

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER



Connections for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

HERITAGE REFLECTOR

June 2009

Volume IX

Issue II

Vision

To be a destination heritage museum and research facility that enhances community identity through the preservation and stewardship of the Eastside's history.

Mission

To steward Eastside history by actively collecting, preserving, and interpreting documents and artifacts, and by promoting public involvement in and appreciation of this heritage through educational programming and community outreach.

In this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| AYP cont..... | 2 |
| Wish List..... | 2 |
| Recent Accessions..... | 2 |
| Planned Giving..... | 3 |
| Strawberry Festival | 3 |
| Welcome New Trustees..... | 4 |
| Thank You | 4 |
| Programs..... | 5 |
| In Memoriam..... | 6 |
| Heritage Corner..... | 6 |
| Volunteer Corner..... | 7 |
| EHC Membership | 7 |

Off to the Fair!

Carly Jo Jellyman
Curator

In the summer of 1909, excitement about Seattle's first ever world's fair, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (A-Y-P), spread through the countryside and the communities of the Eastside.

The A-Y-P was to be held on the grounds of the University of Washington in Seattle. Celebrating and promoting Seattle as the gateway to the riches of the North, East and West, the A-Y-P was sure to be the biggest and most exciting thing that had ever happened in the young state of Washington. There were to

be visits from foreign dignitaries, guests visiting from every state in the union, the first ever nationwide automobile race and a special visit from President Taft. The A-Y-P would certainly put Seattle and the Northwest on the map.

Seven-year-old Happy Valley resident, Olga Carlson, was very excited because she was one of the many lucky people going to visit to the fair with her grandfather Nils Nilsson, big sister Elsie Carlson and her



Above: Olga and her cousin Nancy visited the A-Y-P; Olga later wrote about her experience in her school composition book and received an E+ ("excellent") grade.

her cousins Nancy and Helen Larson.

Olga was born in Happy Valley, near Redmond, in 1902. Her parents had immigrated to the area from Jamtland, Sweden

in 1896. Olga, her sister Elsie, and her brothers Ned and Marshall grew up on a farm near the Redmond-Fall City Road where her parents grew beets.

Left: The crowds on the Pay Streak on opening day. The Pay Streak was the carnival midway where all the amusements and rides were located such as the Yukon River ride, the Ferris wheel and L. A. Thompson's Scenic Railway, a rollercoaster that Olga found too scary.



continued on page 2...

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Olga attended the Happy Valley School, a one room school house. The following passage is from her Composition Book that she wrote as an assignment for her fourth grade class two years after her visit to the A-Y-P. In the passage she recalls her visit to the A-Y-P on Swedish Day, July 31st, 1909. On this special day, Swedish heritage and Swedish contributions to Seattle and America were celebrated with a program of lectures, songs and parades, followed by an evening of singing in the Natural Amphitheater and a fireworks display.

Off to the Fair

When I was going to Seattle to see the fair Nancy, Elsie, Helen and I wanted Grandpa to go with us. We begged him to go but he just teased us. We knew he would buy us something nice, at least he went with us to Seattle.

[Grandfather] took us to see a lion which was very big. He took us for a ride in a boat on the Yukon River (a water ride, also called Scenic Alaska) which I liked very much. We went round three times. Then he took us for a ride on a train [L.A. Thompson's Scenic Railway, a rollercoaster], which frightened me very much. It went up and down all the time and sometimes it would go through a tunnel. He took us for a ride on a big wheel called a Ferris wheel. It went round three times and when it came to the top it would stop. I enjoyed riding this very much.

He brought us ice cream cones and many nice things which we liked very much. We went to see the University grounds two times. First in the day time and then at night. We heard many people sing. We saw the parade. One of my sister's friends in Seattle was in the parade. The day we went to Seattle was called the Swedish Day.



Left: Olga Carlson's composition book and two souvenirs purchased by her family during their visit, a souvenir view book and a Swedish Day Medal.

Olga Carlson's composition book, donated by her nephew, Lester Olsen, is part of the archives of the Eastside Heritage Center. The composition book includes many other stories of Olga's life growing up in Happy Valley, as well as other assignments and reports on historical figures such as famous orator and politician Daniel Webster and poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

In her stories Olga writes about Christmas gifts and Halloween pranks, poor children playing in the street, walks in the woods, windstorms, her pets and even the names of her family's cows.

This composition book is an important piece of Eastside history, shedding light on childhood, education and life in Happy Valley at the beginning of the 20th century.

Museums all around the Eastside and Seattle will be celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the A-Y-P. The Eastside Heritage Center will be displaying A-Y-P themed exhibits at the Winters House and the Meydenbauer Theater through November and the Eastside Heritage Center's annual Strawberry Festival will also have an A-Y-P theme.

EHC Wish list

EHC is seeking the following donations:

FOR THE OFFICE:

- Letter-size filing cabinets

FOR THE COLLECTION:

- Eastside Women's History items.

- Nautical items (i.e., Eastside ferry and maritime history)

- Alaska-Yukon Pacific memorabilia only if it is Eastside-related.

- Photos, documents and ephemera from named neighborhoods, e.g. Somerset, Newport Hills, Stewart Heights.

- Photos of Eastside Schools, especially Bellevue elementary schools.

To Donate Items:

call 425-450-1049 or email
curator@eastsideheritagecenter.org
archives@eastsideheritagecenter.org

Recent Accessions

Thank you for your donations to the collection:

Wendy Walp

- Terra Tillers Garden Club records and Bellevue school photos

Barbara Howell

- 1952 Bellevue map

Lee Maxwell

- 1961 almanac and a WWI field service postcard

Leslie Banks

- Wedding photograph of Jean Hastings Banks

Robert Welsh

- Twenty years of back issues from *The Sea Chest*, photographs of the Martin-Ivey family, and Meydenbauer Yacht Club flag

Marshall Curtis

- Local newspapers from the turn of the millenium

Anonymous

- 1960s Wedding Dress

Margot Blacker

- Men's Suit, umbrella, waffle iron

Ken Greenbaum

- Coffee Grinder, Malt Machine

Loita Hawkinson

- Wash Tub

Karen Klett

- New Year's Eve Decorations from the year 2000

Jaqueline Kuhlen

- King County Fire Fighting Items

Sinclair Malm

- Gumball Machine

Blanche Schoning

- Baby Dress and Bonnet, Apron

Margaret Zobrist

- Bellevue Fire Department Bunker Coat

Recent Accession:



Dr. Charles M. Martin was the first physician in Bellevue. He arrived in 1892 with his wife Sarah and his two sons, Herbert and Hugh. When he retired in 1914, he was 75 years old and had been practicing medicine for 49 years.

Photo donated by Robert Welsh. 2009.018.001



Eastside Heritage Center's
Strawberry Festival
in Bellevue

Sat. June 27 - 10am-8pm
Sun. June 28 - 10am-5pm

Crossroads International Park

Family-Friendly Fun With a Taste of History

Join the Eastside Heritage Center in celebrating the region's agricultural heritage, as well as its diverse cultural past, present and future. Featuring entertainment, food, fresh strawberry shortcake, over 60 craft & merchandise vendors, historical and agricultural exhibits, a classic auto show, and family fun with games, clowns, face painting, inflatable bouncers, and much more! Don't miss the best-tasting history lesson you have ever experienced!

www.bellevuestrawberryfestival.org

PRESENTED BY:



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Planned Giving

Be a part of Eastside history...
Leave a legacy and make a planned gift to the Eastside Heritage Center.

You can ensure that the history of the Eastside is preserved for future generations by including a bequest to the Eastside Heritage Center in your will. The wording of your bequest can be as simple as:

"I bequeath to the Eastside Heritage Center a gift of \$_____ or _____ % of my estate."

Please remember to include our federal tax identification number, which is 91-1124636. A bequest can also take the form of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, or real estate.

A planned gift requires careful consideration and is best made with the guidance of your own financial or legal advisors.

If you have included the Eastside Heritage Center in your will, or would like information on making a planned gift, please contact the EHC's Executive Director at 425-450-1049 or director@eastsideheritagecenter.org.

Eastside Heritage Center

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Welcome

The Eastside Heritage Center welcomes two new members to the Board of Trustees:

SHERRY GRINDELAND

Sherry developed an interest in Northwest history when she discovered her maternal great, great grandparents had been pioneers in Washington before it became a state. So when she became a newspaper reporter (her lifelong dream) she enjoyed writing about local history. While at the *Journal American* in 1989-1996, she covered the Pacific Northwest Arts & Crafts Fair and was intrigued with the history of the event. Along with a team of volunteers, she compiled and wrote "Art: A Fair Legacy," a history of the Fair and the Bellevue Arts Museum. When Sherry moved to the *Seattle Times* in 1997, she began a series of Eastside history articles, which were reprinted in the *Seattle Times* book, "A Hidden Past: An Exploration of Eastside History."

Sherry, a University of Washington graduate, has lived in Bellevue since last century. When her children were little, they knew any roadside historical marker meant a chance to get out of the car and practice their reading skills on the sign. They still laugh about going off the beaten path to see buffalo jumps (where Native Americans drove buffalo over a cliff), log cabins and strange museums.

Sherry continues to be a strong advocate for documenting and preserving local history. She currently is transcribing Clarissa Colman's journals for the Eastside Heritage Center and working on Chuck Morgan's memoirs.

BETINA FINLEY

Betina Rothausser Finley is a third-generation Bellevue resident who lives in the house her grandparents once occupied near downtown Bellevue. She is active in Bellevue Public Schools, having three children between the ages of 9 and 13.

Betina is also a small-business owner. Her business, TurnKey Meetings, specializes in providing audience response system (ARS) polling - making meetings of all sizes engaging and measureable for participants.

She serves as the current Chair of the Bellevue Arts Commission, is a member of the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land-Use Steering Committee, and a recent graduate of Leadership Eastside.

Thank You



A special thank you to Inventive

Productions for donating their services to produce the Eastside Heritage Center's first ever **promotional video**. The video is posted on YouTube and is also available through the EHC website, www.eastsideheritagecenter.org.

Upcoming Programs

PIONEER PASTIMES

Date & Time: Saturday, August 1, 2009
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
(5808 Lakemont Boulevard S.E., Bellevue)

Go back in time with the Eastside Heritage Center as the Lewis Creek Visitor Center is transformed into an old pioneer town. Participate in activities based on coal mining, learn about the history of the Newcastle mining industry, and get a hands-on look at related artifacts and memorabilia.

Make butter with an old-fashioned butter churn and pump water from a hand pump! Children can also create and take home their own coal mining metal badge.

Join the park rangers for a short hike around Lewis Creek and find out about the habitat and wetlands that surround the Visitor Center.

Recommended for ages 4 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult

Presented by the Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services.

FRASER CABIN HERITAGE DAYS

Dates & Times: Saturdays, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, 2009
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Bellevue

Another season of Fraser Cabin activities is in full swing! The log cabin experience is magical and will transport you back in time. Visitors are invited to participate in hands-on activities that relate to 1880s settler life: agriculture, dairy, household tasks, log cabins, games and Eastside history. All activities are located at the historic 1888 Fraser Cabin at Kelsey Creek Farm Park. Eastside Heritage Center staff and volunteers present the activities and interpret the log cabin that was built and occupied by the Fraser family over 100 years ago!

Presented by the Eastside Heritage Center, in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
on any Eastside Heritage Center programs,
visit www.eastsideheritagecenter.org

Program Ideas?

Contact EHC at 425-450-1049 or
email director@eastsideheritagecenter.org

HERITAGE SERIES

Bellevue Japanese American Clubhouse

Date & Time: Saturday, August 29, 2009, 10:00 AM

Location: Mercer Slough Enviro. Education Center
(1625 118th Ave SE, Bellevue)

Marilyn Bomgren talks about the seven years she lived in the Japanese American Clubhouse after the Japanese had left for internment camps.

In 1930, Bellevue's Japanese American community purchased two acres of land on NE 8th Street and built a "Kokaido" - a clubhouse or community center. After the evacuation of Japanese Americans in World War II, the hall became a Lutheran church. Longtime Bellevue resident Marilyn Bomgren, the wife of one of the church's pastors, will discuss her connection to the building and its earlier residents.

Presented by the Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services.

WALKING TOUR

OF HISTORIC WILLOWMOOR

Date & Time: Sunday, August 16, 2009, 1:00 PM

Location: Clise Mansion, Marymoor Park
(6046 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE, Redmond)

Registration: 425-450-1049

EHC Volunteer Tom Hitzroth will guide a walking tour covering the history of Willowmoor Farm from the time of the first homesteader John Tosh through the ownership of James Clise, John Bratnober, Uberto Dickey and Walter Nettleton, who gave the property the current name of Marymoor, after his daughter Mary. The tour will visit the site of John Tosh's homestead, the original hunting lodge that James Clise built before the mansion, as well as the site of Mrs. Clise's greenhouses, the art gallery and the windmill. The tour will also discuss the Native Americans who occupied the property periodically from 6000 BC through the late 19th century.

In Memoriam

PHYLLIS KNICK

Phyllis Louise Plummer Knick was born in Seattle on October 7, 1915 and passed away March 29, 2009. She is survived by two daughters, Linda Kupferer and Carolyn Knick, both of Bellevue. Phyllis attended grade school and high school in Bellevue, graduating in 1933.

In those Depression days students often spent another year in high school because jobs were scarce and college was expensive. Phyllis went to Roosevelt High School in Seattle. She then attended Bellingham Normal School, as Western Washington University was known at that time, for three years. Her first teaching job was in Blaine. Later she taught in Snoqualmie and Clyde Hill in Bellevue. She completed her fourth year and received her Bachelor's Degree by attending summer school.

At that time Christmas trees were allowed in classrooms, so on December 7, 1941 Phyllis and I, with two young servicemen who had been visiting my family for the week end, set out to get trees for our classrooms. We had cut the trees and stopped for a snack in Snoqualmie when we heard the news about Pearl Harbor on the radio. We rushed the two service men back to Ft. Lewis. But the story doesn't end there. Phyllis and one of the servicemen, Clarence Knick, continued to keep in touch until the war ended. They were married in 1945 and she moved to Levelland, Texas where their two daughters were born. After her husband's death, Phyllis and her daughters returned

to Bellevue. She again taught at Clyde Hill where she was a popular second grade teacher. She retired in 1974.

Phyllis was a founding member of Bellevue Historical Society (now Eastside Heritage Center) and was a descendant of some of the pioneers of Bellevue. She had always had an interest in history and volunteered in many capacities including staffing the Winters House.

It was my privilege to be her friend for more than 80 years.

- Pat Sandbo

Membership Reminder

To ensure that you continue to receive a copy of the *Heritage Reflector*, EHC's quarterly newsletter, please remember to keep your Eastside Heritage Center membership up-to-date.

You can use the Membership Form on page 7 of this newsletter, or join online at www.eastsideheritagecenter.org

Thank you for your continued support!

Heritage Corner

Vacation Destinations

Suzanne Dubois
Volunteer
&
Megan Carlisle
Archivist

The parties ended as the ferry service declined, and the old dance floor, once lit after dark by generators from the ferries, was used as a boxing ring and skating rink.

In the late 19th century, a burgeoning ferry system made day getaways a popular form of recreation for Seattleites, and the eastern shore of Lake Washington became home to numerous resorts.



Above: Church Social at Wildwood Park, 1899.

By 1906 Wildwood Park, located on Meydenbauer Bay, was a summer hot spot with bands and festivals. Its annual July celebration, "The Big Basket," provided exciting competitions such as the "Ladies' Nail Driving" contest and offered prizes like five pounds of butter to the largest family all in attendance and a slab of bacon for the couple with the longest marriage.

Further north, the Juanita Beach Resort was built on waterfront property exposed by the lowering of Lake Washington. At the height of its popularity, the resort had a dock, cabins, a bathhouse, and a 5,000 square-foot dance pavilion.

Juanita Beach was a family beach, as opposed to Wildwood Park with its

occasional rowdy weekends and Prohibition alcohol.



Above: Juanita Beach Bathhouse, circa 1935.

Volunteer Corner

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.”

- Anonymous

Karen Klett
Volunteer Coordinator

It is a pleasure to introduce our new volunteers – who do have a heart for the Eastside Heritage center!

She is also a new Winters House Host. We welcome these dedicated new volunteers and thank them for their time!



Above (from left to right): Paula Little, Joyce Bell, Suzanne DuBois

Joyce Bell, a long time Bellevue resident, has joined our volunteer staff as a Winters House Host.

Suzanne DuBois, a graduate student, is writing “Heritage Corner” articles for the *Bellevue Reporter* and assisting with archival research.

A recent transplant to the Eastside, Paula Little is completing EHC’s oral history catalogue and organizing the American Legion collection.

Special thanks, also, to Steve Williams, Stephen Grate and Bob Cerelli for their great work on the Coal Creek history project and hikes!

Contact EHC and get involved today.

Karen Klett
 (425) 450-1049
 Volunteer Coordinator
karenklett@eastsideheritagecenter.org

Eastside Heritage Center MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$15 |

Enroll me as: New Member Membership Renewal Gift

MEMBER’S NAME _____

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CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

This membership is a gift from: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- Check (make checks payable to the Eastside Heritage Center)
 Credit Card
 Visa Master Card American Express

NAME ON CARD _____

CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____ V-CODE (last 3 digits on back of Visa/MC)

Additional Contribution: _____ **Total Enclosed:** _____

My company will MATCH my gift

Company Name: _____

The Eastside Heritage Center is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Eastside Heritage Center
 P.O. Box 40535 Phone: 425-450-1049
 Bellevue, WA 98015 Fax: 425-450-1050
www.EastsideHeritageCenter.org

All Eastside Heritage Center Members receive:

- Membership Card
- Quarterly Newsletter with historical features and program updates
- Invitations to exhibits and programs
- 10% discount on books and gift shop items

CATEGORIES:

Benefactor - \$1,000

Receives Steward Benefits, plus:
 Honored at Annual Event

Steward - \$500

Receives Supporter benefits, plus:
 Special publication
 Curator’s Tour of the collection

Supporter - \$250

Receives Organization benefits, plus:
 Historic photo reproduction

Organization (schools, scout troops, etc) - \$100

Receives Contributor benefits, plus:
 Free Treasure Box rentals
 Discounts on filed trips and classroom presentations

Contributor - \$100

Additional benefits include:
 Access to Archives fee waived

Family - \$40

Individual - \$25

Student (under 18 years of age) - \$15

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: www.eastsideheritagecenter.org

McDOWELL HOUSE (EHC Administrative Offices)
Visiting Address: 11660 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005
Tel: 425-450-1049

WINTERS HOUSE (National Historic Site and EHC Research Services)
Visiting Address: 2102 Bellevue Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98004
Tel: 425-450-1046 (EHC Research inquiries)
425-452-2752 (City of Bellevue, Winters House)

Hours of Operation: EHC Research Office Hours
Tues., 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

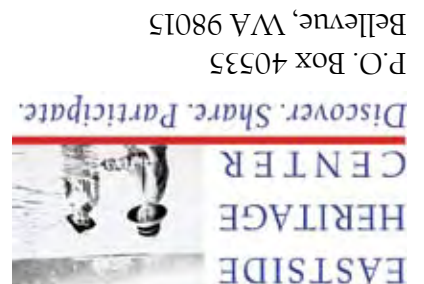
Winters House Public Visiting Hours:
Tues 10:00 AM-4:00 PM ; Thurs-Sat 10:00 AM-2:00 PM ; Closed Mon, Wed & Sun.

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