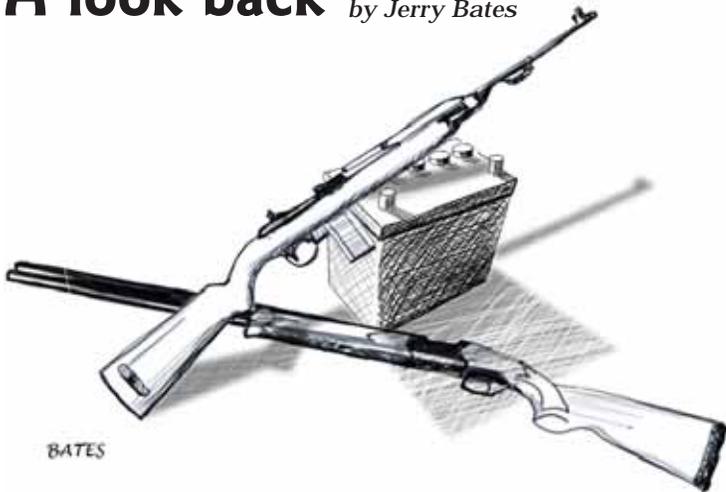


Gun Chase On South Hill

A look back *by Jerry Bates*



Before the days of dialing 911 and the Pierce County sheriffs being permanently stationed on South Hill, it sometimes became necessary for local residents to “help-out” in the law enforcement effort.

Such was the case back in 1971 for SHHS member Don Glaser’s brother Kenneth.

Burglaries were quite frequent on the hill in the 60s and 70s with the growing number of homes being built in the rural surroundings of the hill.

Don’s brother had been burglarized three times and the fourth time would prove to be the last straw for his household.

Mr. and Mrs. Glaser just returned to their home from shopping to find a burglary in process. The burglars, who were armed with a shotgun, confronted them. The 25 year-old man, accompanied by his 18 year-old girlfriend, ordered Kenneth and his wife on the floor and tied their hands behind their backs. Kenneth lay on the floor fuming; he was not going to let this pair get away. After the burglars sped off in a panel truck, Kenneth cut himself loose, headed for his hidden, loaded, M1 carbine. Then he jumped into his late model Thunderbird and gave chase. In his zeal to keep on the tail of the fleeing pair, he left his wife, Jean, still bound on the floor. The phone began ringing, Mrs. Glaser managed to knock the receiver free and shout that they were being robbed. The caller a friend of the Glaser’s, contacted the sheriffs’ office. Now Glaser was in a hot chase behind the fleeing burglars, with the sheriff deputies speeding to the Glaser home, not quite sure what to expect.

It didn’t take Glaser long to spot the getaway vehicle. He quickly stopped at a small grocery store and told the clerk to call the police and continued his chase, now with a volunteer from the store accompanying him. At 146th St. and 22nd Av. E he

took aim and shot out both tires from the fleeing old panel truck. The panel stopped and the driver got out, Glaser thought this would end it. No such luck, the suspect jumped back into the truck and continued driving to 208th where he commandeered a late model sedan from a Spanaway man, taking the car’s owner hostage. The burglar shouted to Glaser not to follow, Glaser took aim and shot out both rear tires from the fleeing sedan. The burglar continued on about a mile until one tire left the wheel entirely.

Once again the fleeing suspects tried to commandeer yet another car. However, the driver of this vehicle wasn’t the passive type, even with a gun pointed at her. Mrs Ida Loete refused to be his second hostage and would not get into the car. The brave lady called his bluff. After being told to go along or be killed she said, “Go-ahead kill me.” She refused to go. Fortunately, for Mrs. Loete the burglar had second thoughts and fled with her car and hostage number one. A wild chase followed with the suspect crashing Mrs. Loete’s car into a power pole at 11th Avenue and 160th Street. Now the burglars commandeered the third vehicle of their getaway effort, a 1968 Ford station wagon along with another hostage, 18yr-old Peter Neal, who unfortunately picked the wrong day to visit his brother James Wright of 1019 S. 160th.

Time was running out for the fleeing couple. The confused sheriffs were getting calls regarding each incident in the chase from different witnesses, some claiming a shootout between the burglars and Glaser. However, the suspects never fired back at Glaser during the chase.

Deputy Fred Reinicke spotted a person matching the description of the gunman on the grounds of the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on dead-end South 146th Street. Five patrol cars converged on the scene where the suspect was in the process of stealing his fourth getaway vehicle. The burglar was installing the wrecked Ford’s battery into Rev. William Greier’s Valliant. The Valliant’s dead battery saved the day, as deputies moved in and made the arrest. The female burglar was found hiding under the bed in the parish home.

In an article covering this event appearing in the Tuesday, March 7, 1971 Tacoma News Tribune, Kenneth Glaser was praised by the Sheriffs’ Department for his restraint. An excellent marksman, Glaser only shot at the tires. Also, by informing the Sheriffs’ Department during his chase, it was possible for the arrest to be made.

Grade School Days

by Joan Parks Vosler, Secretary SHHS

The chill of the foggy September mornings greeted us as we stepped out the door to head down past the old cedar tree, which we called the cow shade tree, on our two and one half mile trek to Woodland School. An old lane that had been used to skid logs ran along the fence of the cow pasture, but we soon entered the trail through the woods, which curved and twisted its way to the gravel road. Addie, our great Dane, always led the way, He never allowed us to pass him. He took his duties seriously. Many nights we heard Dr. Oboe and his hounds camped at the sand pit chasing coyotes by the light of the moon. Their sounds permeated the night and sent the hair standing on your neck. Addie knew what lurked about us and he was our protector. Once we were out on the gravel road where there were some houses, he would leave us and return home.

That trail through the woods holds many memories, among them spider webs outlined by the morning dew. In the winter, snow weighing down the branches blocked our way until our older brother shook them so we could continue on the trail single file. In the spring we saw Johnnie jump-ups, trilliums, ginger leaves, wild currant in bloom, dogwood, deer tongue, Indian paint brush, tiger lilies, bleeding hearts, and moss turning fallen limbs and logs into peculiar shapes. There were also green tree frogs, rabbits, birds, squirrels and croaking frogs, which I was told if I picked one up I would get warts. Our mother had many bouquets of wild flowers we picked on our way home. Douglas fir, cedars, graceful hemlock, alder, and vine maples lined the path we had worn through the woods. When we got to the gravel road we would meet other kids on their way to school. Sometimes we waited for them, and other times we had to run to catch-up.

Fifteen minutes before classes started the school bell rang. It did not take long for everyone to sprint to the school yard so we could be lined up to march into class. On the way home the sun would get warmer and warmer until those jackets and coats, much needed in the morning, would come quickly off. Following the pipeline road we would

always have Mt. Rainier in view. We pretended we were hiking all the way to the mountain, which in our imagination, became a huge ice-cream cone. When we became tired of walking we often trotted for a while, then walked some more. Then we did a short sprint and walked some more. It was always fun to come to a hill that we could run down with our slickers held high to catch the wind like a sail.

When we arrived at the trail, Addie was always waiting for us, and we could hear our mother calling, "yoo-hoo, yoo-hoo." We would answer in kind so she would know all was well.

I remember those days because they were filled with learning and adventure, most of the adventure provided by ourselves. The childhood friendships have remained all these years. The back twenty acres behind us is now a housing development, and a school bus takes the children to school. The adventures along the way to and from school are gone with our halcyon days.



We hope your holiday season has been a pleasant one. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the officers of the South Hill Historical Society.



Dance at The Willows on Saturday Nites

The Most Beautiful and Largest
Dance Hall in the Country

FEATURING
Carter Lee's 9-Piece Rhythm Dance Band

"You'll Sure Like to Dance to Their
Rhythm Music"

DANCING FROM 9 TILL 1

Admission—Gents 75c; Ladies 25c

The Willows dance hall was one of two on the Hill. The Willows was located at Willows corner (where today's Meridian E. & 39th Av. SW join). The other dance hall was the Old Mill located further south on the west side of Meridian (between today's 123rd St. E & 126th St. E). The Old Mill structure stands today surrounded by an RV center. However, it's scheduled to be torn down in the near future. If any of our members have any old photos or stories that relate to either of these dance halls, please contact Paul Hackett or the Editor, Jerry Bates.



Time marches on and sadly the Cider Press has passed on. The longtime South Hill business closed for good at the end of last July. According to its owner Herb Gaines about two months later it was demolished.

South Hill.... Did you know?

Our past President Paul Hackett has been spending time with old newspapers at the Puyallup Library busy making copies of articles relevant to South Hill. Here are just a few tidbits of interest.

All-paved road Puyallup to Mount Rainier-

“With the completion of the stretch of paving near the Mountain Highway on the Puyallup-Summit road, Puyallup now has an all-paved highway to the mountain via South Hill.” July 13, 1932 (Probably up 9th Av SW to Airport Way (112th) thence to Highway 99?)

Puyallup Valley Tribune, July 15, 1932.

First lumber mill started at Maplewood Springs-

“Frank Meeker had a small mill at Maplewood Springs, run by water and with a capacity of 14,000 board feet daily.” This was sometime before 1889.

Puyallup Valley Tribune, September 15, 1939

South Hill Historical Society Officers

President, Yvonne Thorp
Vice-President, Don Glaser
Secretary, Joan Vosler
Research Coordinator, Carl Vest
Treasurer, Ben Peters
Newsletter Editor, Jerry Bates

When Meridian was built in pieces-

“Meridian Street was first made by short stretches, connecting one place with another. After it made it to the city limits, 25th Av. (probably 23rd Av), it gradually, headed up the hill to Kupfers home, where the little traveled road ran close to their house.” (Present day Borders). Going south from this point there was nothing but a trail turning into a footpath, that led past “Swamp” Muehler’s to three early Graham families. Their main road to the valley was to and from Orting.

Puyallup Valley Tribune, August 9, 1940

1952, South Hill left with no water!

“Puyallup’s water pressure dropped to 18 pounds” (even 30 pounds is dangerously low). “South Hill residents were left virtually without water, as residents continued with heavy sprinkling during the current dry spell.”

Puyallup Valley Tribune July 17, 1952

Firgrove students given free rides-

“Free transportation to the Puyallup High School will be offered some students for the first time in the history of the school district... The bus is being provided by the Firgrove District and will carry pupils that live within the district and also run through the Woodland District.” *Puyallup Valley Tribune, September 1, 1939*

History On The Hill is published quarterly
Copyright 2006

South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home 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, 11711 92nd AV E, Puyallup, WA 98373

From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

Reminder

Please 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.

Where to Find Us

The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month 11:15 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 our former president, Paul Hackett, at **(253) 845-7691**.



Our Current Members

Andy G. Anderson	Carolyn Nelson
John & Ruth Anderson	Dorothy Nelson
Jim & Elizabeth Anema	Juanita Nordin
Bob Ballou	Mark & Dorothy Norris
Jerry Bates	Christopher O'Kelly
Ward F. Bradley	Don & Helen Otto
Marilyn Burnett	Ron & Lois Pearson
Roger Bush	Wes & Suzy Perkinson
Bob Crabb	Ben Peters
James H. Dixon	Bill Riley
Mildred A. Dobbs	Bernice Fisher Rinehart
Linda Forsberg	Barbara Huff Ringo
Arthur & Luverne Foxford	Roy and Sheila Rinker
Lloyd Freudenstein	Vern Rockstad
Dianna & Fred Fritz	Helen Rohlman
Eunice Barth Gilliam	Earl Root
Don and Mary Glaser	Jim Ruble
William (Bill) Goelzer	Frank Ryser
Hazel Whitford Miller Goheen	Stan & Margery Salmon
Calvin & Amy Goings	William & Doris Scott
Stanley & Ila Goter	Clara K. Singer (Wallace)
David Hackett	Bonnie Nicolet Starkel
Paul Hackett	Lori Stock
James Hawley	Bill Stover
Cecil & Doris Herbert	Marge (Crosson) Swain
Evelyn Swalander Hess	Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe
Charles & Maybelle Hoen-	Margo L & Joe Tucci
hous	Carl Vest
Matt Holm	Neil & Celia Vincent
Ernest & Irene Hopp	Joan Vosler
Dale Huff	Vivian Wepfer
Jim Kastama	W. Lynn Williams
Art Larson	Kevin Wimsett
Art S. & Marvella Massie	Marilyn Larson Winter-
Olive McDonough	ton
Laurienne Stewart Minnich	Lenore Nicolet Winton
John A. Mosolf	Allen & Ellen Zulauf



11711 92nd AV E
Puyallup WA 98373

To: