

Beautifying the Heritage Corridor

by Jerry Bates

Picking up roadside litter is not in our Society's mission statement. It doesn't sound like much fun — and what does it have to do with history? Fun? For six of our members, it proved to be a good time and a rewarding way to spend a few hours. Historical? Yes, when that roadside beautification effort is along our Heritage Corridor.

Since 1992, Pierce County has sponsored an Adopt-A-Road program — an effort to control the litter along our roadsides. The program has been very successful, making a significant impact on roadside litter.

With our officers' approval, Vice President Terry Maves coordinated our group's participation in the program with the Pierce County Public Works and Utility Department.

Once a team leader is designated and paperwork completed, the County furnishes a short training CD, hard hats, vests, and litter bags for volunteers. During trash collection, certain procedures must be followed. Roadway signs are furnished to warn motorists that a pick-up crew

is ahead. A car must be stationed at both ends with lights flashing, occupied by a team member (a good job for volunteers with mobility issues.)



Society members, filled with accomplishment after cleaning up the eastern end of our Heritage Corridor (Military Road/122nd St E from 162 to Shaw Road): back row: Pat Drake, Wes Perkinson, and Joan Ellis; front row: Bob Ballou, Terry Maves and Jerry Bates.

Adopt A Highway or Sponsor A Highway programs got their start in Texas in the 1980s and have spread to many U.S. states and other countries. In WA state, an agreement to Adopt A Highway requires that a group or organization adopt a section of roadway, usually about two miles, and pick up litter as agreed in exchange for group recognition on program signs.

This activity was a win-win for our society and the environment. We benefit by not only improving the Historic Corridor's appearance, but also having our Society's recognition enhanced. The County erected permanent Adopt A Road signs at the beginning and end of the cleanup route featuring the name of our Society. The portion of Military and 122nd St. E that we

adopted is heavily traveled with thousands of cars passing these signs daily.

As the County publicizes, "You can make a differ-

ence” and we did — picking up thirty-six, 30lb. bags of roadside trash. We urge our members come along on our next outing. We do this three times a year. Donate a few hours and join us! Contact Terry Maves mail@southhillhistory.com



Historical Artifact Found

When's the last time beer was sold in pull-tabs? Looks like litter along the Heritage Corridor hasn't been attended to in a while!

Karshner Museum Re-opens With Changes

by Jerry Bates



Karshner Museum, 309 4th St NE, Puyallup, WA

Karshner Museum reopened September 2014. August's monthly Officers' Meeting was hosted by the Karshner Museum and its new Director, Brian Fox. Our visit included a guided tour and an update by Mr. Fox on changes at the museum. Karshner Museum last appeared as a topic in this newsletter in the spring of 2012. When it closed for over two years, we wondered what would become of it — and were pleasantly surprised by the changes that have and are happening!

The Karshner Museum was a vision of the late Dr. Warner Karshner. It is a memorial to young Paul Karshner, son of Dr. and Mrs. Warner Karshner, who died in 1924 during his senior year at Puyallup High School. Paul had planned to become a physician like his father, but after

his tragic death from polio, his parents traveled the world, gathering artifacts for future exhibits that would encourage students to interact and put their 'hands-on' the materials. The resulting collection, totaling 10,000 items, includes the doctor's personal scientific collection. Part of the Puyallup School System, the museum was housed at Puyallup High School and moved to the old Stewart Elementary School during the 1960s. The old brick schoolhouse, ca. 1922, continues to serve as the museum.

At the August meeting Director Brian Fox covered recent history and current programs following a major transformation. He stated, "A change was needed; more and more teachers were deciding not to come down to the museum on field trips with their classes. It became necessary to realign things so [that] it was more purposeful and connected to the curriculum." During its closure, the museum underwent extensive remodeling to realign exhibits to Common Core state standards



Brian D. Fox, Executive Director of Communications, Information and Arts Education for the Karshner Museum. Behind Brian is the 1889, 42-star American flag included with the 'Blazes, Rails & The Year of Statehood 1889' exhibit on loan from Washington's Secretary of State.

and to Puyallup School District Curriculum. Careful attention was also given to removing walls and restoring the original school interior's configuration. It reopened in fall 2014.

During our visit, the museum staff was enthusiastic about reopening the Pioneer Room, featuring the old one-room classroom with the addition of a trading post. The walls of the main room are hung with an exhibit formerly located at the State Capitol. Courtesy of the Washington Secretary of State, Kim Wyman, the exhibit on loan is entitled 'Blazes, Rails and The Year of Statehood 1889.' The displays are high quality, mixing informa-

tive graphics with historical images. Included is a rare, original 1890-era, forty-two star American flag.

Last year, the museum had 8,902 visitors. While most were adults, included in that number were 1,635 Puyallup third graders. Director Fox continued, "We're marketing this place more, hoping we can attract other school districts' [Tacoma, Bethel and Sumner] students." The museum will continually adapt and is currently working with second and fourth grade curricula, along with new exhibits and more marketing. "We're hoping teachers will choose to bring their students [to Karshner]," said Mr. Fox.

Society officers were impressed with the dramatic transformation and look forward to working with and supporting the museum, Brian Fox, and his staff.

Editor's Note: Our Society is also engaged with elementary schools on South Hill. Society volunteers give classroom presentations on the Naches Pass wagon train route that crossed the Hill—not far from the kids' school grounds. For more information contact Terry Maves, mail@southhistory.com

4-H & life on South Hill in the 1940s

by Jerry Bates

Editor's note: We all enjoy Vern Rockstad's visits to our group. Vern is a longtime Society member and South Hill old-timer. We seldom see Vern due to a conflict between church group duties and our monthly meeting date.

Vern Rockstad addressed our September General Meeting as guest speaker. Vern reminded us that his family came to Puyallup in 1941 from North Dakota and settled on South Hill, where he enrolled in the Firgrove School for 7th and 8th grades. He entered Puyallup High School in 1944. He kept busy berry picking in the summers and working various dairy jobs for Julius Gratzner.

Vern described a very different time on South Hill for young people. What did youth do for recreation on the Hill during that period? "In those days, our winters were much colder, as we

all learned to ice skate in the 1940s. There was a small pond below our ten acres, but the best place was Massie's Pond about half-mile south-east of Glaser's. Someone always brought wood to burn in a 55-gallon drum to keep us warm, and we sometimes brought food to prepare."

Vern graduated from Pacific Lutheran College in 1952. "The following day," he related, "three of my



Vern Rockstad's map shows his neighbor's property and local landmarks when he was a boy living on South Hill. The map covers (approximately) from 136 ST. E to 152 ST. E and Meridian to 122nd AV. Much has changed since the 1940s!

best friends and I were sworn into the U.S. Army Security Agency in Seattle during the Korean War. We all served in Germany."

After his military service, Vern taught sixth grade at Meeker School. In 1960 he married Jean McDaniel, a third-grade teacher also teaching at Meeker. They both completed their degrees at the University of Washington. He was later hired by the Sumner School District to start their special education programs. Vern taught at Sumner for the next twenty-six years.

Vern's segued into his second topic for the meeting—4-H. The Firgrove 4-H (four for 'Head, Heart, Hands, Health') began in 1929, known then as "Firgrove Potato Raising Club," with over 100 boys and five leaders. Vern joined in 1942. Other local boys who were also members included some familiar names to Society members—Don Glaser, Les Huff, and Bob Ballou. In 1945, the club was in need of a leader. Vern asked Bob Ballou's father, who accepted, adding, "This was the answer to our prayers." Frank Ballou was a well respected person in the community, so highly

thought of that, after his passing, the Puyallup School District named a school after him—Ballou Junior High.

Vern told us about many 4-H activities in which the boys participated—including camp at Lake Tanawax, and state camps at Washington State College in Pullman, WA, and participation in the Yakima and Puyallup state fairs. Vern's blue-ribbon winning pig escaped his captivity at the Puyallup Fair, and for 30 minutes led captors on a chase through the grounds. More stories followed. Vern said the South Hill boys were "very creative" when performing skits, and brought the house down during county meetings with their operating table scene — pulling pig intestines out of their mock surgical patient.

Thanks, Vern, for sharing some of your life and taking us back to a boy's world on South Hill in the 1940s!

Want to hear it all? Contact Bob Ballou for a DVD of the meeting via *mail @ southhillhistory.com*.

Never too late

by Jerry Bates

Veterans' Day was celebrated early at the October General Meeting. Many new faces were seen — among them WW II and Korean War veterans, a group well represented among our older members. The draw? Patty Carter's presentation of her volunteer work with the Puget Sound Honor Flight Program.



Patty Carter tells her story as a volunteer chaperon for the Puget Sound Honor Flight Program.



The Korean War Memorial at the Nations Capital. These are cast aluminum life size statues showing very high detail. One of the many sites visited by the Puget Sound Honor Flight Program.

The Puget Sound Honor Flight Program is a non-profit organization to honor America's veterans. They pay for round trip flights to Washington D.C. with priority for senior veterans and those terminally ill. It's a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by donations; no federal funds are used.

Society members may recall Patty's visit a year ago — describing her effort to save the Puyallup fish hatchery that culminated in creating the Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation. This talk was more personal.

Patty said, "I was honored to be chosen as a chaperon by this amazing organization." Patty grew up in a military family. Her father retired as a major at Vandenberg AFB. "I have the greatest respect for anyone that served our country," she stated. Her father passed away in 2009 but she knew nothing of his World War II experiences. After his death, she learned the details of his service from a pocket diary he carried with him during the war listing every town his unit encountered. Her father was in the U.S. Army from the beginning to the end of America's participation in European theater. He landed in North Africa and fought in nine campaigns including the battle of Hürtgen Forest, the longest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army. He was with the Ninth Division fighting until the surrender of Germany.

Patty submitted her application to the Honor Flight Program. They prefer children or grandchildren of the participating veterans, however at the last minute she got a call. She chaperoned two gentlemen, Captain Harry Vandavender, WWII B-24 bomber pilot and Sergeant Farland Dubarry, an infantryman.

Patty designed a PowerPoint slideshow to give us a look at a very full program of events and activities arranged for the veterans, "all beautifully done," says, Patty.)

Fifty veterans on motorcycles escorted them to the World War II Memorial from their Hilton Hotel accommodations. The memorial is located on the National Mall between the Washington and Lincoln Memorials. The World War II Memorial took 17 years to become reality; after much congressional haggling and setbacks, it finally opened to the public in 2004.

A ceremony awaited at the memorial, with music and special tributes for their service. "The group was amazed how the people they encountered actually cared — young people would hug them and show true emotion," said Patty. The memorial, an elaborate affair of pillars representing 48 states (1945) and American territorial possessions with triumphal arches, proclaim American victories in both the Atlantic and Pacific. The vets also visited the Korean War Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Air Force Memorial and watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Activities continued into the evening with a banquet in their honor, followed by time in the lounge where many stories were enjoyed.

The following day was spent at the Naval Heritage Center, Women in Service for American Memorial Foundation (four of our veteran's group were women), FDR's Memorial, and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Homeward bound

After boarding for the trip home, the veterans looked out their windows. Lined up on the tarmac were the Alaska Airlines ground crew and staff holding large placards, each with a letter spelling out THANK YOU.

During the flight home, a surprise awaited — a last mail call. Each veteran had his name called and was handed an envelope. Prior to the trip, family members were contacted to write a thank you note. Also included in their envelopes were colored pictures from second grade classes plus a gamut of non-family messages. Patty's gentleman, Harry, 92 years old, received a handwritten note from his son of a former wife "both of whom he

had spoken well of," said Patty. He hadn't seen his son in twenty years! Harry was so emotional that Patty had to read it to him.

On landing at SeaTac more was in store for our group. The chaperons were asked not to accompany their people as they departed. Each veteran was handed over to a uniformed officer representing his or her branch of service. A reception awaited (now 11PM), people with balloons were standing on stopped escalators three deep, with live music playing each branch's military song with a little program to follow. Homemade quilts were given to each of them.

Harry's son — in addition to writing his thank you note — drove from Eastern Washington to pick up his dad from the airport. They had a lot of catching up to do while driving to Harry's home in Vancouver, WA. This was the highlight of the trip for Patty. She closed saying, "It's never too late to say thank you; never too late to touch the ones you love."

For more information, contact www.honorflight.org.



One of the new faces for October's meeting was Joe Cuendet. What better way for a Vet to arrive at our early Veteran's Day meeting than in his Deuce-and-a Half! (M35 2½-ton cargo truck). Many of our former service members remember bouncing around in the back of one these. The versatile trucks are still used by armies all over the world. They were manufactured from 1950 to 1999. Joe says, "It runs on diesel or gasoline." Just the thing for South Hill commuting! It's for sale.

South Hill — Part of the celebration!

by Jerry Bates

Both the Woodbine Cemetery and our Heritage Corridor were featured attractions for the 125th Anniversary of Puyallup and the Meeker Mansion celebrations.

Woodbine Cemetery, 2323 9th St. SW, is located on the northern slope of historic South Hill. Many of our early pioneers are buried there. SHHS Society member Andy Anderson was one of the many Puyallup Historical Society history buffs staffing the cemetery event during the Puyallup/Meeker Mansion's 125th Anniversary.

Cemetery History

The cemetery was established in 1895 when land (approximately 20 acres) belonging to Ezra & Eliza Jane Meeker was deeded to the Woodbine Cemetery Association. Four acres was cleared and set out with a variety of rare and ornamental trees and shrubbery at an expense of more than \$2,000. The grounds were laid out on what was known as the "park and lawn plan" to create a cheerful and pleasing impression. It was the intention of association to make it one of the finest cemeteries in the state. D.P. Wheeler, acting city engineer for Puyallup at the time, landscaped the cemetery.

John Bloomfield was the first person to be buried at Woodbine Cemetery location in 1888.

On December 30, 1930, the Woodbine Cemetery Association deeded the property to the City of Puyallup.

Many prominent citizens of Puyallup and first pioneers of the Puyallup Valley have been laid to rest at the cemetery including Ezra & Eliza Jane Meeker, James & Margaret Stewart, Charles & Aida Hood, Gov. John R. Rogers, Darius & Eliza Ross, and more. *(Puyallup Historical Society)*

Heritage Corridor

The South Hill Heritage Corridor was a "waypoint" on the Magical History Tour of the 125th Anniversary celebration. Following a map of numerous historical sites starting at the Meeker Cabin Site in Pioneer Park, Explorers had maps to be stamped at each waypoint. A prize was given

for those visiting all the sites. Waiting at the Heritage Park location of the Historical Corridor were Jerry Bates, Bob Ballou and Wes Perkinson — ready to stamp maps and answer questions regarding the historic route over South Hill.



Member Andy Anderson in period costume at the headstone of Alois and Mary Anna Kupfer. Over twenty-five historically significant gravesites were featured as part of the 125th Anniversary of Puyallup and the Meeker Mansion celebrations held last August. The Kupfers were among the earliest families to settle on South Hill in 1877.

Working for civility in partisan politics



South Hill Historical Society member Hans Zeiger, Republican State Representative for the 25th District, accepted the Gabrielle Giffords Award for Civility in State Government in August in Seattle. Hans, along with Representative Sam Hunt, D-Olympia, received the award for working with the National Institute for Civil Discourse which trains lawmakers from across the state to find common ground. Pictured above Hans Zeiger, former Congresswoman from Arizona, Gabrielle Giffords and Erin Zeiger, Hans' wife.

The institute was founded at the University of Arizona shortly following the attempted assassination of Gabrielle Giffords outside a supermarket in Tucson in 2011.

From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

Welcome to New Members

Gail Rinehart

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.

Dues Reminder

I will attach a sticky note to the Society newsletter mailed closest to your renewal date. **No need to fill out the membership form unless there is a change of some kind.**

The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month, 11:00 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.

In Memoriam

The South Hill Historical Society
regrets the passing of

Bob Crabb

Our Current Members

Andy G. Anderson	Mike Kupfer
Andy & Ruth Anderson	Art & Lorraine Larson
Elizabeth Anema	Gary Leicht
Marion Armstrong	Terry Maves
Bob Ballou	Laurienne Stewart Minnich
Jerry Bates	Kaye Murrell
Susan Beals	Carolyn Nelson
Katherine Bennett	Dorothy Nelson
Teresa Best	Juanita & John Nordin
Marilyn Burnett	Mark & Dorothy Norris
Debbie Burtnett	Wes & Suzy Perkinson
Vernon Cox	Ben Peters
Dave & Patti Curtiss	Bill Riley
Robert & Lynn Daughtery	Gail Rinehart
Karen Day	Vern Rockstad
James H. Dixon	Helen Rohlman
Pat Drake	Earl Root
Joan Ellis	Stan Salmon
Arthur & Luverne Foxford	Lori Stock
Ira Gabrielson	Marge (Crosson) Swain
Mary Glaser	Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe
Paul Hackett	Jade Trevere
Alberta Hagen	Margo L. & Joe Tucci
Cecil & Doris Herbert	Lee Van Pevenage
Evelyn Swalander Hess	Carl Vest
Wilma Walsworth Hinshaw	Neil & Celia Vincent
Alan & Linda Hoenhous	Joan Vosler
Joe & Rhoda Hoenhous	W. Louise Walsworth
Maybelle Hoenhous	W. Lynn Williams
Matt Holm	Lenore Nicolet Winton
Leslie Huff	Ed Zeiger
Dan Ingram	Hans Zeiger
John Knierim	Allan S. & Ellen M. Zulauf
Myrna K. Kucklick	Beverly Zook

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South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name _____

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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: