



History On The Hill

The Newsletter of the South Hill Historical Society
South Hill, Pierce County, Washington

Volume 12 Issue 1 Winter 2014

HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Legendary Locals

by Jerry Bates

WHAT makes some among us “legendary?” Is it talent, personality, hard work, timing, luck? Whatever it is, every community has those who make and leave their mark. Their names are recognized and remembered far beyond their immediate family, social network or career associates. They help define an area, have touched many lives and make our world a better if not more interesting or memorable place. We are fortunate to have our share of them here in the Puyallup Valley and surrounding areas, South Hill, Sumner, and Orting.

Talent and hard work definitely describe Ruth Anderson, author of the new book *Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley*. Ruth took on a big task, collecting and compiling stories and biographies, digging up old photographs, plus interviewing subjects for the book.

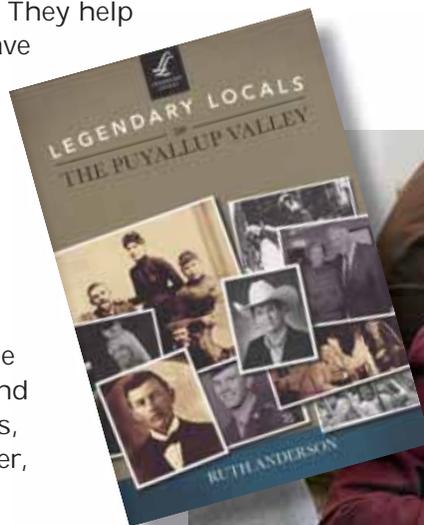
Along with this was the business side of things—working with Arcadia publishers, and coordinating, long distance, with an editor in New Hampshire. After all the above, still more work for Ruth to do. The book must be introduced to the local community—involving local media, book signings and presentations.

This is not Ruth’s first book. She co-authored

Puyallup: a Pioneer Paradise with the late Lorie Price. That book was the genesis of her current work, offering Ruth a chance to cover additional individuals who deserve mention and a place in a work of local history.

Ruth visited the South Hill Historical Society last November. Her presentation began with husband Andy Anderson sharing a funny story about one

of our most legendary historical figures, Ezra Meeker. Years ago Ezra Meeker—a teetotaler—was pictured in *Playboy* magazine anonymously—in a whiskey ad! In the advertisement stood a bearded old frontiersman (Ezra) personifying 100 Proof Jeremiah Weed Whiskey. Andy tells us an attorney contacted the publisher of behalf of the Meeker



Ruth Anderson signs her book *Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley* at the November general meeting.

Society to set things straight.

Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley is organized in six chapters with an introduction/overview for each chapter: “Settling In”; “Developing the Valley Economy”; “Meeting Civic Needs”; “Tending to Education and Health”; and “Enriching Community Life and Preserving the Past.” All the people included are featured with their photograph and a brief biography and description of their achievements. Ruth told us she wished she “... could have included more but had to draw a line at 150 people.” Almost fifty of these were

shown during her slide show for November's meeting.

Ruth concluded her presentation mentioning, among other things, the need we have for a history museum representing Puyallup and surrounding communities (South Hill). The Meeker Society has many artifacts with nowhere to display them. The retiring Van Leirop's have many items available from the bulb-farming days in the valley. The Karshner Museum is in "mothballs," and The Fair Museum has limited (Fair days only) access. Ruth says the Hill would be the best place due to its elevation — think lahar flows...

Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley can be purchased at Amazon.com or from Ruth Anderson directly. Call 253-845-4502, or e-mail ruthmanderson@comcast.net .

The following are images from the pages of *Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley*—some of the "legends" we on South Hill can take pride in.



South Hill Historical Society archives

This is the Kupfer family on the front porch of the family farmhouse in 1911. From left to right, standing, family friend Tony Rauch Sr., Lizzie Kupfer, and Louis Kupfer. Sitting, Fred Kupfer, Alois Kupfer, and Henry Kupfer.

Of the early South Hill pioneer families, the Kupfers hold a special place. They were one of the earliest (1877), if not the earliest, family to take root on the Hill. The location of their property was also special. Their old farmhouse stood for generations adjacent to Willows Corner, Meridian & (112th ST) 39th AVE SW, known up to recent times as Kupfer's Corner, now called Willows Corner. Nothing remains of the old Kupfer farm and hop ranch—it vanished decades ago beneath the cur-

rent site of the Willows Shopping Center. We are fortunate to have in our Society archives, thanks to Mike Kupfer, hundreds of original family photos. In addition the Society owns early family documents and photos thanks to Don Kupfer.



John and Edith Mosolf assumed responsibility for the Mosolf property in 1905 from his father George Mosolf.



Images source, *Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley* by Ruth Anderson, Arcadia Publishing

It's not known for sure whether the Mosolfs or the Kupfers were the "first" to settle on the Hill. Both families' property joined (see map in the Summer 2008 issue of this newsletter). John Mosolf, son of the above-pictured Mosolfs, was a Society member and attended many of our meetings before he passed away in April 2007 at age 97. Member Paul Hackett recorded many interviews and video sessions with John. Pictured above is a rare photograph of a hop barn on South Hill. The Mosolfs as well as the Kupfers were successful hop farmers, seen here is the Mosolf hop barn.



Image source, *Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley* by Ruth Anderson, Arcadia Publishing

Frank Shaw could still play in his 90s. In past years, we have written about Shaw Road for the

Puyallup Herald and this newsletter. Besides Meridian, Shaw Road has historically been, and currently is, the main connection to the Valley for people living on the Hill. Frank Shaw is the son of Christian Shaw who settled in the valley with his young family in 1901. He cleared heavily forested land across from today's intersection of 25th St SE and Pioneer Avenue, and established a model farm celebrated at the time. Christian Shaw and his sons, Emery and Frank, along with others, started building the road down the Hill in 1914. It was built in stages over following years. The original route after arriving on the Valley floor went west then north ending by the original family farm at 25th ST SE and Pioneer. In 1941 it was straightened to its current juncture with Pioneer Avenue. For more on the Shaw family and Shaw Road, see the December 2004 & March 2005 issues of this newsletter. Also see the "History" section on our website. All past newsletters can be read or downloaded at www.southhillhistory.com.



Image source, *Legendary Locals of the Puyallup Valley* by Ruth Anderson, Arcadia Publishing

Jerry Korum

South Hill certainly benefits from the Korum family. The very popular new Korum YMCA was located on the hill replacing an old facility in the valley. The benefactor was Jerry Korum who dedicated the new facility on behalf of his father, Mel Korum, who started the family's local success story in 1956 with his automobile dealership in Puyallup. As Ruth says in her book "Jerry and his wife, Germaine, have been incredibly generous to the community." Among the many local organizations that benefit from the Korum's philanthropic generosity are local historical societies. Jerry supported the Puyallup Library historical digitization effort of local history with a generous Korum Foundation grant.

The Parks Sister's Childhood memories *by Jerry Bates*

Joan Parks Vosler and her sister, Carol Parks Smith, were our speakers for the Society's December General Meeting/Christmas party.

Joan and Carol's family moved to South Hill in 1930. They migrated from San Diego, California, in the early years of the Great Depression. Their dad was looking for work. Their Aunt Florence told them jobs could be had working on tugs out of Tacoma. The family packed up and moved north. The employment prospects didn't materialize, so after staying with their aunt awhile in Gig Harbor, the family moved again to their uncle's dairy farm on South Hill. In 1940, they bought five acres and built a log house to live in — still standing. Of special interest to the historical society is the property's location adjacent to the Old



Carol Parks Smith & Joan Parks Vosler

Military Road/Naches Pass trail — our Heritage Corridor.

Joan began their talk by updating us on Pierce County's construction project at 112th and 94th AV E. (see details in box following this article).

Joan and Carol shared memories of little girls growing up on the Hill during the Depression years and the 1940s. Many of these memories were of their uncle's dairy farm. The farm had orchards of apple, pear, plum, and peach trees; loganberries (the girls were told they were poison); and grapes. They recalled the men's attempts to make wine and "Aunt Myra praying it would turn to vinegar." Carol says there were a lot of dairy farms in the area then, "the Starkels, Swalanders

and Michaels all had cows," many roaming free.

People on the Hill raised turkeys in their yards. Joan recalled nightmares she had after a neighbor woman told her to say away from her cherry trees or the turkeys would peck her eyes out. Her mother comforted her ... "Joan, just cover your eyes."

The two sisters continued with many stories and experiences seen through the eyes of little girls: a hog mangled by bears; Blackie the milk cow that stepped on four-year-old Carol's foot and wouldn't move; pumping gas from station pumps with glass cylinders on top to measure gas purchased; and their uncle with a hook to replace a missing hand, impatient with them, staring into the penny candy display deciding what they could afford. "Bang-bang," like Captain Hook, "hurry-up, make up your mind!" they recalled. They had memories of the neighborhood dances at the Old Mill with soap flakes on the floor, and their oldest brother skimming the cream off the milk while carrying it home. His story? "It got mixed up while crawling through the barbed wire fence."

Carol says, "We had fruit and vegetable gardens, plenty for our needs during the Depression. If you had a garden, you didn't starve." During the rationing of 1940s "we didn't have a hard time when it came to food. There were nine of us with defense stamp books. It was an interesting time to live and grow up."

Joan talked of their Christmases during those times. "Presents were few and far between. The Christmas tree was the big thing. Our dad used to go out and cut down the tree. It was always big and beautiful and then we decorated it—we used to make our own decorations." She remembers lighting the tree with candles — only lit for short time — five minutes, before her dad said they must blow them out, so as not to start a fire. The girls begged for more time to enjoy the 'lights'. Christmas morning began with them running through the cold house—grabbing the stockings Santa filled with goodies, then back to their warm beds, while their parents lit the stove to warm the house. "It was the only time we could eat in bed." After breakfast, they opened their presents and had the day to themselves to play with their new toys.

Joan read a survey from 75 years ago asking

children what they most wanted for Christmas, from one through ten. Number ten was ice skates; nine, handkerchiefs; eight, books; seven, oranges; six, toy trains; five, mittens; four, dolls; three, rocking horse; two, nuts; and number one, candy! Quite a different world from the desires of today's children!

During their talk, Joan read from an account book kept by her Uncle Bert, covering the years 1927 to 1934. It contained information on food prices, breeding cattle, prices for farm supplies, and facts about where he worked, among other details of his life. Joan graciously donated this historic document to the Society.

The girls had many other stories not covered here, from rotating flatirons on a hot stove, a run-away Thanksgiving turkey, and dolls to fruitcake. We all enjoyed our time with Joan and Carol and having a unique look back in time.

As Carol concluded, "I wouldn't go back and change anything because it was a good time. You didn't have material things, but you had something more precious — you had each other."

New Sewer & Traffic Operations facility

Pierce County is currently building a Sewer & Traffic Operations facility on South Hill. They are moving from their facility at University Place. The new complex will include maintenance and operations staff, vehicles and equipment support staff, including 125,000 square feet of workshop, storage and office space accommodating 90 public works and utilities employees. A total capacity for 150 employees will be on the site. Included will be a public access trail connecting Pipeline Road to 126th ST E. This connection trail is an important piece of the Heritage Trail System. It will not include trailhead parking or public restrooms at this time, but will reserve land for these future facilities and a park for picnics. The entire site will include 28 acres when completed in 2014. Roadwork will include construction of 900 feet of new roadway for 122nd St SE to 126th E, and new traffic light at 122nd ST.

Steve Fox

Global Volunteer from South Hill

by Jerry Bates

Steve Fox was our January General Meeting guest. Steve is active with Global Volunteers, a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-governmental organization (NGO). Their slogan is "Travel that feeds the Soul." Its members travel domestically and around the world helping others. They teach English; care for children; build and repair facilities; plant and maintain school gardens; and assist with public health and hygiene.

Steve is longtime friend of our Public Relations Coordinator and founding member, Paul Hackett. During Paul's introduction of his old friend, he said, "We go back 45 years." Steve was a leader in a Presbyterian church formed on South Hill called The Shepherd of the Hill.

Steve graduated from Puyallup High School (a former student of member Art Larson) and received his teaching degree at Whitworth College in Spokane. After graduating, he lived in the small logging community of Stevenson, Washington, for seven years; taught school in Australia during the sixties; and moved back to this country where he taught physical education for 30 years in the Tacoma school district.

After his wife passed away in 2000, "I had to find something else to do with my life," said Steve. He joined Global Volunteers, "a People-to-People project where one travels around the world and works with different communities." While volunteering for the organization, he has visited fourteen different countries. "I go for a week or two and can immerse myself in a country. I do whatever they ask me to do."

He began his slide presentation with a Global Volunteers project in the Mississippi River Delta country. As Steve explained, the "Delta" is actually a portion of the river far from where it meets

the Gulf of Mexico; in this case, the northwest corner of Mississippi where the river floods—creating rich cotton-growing soil. Their assignment was to help a small community called Metcalf. Originally, it was property given to slaves by its owner after the Emancipation. They also had help from work-release prisoners nearing the end of their sentences. The task was constructing a sunshade structure for a child care facility. Besides doing their work they also had time to take side trips—an "ulterior motive for joining the organization," said Steve. He visited Vicksburg, Natchez, and Civil War battlefields.

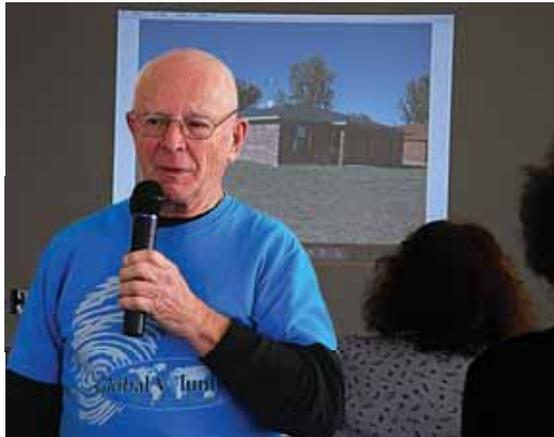
The next assignment Steve covered was in Browning, Montana, for the Blackfeet and Crow Indian Reservation. Here they helped prepare food and fed 400 members of the tribes. In addition, they spent an entire day cutting grass around the care center. Steve informed us the largest part of the Blackfeet tribe lives in West Seattle! During World War II they were encouraged to migrate here to work in the shipyards, and most of them stayed in the area. As they get older, they migrate back to Montana to live on the reservation in the elder care facilities.

Steve continued his talk with his trips to Appalachia, where he helped refurbish a 100-year-old house; Peru, where in his free time he parasailed over the cliffs of Lima; and Hungary, teaching in a vocational high school.

In conclusion, Steve said there are two places he hasn't traveled to but wants to visit — Romania and Poland.

We all enjoyed Steve's many stories and adventures while working with Global Volunteers. If you want more information about this organization visit their website, www.globalvolunteers.org.

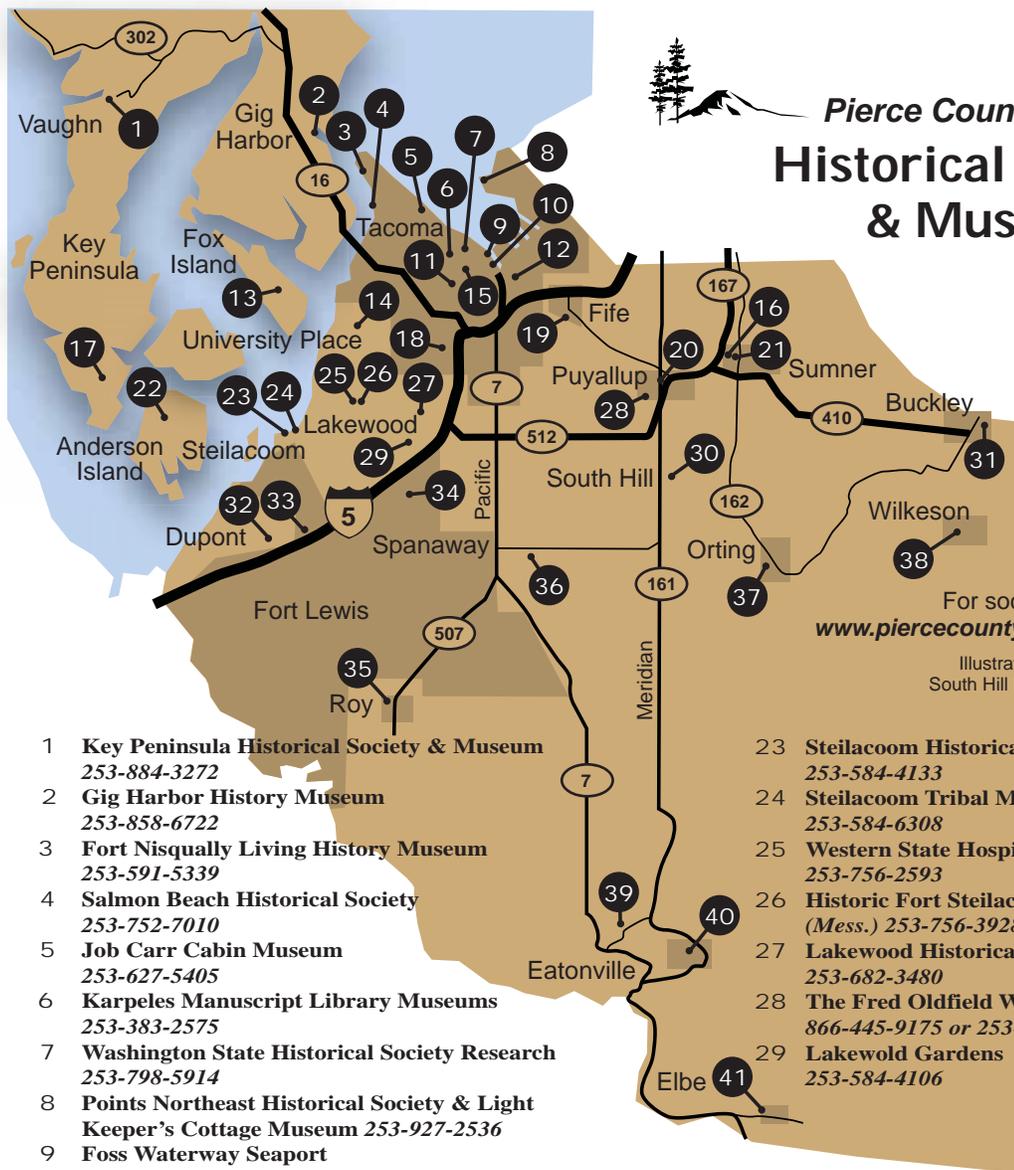
As a side note, of special interest to the historical society, Steve's great-great grandparents were members of the Biles-Longmire wagon train of 1853. His great-great grandfather's name was Benjamin Wright.



Steve Fox



Pierce County Heritage League Historical Societies & Museums



For society details see
www.piercecountyhistory.org/mappage.html

Illustration by Jerry Bates
South Hill Historical Society 2014

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Key Peninsula Historical Society & Museum
253-884-3272 | 23 Steilacoom Historical Museum Association
253-584-4133 |
| 2 Gig Harbor History Museum
253-858-6722 | 24 Steilacoom Tribal Museum & Cultural Center
253-584-6308 |
| 3 Fort Nisqually Living History Museum
253-591-5339 | 25 Western State Hospital Historical Society
253-756-2593 |
| 4 Salmon Beach Historical Society
253-752-7010 | 26 Historic Fort Steilacoom Association
(Mess.) 253-756-3928 (Secretary) 253-582-5838 |
| 5 Job Carr Cabin Museum
253-627-5405 | 27 Lakewood Historical Society & Museum
253-682-3480 |
| 6 Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums
253-383-2575 | 28 The Fred Oldfield Western Heritage Center
866-445-9175 or 253-445-9175 |
| 7 Washington State Historical Society Research
253-798-5914 | 29 Lakewold Gardens
253-584-4106 |
| 8 Points Northeast Historical Society & Light
Keeper's Cottage Museum 253-927-2536 | |
| 9 Foss Waterway Seaport
253-272-2750 | |
| 10 Washington State History Museum
253-272-9747 | 30 South Hill Historical Society
253-845-7691 |
| 11 Buffalo Soldiers Museum
253-272-4257 | 31 Foothills Historical Society & Museum
306-892-1291 |
| 12 Shanaman Sports Museum of Tacoma-Pierce
County 253-848-1360 | 32 Dupont Historical Society & Museum
253-964-2399 |
| 13 Fox Island Historical Society & Museum
253-549-2461 | 33 Lewis Army Museum
253-967-7206 |
| 14 University Place Historical Society
253-778-6717 | 34 McChord Air Museum
253-982-2485 |
| 15 Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society
253-572-6650 | 35 Roy Historical Society
253-843-1750 |
| 16 Heritage Quest Research Library
253-863-1806 | 36 Spanaway Historical Society & Prairie House Museum
253-536-6655 |
| 17 Longbranch Improvement Club
253-884-6022 | 37 Orting Historical Society
360-893-5363 |
| 18 Tacoma Historical Society Research Center
253-472-3738 | 38 Wilkeson Historical Society
360-829-4281 |
| 19 Fife Historical Society & History Museum
253-896-4710 | 39 Pioneer Farm & Ohop Indian Village
360-832-6300 |
| 20 Puyallup Historical Society at Meeker Mansion
253-848-1770 | 40 South Pierce County Hist. Society & Stage Stop Museum
253-988-0904 |
| 21 Sumner Historical Society & Ryan House Museum
253-299-5780 | 41 Elbe Ev. Lutherische Kirche
253-847-2753
Historic Tacoma info@historictacoma.org |
| 22 Anderson Island Hist. Society & Johnson
Museum Farm 253-884-2135 253-884-4792 | |

From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

Welcome to New Members
Joe & Rhoda Hoenhaus
Beverly Zook

Please call, e-mail or write any change of address to me, Ben Peters, 253-845-7028, poppa-ben2002@yahoo.com, 14602 106th Avenue Court E., South Hill, WA 98374.

Also, don't forget that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dues, donations, etc., are fully deductible from your income taxes if you are able to do so. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, contact Ben.

Dues Reminder

I will attach a sticky note, with a renewal form, to the Society newsletter mailed closest to your renewal date.

Updated Roster Available

A printed roster including members' home and e-mail addresses, plus phone numbers is available upon request (restricted to members only). Call me—Ben Peters—at 253-845-7028.

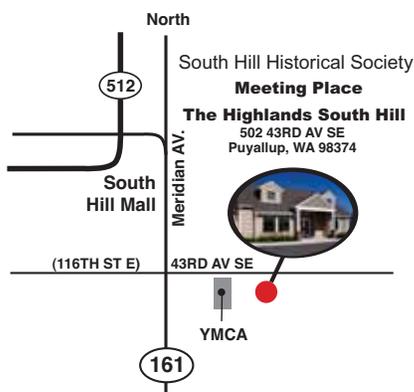
The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month, 11:00 AM, (no meetings July and August) at The Highlands in the Community Center. This complex is located at 502 43rd Ave. SE, adjacent to and east of the Mel Korum YMCA.

We welcome you to our monthly meetings. For more information, contact Paul Hackett at **(253) 845-7691**.

Our Current Members

Andy G. Anderson	Laurienne Stewart Minnich
Andy & Ruth Anderson	Kaye Murrell
Elizabeth Anema	Carolyn Nelson
Marion Armstrong	Dorothy Nelson
Bob Ballou	Juanita Nordin
Teresa Best	Mark & Dorothy Norris
Jerry Bates	Gloria O'Kelly
Katherine Bennett	Ron & Lois Pearson
Marilyn Burnett	Wes & Suzy Perkinson
Debbie Burtnett	Ben Peters
Vernon Cox	Bill Riley
Dave & Patti Curtiss	Bernice Fisher Rinehart
Karen Day	Roy and Sheila Rinker
James H. Dixon	Vern Rockstad
Pat Drake	Helen Rohlman
Joan Ellis	Earl Root
Arthur & Luverne Foxford	Stan & Margery Salmon
Ira Gabrielson	Bonnie Starkel
Don & Mary Glaser	Lori Stock
Calvin & Amy Goings	Bill Stover
Paul Hackett	Marge (Crosson) Swain
Alberta Hagen	Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe
Cecil & Doris Herbert	Margo L. & Joe Tucci
Evelyn Swalander Hess	Lee Van Pevenage
Wilma Walsworth Hinshaw	Carl Vest
Alan & Linda Hoenhaus	Neil & Celia Vincent
Joe & Rhoda Hoenhaus	Joan Vosler
Maybelle Hoenhaus	W. Louise Walsworth
Matt Holm	W. Lynn Williams
Leslie & Velma Huff	Lenore Nicolet Winton
John Knierim	Ed Zeiger
Mike Kupfer	Hans Zeiger
Art Larson	Allan S. & Ellen M. Zulauf
Terry Maves	Beverly Zook
Olive McDonough	

Where to Find Us



South Hill Historical Society Officers

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Vice-President, Terry Maves
Secretaries, Katie Bennett & Kaye Murrell
Public Relations Coordinator, Paul Hackett
Research Coordinator, Carl Vest
Treasurer, Ben Peters
Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Jerry Bates

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Editor Jerry Bates, Editor at Large Debbie Burtnett
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South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name _____

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City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Renewal, check here

Annual Dues: Society membership \$25.00

Note: Please do not send cash.

Make check or M.O. payable to South Hill Historical Society and mail with this application to:

**SHHS Membership, 14602 106th Avenue Court E.
South Hill, WA 98374-4905**



14602 106th Avenue Court E.
South Hill, WA 98374-4905

To: