



HERITAGE CORRIDOR

# History On The Hill

The Newsletter of the South Hill Historical Society

Volume 5 Issue 3 Fall 2007

## A Family's History on South Hill

By Carol Parks Smith and Joan Parks Vosler



SHHS Member and Secretary,  
Joan Parks Vosler

**W**illiam Hilderbrand settled on South Hill in the 1890's. He purchased property on the north side of Collins Road (128TH ST). The southern side of Collins Road opposite his property was designated and platted as school property. (That is now where Rogers High School and Zeiger Elementary School are located.)

Great Uncle Bill and his brother Jim were the first of the Hilderbrand family to locate in the state of Washington. After they were settled they sent for other members of their family living in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. They traveled to Washington by train. Family members included Minetta, Phoebe, and Myra arriving in the year 1891. Minetta Hilderbrand was married to Henry McClelland. They had one child, Stella. After the death of her husband, Minetta married Leonard Grant Parks (our grandfather) in Tacoma, September 28, 1893.

His sister, Myra Ingram Hilderbrand (our great aunt) moved to Washington and she married Robert R. Steele, a steam engineer from New West Minister, B.C. on December 12, 1912. Their home bordered the property of Uncle Bill. Their property was Tract 244 of "Half Dollar Berry Tracts," recorded on January 4, 1911. The five acres behind Aunt Myra's was also owned by Bill Hilderbrand. The twenty acres behind that five acres was owned by Robert and Myra Steele.

Their property ended at Houston Abney's, located on old Lundblad Road 86TH AV E Puyallup, Washington. This twenty acres was sold in 1942 after the death of Robert Steele in 1940. His widow was forced to sell all property, livestock and the car to be eligible for a state senior citizen grant and to utilize all monies before she could collect any assistance from the state.

Lee Westbrook owned 330 feet from 86TH AV E to Collins Road. Bill Hilderbrand owned 660 feet, Robert and Myra Steele 330 feet, and the next 660 feet belonged to Bill Hilderbrand. On this piece of property he built a home for his mother Ellen Eliza Hilderbrand. This home is still occupied today by John Hahn. Previous owners were Arthur and Ida Groppe and their son Gerald Shea, then Kenneth and Irene Benson Sheldon.

When Uncle Bill first moved to South Hill, it was sparsely populated. He told us of cougars living in the area and one that screamed at night like a woman. This of course raised the hairs on the back of our necks. Bear and packs of coyotes traveled through the woods. Much logging was going on. We have dug up old railroad spikes as we have planted and improved our property. This rail line, according to our brother Pete, was owned by Electric Logging Company. It ran across the Harold R. Parks residence through the back five acres into and down to the large gulch circling around the area. The logging tracks ended to the south at Indian Wells. Uncle Bill had a donkey engine that pulled the loaded cars up the hill and was also used to skid logs up. Our property when we were young was full of large stumps where trees had been felled. This was also part of the "Half Dollar Berry Tracts." The same donkey engine was used to pull up logs for our log home, which our father & mother and Uncle Stan built in 1941 and 1942.

While waiting for our log home to be built, we lived in a woodcutter's shack which was enlarged to accommodate our family. This property was on the back twenty acres. Orin and Luella Parks, (our fathers' oldest brother) lived there before us while they built their home. So the old woodcutter's shack served as a place for relatives in transition.

Our grandfather, Leonard Grant Parks, left his son Weldon with his mother-in-law Eliza E. Hilderbrand when they decided to move to Cali-

fornia. Weldon was helping with the loading of a flat car when it came uncoupled and crushed him. He was fifteen at the time.

This railroad line owned by the Tacoma Eastern Logging Company was located east of the property owned by Uncle Bill and extended north into the hollow ending at the pipeline road, which was not put through until the 1940's.

The back two acres next to Harold R. Parks residence was owned by our aunt and uncle Everett and Lucille Hall. This property was later bought by the Millers then the Bakers. Since there was no 126TH ST E, they entered their property via old 9TH ST, now 94TH AV E.

Stanley Washburn, our mother's brother, bought a two acre section behind us.

Harold R. Parks, our father, gave with love and affection to Richard and Joan Parks Vosler a lot 150 x 300 ft. and we built a home on this lot in 1966. We petitioned the Pierce County Public Works to put through 126TH ST. Since we were the first and only property on 126TH ST. we had to get our mail from 94TH ST. The parcel next to this one was given to Berle and Carol Parks Smith. They built in 1968. So most of our lives have revolved around this section of South Hill, and we have many memories of this area.

## Memories of South Hill During World War II

By Barbra Huff Ringo

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, many things changed. We had to "black out" the windows on the house, for one thing.

Once a tank from Fort Lewis got "lost," somehow, and ended up at the crossroads of Reservoir and Military Roads. The "scars" where it turned around were there for years. We had heard it coming up the road and wondered what it could be. The toren-up turf and tread marks gave us the answer!

It was quite a thrill to see P-38 airplanes flying above the reservoir when the pilots were getting their flight time. One actually dived toward the reservoir, and I could see the pilot quite clearly.

There were Red Cross first aid classes at Firgrove School where we learned how to bandage wounds and make slings, etc.

Air raid drills were held, as well. Everyone had an emergency route to their homes from school, staying clear of main roads by going through the woods and brush to get there.

I belonged to 4-H Club and, one year received the Kiwanis trophy for the best Victory Garden in Pierce County. My mother, Winnifred Huff, was leader there. Later, Florence Glaser, (Don Glaser's mother) took over as leader, and I remember going to Achievement Day rallies at Fruitland Grange Hall. Also, going to Pullman to Washington State College to 4-H Club Camp where members and leaders from all over Washington attended. That year my brother Leslie also attended, as did Wayne Glaser and Vernon Rockstad. There was also 4-H Club camp at Benlow Lake Resort in the summer.

There were lots of social events at Firgrove School—carnivals, Christmas programs, box socials (sometimes called basket socials.) The box social was where the women and girls would make a picnic lunch and pack it into a decorated box to be auctioned off to the men and boys and then shared with the successful bidder. This raised money for the school and the PTA. The Christmas programs consisted of a play and entertainment followed at the end by "Santa" handing out bags of candy, nuts, and even an orange!

There weren't many accidents at school, but I remember Bill Stover getting hit by a car or truck in front of the school and getting a broken leg. He lived across from the school and went home for lunch.

Then when I was in 7th grade, Marlene Rockstad ran behind a batter during a noon recess ball game and was hit by the bat and knocked unconscious. I ran to tell Miss Plank and Mrs. Miller (my cousin) and since there was not an ambulance handy or 911 to call, we loaded her into Mrs. Miller's car for a trip to Puyallup Clinic to have her checked. The only lasting result was a broken front tooth.

Mr. Fred Predmore Sr. had a team of horses that my folks hired to come and plow, harrow and later cut and rake the hay for our cows. I always tried to get a ride on the wagon when the hay was picked up to put in our barn, so I could "drive" the horses.

In the late 1940s we had some very cold winters and once Don Glaser gave my brother Les and me and his brothers a ride in his Model "T" on the ice on Massey's pond, that had frozen over—Fun!

In the 1930s and early 1940s the highway (Meridian) was paved, on both sides, as far as Mitchell-Gould Road (152ND ST E) and from there on only one lane was paved, at least as far as Graham. The cars were few in those days and people would drive on the paved side until another car was seen coming towards them and then get over on the unpaved lane. I don't know what year the second lane was paved. Perhaps someone else knows.

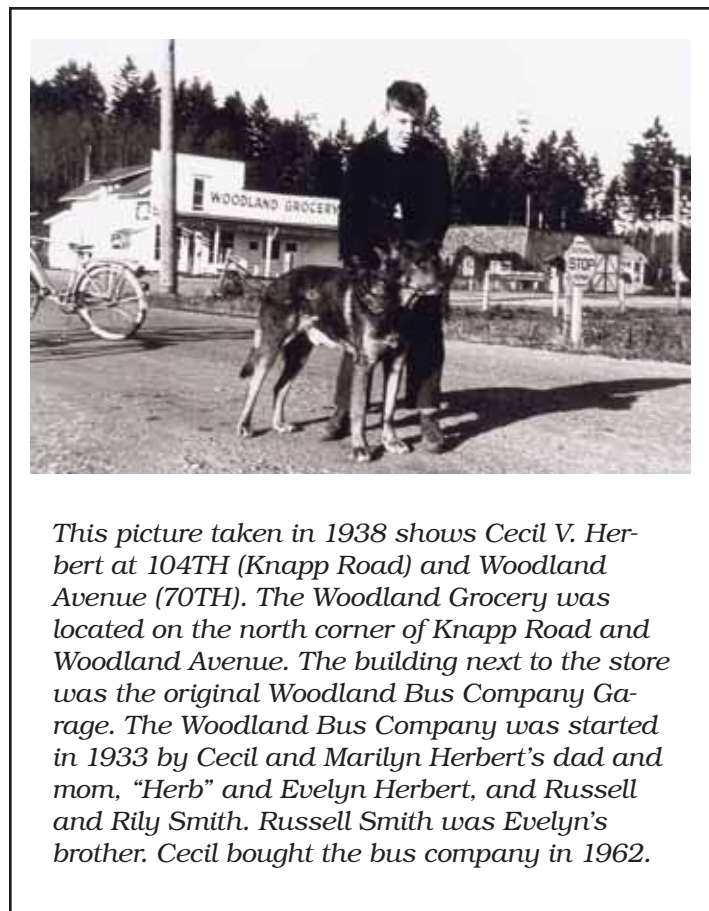
We shopped for groceries at Willows Corner in Miller's store there. Across the road was Annis' Standard Oil gas station where we also traded. The other business was a tavern run by George Mabbitt (not sure of spelling).

Well, that's a few memories for the moment. There are many more, of course, but they're sort of trivial!

Hope this has been of interest.

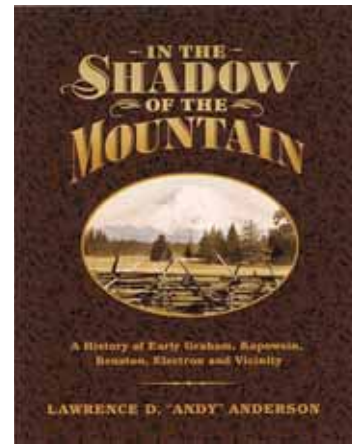
Yours truly,  
Barbara Huff Ringo

**Editor's Note:** *Barbara currently lives in Vancouver WA.*



*This picture taken in 1938 shows Cecil V. Herbert at 104TH (Knapp Road) and Woodland Avenue (70TH). The Woodland Grocery was located on the north corner of Knapp Road and Woodland Avenue. The building next to the store was the original Woodland Bus Company Garage. The Woodland Bus Company was started in 1933 by Cecil and Marilyn Herbert's dad and mom, "Herb" and Evelyn Herbert, and Russell and Rily Smith. Russell Smith was Evelyn's brother. Cecil bought the bus company in 1962.*

# New Book by Local Author



Lawrence D. "Andy" Anderson would like to let us know that his book - *In the Shadow of the Mountain* - on the history of Graham, Kapowsin, Benston, Electron and vicinity will be out any day now.

*In the Shadow of the Mountain* is the first book of its kind to detail the many interesting people, places, and events that make up the story of the early days from Graham to Eatonville and the Puyallup River to the Mountain Highway. Read over 300 pages of first hand and documented accounts of life in this place from the late 1800's to the 1930's. Have your own collection of over 250 rare historical images, most impossible to find in public archives. These images were selected from a collection of hundreds available to the author over a period of 30 years.

**Editor's Note:** *Andy D. Anderson (not to be confused with our friend Andy Anderson of the Meeker Society) is a life-time resident of Graham. This book is a real labor of love, and is privately published. You're not going to find it at Amazon.com or in the chain book stores. The price is \$43.36, including tax.*

Andy Anderson  
P.O. Box 24  
Graham, WA  
253.847.6182  
andyshirley@comcast.net

## 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

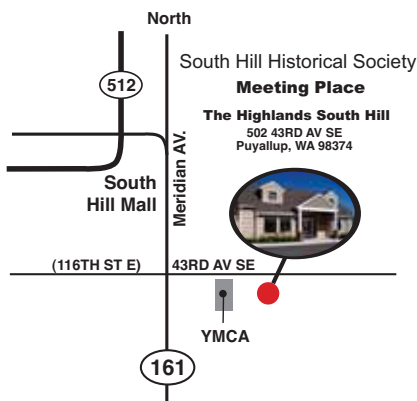
## Reminder

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 AV 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**.



## In Memoriam

The South Hill Historical Society regrets the passing of

**Helen Otto**

## Our Current Members

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

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To: