



History On The Hill

The Newsletter of the South Hill Historical Society

Volume 7 Issue 2 Spring 2009

HERITAGE CORRIDOR

The First Reunion

Firgrove Elementary has been a recurring topic in this newsletter, local media, and I'm sure among South Hill old timers who had some affiliation with the "old" school. The old brick building's fate is in question, its destiny delayed a bit longer due to the recent school bond-levy failure.

The old school may ultimately go some day, but no one can take away the memories of the generations of kids who daily went through the doors of the old brick building. In this spirit Don Glaser and Katherine Bennett have combined efforts to organize a student reunion this August 9, 2009. They have formed a committee and are hard at work making arrangements and trying to get the word out. Needless to say the old student body has scattered far and wide. Katie and Don are trying to round up students, teachers or staff of Firgrove School covering the years, 1935 to 1965.

Don and his generation remember during the hard times of the Depression, when this was the "new" brick version of the old wooden school. Don attended the first year it opened its doors in 1935. He went through grades 1 through 8 then on to Puyallup High School where he graduated in 1949. Don tells us that his mother attended the old wooden Firgrove School in the early 1920s! Don remembers, when he attended Firgrove, there were two rooms and two teachers. One room had grades 1 through 4, the other room grades 5 through 8.

Don is also the motivating force behind the *Save*

The School Committee that has recently been formed. These volunteers had their first meeting at Don and Mary Glaser's home last December. Members of this group have also been attending school board meetings where they speak on behalf of saving the old school building from demolition.



The Firgrove School as it appeared in the 1940's

The Reunion event will be held at Meridian Habitat Park (the old Jesus of Nazareth Drama Amphitheater) on the corner of 144th and Meridian. Don says there is no official sponsor and no affiliation with any organization, just an independent effort of old students who would enjoy getting together again. Volunteers are of course welcome to help out. Donations will be accepted at the event to defray costs. Don also stressed it will be a "picnic" where all can bring their own food and refreshments. Depending on turn out, we hope it will be the first of a yearly event.

The South Hill Historical Society is grateful to be a guest, and will have a booth set up to gather all those valuable memories of South Hill's past, gathered in one place at one time. Paul Hackett is in the process of getting volunteers to help him in setting up a little covered area for interviews. If you're interested, get in touch with Paul.

Whether you're a former student or not, let's help Don and Katherine's effort by getting the word out among our friends, family and associates.

The Other Old School on Meridian

Forest Grove School and Puyallup Heights Community Hall

By Bill Goelzer



The long-gone Puyallup Heights School and Forest Grove Community Center. Today the Meridian Firs Apartments occupy this location at the corner of 31AV SE & Meridian, across from Hilltop Service auto repair.

My Grandfather, William Valentine Goelzer, helped build the first school on South Hill. This was called Forest Grove, later changed to Puyallup Heights School district #4. John Mosoff donated the land and a few South Hill residents constructed the building in 1910.

My sister Barbara, and brother Bob Goelzer, attended this school. And their teacher in the late 30's and early 40s was a Miss Burns. Later there was a community hall built next to the school that was enjoyed by many of the South Hill residents. We had Thanksgiving and Christmas parties there, along with dances and card parties. Ray Zimmerman would "call" for the square dance parties. The Puyallup Heights Community Club met there for many years. A piano was shared between the school and community hall and had to be manhandled between the buildings for different events.

In 1946, Puyallup Heights Community Club en-

joyed a social evening for returning servicemen from the South Hill area.

The Community Club lasted until Jan 17, 1984.



At the Fair 2009

Bill Goelzer, sadly, passing away June 5th. He was the hard working organizer of our yearly booth at the Puyallup Fair. Hopefully, members can be found that will step up to carry on Bill's work for this year's event?

Assuming we go forward with having a presence at the Fair, now is the time to be thinking about manning our booth. Our assigned days are Sunday September 13th through Tuesday September 15th. When many of you read this we may already be on, or close to, our summer break, July and August. When we get together again for the September 2009 General Meeting it will be too late to volunteer.

All volunteers get a free vendor's gate pass with free parking.

Announcements will follow regarding this year's focal person for issuing gate passes and assigning booth manning times and dates.

The South Hill Historical Society
regrets the passing of

**Bill Goelzer
&
Barbara Huff Ringo**

From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

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**.

Updated Roster Available

A printed roster including members' addresses and phone numbers is available on request.

Call Ben Peters at 253-845-7028.

South Hill Historical Society Officers

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

Society Help Needed (great benefits!)

Puyallup Fair SHHS booth coordinator

Contact Don Glaser 253-845-2885

Fingrove Reunion SHHS booth helpers

Contact Paul Hackett 253-845-7691

VCR to DVD transferring

Contact Ben Peters 253-845-7028

Newsletter proof reader

Contact Jerry Bates 253-848-6558

History On The Hill is published quarterly
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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, 14602 106th Avenue Court E.
South Hill, WA 98374-4905**



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

To: