All aboard for The Kenney Home!

Come to our fourth-annual ‘If These Walls Could Talk’ home tour from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 25 -- and bring your grandma!

BY BRAD CHRISMAN

In April 1915, the Seattle Automobile Company sponsored a contest asking Seattle Times readers “What would you do if you had a 1915 Maxwell for a day?”

One winner, Admiral resident Mrs. J.R. Winston, of 2638 42nd Ave. S.W., wrote, “If I had an automobile for one day I would go to The Kenney Home and take the dear old grandmas, whom I visit and love, out for a ride.”

“If I could not fill my car with grandmas, I would find little crippled children ... who perhaps have never been in an automobile.”

Cars were still somewhat of a novelty in Seattle, and roads were primitive. So it must have been thrilling when, presumably, on Sunday, May 2, 1915, Mrs. Winston rolled up to The Kenney in a glistening 1915 Maxwell Touring Car, loaded it with grandmas and began a 4-wheel adventure.

Setting the early 20th century scene

To imagine the scene, you need to know about The Kenney’s environs in the early 20th century.

At that time, the area was sparsely populated. Only a few homes interrupted the wooded landscape. When the Samuel and Jessie Kenney Presbyterian Home formally opened in February 1909, Gatewood School (1910) and Fauntleroy School (1917) did not yet exist. The three-story Kenney, its copper-clad cupola rising above even the tallest fir trees, was one of the largest and most commanding structures in West Seattle.

Modeled after historic Independence Hall in Philadelphia, The Kenney had been hailed by the Times as “one of the finest institutions for the care of the aged in the country.” With room for 70 residents and the latest features such as electric lights and steam heating, the stately red-brick (Continued on page 4)
Let there be (Alki) Light

The three-year hitch of U.S. Coast Guard Adm. Rick Gromlich, his wife (and our board member) Bonnie Gromlich and their family as chief residents at the 103-year-old Alki Lighthouse has flown by. Words are inadequate to express our appreciation to them.

Their exceptional generosity in repeatedly opening this historic property for the use of our organization since 2013 is exceeded only by their personal warmth and kindness. Bonnie, with a master’s degree in historic preservation (and a passion to match it), has been a board stalwart.

A military family’s transition to civilian life is a complex endeavor, and we do not know if the Gromlichs will stay in Seattle after this June. But we do know they will remain in the hearts of our community. Like the lighthouse itself, their spirit radiates a timeless message of hope. Thanks for everything, Bonnie and Rick!

Clay Eals, executive director

‘Join us at one, some or all of our upcoming events’

Hello, members, supporters and friends,

Whew, this is an exciting and busy time for us, with many events and the pending “Welcome Home” exhibit, which is part three of the series “Telling Our Westside Stories.”

Following our mission to promote local heritage through preservation, the “We ♥ The Junction” Task Force is busy with outreach and plans to achieve city landmark status for two community gems - the Campbell and Hamm buildings at Alaska and California.

These beautiful buildings are rich in our community’s heritage and full of stories within their walls and the land they occupy.

So many of you have donated funds, time, energy and expertise. You have made these activities possible while also helping to keep our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum open and running smoothly. Thank you, all!

I hope you will join us at one, some or all of our many upcoming events and programs and take advantage of opportunities to learn, share and meet new friends through our organization.

Marcy Johnsen, board president
This bell, brought west via the Oregon Trail by George Hancock, was rung by early settlers on what is now Beach Drive to announce an impromptu welcome parade when new families moved in. As a symbol of the “Welcome Home” theme, it will be a featured artifact in the new exhibit.

‘Welcome Home’ opens June 18

The third part of our “Telling Our Westside Stories” exhibit series, called “Welcome Home,” will open Saturday afternoon, June 18, 2016, at our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum.

The current exhibit, “Keep Clam and Carry On: The Ivar Haglund Story,” on loan from the Nordic Heritage Museum, will end Sunday, June 12. The museum will be closed for mounting the new exhibit Thursday and Friday, June 16-17.

We will provide a complete report on the “Welcome Home” exhibit in the summer edition of Footprints, due out in July.

UW interns log, re-pack treasures

To survey and improve the care of artifacts in our collection, we are engaging University of Washington students as interns:

♦ Cleone Abrams, a freshman history major, has prepared items for an exhibit opening this summer at 75-year-old Camp Long that will show connections between Clark Shurman (namesake of the park’s climbing rock), youth development programs and the mountaineering and Seattle communities.

♦ Cameo Kale, master’s student in museology, in work funded by 4Culture, has surveyed artifacts in our South Seattle College collection room, assessing objects needing better storage. One is a porcelain bowl belonging to a Chinese cook at the Stockade Hotel, a noted Alki log building. The cook acquired the bowl in China about 1904 and gave it to Ethel Kelsey, a hotel visitor in 1914-1922.

♦ Megan Hansen, a museology certificate student, has tackled exhibit projects in our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum collections lab. With our PastPerfect database, she logged items from our recent “Telling Our Westside Stories: Work” exhibit and prepared an 1867 velvet wedding dress for cold storage.

A tale of two series

Got an idea for our history series “SouthWest Stories” or author series “Words, Writers & West Seattle”? Call 206-938-5293 or e-mail clay. eals@loghousemuseum.info.

Held the first Friday of each month at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, “Words, Writers” recently featured authors Judy Bentley (left) and Greg Hatcher. Coming up: Tom Reese/Eric Wagner, Once and Future River, July 8, and Georgie Kunkel, Color Me Feminist, Aug. 5.

Words, Writers & West Seattle

“SouthWest Stories,” our new third-Sunday speaker series co-sponsored by Seattle Public Library, has featured (from left) Carol-Ann Thornton, who spoke of childhood “Culture Shock” on Alki; Rob Ketcherside, who addressed the Morgan Street Market; and vibraphonist Tom Collier, who presented a memoir/concert. Coming up: Ron Tjernlund on June 19, Peder Nelson on July 17 and Ken Workman on Aug. 21. See our website for more info on both series, including videos of all talks, courtesy of Klem Daniels Productions.
The Kenney
nestles in an
idyllic setting,
originally
served by the
Fauntleroy
streetcar line

(Continued from page 1)
building was impressive in its scale and a model in its day as a home for the elderly.

The setting, by all accounts, was idyllic.

"It is beautifully located, one thousand feet from the beach, at an elevation of two hundred feet, and sloping gradually to the water's edge," the Seattle Post-Intelligencer had described on July 21, 1907, around the
time that construction began. "There is a splendid view of the Sound for ten miles. The site has already been cleared and plowed, and the steep banks toward the north of the creek running through the center of the site, from east to
west, are to be terraced to lead up to the main building...A couple of rustic bridges are to be thrown across the stream, and everything possible will be done in the way of simple beautification."

Newspaper articles during The Kenney's early
years often described its location as "at Lincoln Beach" or "near Fauntleroy Park," given that
Gatewood was relatively new as a place name.

In those days, Lincoln Beach was the name of the small park known today as Lowman Beach.
(The 135-acre parcel that today is Lincoln Park would not be purchased by the city until 1922.) And the area around Fauntleroy Cove was commonly known as Fauntleroy Park, the name
that local boosters John Adams, J.M. Colman and others had advertised when they began selling lots there around 1905.

New railway attracts homebuyers

To attract buyers to Fauntleroy Park, in 1907 investors built a street railway that carried passengers from downtown Seattle, along a
trestle that spanned the Duwamish tide flats, then across the Duwamish River on a small, wooden bridge at Spokane Street. From there, the tracks traversed the hillside (now West Seattle Golf Course) and found their way to the intersection of California Avenue and then-Ninth Street.

The vicinity of Ninth and California—a swammy area near the top of what was then
known as Spring Hill—suddenly became valuable when the Fauntleroy Park line opened in 1907. That’s because the citizens of the city of West Seattle (today’s Admiral District) seized the chance to extend their streetcar line south to
connect with the Fauntleroy line, achieving their long-desired streetcar connection to Seattle.

Immediately, property near the new street railway junction became a hot commodity.

Pop Quiz #1: Can you guess what we call that neighborhood today?

Turning south from there, the Fauntleroy streetcar continued through the woods along California, turned west on Myrtle, then south over a trestle that spanned a ravine, then past the
Mosquito Fleet steamer dock at Fauntleroy Cove before reaching the terminus, near what today is
46th Avenue and Southwest Roxbury Street.

Pop Quiz #2: Local legend says a Fauntleroy streetcar conductor named Joe called out "end o' line!" when he approached the terminus. Can you guess what we call that neighborhood today?

Legendary characters from pioneer days

The story of The Kenney and how it came to be located at 47th and Myrtle—standing
magnificently next to the Fauntleroy Park tracks like a storybook railway station—is intertwined with early Seattle history and features legendary characters from the city’s pioneer days.

You can immerse yourself in that story by coming to our Society’s fourth-annual “If These Walls Could Talk” home tour on Saturday, June 25, 2016, at The Kenney, 7125 Fauntleroy Way S.W. Attendees will tour the historic structure, view historical photos and memorabilia and see how The Kenney has been renovated and expanded over its
107-year history.

You also can meet the founders’ great-great-great nephew and niece, Stuart and Michele Kenney.

When it opened in 1909, The Kenney Home represented "the consummation of the life plans" of
Samuel and Jessie Kenney, the Times said. The couple
had long envisioned "a home or retreat for such
infirm persons of both sexes of above sixty (60)
years...who, by reason of poverty, are...unable to
adequately provide for themselves, and where
such persons, irrespective of their religious or
political views, shall be gratuitously supplied as
far as may reasonably be, with the shelter, care
and comforts of a home."

Thanks to the "two sturdy old pioneers," said

Answer to Pop Quiz #1
The Junction

Answer to Pop Quiz #2
Endolyne

As a Kenney resident, Mary Day knit socks for soldiers during World War I.
the P-I, “the aged people of Seattle who are unable to care for themselves are to have a place where they may spend their declining years in peace and comfort amid beautiful scenes.”

It became a posthumous dream

Sadly, Samuel and Jessie never got to see their dream come true. Samuel, an immigrant from Ballymena, Ireland, known as Seattle’s first merchant tailor and an elected Seattle City Council member from 1876 to 1878, died in 1895.

He left small amounts to relatives and friends, the P-I said, and “bequeathed the residue of the estate to his ‘beloved wife, who knows my plans and hopes for founding with her a home for aged and infirm persons in Seattle and vicinity, and feeling that she is like me in all these matters, I confidently leave it to her to make from time to time such provision for relatives and in respect to founding such a home for aged and infirm persons as in her best judgment I would make myself if living and controlling my property.”

His estate was impressive. After retiring when his tailoring shop burned down in the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, Samuel focused on managing real-estate. When he died, his holdings included a commercial building at First and Columbia downtown estimated to be worth as much as $300,000, plus many other lots and tracts, including a mining claim in Alaska and a 10-acre parcel on Capitol Hill bounded by 21st and 23rd avenues and Harrison and Mercer streets.

Keeping the couple’s dream alive

Jessie, a native of Dollar, Scotland, who married Samuel in 1849 and immigrated with him to the United States two years later, kept their dream alive. When she died in 1900, she left the bulk of the estate to a group of trustees that included Rolland H. Denny (a member of the famous Alki Landing Party that founded the city of Seattle), W.R. Ballard (founder of the then-city of Ballard), and F.H. Whitworth (son of Whitworth College founder George Whitworth).

Jessie’s will specified that the executors hold the funds in trust to invest in a home true to the couple’s earlier stated plans. For a few years, the home operated on the 10-acre Capitol Hill tract “where, in several small cottages, there are now sixteen old men and women supported by the fund,” the July 21, 1907, P-I said.

Ultimately, the trustees sold the Capitol Hill property, for which they received $125,000. “With this money,” the June 30, 1907, Times said, “The

Here are the winners

of the Maxwell contest

who submitted the three best answers to the question

“What Would You Do if You Had a 1915 Maxwell for a Day?”

The Judges Unanimously Agreed Upon the Following Articles as the Best Submitted:

In answer to your question, “What would I do if I had a Maxwell automobile for one day?” I would donate the automobile to the family that lives near us. They have children and they are very destitute. I would have no objection to the donation being made as the two oldest children are twelve and fourteen. If I am lucky enough to win the contest, my husband and I will turn the knox for the family and chauffeur.

MRS. ROBERT WELLS,
6318 Twenty-first Ave. N. W.

If I had an automobile for one day I would go to the Kenney Home and take the dear old grand-ma, whom I love and love, out for a ride; those who cannot go unless taken. If I could not fill my car with grand-ma, I would find little crippled children who do not have the same chance to go out as other children have, and who likewise have never been in an automobile.

I could not enjoy it alone or with people who have all the brightness of life.

MRS. R. W. WINSTON,
2926 Forty-second Ave. S. W.

What would I do if I had a 1915 Maxwell automobile for a day? As I go to and from my work I pass a house where a cripple sits only a day or two long during the day. I have often thought I'd like to help her but a way I would go and take him and give him a ride around the block. I have a family of my own, but I am thankful that they can walk.

STELLA P. AYER,
1429 Twenty-seventh Ave. W. S.

Three glistening, brand new 1915 model Maxwell Touring Cars will be at the disposal of the winners for all day on Sunday, Day 2, in charge of competent drivers, and entirely without cost.

Selection of the winners was left entirely to a committee of judges, who are totally unbiased in their judgment.

We desire to heartily thank the 171 other contestants who aided so materially in the overwhelming success of this contest.

SEATTLE AUTOMOBILE COMPANY

H. P. GRANT, Manager, Seattle’s Pioneer Automobile Dealers

MAXWELL DISTRIBUTORS 1423 Tenth Ave., Seattle

A winning contest entry in a Seattle Automobile Company ad in the April 25, 1915, edition of the Seattle Times saluted the “dear old grandmas’ of The Kenney.

Kenney Estate will soon begin the erection of a group of buildings designed by Architects Graham and Myers for The Kenney Presbyterian Home, to shelter aged people who are unable to be self-supporting. The site is at Lincoln Beach, near Fauntleroy Park.

Since 1909, The Kenney has grown and evolved. The original edifice, now called the Seaview Building, was joined by the Sunrise Building in 1958, a nursing and rehab center in 1964, the Ballymena building in 1985, and a state-of-the-art assisted-living facility, Lincoln Vista, in 2003. In 2009, the city designated the Seaview Building a landmark.

The Kenney has served as home to more than 3,000 residents. Details on many of them will come alive in displays at the June 25 tour.

If The Kenney walls could talk, they would regale visitors with the tale of how an immigrant couple’s dream became a home for the aged that,

(Continued on page 6)
Volunteers enjoy Youngstown Flats

Backed by the downtown Seattle skyline, 29 of our stellar volunteers of time and talent gather to be honored and to celebrate National Volunteer Week on April 10, 2016. The venue was the rooftop Sky Lounge of the Youngstown Flats apartment building near the north end of Delridge Way for our annual volunteer party.

Shown are (from left) Craig Emmick, Lissa Kramer (museum manager), Marcy Johnsen, Jimmy Goodman, Matt Robins, Camille Davidson, Mike Dean, Tara Cummins, Crystal Dean, Doug Sisson, Tasha Miller, Dora-Faye Hendricks, Karen Sisson, Nancy McPhee, Bethany Green, Kathy Blackwell, Jordan Hecker, Kerry Korsgaard, Colleen Schau, Sandy Donnen, Ann McClary, Joey Richesson, Joan Cahill, Carol Vincent, Nancy Sorensen, Marilynn Miller, Judy Demetre, Suzanne Duffy-Kane, Nathalie Claussen and Sheryl Devries.

Give the gift of a membership!
Visit loghousemuseum.org, click “Membership,” join with a credit card online or download the form, fill it out and mail it in. Or sign up at an event or at our museum!

‘This is a pleasant old world, after all — I take it as it comes’

(Continued from page 5) after 107 years, is aging elegantly. Perhaps they also could tell us whatever became of Mrs. J.R. Winston and her adventure with the 1915 Maxwell. Did the grandmas ever get their ride?

If these walls could sing

And if the walls of The Kenney could sing, they might echo a rousing version of “America” that was described in the Nov. 25, 1915, Times:

“Into the comfortable dining room of The Kenney Home for the Aged yesterday afternoon came the sunshine of eighty-two childish faces, and that happy glow reflected back from the contented images of the inmates,” the article said. “The girls and boys from the big Gatewood School, two blocks away, had come to entertain the old folks at Thanksgiving time, and they were more than welcome.”

Guided by Miss Isabel Colman, the Times said, the program included vocal selections, recitations, piano solos and a violin solo.

“And then the audience rose and joined in singing America,” the quavering voice of old age mingling with the shrill treble of youth. But the spirit was the same, and Grandma Melvina March, 88 years old, sang as lustily as did the tow-haired youngster of 10 who sat beside her.”

“We want you to come again,” said Mrs. Marsh, when the children trooped out. “I’ll be here. I’m 88 now, but I expect to live to be a hundred. This is a pleasant old world, after all. I take it as it comes, the good and the bad, and I can’t find cause to complain. And now, sir, if you will help me across this slippery floor till I reach that carpet I’ll be much apleased. My rheumatiz bothers me a little. It’s been a pleasant afternoon. Come again and visit me. Goodbye.”

Spring = clean!

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, board member Jenni Bodnar, cleaning windows, and Jim Barrow, pressure washing, were among a dozen volunteers spiffing up our museum and grounds (and the Alki Homestead parking lot) for our annual Spring Clean. See our website for a video of the crew at work!
Slices of giving in The Junction

During the West Seattle Junction Association’s first Day of Giving on April 30, 2016, three Junction merchants chose to contribute 10 percent of their proceeds to our organization. Holding Alki Homestead slices as gifts of appreciation from us are (from left) Christopher Donka of Bakery Nouveau, Lora Swift of Hotwire Online Coffeehouse and Frank Gross of Thunder Road Guitars. The donations from the three totaled $2,200!

For Frances

Matt Vaughan, owner of Easy Street Records in The Junction, snips ribbons on April 22, 2016, to dedicate a street-level star plaque at his cafe that is dedicated to the late West Seattle native and Hollywood actress Frances Farmer. The designer of the plaque is Peder Nelson, our board vice-president. Visit our website for video of the complete ceremony.

For Nancy

Nancy McPhee, a Thursday docent at our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum for the past two years, celebrates her 90th birthday on May 21, 2016, in the museum courtyard. Family, friends and fellow historical-society buddies shared affectionate stories about the lifelong Fauntleroy resident.

Bronze panels of local history

West Seattle native Lezlie Jane stands in front of her latest local art-and-history project, a series of 10 bronze panels for the new Junction 47 building in The Junction. The panels depict scenes and themes from local history, including the Alki Lighthouse, the Duwamish Tribe, the Alki Homestead, streetcars and parks. To see video of the April 7, 2016, dedication ceremony and a video tour of the panels by Jane, visit our website.

Echoes of heritage from autumn days

Highlights for our organization last fall included (left) a talk by Joe McDermott, King County Council chair, “My West Seattle Through the Years,” to 30 people at our Annual Meeting on Nov. 14, 2015, at High Point Library. (Right) Composer/pianist Wayne Horvitz and an eight-member jazz combo presented a free concert, “Some Days Are Forever Afternoon: A Tribute in Music, Words and Film to White Center’s Richard Hugo,” to a crowd of 125 on Oct. 11, 2015, at the White Center Fieldhouse. The tribute to the famed poet was sponsored by 4Culture. Video of both events is on our website.
Do we have your e-mail address? Let us know so that you can stay up-to-date! To get on the list, please e-mail volunteer@loghousemuseum.info.

Give the gift of a membership! It’s easy. Visit us at loghousemuseum.info, click “Membership,” print the form, fill it out and mail it in with a check or credit-card number. Or sign up in person at an event or at our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum.

West Seattle Chamber of Commerce
3614 A California Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116

Calendar: Spring/Summer 2016
SouthWest Stories
Sundays, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, 2 p.m.
various Southwest library branches

Words, Writers & West Seattle
Fridays, July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7
5-7 p.m., Barnes & Noble
Westwood Village, 2600 SW Barton

West Seattle ArtWalk:
Tour of Junction Murals
Thursday, June 9, 6 and 7:15 p.m.
start at West Seattle Junction Association
4210 SW Oregon St

‘Welcome Home’ exhibit opens
Saturday, June 18, noon, at our museum

Morgan Festival (we have a booth!)
Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

‘If These Walls Could Talk’ home tour
Saturday, June 25, 3-5 p.m.
The Kenney, 7125 Fauntleroy Way SW

West Seattle Summer Fest
(booth outside Easy Street)
Friday-Saturday, July 8-9,
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, July 10,
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

West Seattle Outdoor Movies
(we are the concessionaire!)
Saturdays, July 16-Aug. 20, movies at dusk
first five in the Hotwire Online
Coffeehouse courtyard,
sixth at the West Seattle YMCA

Alki Art Fair (we have a booth!)
Saturday-Sunday, July 23-24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Alki Beach Park, near Bathhouse

Delridge Day
(we have a booth!)
Saturday, Aug. 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Delridge Playfield, 4458 Delridge Way SW

Our board meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the South Seattle College President’s Board Room. You are welcome to attend!

Big thanks to our sponsors and supporters: