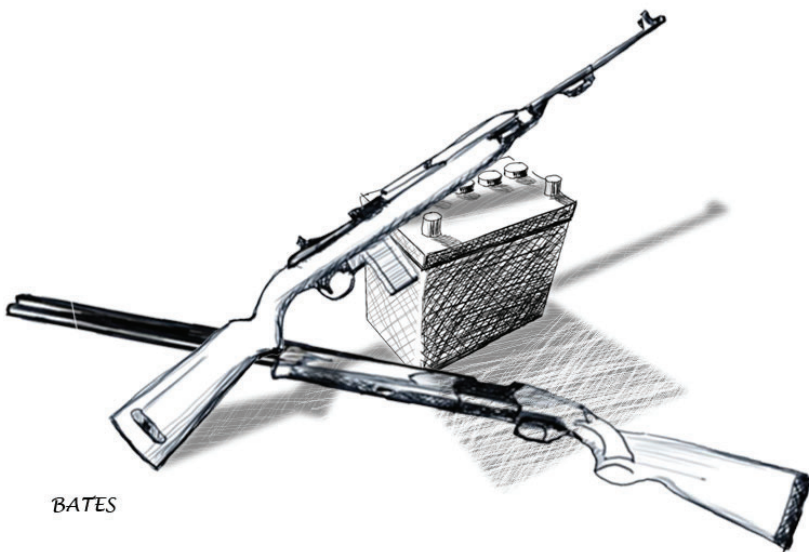


Gun Chase on South Hill

by Jerry Bates



BEFORE the days of 911 and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department being permanently stationed on South Hill, it sometimes became necessary for local residents to "help-out" in the law enforcement effort.

Such was the case back in 1971 for SHHS member Don Glaser's brother Kenneth.

Burglaries were quite frequent on the hill in those days with a growing number of homes being built in the rural surroundings of the area.

Don's brother had been burglarized three times and the fourth would prove to be the last straw for his household.

Mr. and Mrs. Glaser just returned to their home from shopping to find a burglary in progress. The burglars, who were armed with a shotgun, confronted them. A 25-year-old man; accompanied

by his 18-year-old girlfriend, ordered Kenneth and his wife on the floor and tied their hands behind their backs. Kenneth lay on the floor fuming; he was not going to let this pair get away. After the burglars sped off in a panel truck, Kenneth cut himself loose and headed for his hidden, loaded, M1 carbine—then jumped into his late model Thunderbird and gave chase. In his zeal to keep on the tail of the fleeing pair, he left his wife still bound on the floor. Then, the phone rang! Mrs. Glaser managed to knock the receiver free and shout they were being robbed. The

caller, a friend of the Glaser's, contacted the sheriff's office. Now Glaser was in a hot chase behind the fleeing burglars, with the sheriff's deputies speeding to the Glaser home, not quite sure what to expect.

It didn't take Glaser long to spot the getaway vehicle. He quickly stopped at a small grocery store and told the clerk to call the police and continued his chase, now with a volunteer from the store accompanying him. At 146th St. and 22nd Av. E, he took aim and shot out both tires from the fleeing old panel truck. The truck stopped, the driver got out, and Glaser thought this would end it. No such luck, the suspect jumped back into the truck and continued driving to 208th where he commandeered a late model sedan from a Spanaway man, taking the car's owner hostage. The burglar shouted to Glaser not to follow, Glaser took aim and shot out both rear tires on the fleeing sedan. The burglar continued about a mile

until one tire left the wheel entirely.

Again the fleeing suspects tried to commandeer yet another car. However, the driver of this vehicle wasn't the passive type, even with a gun pointed at her. Mrs. Ida Loete refused to become his second hostage and would not get in the car. The brave lady called his bluff. After being told to go along or be killed she said, "Go-ahead, kill me." She refused to go. Fortunately for Mrs. Loete, the burglar had second thoughts and fled with her car and hostage number one. A wild chase followed with the suspect crashing Mrs. Loete's car into a power pole at 11th Avenue and 160th Street. Now the burglars commandeered the third vehicle of their getaway effort—a 1968 Ford station wagon along with another hostage, 18-year-old Peter Neal, who unfortunately picked the wrong day to visit his brother James Wright at 1019 S. 160th.

Time was running out for the fleeing couple. The confused deputies were getting calls regarding each incident in the chase from different witnesses, some claiming a shootout between the burglars and Glaser. However, the suspects never fired back at Glaser during the chase.

Deputy Fred Reinicke spotted a person matching the description of the gunman on the grounds of the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on dead-end South 146th Street. Five patrol cars converged on the scene where the suspect was in the process of stealing his fourth getaway vehicle. The burglar was installing the wrecked Ford's battery into Rev. William Greier's Valiant. The Valiant's dead battery saved the day, as deputies moved in and made the arrest. The female burglar was found hiding under the bed in the parish home.

In an article covering this event appearing in the Tuesday, March 7, 1971 Tacoma News Tribune, Kenneth Glaser was praised by the sheriff's department for his restraint. An excellent marksman, Glaser only shot at the tires. Also, by informing the sheriff's department during his chase, it was possible for the arrest to be made.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Winter 2006 "History on the Hill" newsletter. Both Glaser brothers are now deceased.

South Hill in the 1970s

By Carl Vest

In the early 1970s a big population surge on South Hill was just getting underway. And, from the point of view of land use, it was sort of a transition phase from that of being a community of primarily small farmers to a more modern suburban orientation. People were being drawn to the Hill for many reasons, but all had expectations about a way of life they hoped to experience. It also was a time when local community development groups started taking root. In the late 1960s, for example, the T-19-A unit was created. It was subsequently absorbed by the South Hill Development Organization (SHDO). Finally, there evolved a team known as the South Hill Community Council, which is still in existence.

It was in 1972 that SHDO decided to formally collect some facts and opinions about community issues from South Hill residents. It took a survey with the intent of coordinating the collected data with appropriate County officials for planning purposes. At that time, it was believed that the local population was 1,532 households. A questionnaire was developed and mailed to each. Replies were received from 1,112, an amazing response rate of 73 percent.

It was found that about half of the residents had lived on the Hill less than five years. Generally, they were in single family homes (90 %). Only six percent worked on South Hill. Forty-five percent labored in Puyallup, Sumner, or Tacoma. Forty percent listed themselves as being employed as professional, technical, or management workers. Convenience shopping took place in Summit and Puyallup. Gasoline was bought on the Hill, but not groceries, clothing, and building supplies. As for the future, residents wanted to see the establishment of both concentrated shopping centers and a large shopping mall. And, as we all know, that's how it turned out.

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, South Hill Historical Society, 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 newsletter mailed closest to your renewal date. **No need to fill out the membership form unless there is a change of some kind.**

In Memoriam

The South Hill Historical Society
regrets the passing of

Ellen Zulauf

All society meetings will be canceled until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/groups/
SouthHillHistoricalSociety

Our Current Members

Andy G. Anderson	Gary Leicht
Andy & Ruth Anderson	John & Carrie Loshbough
Elizabeth Anema	Dennis & Debra Massie
Marion Armstrong	Carolyn Nelson
Bob Ballou	Juanita Nordin
Jerry Bates	Douglas Overton
Susan Beals	Ron Pearson
Katherine Bennett	Wes & Suzy Perkinson
Teresa Best	Ben Peters
Debbie Burtnett	Dr. Jerry Ramsey
Bruce Carpenter	Robin Reich
Richard Casmier	Bill Riley
Dave & Patti Curtiss	Gail Rinehart
Robert & Lynn Daughtery	Vern Rockstad
Karen Day	Helen Rohlman
Pat Drake	Earl Root
Joan Ellis	Stan Salmon
Ira Gabrielson	Carl & Linda Nelson Scott
Mary Glaser	Lori Stock
Calvin Goings	Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe
Paul Hackett	Jade Trevere
Alberta Hagen	Margo L. & Joe Tucci
Evelyn Swalander Hess	Lee Van Pevenage
Wilma Walsworth Hinshaw	Carl Vest
Alan & Linda Hoenhous	Neil & Celia Vincent
Joe & Rhoda Hoenhous	Joan Vosler
Maybelle Hoenhous	Ed Zeiger
Matt Holm	Hans Zeiger
Jack Hunter	Allan S. Zulauf
Keith Hunter	Beverley Zook

South Hill Historical Society Board of Directors

President, Bob Ballou

Vice-President, Vacancy

Secretary, Susan Beals

Research Coordinator, Carl Vest

Public Relations, Wes Perkinson

Treasurer, Ben Peters

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Jerry Bates

History On The Hill is published quarterly
Editor Jerry Bates, Editor-at-Large Debbie Burtnett

Copyright 2021

Visit our website!
southhillhistory.com

South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name		
Address	Phone	
City	State	Zip
E-mail Address		
Signature _____ Date _____ Renewal, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
Annual Dues: Society membership \$25.00 <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: South Hill Historical Society, Box 73582, South Hill, WA 98374		



Box 73582
South Hill, WA 98374

To: