South Hill Historical Society
Heritage Corridor

History On The Hill

The Newsletter of the South Hill Historical Society

Volume 6 Issue 4 Fall 2008

Families, Then Roads Join

Marriage joined the early South Hill families Patzner and Glaser generations ago. Later the old family roads also joined with the completion of Glaser Road in 1926. Last September 11 a ceremony took place at the intersection of 122nd Avenue and 133rd Street, the old Patzner and Glaser Road intersection. New historic signs will now hang alongside their modern counterparts. Today's 122nd Av. E. was the old Glaser Road, and 133rd Street E, was the old Patzner Road.

Wayne and Don Glaser hold the historic signs before they are mounted at the intersection of 122nd Av. E and 133rd St. E. The old road names honor their great grandparents.

Old mixes with new

The days are long gone when roads to early settlers' property officially were named after the property owners. A re-naming effort in the 1980's finished off the vast majority of local road signs with names: Collins, Lundblad, Odens etc., with the reasoning of aiding emergency responders. Numbers replaced most of these old unique names. Unfortunately, gone with the old names was a sense of history and community roots. In 2001 an effort to restore them was completed.

A resolution to add the old names to the current street numbered signs was passed by the Pierce County Council. The program was sponsored and supported by then South Hill Council rep. Calvin Goings and the South Hill Historical Society. In the following weeks attractive brown-colored historical street names were attached alongside the existing signs at more than a dozen key South Hill intersections. New signs with new designs continue to be added.

Glaser Road on South Hill

Editor's Note: *This article appeared first in the Puyallup Herald last June, written by our own Carl Vest. For those members who do not receive the paper, and by way of review, I've included it to accompany our lead story.*

Addresses are very important. On a regular basis, for example, we use street numbers and/or name combinations to both communicate and navigate. It is accepted, therefore, that some kind of a systematic arrangement of road locations is crucial for many normal purposes. We're all familiar with the current arrangement in Pierce County: streets go east-west and avenues go north-south arrayed in a grid system. But before that scheme was adopted, road names were used as the primary indicators of location.

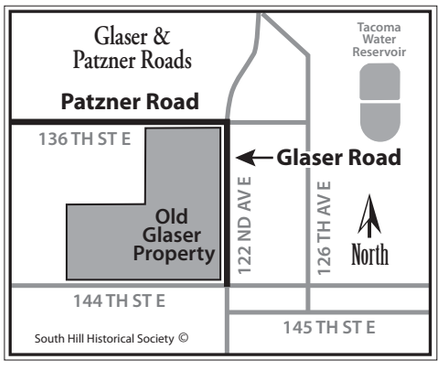
At one time on South Hill there were innumerable road names in use. Unfortunately, there was no particular order in this accumulation as they had sort of evolved as the county developed. Route names were often awarded by county officials as a way of honoring people living in the area or to recognize families that had been active in getting particular roads built; for example, Collins Road, Shaw Road, Ball-Wood Road, and others.

Glaser Road is an example of a thoroughfare that was named for a specific family. It probably was one of the shortest highways in the County (about one-half mile in length) and was situated in a north-south direction on what is now 122nd Avenue East. It was created in 1926 when Nicholas Glaser and his wife Barbara donated frontage on the eastside of their farm for its construction.

The Glaser family roots go back to Germany.

But Nicholas Glaser was born in Wilkes Barre, PA, in 1859. He grew up in that state and during his early years made his living working in real estate. He was in his 50s when he migrated to the Northwest. It is reported that Nicholas acquired considerable land throughout the South Sound area, but in particular in 1912 he bought and settled on three forty-acre tracts on South Hill located just southwest of the Tacoma Water Reservoir. The present day location would be on the west and north side of the intersection of 122nd Avenue and 144th Street.

It must be kept in mind that during the 1912-1926 period neither 122nd Avenue nor 144th Street existed. People living in that part of South Hill had no road system other than some unofficial primitive wagon trails that gave them access to the 1853 Military Road (Naches Trail). But in the early 1900s a passage called Reservoir Road (now 136th Street) had been built to service the Tacoma Water Reservoir. This path proved useful to local people and provided passageways to both the Ball-Wood Road (now Meridian Avenue) and old Military Road. Over the years the Glasers also used these roads by first traveling on a trail by the east side of their farm.



Both Patzner & Glaser Roads in relation to the modern map.

Ultimately, to legalize the unauthorized wagon trail on the east side of the farm and to more formally open up the farm to outside areas, the Glaser family donated a strip of land, 30-feet wide, for a lawful road. On May 20, 1926 the County accepted the gift and subsequently named the road in honor of the family.

We Reach Out as Well as Reach Back

As an historical society we must not only deal with the past but also with the present. We reach back into our history and reach out to the community we're part of. The reach-out part translates into creating an awareness of the South Hill Historical Society among other organizations, groups and individuals who can lend to our mission or benefit from the work we do.

Both these efforts describe the overlapping activities of our Research Coordinator, Carl Vest and our Community Relations Coordinator, Paul Hackett.

Considering these two offices and the time and energy that goes into both of them, a little review may be worthwhile. This is not an attempt to catalog all the events of the past year but rather to focus more on a general overview of our research and public relations activities.

Paul and Carl have both issued reports detailing what's been going on with research and community relations during 2008. To accommodate our small newsletter, I will attempt to give a very general overview. Much much more could be written to adequately detail their projects and do justice to the amount of time and energy Paul and Carl volunteer to these two important jobs.

Research

Carl's report focused on three areas: Researching and writing articles for the (Puyallup) Herald newspaper, conducting interviews with people who have memories of living on South Hill and providing data for articles about South Hill.

Since May of 2007 we have supplied a column for the Puyallup Herald published monthly in their Lifestyles section. These articles have gained increasing success and interest in the community. The usual column consists of a 500-word story focusing on a particular South Hill event of historical interest, sometimes accompanied by a graphic or photo.

The second area covered in Carl's report is our interview effort. Most interviews have been done by Paul Hackett and Carl; Bob Ballou has recently volunteered to help out with this demanding process. The interview work covers a lot of territory, from informal discussions with particular individuals to formal video recording sessions following a script of questions. Our archive has over 200 video interviews. Guest speakers are also routinely video-taped at our monthly meetings. Carl has started a program of having attendees at these meetings write down memories of a particular topic. He has developed some of these into articles for the Herald as well as papers added to our archives.

Besides the Herald and interview activities, our society is increasingly relied on as a source of information to other organizations. Both the Herald and News Tribune use us as a resource for articles they publish that have any connection with local area history. Often these stories feature or include particular members of our society. Also, the local schools and libraries often refer both students and the public to the South Hill Historical Society. Local political entities tap us for input regarding city or county transportation, development or environmental issues.

Community Relations

Paul Hackett is our man around town. Besides being involved in all the above projects, he keeps tuned and connected to the community in his role as our public relations officer. As he says, "We do not exist in a vacuum." Thanks to Paul

we don't have to worry about that. We couldn't have a better spokesman and interface for the society. Besides always being available for presentations to groups describing our society and its activities, Paul routinely presents detailed reports with handouts for the SHHS executive council monthly meetings. Besides the many other society projects and the independent research Paul is involved with (that would be another story in and unto itself), the following list is a sampling of groups that he maintains regular communication with:

The Herald Newspaper
Puyllup South Hill Library
Puyallup City Library
Karshner Museum
Western Washington Fair
South Hill Community Council
Puyallup School District
The Pierce County Heritage League
Rotary Downtown
Rotary South Hill
Meeker Historical Society
Pierce County Non-Profit Org.
Highland Apartments
South Hill Kiwanis
Merrill Garderns
Pierce County Parks
Woodland School Reunion
Fred Oldfield Center
Puyallup Tribe of Indians

As we wrap up 2008 we can feel satisfied we are unearthing and documenting more history plus increasing awareness among local groups and the public.

South Hill Historical Society Officers

President, **Yvonne Thorpe**
Vice-President, **Don Glaser**
Secretary, **Joan Vosler**
Research Coordinator, **Carl Vest**
Treasurer, **Ben Peters**
Newsletter Editor, **Jerry Bates**
Public Relations Coordinator, **Paul Hackett**

Thanks to Fair Volunteers

Paul Hackett can be seen here answering questions from a curious passerby. As can be seen our display content keeps multiplying each year. Maybe next year we will get more room for our ever-expanding amount of display material? As usual, we are all grateful for the volunteers that make our booth a success every year. Bill Goelzer did his usual excellent job of organizing this event. In addition to orchestrating participants' time slots and getting everyone tickets, Bill also created a major part of the display, volunteered at manning the booth, plus helped with setup and tear down, a lot of time and effort from Bill!

Thanks everybody: Bob Ballou, Jerry Bates, Marilyn Burnett, Don & Mary Glaser, Bill Goelzer, Paul Hackett, May Hoenhous, Art Larson, Olive McDonough, Ron Moe, Carolyn Nelson, Dorothy Norris, Roy & Sheila Rinker, Bonnie Starkel, Yvonne Thorpe, Joan Vosler, Lynn Williams and Lenora Winton.

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

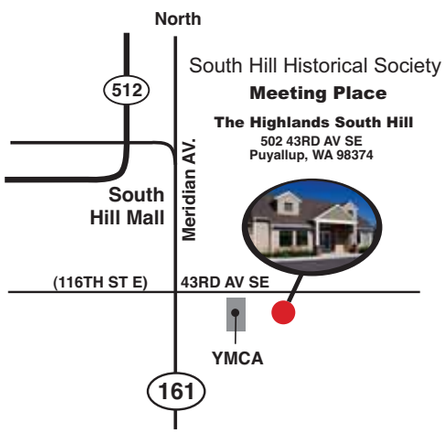
A warm welcome to our new members:
Robin Reich & Hans Zeiger

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**.



Our Current Members

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

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To: