

Rainier Valley HERITAGE NEWS



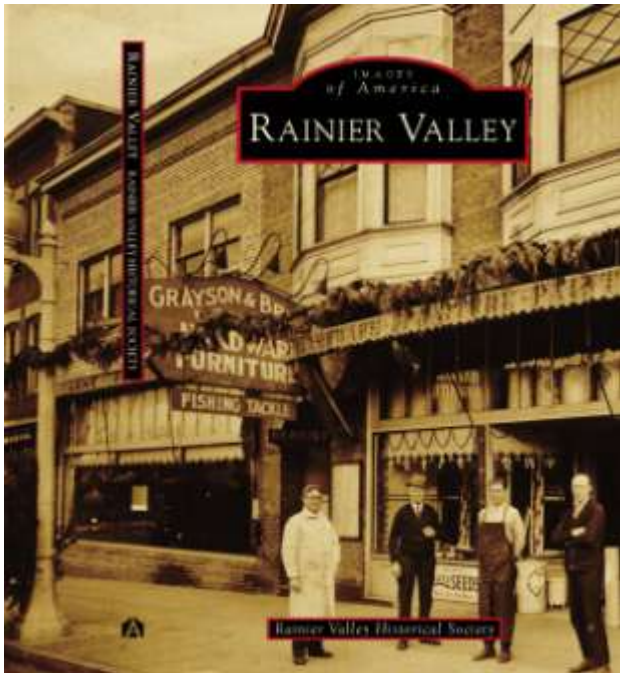
Volume 20, Issue 2

Fall 2011

Finding Arcadia

Rainier Valley Historical Society is putting together a book for Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* series. This illustrated history of the valley will make its debut next spring.

To illustrate the history of this highly diverse region, we began by drawing on our own collection of photographs and printed materials, collected over more than 100 years. We then set out to fill gaps by calling on friends and associates, exploring the archives of other organizations, and coaxing community leaders to share photos. Along the way we gathered considerable new information, put new spins on old ideas, and corrected a number of long-held misconceptions.



History has a way of growing and changing. We are indebted to the many individuals and organizations who provided vital images for the book that we did not have in our collections: the Atlantic Street Center, Gloria Cauble, the Collins Family, the David Eskenazi Collection, George Fleming, Alan Humphrey, the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum, the Kubota Garden Foundation, Chuck

Kusak, the Vince Mottola Family, the Mount Baker Community Club, the Museum of History and Industry, Neighborhood House, the O'Brien Family, Martin Patricelli, the Seattle-Rainier Lions Club, the Rainier Chamber of Commerce, James Raisbeck, the Royal Esquires Club, the Sam Smith Family, the Seattle Housing Authority, SouthEast Effective Development (SEED), Bill Young, and the many student photographers of Youth in Focus. Some of these photographs will become a permanent part of our research collection.

Thank to all the volunteers who worked with me to make this book happen.

–Eleanor Boba, RVHS Executive Director

News and Notes

Guided Walking Tour

October 2, 11:00 a.m. – the Back Alley Tour. See Columbia City from a new perspective and learn how alleys are important in the life of the community. Meet at our office, no reservation necessary. Free for RVHS members; all others, \$5.00.

Farmers Market

Wednesday, October 19, 3:00-6:00 p.m. We'll be hosting the Kids Booth at the Columbia City Farmers Market. Make a picture of your favorite place in the Rainier Valley – or anywhere!

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 3, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Join us for our annual holiday open house at our Ferdinand Street office. Come for the cookies; stay for the Columbia City tree-lighting.

Annual Campaign. Our annual fund-raising campaign begins November 1. Beat the rush to join or renew by sending in the form on the back of this newsletter now. Or pay with your PayPal account. Our membership page is: www.sites.google.com/site/rvhsmembership/

Office Hours:

Wednesday, 1:00–4:00 p.m.
Friday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
3710 S. Ferdinand Street
Check our voice mail (206-723-1663) for last minute changes to this schedule.

E-News:

Opt-in to our E-News, Past is Present. Send your email address to rvhsoffice@aol.com.



Find the latest news, announcements, and photos on our Facebook page: **Rainier Valley Historical.**

Seward Park Centennial Festival

Rolling Back Through Time

On Saturday, July 16, 2011, hundreds turned out to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Seward Park's acquisition by the City of Seattle.



Time was rolled back as the peninsula – “the loop” – was temporarily open to a parade of antique cars which followed the promenade of walkers dressed in period garb. The antique car show, arranged by Richard Ranhofer, featured a 100-year-old 1911 Baker Electric automobile, voted first place for the People's Choice Award. Second place went to Franklin graduate Tony Zauer's 1948 Chevrolet. And what would an event at Seward Park be without a traditional Pie Eating Contest?



Or an egg toss, a time-honored activity that spans generations?

Photos by Sara Lopez.



HONOR ROLL

Many thanks to our members and supporters who make our work possible! Below are those whose gifts we received between March 1 and August 31 of this year. Help us keep the record straight! Send corrections or omissions to us at 206-723-1663 or rvhsoffice@aol.com.

History Makers*

Mark Hannum

*History Makers are those making donations of \$250 or more in any category.

New Lifetime Member

Paul Talbert

Sponsor Memberships

Bill and Petra Barclay

Laurie O'Brien

Charles R. Patten

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Donors to Operating Fund

Jean Bates

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Gladys and Wayne Rash

Sharon Richards and Terrance Chriest *in honor of the Richards Family of Rainier Valley*

Mrs. Thomas J. Sisson *in memory of Tom Sisson*

Jean VelDyke

Special thanks to King County 4Culture for funding our recently-completed "Everybody In" special project.

Buzz Anderson Volunteer of the Year Award

At RVHS's annual meeting, held on April 16, 2011, the second annual Buzz Anderson Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Bernice Sisson for her long years of service supporting the Society. For many years, Bernice held the Board office of Secretary, at the same time devoting almost every Friday morning to updating our archive database, a pursuit she continues to this day. Many thanks to Bernice for all her hard work!



Bernice Sisson. Photo, Evelyn Fairchild.



Report from the Collection

The Tale of the Bell

Sometime after the first Columbia School was built in 1892, a cast steel bell was installed in the tower. When the structure was demolished in 1922, the bell was salvaged and housed in the new school building.

In the late 1940s the Pioneers of Columbia City petitioned the school district to let them have the bell. Many of the Pioneers remembered hearing the bell calling them to class. They were granted the right to display the bell at their meetings and to build a frame to hold the bell and display it at the school.

Fifty years later, their successor organization, the Rainier Valley Historical Society, again requested that the bell be donated or loaned to them, particularly as the bell was no longer on display. The request was granted and the bell was moved first to the basement of the Rainier Valley Cultural Center and then to the Society's new office on Ferdinand Street where it remains today. It is on long-term loan from the Seattle School District.

On a number of occasions, volunteers from the historical society have wrestled the bell onto a pick-up truck and entered it into the Rainier Valley Heritage Parade.

Pictured here, Grover Haynes rings the bell while Tim Burdick drives in the 19th annual Heritage Parade. The bells weigh 179 pounds and rings loud and true.



Additions to Research Collection

Thanks to the friends and neighbors who brought us the following treats:

The *Rainier District Times**, May 21, 1942, five copies! Donor: Scott Stevens and Karen Uffelman.


Boy Scout Advancement charts, Troop 204, Rainier Valley Post #139, 1947-1950. Donor, James Telgenhoff.

Sons of Italy hat and Franklin High School felt letters. Donor, Gladys Rash.

Articles and correspondence related to Columbia School in the 1930s. Donor, Charles Hunter.

A collected set of *The Columbian*, the student newspaper of Columbia School, 1922-31; three Franklin High School *Tolos*. Donor, Carolyn Gaskin Martin from the estate of Ruth Larson Barrett.

*A hint that history may be just below your feet or over your head! These papers were being used as insulation in a crawl space.

<p>Rainier Valley Heritage News Editor and Layout..... Teresa A. Anderson</p> <p>Rainier Valley Historical Society Office location*..... 3710 South Ferdinand Street Mailing address..... PO Box 18143, Seattle, WA 98118 OR 3710 South Ferdinand St., Seattle, WA 98118 Phone and fax 206-723-1663 Email rvhsoffice@aol.com Website www.rainiervalleyhistory.org Office hours..... Wed 1-4pm, Fri & Sunday 10am-1pm RVHS Executive Director..... Eleanor Boba *The Rainier Valley Historical Society office is an accessible facility. Auxiliary aids and assistance are provided upon request to persons with disabilities.</p>	 <p>Thanks to King County for their operating support</p>
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Support History

Our Annual Membership Drive begins November 1. Beat the rush by sending in your renewal or new membership today!
All membership dues and donations are tax-deductible within the limits of the law.

Please fill in this form and mail it with a check to:

Rainier Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 18143
Seattle, WA 98118

Name _____ Address _____ City / State / ZIP _____ Phone _____ *Email _____ *Be sure to provide your email to receive our new E-News, <i>Past is Present</i> . I'd like to volunteer for: <input type="checkbox"/> Collections Work Group <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Special Office Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> History Maker!</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$250</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$150</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Patron</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$50</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Organization / Business Member</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$50</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Individual / Family (per household)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$20</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation to Operating Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____ (amount)</td> </tr> </table> Donation in honor/memory of (please circle one): Name _____ *Address _____ City/State/Zipcode _____ *If you provide us with an address, we will be happy to send an acknowledgement of your gift.	<input type="checkbox"/> History Maker!	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member	\$150	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization / Business Member	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual / Family (per household)	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation to Operating Fund	_____ (amount)
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