

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXVI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 1994

'Painted Lady,' Log House top May 7 tour

MERRILEE HAGEN has been campaigning for months to save the Log House at 3003 61st Ave. S.W.

So naturally, she's pleased that the 90-year-old structure is one of the sites on the 1994 Tour of Homes.

The one she can't wait for people to see, however, is the Queen Anne Victorian, built in 1896 — the one they call the "Painted Lady."

"It alone would make the tour," says Merrilee, society president and tour chair, noting that the house at 1603 45th Ave. S.W., has aroused people's curiosity for years. "Half the people on the tour will be saying, 'I've always wanted to get into this house.'"



Photo by Roger Loken

THE 'PAINTED LADY' is one of the highlights of this year's tour.

"Painted Lady," she explains, is a fanciful style used on Victorian houses. Often, four or five colors were used to accent the lattice, grill work and ornate wood decora-

Please turn to page 2

Alki says YES! to museum

We won the vote for the Log House! Now your help is needed to make it a home — a museum where our community's history will be preserved and appreciated for generations to come.

In March, Alki-area residents were asked to decide how to spend \$500,000 — money set aside by Metro to compensate the community for disruptions that will be

caused by construction of a new sewage transfer system.

A list of 23 community-improvement projects appeared in a ballot mailed to more than 4,000 Alki households and businesses, with voters asked to rank their favorites in priority order.

Please turn to page 3

A big thanks

We gratefully acknowledge the participation of these sponsors in our society's 1994 Homes with History tour:

Major sponsors:

ERA Bianchi-Zaar Inc.
Cayce & Gain Realty
The Prudential/Benton's Realty
Northwest Art & Frame
West Seattle Herald/White Center News

Minor sponsors:

Evergreen Moneysource Mortgage Co.
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Tour sites for 1994:

1. Admiral Twin Theatre
2347 California Ave. S.W.
Built in 1942
(On 1992 tour)

2. Queen Anne Victorian
"Painted Lady"
1603 45th Ave. S.W.
Built in 1896

3. Carpenter Gothic
2639 50th Ave. S.W.
Built in 1907

4. Victorian Farmhouse
4904 S.W. Hanford St.
Built in 1906

5. Hainsworth House
B&B, Tudor
2657 37th Ave. S.W.
Built in 1907
(On 1989, 1990, 1991,
1992 and 1993 tours)

6. Victorian
2802 Walnut Ave. S.W.
Built in 1908

7. Colonial Manor B&B,
Colonial Style
4432 42nd Ave. S.W.
Built in 1911 by the city of
Seattle

8. Victorian Summer
Cabin
4617 S.W. Maple Way
Built in 1911

9. Log House (future site
of Birthplace of Seattle
Log Cabin Museum)
3003 61st Ave. S.W.
Built in 1904
(Open for viewing during
the tour, with or without a
ticket.)



Photo from Washington State Archives, King County branch

TWO TYKES TRIKE past the Log House -- Site #9 on the Homes with History tour -- in the late 1930s. Its address has since changed to 3003 61st Ave. S.W.

May 7 historical tour features seven new sites, two returnees

Continued from page one

tion, commonly known as "gingerbread."

The event will take place Saturday, May 7, the day before Mother's Day, and hundreds of people are expected to take part. This year's tour features nine sites, with six homes that have never been on the tour before.

(See detailed information in the April 27 "Homes with History" section of the West Seattle Herald/White Center News.)

In addition to the Log House and the Lady, new sites include a Victorian farmhouse, a Victorian, a Colonial style, a Victorian summer cabin, and a Carpenter Gothic, which Merrilee sums up as "bored carpenters breaking out of the mold."

Two sites are back by popular demand: the Hainsworth House Tudor mansion, and the Admiral Twin Theatre.

The Admiral will be the site for this year's kick-off event. Opening ceremonies

will begin at 9 a.m., with music by the Moonshiners, an old-timers band from White Center. The program will also feature presentations by JUDGE HORTON SMITH, Seattle City Council member TOM WEEKS and King County Council member GREG NICKELS.

As in previous years, the self-guided tour will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person, except babes-in-arms. Tour-goers can buy tickets on the day of the tour at each site.

The tour will be held rain or shine, and more than 50 volunteers will serve as hosts at the nine sites.

Everyone except the elderly and handicapped will be asked to remove their shoes at all sites. Also, no food, drink or smoking will be allowed — nor will interior photography without prior permission of the owner.

Anyone with questions about this year's tour can call Merrilee on her pager phone at 728-4234.

Say you were there 'when it all began'

Come and help plan
our new museum
on Saturday, May 21

Have you been waiting for the right opportunity to get involved in preserving our community's history?

Well, now's the time.

Past, present and future have crossed paths, it seems, at the intersection of 61st Avenue Southwest and Southwest Stevens Street.

Just a few months ago, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society's longtime dream of establishing a museum seemed a distant goal.

That outlook changed radically this spring when the society's proposal to establish an historical museum for the community emerged as a \$200,000 winner on the Alki Community Improvement Fund ballot.

The Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum will enable the historical society to display unique, priceless photos, exhibits and artifacts, as well as create rotating exhibits for neighborhood schoolchildren, other residents and visitors.

Our society's vision is to create a museum for the use and enjoyment of the entire community for generations to come.

Making all of that happen will take a lot of work. But it promises to be a labor of love for anyone who cares about preservation of our area's history.

So, what would you like to do?

Got a pencil? Write this down:

On Saturday, May 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the president's board room at South Seattle Community College, the historical society will hold a community planning meeting for the museum.

If you're ready to roll up your sleeves and get busy, please plan to attend.

Say you were there when it all began.

Your talents are needed!

What exactly can you do to help get our society's museum off the ground?

Here are some specific tasks.

Our society will need volunteers to:

- Plan and develop museum exhibits.
- Handle publicity.
- Work in the garden.
- Raise money.
- Coordinate volunteers.
- Organize school outreach programs.
- Collect historical materials.
- Paint, paint, paint.
- Work in the gift shop.
- Serve as a docent.
- Conduct research.
- Meet and greet.
- Maintain the building and grounds.
- Swing a hammer.
- Answer the phone.
- Set up a computer system.
- Coordinate furnishings and decor.
- Oversee storage.

If you have a talent that you think would benefit the museum, come to the May 21 meeting at South Seattle Community College and share your ideas.

Society will own Log House under covenant with city

Continued from page one

On April 6, the Alki Community Improvement Fund committee announced the historic news. The Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum, a \$200,000 project dreamed up by our historical society, was one of three projects that made the cut.

The project, which awaits final approval from **MAYOR NORM RICE** and the Seattle City Council, calls for the purchase of the turn-of-the-century log structure at 3003 61st Ave. S.W. for a museum to be operated by our society, which will own and operate it under covenant with the city

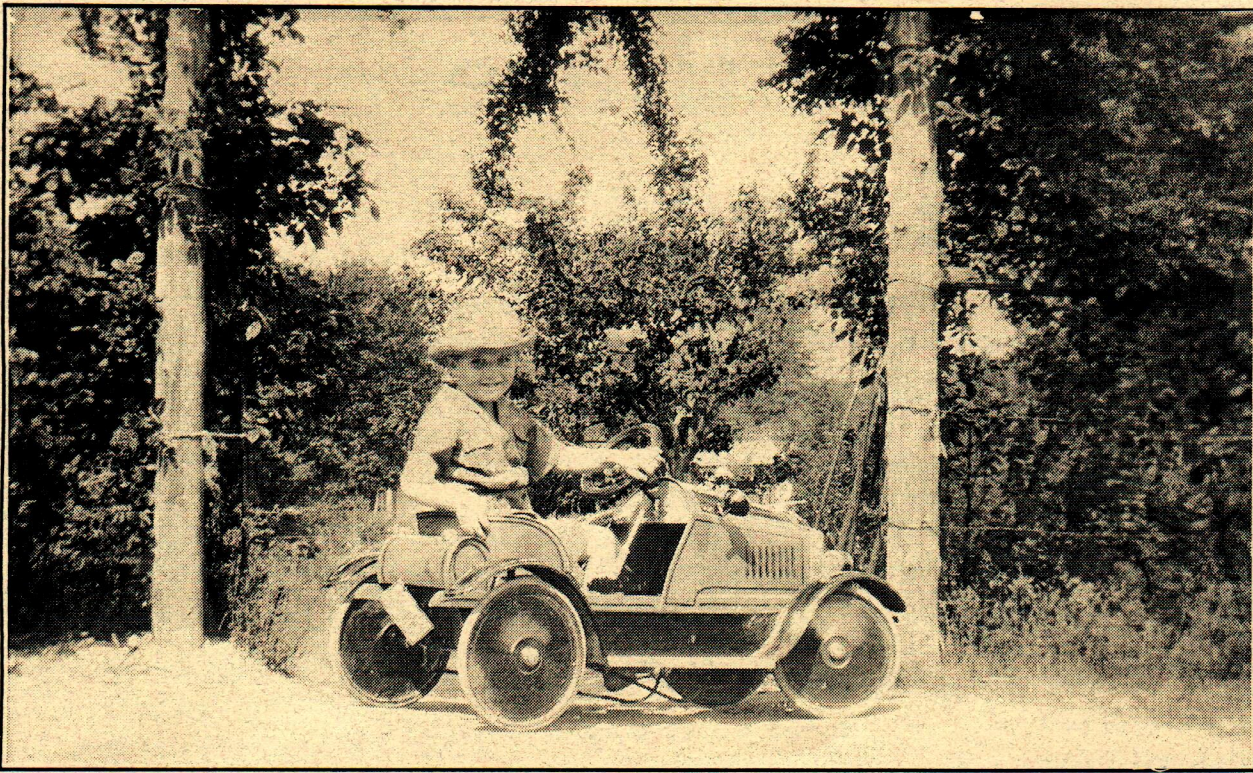
Department of Neighborhoods.

Historical society president **MERRILEE HAGEN** says the sale is scheduled to close May 31.

But you don't have to wait until then to get involved in this historic occasion. Two upcoming events offer an early chance to get your foot in the door:

• On Saturday, May 7, the Log House will be one of nine sites on the historical society's annual Homes with History tour. (See story on pages 1-2.)

• Also, the society has scheduled a community planning meeting for Saturday, May 21, 1 to 4 p.m., in the president's board room at South Seattle Community College. Anyone interested in making the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum a reality is urged to attend.



A YOUNG Sam Jones shows off his new Packard riding toy, which cost \$25.

Photo courtesy Sam Jones

me a Packard riding toy car that was foot-pedal powered. It cost \$25, a real extravagance, but there were few places I could ride, as paved sidewalks were unheard-of and our streets were a series of ruts. Nevertheless, it was a prized possession.

* * *

From grade school on, I participated in the activities at the Fauntleroy YMCA, when **ROYAL LINDAL** was our esteemed leader. We would begin

The Y, the Villa Grocery and 'a real extravagance'

[This is the second in a series of reminiscences by longtime Fauntleroy resident Sam Jones, who has begun writing his memoirs. The following is an excerpt.]

Following my father's death in 1921, at which time I was only 3 years of age, my mother worked at Frederick & Nelson's until 1924, when she met and married **GODFREY JOHN HOOD**, a master mechanic employed by the United Fuel Company in Seattle.

Casey, as GJH was known, brought a new dimension to my life, since I had not experienced a father image in my home, my father having been confined to Firland's Sanitarium for two years prior to his death.

For about four years it was the feast before the famine, as Casey was a good provider, commanding top wages in his field. He drove a new automobile, Mother had nice clothes that she could not afford before, and the little house that my father had built underwent much needed improvements.

Casey was always good to me. He bought me my first pair of high-top boots with the knife in the little pocket on the side. He bought

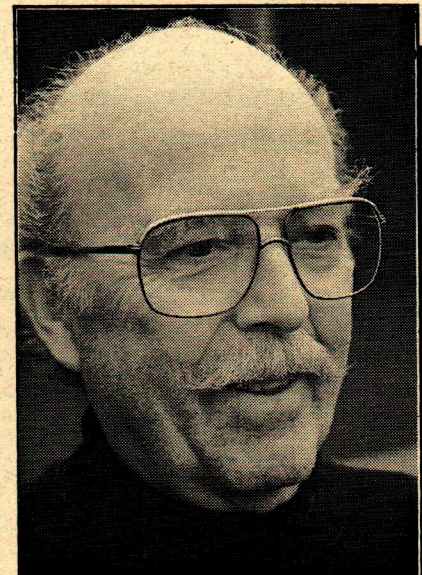
each year with a physical exam by a "Y"-appointed doctor, and I will always remember the invasion of privacy I experienced the first time we were told to line up in our birthday suits. But it became routine, and it was probably the only physical any of us had during those early years. When the YMCA program commenced in the fall, a **Mr. FRED SCHUTE** from the Downtown "Y" showed up and presented his sex education talk, with ample charts and diagrams. This probably was our first exposure to the mysteries of our anatomy.

After these preliminaries, we would settle into a

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*Mem
t
Sam*

regular weekly schedule of gym, club meeting and manual training. The latter program enabled us to become familiar with all wood-working tools, and we manifested our artistic expression in a variety of gadgets we were permitted to build.

Some can be found even to this day. There were breadboards, bookshelves, model boats, anything that could be sawed, planed, rasped, sanded, nailed or glued.

LAURENCE COLMAN, patriarch of the Colman family, was always in attendance at manual training classes, and he reviewed every item constructed, and passed or rejected it on the basis of quality and ability of the maker. It really was a great learning experience for all of us.

* * *

The Villa Grocery was the hangout in our neighborhood. A contractor by the name of Womack covered several blocks with flat-topped stucco houses south of Roxbury Street, and on the southwest corner of 35th and Roxbury, JIMMY DOOLITTLE, not the famous general, built the Villa. It was stucco, a Mexican hacienda style, grand in the eyes of Poverty Hill residents. This took place in the early 1930s, so the Villa was an important part of our lives, not only as a place to congregate but also as a place to run a family tab when things were really tough in the dark days.

Jimmy was a no-nonsense guy, but tolerant of us. There was always a little job when movie money was needed, a dime or a quarter in those days. Prior to the Fourth of July, we would deliver handbills around West Seattle heralding the annual opening of Jimmy's

fireworks stand in front of the Villa. A few of us lucky ones worked behind the counters, dispensing pyrotechnics that today would be classified as blasting material. Those five-inch crackers could unroll a mail box.

One summer, a competitor erected a stand across 35th and tried to cash in on the Villa's established trade. They apparently were a careless lot, as the stand blew up on the second day and Jimmy was alone on the corner once more. There were whisperings

of sabotage, but I think that came from the fertile minds of some of my young friends.

A family by the name of Ridley lived near the Villa. Every evening MR. RIDLEY, a large, sinister-looking individual, would come into the store, drop a nickel in the pay phone, ask "How's 18 gang?", listen a moment and then hang up and walk out. All of us kids hanging around the store were sure he was a bank robber or gangster of sorts from this terse, short telephone communication and, as I recall, it was years after that I learned Ridley was a longshoreman and his message related to tomorrow's work. It was another example of the fertile minds of youngsters.

The Villa was the south depot of the Seattle Transit Bus that cruised 35th Avenue from Avalon Way to Roxbury Street, the city limit. There were cranky buses and cranky drivers. Charley was the crankiest, well-remembered as the Chief Evicter of unruly kids. You didn't have to do or say much if Charley was in one of his moods to end up on the curb, a mile or more from home.

DAY ARLEN was the driver addicted to Coke -- that is, Coca Cola. He would consume a case of Coke each day at the Villa. Jimmy would have the cap off the bottle when Day drove up. It only took him a minute to chug-a-lug the contents then hop in his bus and be off. I often wondered if there was a Coke waiting at the north station but never bothered to ask him.

Sometime in the late 1930s, extensive street grading was performed on the corner of 35th and Roxbury. The Villa was stranded high and dry, requiring a long wooden stairway to reach the front door. Jimmy opted to expand at this time, tearing down the old store and rebuilding at street level. The new building was modern for the times, but to all of us who had grown up around the Villa it had lost the old charm.

Shortly thereafter, I moved from the old neighborhood. Jimmy sold the store and retired. Today, a Safeway stands in place of the Villa. In the Villa days, a small paper sack usually held your purchases. Today, you rarely leave Safeway without five large bags. How times have changed.

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Photo courtesy Earl Cruzen

LUNA PARK sprawls at the tip of Duwamish Head (photo taken between 1907 and 1913).

The pleasures of
Harbor Avenue through

Elvida's Eyes

[Editor's note: The following is another installment in a series of articles appearing in Footprints and written by Ada Hallberg, a Beach Drive resident and society member. The series records the childhood memories of Harbor Avenue resident Elvida Ellingsen Brewster, as told to Ada. This installment focuses on Luna Park.]

By ADA HALLBERG

Elvida dropped out of West Seattle Central, "the school on the hill," heading back down to the water's edge to embark upon the next chapter of her life.

"After I quit school," she said, "I got a job at Luna Amusement Park down there at Duwamish Head.

"It went right out over the water on pilings. There were some covered places. Mostly it was outside. Imagine the Merry-Go-Round, Shoot the Shoots, all the lights and music! It was quite a park.

"It was not a public park. It was put in

by some guys from California. Yeah, some guys from Seattle were in it, too." She shook her head "yes" in quick little nods.

"Anyhow, it sure brought people a lot of fun for the price.

"They had a real bird down there. It was Freedle's talking parrot. They had it hanging up over there near the Baby Doll Rack.

"My first job wasn't near the parrot, though. I started where the candies were sold. Later, I worked in the Ice Cream Parlor.

"The Baby Doll Rack was where you knocked the dolls down. There were rows of them. You could win cigars or candy."

Elvida changed to her carney voice:

"Three balls for a nickel, eight for a dime! Come and get 'em! Come and get 'em!"

"Next is what we called the Chicken Farm. We had seven or eight wooden hens, then a trough coming down on hinges, and they would buy three balls, and if you knocked a hen down, that hen would lay a boiled egg, and that very egg would roll down to a net.

"Of course, we had salt and pepper on the counter. Would you believe Mrs. Freedle and her husband boiled all of those eggs!

"We had what we called a Cane Rack. Each cane had a different kind of decorative head. At the top of the cane might be an

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elephant's head or something like that, a rhino with a big horn.

"You had to throw rings over the top of the cane. It was hard to do because of all the different shapes. Of course, I could slip the ring over. I knew how to do it."

She exploded with:

"The cane you ring is the cane you get! Come and get 'em! Come and get 'em!" she shouted.

"That parrot would say just what I said. You could hear him all over the damn park!"

Elvida thought awhile.

"We had all kinds of concessions, including a Shooting Gallery where you shot at numbers with tags on them. And the prizes! Beautiful prizes. We had wonderful concessions."

You could tell Elvida loved giving people prizes from the way her eyes sparkled more brightly, and her smile broadened when she talked about it.

"That Hot Air Balloon was just something special. I think Kenny Haas' sister got married in that balloon. And Mrs. Monyhan had a restaurant. She had hamburgers, hot dogs and stuff like that.

"Later on, there was a Dance Palace. They had an orchestra. It was a nice crowd. They had this beer garden where you could sit and listen to the organ. That organ music! You could hear it down to the ferry landing about three or four blocks away."

I knew the stories from Elvida would end someday, but I was having such a good time listening to her, I always urged her on. This time she was impatient with my queries.

"I told you already that we had a Baby Doll Rack. You knocked dolls down by throwing balls at them. There were rows of them, three balls for a nickel.

"The baseball players loved to come there. 'I'll play with you a couple of games, I would tell them. 'If I lose, you don't pay me anything. If I win, you pay me double.'

"So I would get them to play first. I'll never forget. If they knocked one baby doll down, I would knock one down. If they missed, I would miss. They would miss, and

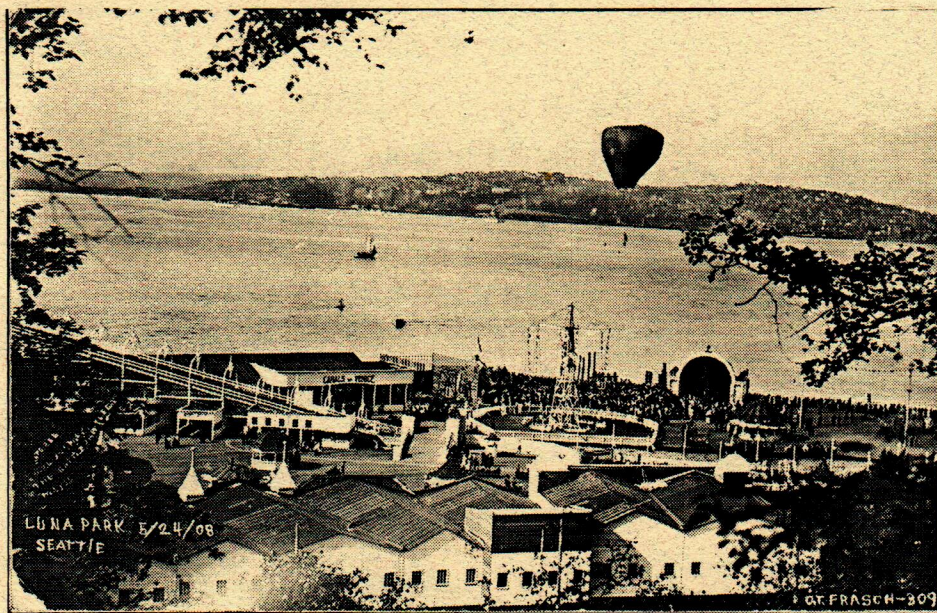


Photo courtesy Earl Cruzen

LUNA PARK featured a myriad of appealing attractions.

I would miss until I got sort of tired. Then I'd knock three down, and they would have to pay for it all.

"Those dolls had quite bushy hair. You had to hit them a certain way. Well, workin' with them all day as I did, I knew just where to hit them. Oh, by the way, I'm a left-hander."

Elvida told me the concessions were individually owned, and she listed a few we hadn't talked about.

"We had the Merry-Go-Round, the Shoot the Shoots, Figure of Eight, Joy Wheel, Canals of Venice, and they had the Crazy Horse.

"A swimming pool was added at the north end of the park. A viewpoint and a fishing spot are there now, sitting right on top of the grounds where the pool used to be.

"You're old enough to remember when that pool burned (1931), Ada, long after Luna Amusement Park was closed (1913). Too bad you weren't alive before Luna closed. You would have had a lot of fun.

As an afterthought, she added:

"Carnivals are rigged now. That's so they don't lose too much when they give you prizes, if they give you any at all."

The baseball players loved to come there... I would get them to play first.

I'll never forget. If they knocked one baby doll down, I would knock one down. If they missed, I would miss. They would miss and I would miss, until I got sort of tired. Then I'd knock three down, and they would have to pay for it all.

Those dolls had quite bushy hair. You had to hit them a certain way. Well, workin' with them all day as I did, I knew just where to hit them.

June 26 membership picnic at historic Camp Long to celebrate our 10th year

Mark this date on your calendar —
Sunday, June 26.

That's when our society will celebrate its 10th anniversary, at the annual membership picnic. It'll be held at 1 p.m. at the lodge at Camp Long, 5200 35th Ave. S.W.

The camp was formally dedicated Nov. 8, 1941, and named after William G. Long, the longtime county juvenile court judge.

The lodge at this beautifully wooded historic city park is the perfect place for society members to reminisce about the organization's many and varied accomplishments over the past decade, which include establishing a home base at South Seattle Community College, celebrating the state Centennial, saving the Admiral Theatre, putting on an annual home tour and acquiring a new museum on Alki.

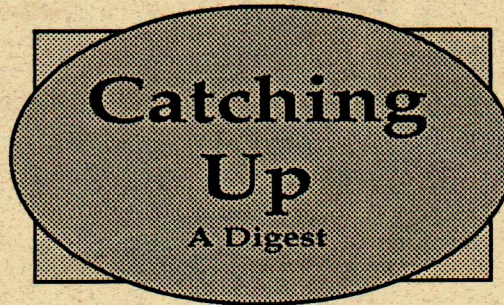
Special presentations will be made relating to our 10th anniversary year. Watch for a special flyer in your mailbox in mid-June.

As in past years, this is a family picnic, so bring family and friends for an afternoon of warm conversation and reflection.

You also can bring food, but our society

will provide the basics, including hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, soda pop, coffee and ice cream.

If you have ideas for the 10th anniversary program or want more information on the picnic, call Membership Secretary **CAROL VINCENT** at 937-6744.



In memoriam

Our society honors the memory of Fauntleroy resident **GERALD B. "JERRY" JENSEN**, charter member #103, who died March 22. He was 66.

The former dairyman was the first president of the South Seattle Community College Foundation, caring especially for the Arboretum, and served in a variety of capacities for Fauntleroy Church. He will be sorely missed.

Help us grow!

Do you know anyone else who would like to join our society?

We are 270 strong, but we need new members' ideas and help — particularly considering the recent acquisition of the Birthplace of Seattle Log Cabin Museum on Alki (see stories, pages 1-3).

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, or call Membership Secretary **CAROL VINCENT**, 937-6744, to obtain a brochure and application!

FOOTPRINTS

(Editors: Clay Eals, Brad Chrisman)
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