

## Bradley Lake Park

by Carl Vest



**Bradley Lake, from peat bog to the most popular park on the Hill.**

ON THE northern edge of South Hill the City of Puyallup has developed an outstanding recreational park. The centerpiece of this leisure area is a body of water called Bradley Lake.

The park is named after the land's former owner, Mr. Ward Bradley. He acquired it in 1955. Ward Bradley was born on October 9, 1918, in Jamestown, North Dakota. He grew up on a farm. In 1938 he enlisted in the Navy. He left the military in 1945 after having served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during World War II.

In the 1950s Bradley won a Federal Civil Service appointment as a postal mail carrier on South Hill. On his route was a farm owned by M.J. Combs, located at the eastern end of what was then 104th Street East. After some discussion Mr. Combs agreed to swap this farm for some property Bradley owned in the Columbia Basin.

At the time 104th Street was a gravel road off Meridian. There were no buildings on either side of the road between the farm house and Meridian. The nearest neighbor was Louis Barth, on a hill to the west. On the south was the property of Dr. McKay, who had a medical practice in his home.

When Bradley acquired the property, a peat bog was located at the site of the current lake. Since there was a market for dried peat, he gradually began a mining effort to remove it. He did this as a part-time pursuit along with the help of some hired labor. Most-

ly it was done during the summer so the peat could be stacked to dry for sale during the winter.

For over 30 years Bradley systematically removed peat from the bog. He started initially on the north end and worked toward the south. However, he never completely finished and in 1980 hired a contractor to remove the balance. The company worked approximately two months using a track powered dragline bucket. The peat was stockpiled around the farmhouse and in other buildings for drying. In total Bradley estimates that three to four hundred thousand yards of peat was removed. During that period peat sold from \$2.50 to \$5.00 a cubic yard, delivered.

After the peat was removed Bradley built a dam on the north end of the former bog. It took about 6,000 yards of fill to create this barrier. A clay

core was placed in the wall along with a concrete spillway. Rain soon filled the hole and thus Bradley Lake was formed. The maximum depth in the southern two-thirds of the pond is about 20 feet, with 8 to 12 feet being the maximum on the north end.

The city first attempted to purchase the property in 1994. A bond issue was proposed but was turned down by the voters. In 1997 the project was reconsidered and again placed on the ballot. The voters approved the acquisition in 1998. Since then the City has created the park that is now enjoyed by all.

*Carl Vest, PhD, is the Research Director for the South Hill Historical Society. This article was originally written for the "Puyallup Herald."*

## Where is it?

Where is it?

This is one of the questions frustrating our Archivist Wes Perkinson.

Our society rents a room at the Fruitland Grange stuffed from wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling with South Hill Historical Society artifacts and documents collected since we were formed over fifteen years ago. Over the years, ambitious attempts have been made using Microsoft Word and Excel to track these items. Currently, the lists are old and have not been kept up-to-date. Adding to the problem—not everything we have is buried somewhere in the Grange storage room because many items are spread out among our members and officers.

Wes Perkinson has sent e-mails and pleaded at Society meetings for members to help him find out what items, donated to South Hill Historical Society, are located at members' homes.

These items must be documented, scanned, or photographed so we know what we have, where it's located, plus additional information unique to each item.

Wes is also building a record-keeping retrieval

archive system. This will be the one go-to source that tethers everything together, our entire collection of documents, newspaper clippings, books, artifacts, photos, tapes, and videos.

To help with this task our society has purchased software designed to manage track and contain detailed records of museum and historical society archives. This software program called *PastPerfect* addresses our needs but has raised additional challenges. It's a databased program that requires—you guessed it—data. To do its magic, it needs the information entered into the software in pre-defined categories for each item in a col-



**Archivist Wes Perkinson has the big job of keeping track of our societies artifacts, documents, books, clippings, photos, tapes and videos.**

lection. This is a time-consuming job—one our Archivist is willing to tackle—but he'll need help and cooperation from the rest of us.

Do you have things at your home either destined, donated or belonging to the Society? If so, contact Wes!

If you are willing to help with the big job of entering information into our *PastPerfect* software program, also let Wes know!

The easiest way to get hold of Wes is through our Website: [southhillhistory.com](http://southhillhistory.com) click on "Contact Us."

# 2018 Scholarship Winners

Every spring our Treasurer, Ben Peters, represents the South Hill Historical Society during scholarship ceremonies held at South Hill's Rogers and Emerald Ridge High Schools. Our Scholarship Committee awards a \$500 scholarship for two college-bound seniors from many applications submitted. The grant comes from a fund set up by a generous South Hill Historical Society member who prefers to remain anonymous.

Last year's recipients were not included in a 2018 newsletter, so we're catching-up. Justin Morrison from Rogers High School and Jordynn Shearer of Emerald Ridge were our scholarship choices for 2018.

Jordynn Shearer plans on attending Washington State University majoring in history and minor-ing in secondary and elementary education. His goal is to eventually teach high school history. He's from a family of teachers—his sister and stepdad both teach. They inspired Jordynn who "[saw] how it made them happy, makes me excited to be one also."

Justin Morrison's goal is to attend Central Wash-ington University for a double major in criminal justice and history and use these degrees to pur-sue a career in law enforcement. This dual major approach, he hopes, will make him a more com-petitive job applicant. "These days, if one wants any chance at being a competitive job applicant, then they need to have a college degree," said Justin.

We wish them both success as they move forward in their lives; both are off to a solid start!

## Have Something For The Newsletter?

*We accept anything relating to South Hill history. For example: family history, a current event, an announcement, or old photographs. We're glad to assist with writing or editing.*

Go to our website [southhillhistory.com](http://southhillhistory.com) click on "Contact Us"

# From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

*Welcome to New Members*

**Jack Hunter**

**Carl & Linda (Nelson) Scott**

Please call, e-mail or write any change of ad-dress to me, Ben Peters, 253-845-7028, poppa-ben2002@yahoo.com, South Hill Historical Soci-ety, Box 73582, 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 newslet-ter 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, go to our website [southhillhistory.com](http://southhillhistory.com).

## South Hill Historical Society Board of Directors

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**History On The Hill is published quarterly**  
**Editor Jerry Bates, Editor-at-Large Debbie Burtnett**  
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# South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name		
Address	Phone	
City	State	Zip
E-mail Address		
Signature _____ Date _____ Renewal, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Annual Dues: Society membership \$25.00</b> <i>Note: Please do not send cash.</i>		Make check or M.O. payable to South Hill Historical Society and mail with this application to: <b>South Hill Historical Society, Box 73582, South Hill, WA 98374</b>



Box 73582  
South Hill, WA 98374

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To: