

Katie's Kitchen

by Debbie Burtnett

Entering Katie Bennett's kitchen on the Hill is like going back in time. Her parents, Ole and Emily Gabrielson, migrated from Pocatello, Idaho, with their new baby, Marjorie, in 1921. Some of their handmade kitchen utensils are stored in their Hoosier, shipped via rail from New Castle, Indiana. The silverware drawer holds at least two spoons from Katie's mother's wedding gifts and a breadboard—made of shake shingle by Emily Gabrielson. The Hoosier is lined with Mason Jars, patent date 1858, and a wine jug from a Fresno, CA, vintner shows intricate designs on the glass. Butter churns, butter molds, and storage crocks stand in the kitchen, the center of which is a handmade round table holding a carved salad bowl filled with kitchen utensils made by the Gabrielsons. A milk can from 1939 has been decoupaged. In another corner stands a single icebox, the forerunner of our refrigerators. Katie's Hoosier is complete with original hardware on which is inscribed the term HOOSIER, and each piece has a different patent date—1906, 1908, 1910—because “the



Member Katie Bennett still uses her old Hoosier Kitchen cabinet, a workstation for pioneer women.

manufacturer selected its most popular pieces” to fill the Gabrielson's order, said Katie, and added, “I remember going to the train station to pick it up with my parents.”

Hoosiers were manufactured from 1903 until the 1930s. Yet, even in Depression era kitchens—such as the author noted in watching a re-run of the Walton's—the Hoosier is next to their built-in cabinets and in their case, a double-wide icebox (French doors?) served their large family.

A Hoosier cabinet was comprised of three parts—and could be mixed and matched to meet one's needs. The base was one large compartment with a slide-out shelf, drawers to one side, and storage for pots, pans and larger items to the other side.

Often the unit was on casters. The base was topped by a counter that extended with a zinc or ceramic top for bread making. The shallow upper section held a flour dispenser, usually with a sifter; a utensil rack; racks for storing spices and extracts; with shelving for small dishes.

Staples were stored in the Hoosier's sugar and coffee bins as well as a salt box. The Sneath Glass Company made original Hoosier glassware for use as canisters and the inside racks held recipes, measurement conversions, menus, and other bits of information. The exterior could be stained or painted. Eventually, the reforms advocated by early feminist and educator Catharine Beecher such as built-in cabinets, sinks, and ranges, made the Hoosier obsolete. The cabinets are now antiques—a valued piece of Americana that sells for thousands of dollars.

A kitchen without a cabinet is like a farm without a plow by Debbie Burtnett

—from Hoosier Mfg. Company ad displayed at the Henry County Historical Society, New Castle, IN

A nineteenth century 'kitchen' was a corner in a hastily built and roughly constructed cabin which provided shelter from weather and wild animals. Comprised of one room, the floor was dirt and a hearth burned constantly, venting through a chimney. Water was either carried in or eventually pumped into a dry sink located on a table. Wealthy was the settler who had a Hoosier to provide a workstation and storage for staples—where the homemaker tended to her unending daily chores.

So, just what is a Hoosier-- besides a native of Indiana where most of these were built? Perhaps a "baker's cabinet" inspired John Roth to patent his design for the Hoosier in 1887. Of his invention he wrote, "My kitchen dresser is particularly adapted to the use of small families and will promote comfort and convenience of such by furnishing storage for the most essential articles of food and for the utensils for preparing and enjoying the same and at the same time the utmost economy of space is secure."

The builder of the first cabinets was the Hoosier Manufacturing Company in New Castle, Indiana. Other versions followed as the cabinets evolved into a fine piece of furniture as well as a utilitarian kitchen workstation. The Hoosier incorporated the nineteenth century's emphasis on efficiency of workers whether in offices, factories, or kitchen—from the studies of Frederick Winslow Taylor and Frank and Lilian Gilbreth's time, motion, and fatigue studies. 'Form follows function' said the experts of the day and by the early 20th century, salesmen were targeting the homemaker with advertisements promising to "banish weariness" to "saving 1,592 steps every day" to illustrating kitchen architectural drawings with efficient 'flow' patterns to appealing to one's sexuality by personifying a kitchen cabinet with qualities that "hurries you out, smiling and fresh, for a bit of relaxation." (McDougall Company ad for its version)



Old Mason jars and a salad fork carved from one piece of wood.



Handmade salad bowl filled with utensils Katie Bennett's mother used in the 1920s.

May General Meeting

By Debbie Burtnett

The Development of the Sunrise addition on South Hill

Puyallup-born and bred Dick Crowe addressed the Society in May. Looking about the room, he noted “there’s more history in this room than I can share with you! However, like you, I am a long-term resident of the Hill. My dad worked at Citizens Bank in the Loan Department.” Don Glaser replied, “Yes, I know, I couldn’t get a loan because of the distance to South Hill!” Dick is now a retired real estate developer who had significant impact upon South Hill. He explained,



May speaker Dick Crowe took us back to his struggles developing Sunrise.

“I had the fortune and misfortune to be behind the development of Sunrise, launched in 1982, which took 15 years to get the entitlements and legalities in line for construction. It was a pressure-packed deal because the Hill had no sewers (everything was septic), and 10,000 people were expected to live there.

“About this time, Boeing bought the land in

Frederickson for their assembly plant and brought in a 24” pipe that linked to Chambers Creek Treatment Center. I got a latecomer hook-up for \$6 million but the county reneged. Eventually, with all the new construction, that area of South Hill got sewers. Whatever was flushed one day arrived at Chambers Creek Treatment Center at Steilacoom two days later [after the plug-in with Frederickson]. Now there are treatment centers on the Hill.”

Sunrise ranged from 160th to 176th and was built on these early investors’ nickel. But, they were growing weary of the project. Finally, “Terry Corliss bought us out,” explained Dick. Although the “craziness of the housing boom sucked us all in,” there was much opposition to the development. Dick noted that at one meeting, a finger-pointing resident living on the Hill stood up and said, “You, sir, are killing the tall people!” recalled Dick. “The tall people were the trees!” he explained. Crowe also clarified that “we only took trees where the roads were built,” and “Sunrise remains 1/3 all open—treed areas—and Sunrise was the answer to South Hill’s [lack of] sewers problem.”

When asked about how much land was left to build upon at Sunrise, Crowe estimated that with multi-family dwellings and single, free-standing homes, perhaps 4,000-5,000 lots have yet to be developed. He also noted that he “sited Emerald Ridge High School in the plans on inexpensive land that “we practically gave away to the school district.”

Dick also covered other activities he’s involved in (following story).

Crowe and benefactors restore the John V. Meeker Home

By Debbie Burtnett

Helping young people is a common theme in his real estate development. Crowe told Editor Chuck Luce of *Arches*—University of Puget Sound—that when an anonymous benefactor purchased the John Valentine Meeker home in Puyallup, he decided to donate his time and skill as a “hobbyist woodworker” to its restoration.

At age 37, Crowe “became interested in a ministry for kids...the Meeker home became available and was uninhabitable.” So, the first thing he did was put a roof on the structure to save the house and the old-growth timber inside. He has “lovingly restored the home so that the young [people] can use it.”

Half of the downstairs of the historic home serves as the offices of Young Life program and the other half of the downstairs area is used for club or historical purposes. Young Life, now a worldwide program, was developed in 1941 by a Presbyterian seminary student interested in “contacting kids who had no interest in church.” Its initial ministry targeted high school students, but today helps young people all over the world--especially multicultural, inner-city, racially underrepresented, and poor kids as well as those with disabilities. The organization’s goal is to introduce adolescents to the Christian faith and “help them grow in their faith.” --Mission Statement

During the renovation, Dick told of removing “square nails found in a lot of historical homes” from the early 1800s up to about 1893. He showed the Society his research on the nails taken from the Internet. He also “found copper kerosene street lamps” used by John Meeker.

Dick outlined the backstory of the Meeker brothers coming to the Pacific Northwest. Although Ezra was more well-known and made all the money, it was John who was “the hop man.” John and wife, Mary Jane, migrated to and homesteaded at Steilacoom December 10,

1860. He and wife, Mary Jane, left NYC via steamboat and were shipwrecked in the Bahamas. Surviving this, they eventually traveled across the Isthmus of Panama railroad to a ship that carried them to San Francisco, and finally to Steilacoom. Another brother, Oliver, died on the next voyage by drowning when caught in a storm. Meanwhile, his father and mother traveled west. Eliza, Ezra’s mom, died enroute. The father and younger daughter arrived to work in the mercantile store.

John started teaching school first in Sumner, later in Puyallup. John received a shipment of hops and planted them. “They went crazy,” said Dick Crowe. Ezra Meeker cashed in big time on two parcels of 160 acres each in Puyallup. John and his wife lived in a home with a dirt floor and were amazed at what Ezra built “down the road.” Eventually, the Meekers had two good sized homes in Puyallup. Mary Jane had insisted on a home and died (in 1904) only five years after moving in. John was also a United States Surveyor in Tacoma and the second Superintendent of Schools.

John let schoolteachers rent the place, then sold it to Tom Montgomery who “put a porch on it” and “the house became the center of the social community.” John was the great humanitarian for Puyallup, and left as his legacy a

“home...that is open to us...Young Life is there...” and the John V. Meeker home is the “most historical home” outside of the Meeker Mansion. Dick Crowe said that he believes that John Meeker would be very happy with the home and its current use--“to help young people grow up here in Puyallup and South Hill.”



The John V. Meeker house, restored by Dick Crowe, is used by the Young Life youth mission, located at Pioneer & 5th Street in Puyallup.

June General Meeting

By Debbie Burnett

Paul Hackett, Don, and Ben started off the program for our annual luncheon meeting. "Once every ten years, one item from the archives comes out--this Sign was purchased by the SHHS for \$15..." Paul recalled, "businesses started out on a shoestring and recycled material made this sign." Don Glaser recalled the "cheap gas" sold at this establishment (see photo).

The theme "First Memories on South Hill" began with Roy Rinker's memory of WW II.

Roy said, "For some reason...my mind...goes to the first time I ever saw a man die. I was in the military at an airbase with pyramids around the perimeter...with access to gas, water, etc. One young man drove a tug—for airplanes—anyway, he drove this tug on the edge of a pyramid and tipped over...no one could lift that tug...he smiled twice and then he passed away."

Sheila Rinker spoke next. "Roy is from Ohio, and I am from IL, and we moved here in 1949... don't get me started on memories!! I had a baby sister who died of diphtheria in a time when we couldn't do anything about it."

Yvonne Thorpe recalled the first time she saw her husband (now of 53 years). He was in the next car at a drive-in...[they] didn't know it would last this long and my mother didn't think it would last at all!"

Mary Glaser recalled her move to Milton. "Fife had the worst school and I had to go there...the first day on the bus, I heard about Don Glaser and I, of course, married him..."

Don Glaser told a bear story from the time he was about 12-13 years old. "We lost a lot of pigs to bears; one night we woke up to the squealing of pigs and if you want to hear a terrible sound, that was it...My mother had the 30-ought six rifle--but she didn't know

anything about how to use it, so I took it, fired a shot and chased the bear away."

Marilyn H. Burnett offered a much more "tame" story. "I moved over here [South Hill] when I was 7-8 years old. I got my first sight of Woodland School...and was awestruck by the stairs going up to the second floor...I recall the aroma of oil on the floors...and I never thought I'd ever go up those stairs twice a day!"

Gloria O'Kelly remembered "meeting Chris while I was in nurses' training. He was in the service when we met, and he wrote a card and asked if I'd go out with him when he got back...he was supposed to be 'going' with my roommate. Well, he came home and took me to dinner and a ride through the valley, ending up at a cemetery near Orting Hills. There were veterans on one side and the regular public on the other. He said, 'People are just dying to get in there' and I was so naïve, Chris had to explain it to me!"

Bonnie Starkel said, "I am from Woodland"--a location on South Hill. She recalled having "to walk down a two-lane dirt road after the road ended to get home. To get to the driveway we had to get by a bees' nest before they swarmed--so we ran!!"

Lenore Winton added her own bear story. "We lived down the road from the Parks' girls. I think I was about five. We were putting pamphlets in mailboxes--and asked someone 'did a witch live there?' The response was "you girls get home right now! There was a 'bear on my back porch eating my apples,'" said Mrs. Steele. "He stayed there for days even though Uncle Bill tried to shoo him away. That bear just looked at him."

Dorothy Norris recalled "Miss Parrish--she was the best!--first grade teacher at Woodland School. Do you remember the ugly brown stockings we wore? One girl named Helen had black socks on and I remember feeling sorry for her wearing those black socks."

Karen Day recalled "quite a walk up South Hill [from Puyallup after the movies at Liberty Theater]...so the people at the bottom of the Hill let

us pick apples because we were so hungry.”

Joan Vosler remembered the first time at the Puyallup Fair. “We had 50 cents to go to the grandstand; 10 cents for the merry-go-round and 10 cents for fishing....some man tried to get me on the Ferris wheel by saying ‘you’ll have fun up there!’ but I said no!”

Olive Parks McDonough worked at the Triple XXX [drive-in]...where we had to memorize everything as the boss would not let us use pen and paper to take orders...you had to memorize everything. If someone wanted a root beer, we had to remember which car, etc. I met my husband there. Once, a customer bought a 10 cent coke with a \$20 bill and said ‘keep the change.’ That was lot of money then and he was always a good tipper!”

Olive also said that the carhops were taught to “roll the ice cream so it was hollow inside”--to save money. She said the carhops “never skated” to cars but “we did take our skates to Woodland School. They attached to the sole of your shoe and were tightened with a key...we had fun at Woodland School.”

Faye Serviss remembered when the kids were warned “not to touch any balloons...it could be dangerous” during the second World War. Her mother, Hazel Miller Goheen, was hired at one school, but Woodland called her “the day after Labor Day to teach...I said ‘but I have a little girl’ and they said ‘You must bring her! Just come!’ So, Faye started at Woodland School for the first time but I had taught there before.”

Hazel, now 101 years young, continued. “I taught there in 1931 and for a number of years... I was a colleague of Miss Parrish...I also taught three years of 3rd/4th grade and ‘coached’ an eighth grade baseball team...one year we were

County Champions. But we lost the championship by one run and we had a good cry...”

Bernice Fisher Rinehart hails from Eastern Montana, arriving on the Hill in an old Dodge car on the last day of the Fair in 1925...Puyallup was like a ‘mob scene’ and really busy. “ My dad knew a man named Ernie Meyer from Montana who influenced us [her folks] to come this way... we picked up mom’s sister in Minnesota...arriving as the “parade was going through town on the last day of the Fair...‘they’ used to do

a lot of interesting things.” said Bernice. Bernice’s dad said they could move up on the Hill into the Woodland District [from 9th St. SW up to the Hill]... “We moved in and went to Maplewood first, even though Woodland was just a mile over--we didn’t know--and the next year we [Bernice and

her brother] started second and fourth grades respectively...Mom took a course on how to raise chickens and that’s the way we got started here in Puyallup and South Hill...”

Joan Ellis said she was on roller skates the first time she ever saw Hazel Miller Goheen.

Jerry Bates recounted in the 1960s, he moved to Puyallup and attended Puyallup High School. He and a friend with a 30-ought-six rifle went out 122nd Avenue, then a cow trail among stumps, for target practice. “The rifle kicked back and smashed my thumb into my nose--my first bloody nose on South Hill.”

‘Carpetbagger’ Carl Vest introduced his wife, Lea, to the Society. She had asked, “Where is it that you disappear every month? And,” said Carl, “she’s here to check out you gals!” Carl thanked members of the Society and others on South Hill for accepting a “newcomer.”

Ben Peters, here since the 1970s, read his



June luncheon meeting attendees tell their stories, this years theme “First memories of South Hill.”

mom's diary about moving from North Dakota to Puyallup. "I wish I'd known this [stuff] when my mother and sister were alive," he said. "I could have asked more about things...like there were no 45 and 50 degree below zero winters." He lived in a little white house near the photography studio and was born in the old hospital.

Paul Hackett added a bit about a friend to the discussion. He told about his friend, Greg Heath, an engineer downtown. "Greg's grandpa, Roger Heath, worked at the ice shop for the packers and bought 425 acres from 23rd (the old museum) up to 112th on the east side of Meridian. Today, it is known as Manorwood...Greg's grandpa paid \$75/per acre--quite an investment!"

Debbie Burtnett said she was "always looking for signs that I am where I am supposed to be" and is probably the newest member as she moved to this area in 2004. Recently, she related, she found a connection between Puyallup and her childhood home in Indiana. It seems that Olan-Mills, the photography studio, decided to put studios in small towns around the country to increase their business. The Springfield, Ohio, company placed their first two sites in New Castle, IN, and Puyallup, WA. [Debbie had been looking for a reprint of a sister's photo and had contacted Olan-Mills' company main office in Ohio and through research, learned of the connection].

While the luncheon was enjoyed by all, Jerry Bates, Editor of the newsletter and Debbie Burtnett teamed up to scan as many photographs from Dorothy Norris's snapshot book as possible in the remaining time. A real 'find' was the photo of an oil derrick located in Orting. Carl Vest was thrilled to find validation [and a photo] for his research on oil and gas exploration on South Hill.

Joan Vosler reminded Paul Hackett that the Society needed to officially elect its officers. Joan moved that a nominating committee be formed with the intent of submitting the current slate of officers [no vacancies] for election at the first meeting of the Fall...Paul Hackett seconded. Bob Ballou would announce his committee at

the following Officers' meeting. Of course, nominations from the floor are always welcome!

What's our plan?

Joh Jones, a South Hill resident for over 25 years, member of the Meeker Historical Society and Curator at the DuPont Museum, visited the SHHS Officers on August 2. One of Joh's passions is her volunteerism. Joh stated that she is "a volunteer like my parents...I believe in giving back and they were involved in an historical society. As a child, we visited historic sites all over Europe before my family 'retired' to Vancouver Island, B.C., Canada..."

Her father became president of the historical society there and one of his finds became part of a "massive collection now in the Royal Museum in Victoria. I caught the history bug," declared Joh.

Joh advised the historical society to develop "a strategic plan" to spur growth in terms of membership. She also suggested learning grant-writing skills to help acquire a facility to house the Society's archives. Joh may return in the Fall to "walk the Board through" the writing of a strategic plan.

Meanwhile, she and her husband continue their busy schedule of restoring a home purchased for retirement as well as her "big project" --the restoration of a Narrow Gauge train at the DuPont Museum.



Joh Jones offers South Hill Historical Society officers a sample strategic planning program.



Fair Helpers Needed

Make Your Escape!
2011

The South Hill Historical Society will participate in the Puyallup Fair again this September. Our booth will be in the Pavilion Education complex.

We will have a booth set up from Sunday, September 11th through Tuesday, September 13. As in past years, we are asking our membership for volunteers to represent our Society at the booth.

This is your chance to get involved promoting our organization. All volunteers get a free exhibitor's gate pass with free parking. This is our most popular volunteer activity.

If you want to volunteer act quickly. Contact Debbie Burtnett, our Fair team organizer—at 253-651-7945 (cell) or at home 360-893-3723 by September 9th.

Our display will feature new aerial view maps of South Hill (courtesy of Abbey Road Group) with the north fork of the Oregon Trail across South Hill. Come see this new production!



Jerry Bates & Carl Vest prepare input for the Abbey Road Group revision/update of this year's aerial maps for the Fair booth.



Heritage Happens

The Heritage League of Pierce County has created a major event, *Heritage Happens*. The League has printed and distributed thousands of brochures and posters promoting this month-long happening. Our Society is among thirty-two societies across Pierce County participating and included in the brochure. The celebration spans the month of September. This is an effort to encourage the public to visit individual societies' museums and events. When visited, each participating society will place a stamp in the visitor's brochure, mentioned above. A contest will be held with a prize to the person who gets the most stamps in their brochure/passport, \$159, representing each year that Pierce County has been a county.

At The Fair Museum

The Heritage League will have a table at the Puyallup Fair Museum which will be manned throughout the 17 day run of this year's fair. The table will contain brochures of individual member societies, and society volunteers to answer questions.

Our Society along with the Meeker Society will have special exposure. The Meeker Society will have their covered wagon and the South Hill Historical Society will have our freestanding display. This will be in addition to our display booth at the Pavilion.

Have a family heirloom or antique?

Our lead story for this issue, featuring Katie Bennett's kitchen collectibles, prompted its author, Debbie Burtnett, to wonder—how many of you have old items that may be of interest to the rest of membership? Why not bring them to our meetings to share or be included in the newsletter? Questions, give Debbie a call at 253-651-7945 (cell) or at home 360-893-3723.

From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

Please call, e-mail or write any change of address to me, Ben Peters, 253-845-7028, *poppa-ben2002@yahoo.com*, 14602 106th Avenue Court E., South Hill, WA 98374.

Also, 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. If you need a receipt for tax purposes contact Ben.

Updated Roster Available

A printed roster including members' home and e-mail addresses, plus phone numbers is available upon request (*restricted to members only*). Call me—Ben Peters—at 253-845-7028.

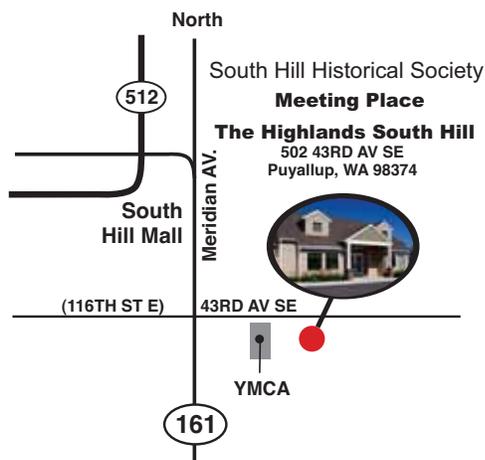
Dues Reminder

I will attach a sticky note to the Society newsletter mailed closest to your renewal date.

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 Paul Hackett at **(253) 845-7691**.



Our Current Members

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Andy G. Anderson | Marvella Massie |
| John & Ruth Anderson | Olive McDonough |
| Jim & Elizabeth Anema | Laurienne Stewart Minnich |
| Bob Ballou | Ronald Moe |
| Jerry Bates | Carolyn Nelson |
| Susan Beals | Dorothy Nelson |
| Katherine Bennett | Juanita Nordin |
| Marilyn Burnett | Mark & Dorothy Norris |
| Debbie Burtnett | Christopher & Gloria O'Kelly |
| Roger Bush | Ron & Lois Pearson |
| Vernon Cox | Wes & Suzy Perkinson |
| Jeff Cunningham | Ben Peters |
| Dave & Patti Curtiss | Robin Reich |
| Bob Crabb | Bill Riley |
| Karen Day | Bernice Fisher Rinehart |
| James H. Dixon | Roy and Sheila Rinker |
| Pat Drake | Vern Rockstad |
| Joan Ellis | Helen Rohlman |
| Linda Forsberg | Earl Root |
| Arthur & Luverne Foxford | Stan & Margery Salmon |
| Don & Mary Glaser | Nancy M. Scraggin |
| Hazel Whitford Miller Goheen | Bonnie Starkel |
| Calvin & Amy Goings | Lori Stock |
| David Hackett | Bill Stover |
| Paul Hackett | Marge (Crosson) Swain |
| James Hawley | Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe |
| Cecil & Doris Herbert | Margo L & Joe Tucci |
| Evelyn Swalander Hess | Carl Vest |
| Charles & Maybelle Hoenhaus | Neil & Celia Vincent |
| Matt Holm | Joan Vosler |
| Dale Huff | W. Lynn Williams |
| Leslie & Velma Huff | Lenore Nicolet Winton |
| Jim Kastama | Ed Zeiger |
| John Knierim | Hans Zeiger |
| Art Larson | |

South Hill Historical Society Officers

- President, **Bob Ballou**
Vice-President, **Hans Zeiger**
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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: