car tow to Webster Street on 35th, we would climb aboard and head down 35th. This was possible, as automobile traffic was minimal in the early 1930s and generally any snow at all chased most drivers inside.
So we really moved that sled from Webster to Trenton, then with a coaxing push by the passenger on the back end, we would glide to Barton, turn the corner, and another push would carry us to the downward slope at 36th. From there on, it was a wild, screaming rush straight to the ferry dock, then a tow back up the hill to commence the cycle once more. What a blast.

I owned a Flexible Flyer sled, almost as tall as me. I think the bobsled rides must have given me a feeling of overconfidence as I began riding my sled to school, flopping aboard and traversing Barton Street each morning in a matter of minutes.

'A ride for mom'

I became so confident that I invited my mother to ride the sled to church one Sunday. She was dressed in her Sunday best with her Bible and music scores tucked in her arms, she being the church pianist at the time.

Well, we sat up on the sled, I pushed off and set my feet on the steering handle. The first block was great, but I hadn't given any thought to the added weight that was beginning to translate into added speed. When I passed the water tower, I became aware of an auto ahead of us, timidly moving down the slick street. We passed him on the next curve and I'll never forget his startled look as I caught his eye as we went by.

Needless to say, we were out of control by now and I knew if we made the next turn we would never get around the one at Fauntleroy School so I opted to take the snowbank on the edge. We hit it full bore, and I recall Bible, sheet music and mother all sailing past me as I hung on to the sled. Fortunately, nothing was damaged but my mother's dignity and it was the last time I ever got her on my sled.

'Skating the ditches'

UNCLE BROWNIE always tied on his old ice skates and skated down the same Barton Street with us. Skis were not fashionable in our neighborhood at the time. It seems to me the snows were deeper and drier in my childhood and we looked forward to the winter season with great expectation.

It must have been colder than we presently experience, as ice skating on the open ditches near Sears & Roebuck was a regular winter activity. We would build big bonfires on the edge of these canals, fasten on our old clamp-on skates and flop around for hours, until we were either too wet or too tired to continue. What purpose those ditches served the remainder of the year I never knew.

Barton Street almost did me in one day. I was going to be late for school, so I was running to beat the bell. I tripped and fell on my knee in the street. I knew I was in trouble but picked myself up and limped on, late anyway.

In my fourth-grade class I cautiously pulled up my pant leg and found my long underwear soaked with blood. By then, I was really scared but didn't say anything to my teacher. I saved it to surprise my mother. The folks headed for the local doctor, who applied six stitches to an ugly wound and berated me for waiting all day for help.

'A freak accident'

When I was a fifth-grader, I broke my right leg in a freak skating accident one Saturday. I recall lying on the sidewalk for what seemed like hours trying to get someone's attention as I was unable to stand. Some good Samaritan drove me home, where a well-meaning Uncle Ed applied hot packs to what he thought was a bad sprain, an excruciatingly painful experience each time he lifted that leg. By Sunday night, it was decided that maybe it was more than a sprain, and the good local doctor once more administered to me.

I was confined to bed with a big, heavy cast for what seemed like a month, then into a wheelchair for two or three weeks, and finally onto crutches. I had missed school during the bedridden and wheelchair periods, but my teachers had sent all my lessons home, so I was fortunate to have been able to keep up with my class. The crutches enabled me to walk to school once more, for which I was thankful as I really enjoyed school.

My desire to be in class was graphically demonstrated one day, I can't recall which grade. It was one of the days I was permitted to buy lunch, all 20 cents worth. There was a long line at the cafeteria, and I had neglected to heed Nature's call earlier. By the time I had my tray filled, including an ice cream bar, I was really dancing, and just as I set the tray on the table I wet my pants. I must have been humiliated, if a youngster can be humiliated, so I left my tray, exited the lunchroom and walked home.

It didn't occur to me to stay away from school, so I searched for a change of clothing. I apparently didn't look too well, as I returned to class with a pajama top under bib overalls. It didn't bother me, but it sure bothered my mother who was visiting class that afternoon for the PTA! [Watch for more in the next issue of Footprints.]
'Save the Admiral' drive ends with city resolution

The successful drive to secure landmark status for West Seattle’s historic Admiral Theater came to a formal end in December, with Seattle City Council adoption of a controls and incentives agreement for the 1942-era moviehouse.

The council also passed a special resolution that recognizes the many dedicated volunteers, working as part of our society’s Save the Admiral Theater Task Force, without whom the theater would not have been available for new owners to reopen it in April 1992.

Here’s the text of the resolution:

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 28853
A RESOLUTION acknowledging the outstanding work of the Save the Admiral Theater Task Force, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and the City of Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board for their hard work and dedication to the designation of the Admiral Theater as a historic landmark.

Officers, honorary members named

Members attending our annual meeting on Nov. 13 elected, by unanimous vote:

Officers -- MERRILIE HAGEN, president; ARLENE WADE, vice president; BRAD CHRISMAN, general secretary; CAROL VINCENT, membership secretary; JOAN MRAZ, treasurer.

Trustees (and years of term expiration) -- ELLIOTT COUDEN, 1996; CLAY EALS, 1996; ANN HOLIDAY, 1995. Holiday, editor of the West Seattle

WHEREAS, the preservation of Seattle’s architectural, cultural and historical resources contributes to the livability of our City; and

WHEREAS, historic theaters are a unique, irreplaceable and invaluable resource in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Admiral Theater is such a resource in West Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the Admiral Theater was nominated and designated a City of Seattle landmark in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the Save the Admiral Theater Task Force and the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, with special acknowledgment of the leadership of the steering committee of the Task Force, DEB BARKER, LYNN CORNELIUS and CLAY EALS, State Senator PHIL TALMADGE, and former Councilmember DOLORES SIBONGA, with the assistance of MARY C. GORDON and BETH CHAVE and the City of Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, made this designation possible; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING:
That the Seattle City Council and the Mayor of Seattle congratulate and thank the above individuals for their hard work, leadership and commitment to the historic preservation of the Admiral Theater.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Seattle the 13th day of December, 1993, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 13th day of December, 1993.

(signed) GEORGE BENSON
President of the City Council

Filed by me this 20th day of December, 1993.

BY: (signed) MARGARET CARTER
DEPUTY CLERK

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:
(signed) NORMAN B. RICE 12/17/93
NORMAN B. RICE, Mayor

Herald/White Center News, has since resigned the trustee position, citing journalistic ethics concerns. Members approved bylaw changes and heard the announcement of four new honorary members:

FRED J. FLETCHER, charter member #9; MARIAN AMBAUM DELEUW, charter member #83; DORIS NELSON, owner of the Alki Homestead restaurant; and LARRY J. STINER, owner of the Log House at 3003 61st Ave. S.W.
Luncheon to honor Roy Morse, ex-city water, engineering chief

Three professional organizations will honor Roy Morse at a combination luncheon and publication party on Thursday, Feb. 24, in Seattle.

The booklet “Interviews with Roy Morse” will debut at the luncheon sponsored by the American Public Works Association, American Society of Civil Engineers and Seattle Engineers Club.

Morse, a member of our society and longtime Fauntleroy historian, served as Seattle water superintendent from 1949 to 1955 during the city’s construction of the Tolt River water facility and the Boundary hydroelectric plant on the Pend Orielle River north of Spokane.

He also served as Seattle city engineer from 1957 to 1971 during construction of Interstate 5, the Seattle World’s Fair and passage of the Forward Thrust bond issues.

The booklet covers Morse’s reminiscences about that era, as related to Howard Rosen, executive director of the Chicago-based Public Works Historical Society.

Morse will autograph copies of the booklet between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and the luncheon, at Latitude 47, 1232 Westlake Ave. N., will begin at noon. The booklet costs $8, and the luncheon $15.

(For reservations, call 623-3250.)

In addition to the recognition Morse has generated in his decades of service with Seattle city government, several years ago he co-published the 170-page book Fauntleroy Legacy, a neighborhood history that focused on the stories of more than 40 pioneer Fauntleroy families.

Morse has begun interviewing an additional 10 families in preparation for publishing a 35-page supplement to the 170-page Fauntleroy Legacy.

For more information on the supplement, or to purchase a copy of Fauntleroy Legacy ($15), call Morse at 932-1095. Proceeds go to the Fauntleroy Community Service Agency, Camp Colman and Fauntleroy Church.

Editor’s note: Elliott Couden, founder and former president and secretary of our society, received the following letter recently. Perhaps one or more of our members can help Allene Belanger in her search.

I would like some information, and maybe you can help me.

My grandfather was Karl J. Hillquist, born in 1886 in Norway and died in 1969 in West Seattle. He lived for many years on California Avenue. He owned and operated a lapidary business. Taught classes on rock cutting and jewelry making. He invented the Hillquist Lapidary rock polish machine and many other pieces of lapidary equipment. He was known as the “dean” of all rock hounds. I have some memoirs, but I’m trying to gather all I can for my grandchildren.

He was a Mason and belonged to Sons of Norway. I could probably check with them, too, but being he was in business in West Seattle and there’s a Southwest Seattle Historical Society, maybe an older citizen may have known him or had some pictures. A lot of rock collectors came to him. I realize these customers would be up in age, as I’m a senior myself. But who knows?

Allene Hillquist Belanger
9828 41st Ave. S.W.
Seattle, WA 98136

(Who will become our 226th active member?)
‘Wanderings’ wins ArtsWest award

Our society’s “West Seattle Wanderings” driving-tour guide to 17 local historical sites, published last summer, merited a “Work of Art” award from ArtsWest, during the organization’s annual meeting Dec. 6.

Kay Moore Dewar, whose ArtsWest exhibit of more than 25 pen-and-ink and colored pencil renderings formed the basis for the booklet, received the award on behalf of the society.

Six local outlets — Alki Bakery, 2738 Alki Ave. S.W.; West Seattle Chamber of Commerce, 4151 California Ave. S.W.; West Seattle Herald/White Center News, 3500 S.W. Alaska St.; Northwest Art and Frame, 4733 California Ave. S.W.; Olsen’s Valu-Rite Drugs, 6501 California Ave. S.W.; and Pony Express, 1412 S.W. 102nd St. — make the booklet available for a $1.25 donation to the society.

Color brochure showcases murals

"The Murals of West Seattle — a Pictorial History of a Proud Seattle Community"

is the name of a new, full-color, fold-out brochure depicting West Seattle's 11 historic murals.

The brochures cost $1 and are on sale at several local outlets. For more information, call the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce at 932-5685.

Help us grow!

Do you know anyone else who would like to join our society? We are 225 strong, but we need new members’ ideas and help -- particularly with the Log House campaign.

Individual dues, just $10 a year, entitle members to Footprints, our quarterly newsletter, and provide support to society projects.

Write us at the address below and include your own:

NAME _____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________
PHONE ______________________________

Or call Membership Secretary Carol Vincent, 937-6744, to obtain a brochure and application!