



The New Heritage Recreation Center & South Hill Historical Society Connection

Prepared by Jerry Bates, Member, South Hill Historical Society

The Heritage Recreation Center grand opening happened Saturday, September 16th. Time flies. Just a few years ago this site, east of Rogers High School, was 40 acres of empty field and brush; now it's transformed into a modern sports complex. The facility contains landscaped paved parking lots and sidewalks surrounding a state of the art baseball field, four softball fields, six soccer fields, a concession and restrooms building, plus a children's play area—quite a dramatic transformation.

Little known to most, the South Hill Historical Society has played an important role in all this. Although the heritage theme of the complex receives little attention in all the recent publicity, our society is responsible for preserving the link between this land and the South Hill Heritage Corridor, the historic route that crossed where the parking lots and ball fields are today.

South Hill Heritage Corridor

Our society, thanks to the work of member Carl Vest and the support of Pierce County Councilman Calvin Goings, is responsible for promoting the concept of the South Hill Heritage Corridor. The effort was motivated by a desire to celebrate and bring public awareness to this historic corridor that crosses South Hill. In 2002 Pierce

County installed eight interpretive signs along South Hill roads marking the route.

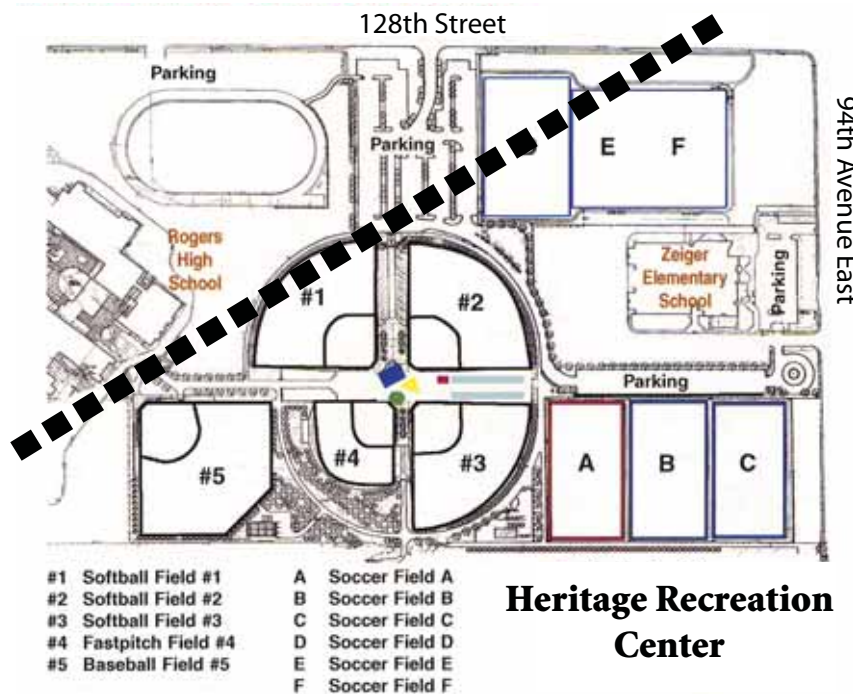
For hundreds of years a path across South Hill has connected Eastern Washington with the Puget Sound area. The first use of the route was as an Indian trade corridor between Indian tribes of Eastern Washington and our local

tribes. In 1853 the Longmire/Byles wagon train crossed the hill using this route also, establishing the north fork of the Oregon Trail. The trail later became the Military Road between Steilacoom and Walla Walla, connecting encampments on both sides of the Cascades via the Naches Pass, formerly the wagon train route. The corridor played an essential role in the early settlement and development of Pierce County as

homesteaders flooded into the area to start new lives and new communities.

Today, for the most part, the trail has disappeared. However, old maps along with recent surveys have established its route. A section of the old trail crossed the Rogers High School Campus and the new Heritage Recreation Center sports facility. Three ground markers trace its course. The most prominent marker is at the main entrance of the new sports facility, south of the 128th Street parking lot.

Approximate Path of Old Pioneer Trail



Heritage Recreation Center

Understanding our society's accomplishments in preserving history on the hill, gives the word "Heritage" in the title of the new sports complex very special meaning.

Naches Pillars

Another word with local historical significance has been used to name the sculptures dominating the entrance to the Heritage Recreation Center. There are two separate 17-foot spires made of over 7 tons of Grand Coulee basalt, called the Naches Pillars. They were created by internationally renowned artist and sculptor Doug Granum. Inscriptions and graphics on the monuments describe the origins of the sports played on the fields today. Also, inscribed on the stone are humorous and inspirational quotes from all over the world.

The rings on the top of the monuments repre-

sent ancient Mayan basketball hoops. For the ancient Mayans getting a ball through the rings guaranteed their entrance into the Afterworld.

A good way to survey all this progress is to take a little tour starting at the Nathan Chapman Trail*. The trail entrance is located at the South Hill Park, parking lot at 144th Street East and 86th Avenue. A paved walkway winds through the woods for about a mile and comes out at the new sports facility; that also has paved walkways throughout. You can get in shape by jogging this route or taking a leisurely walk. If you want to walk yourself and your dog, have a pooper-scooper.

**Sergeant First Class Nathan Ross Chapman was the first American soldier killed by enemy fire in Afghanistan, Sergeant Chapman and his family lived on South Hill.*



One of the two Naches Pillars stands out at the entrance to the new Heritage Sports Center. These 17-foot basalt spires are carved with graphics that describe the origins of the sports played on Heritage Recreation Center's fields. The ring at the top of the monument represents an ancient Mayan basketball hoop.

Below and to the right of the monument is one of three historic trail markers that trace the route of South Hill Heritage Corridor as it crosses the facility. The marker reads "Naches Pass Trail, on October 8, 1853 the first wagon train to cross the Naches Pass Trail reached South Hill. This monument marks the very path traveled by these settlers and many to follow, who left the Oregon Trail to follow the Naches Pass Trail, reaching from Yakima to Fort Steilacoom."



Spreading the Word at the Puyallup Fair



The South Hill Historical Society was well represented again this year at the Puyallup Fair. We had a booth in the Pavilion building on September 8th and 9th, and two more days on the 17th and 18th. Many people visited the SHHS booth. Of special interest were the large aerial view photographs of South Hill supplied by Paul Hackett. Another item of interest this year was the winning bus shelter designs done by the Emerald Ridge and Rogers High School students. These drawings will be used to decorate 17 bus shelters to be built along Meridian. Of special value to our being part of the Puyallup Fair, in addition to promoting our organization, are the valuable contacts made with passer-

bys who have unique knowledge of the old days on South Hill.

Thanks to all who volunteered to represent our Society this year: Chris O'Kelly, Bonnie Starkel, Lenore Winton, Marilyn Burnett, Paul Hackett, Sheila Rinker, Roy Rinker, Joan Vosler, Dorothy Norris, Carolyn Nelson, Don Glaser, Mary Glaser, Olive Parks McDonough, Matt Holm, Yvonne Thorpe, Jerry Bates Bill Goelzer. A special thanks must be given to member Bill Goelzer, who organized and managed our presence at the Fair again this year (Bill is seen in the picture above).

In Memoriam

The South Hill Historical Society
regrets the passing of
**Richard Vosler
&
John Thun**

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**

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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

A warm welcome to our newest member:
Pierce County Councilman Roger Bush

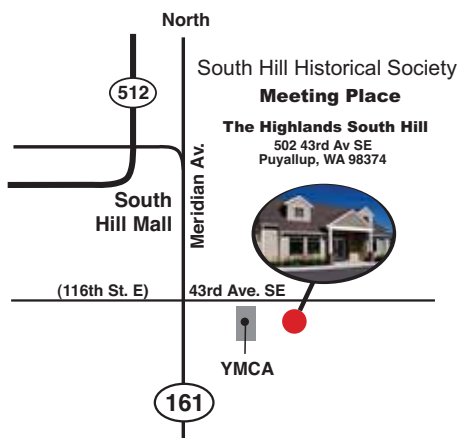
Reminder

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**.



11711 92nd AV E
Puyallup WA 98373

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- hous	Margo L & Joe Tucci
Matt Holm	Carl Vest
Ernest & Irene Hopp	Neil & Celia Vincent
Dale Huff	Joan Vosler
Jim Kastama	Vivian Wepfer
Art Larson	W. Lynn Williams
Art S. & Marvella Massie	Kevin Wimsett
Olive McDonough	Marilyn Larson Winter- ton
Laurienne Stewart Minnich	Lenore Nicolet Winton
John A. Mosolf	Allen & Ellen Zulauf

To: