Please join us for the
131st Rainier Valley Historical Society
Annual Meeting @ Seattle-Rainier Lions Club, 3714 S Ferdinand St
Saturday, May 21
doors open at 9:30 am for coffee/pastries
& exhibit featuring Sicks Stadium
meeting starts at 10 am

RVHS Lifetime member Charles Kapner’s Sicks Stadium model and Fred Hutchinson on opening day, 1938, RVHS photograph

Experience the remake of Buzz Anderson’s 1995 Heritage Festival slideshow showing some of our best photographs!

2022 Events Calendar

Dismantling Racism Series:
Keep an eye on our social media and eNews for 2022 forums!

Picnic Series: Join us for a history picnic in the park!
Brighton Park, May 28 @ noon
Colman Park, June 11 @ noon

Columbia City Farmers Market Pop-up Exhibit
June 15, 3:30 - 7:00 pm

Othello Park International Festival TBA
San Gennaro Festival is back!
September 9th-11th

Columbia City Farmers Market Pop-up Exhibit
September 14, 3:30 - 7:00 pm

Comet Lodge Cemetery Tour
October 29

RVHS Open House/ Book Sale
December 3, 12:00 - 3:00

Office Hours @ 3710 S. Ferdinand St in Columbia City
Mondays 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesdays 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesdays 11:30 am - 7:30 pm
Saturdays 9 am - 3 pm & by appointment

E-News: Opt-in to our monthly E-News, send an email to
office@rainiervalleyhistory.org

RVHS Office: 3710 S. Ferdinand St.
phone: 206.723.1663
email: office@rainiervalleyhistory.org
website: rainiervalleyhistory.org

Thank you to King County 4Culture for supporting our work!
Honor Roll

Many thanks to our members and supporters who make our work possible! Below are those whose gifts we received between November 2, 2021 and April 28, 2022. Contact us with any corrections at: 206-723-1663 or office@rainiervalleyhistory.org.

Treasurer’s Annual Report 2021 Summary

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New book features local family run business Genesee Energy since 1929

IN THE EARLY 1900s, Gordon Clark and his father, Si, sold their farm in rural Canada in search of a business in America. They found it in Seattle, and in 1929 Gordon and his brother, Russ, bought Genesee Coal and Stoker, still operating today as Genesee Energy. A narrative nonfiction saga of three generations of family, culture, and energy issues, *Twentieth Century Boys*, shows how relationships and values have carried one small company through near devastation time and again from the 1920s to the present day. Congratulations to RVHS Lifetime Member Andrea Clark Watson for writing this ambitious memoir about her father’s family business on Genesee Street in Rainier Valley!

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Grant Awards

P.Haye & J.B. Goode Foundation

King County 4Culture

Patron Memberships

Bill Barclay in memory of
WH Barclay Jr.

John Bennett

Elsiean Boba & Alan Humphrey

Pamela Charles

Grover & Wanda Haynes

Elsiean Zade

Deborah & Rayley Kidd

Susan Larsen

Michela Orosilo

Susan Parker

Tricia Pearson & Declan O’Neill

Lucy Salie

Sara Thompson

Sponsor Memberships

Abe Angel

Stephen Komat

Donna Schubert in memory of
Peter & Anastasia Bigley

Mark Sherman

Senior/Student

Memberships

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Becky Carpaz

Beverly Denton

Kirk Duncan

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Margaret Fickeisen

Rickie Friedli/Giono

Gary Gibbon

Don & Lee Gill

Carolyn Gould

Richard Kaefer

Jerry Masca

Theodossia Nassar

James Anderson

Kenneth and Marlene Alhadeff

Beverly Astinolino

Joanne Anderson

Mary Ellen Anderson

Teresa Anderson

I. Barclay

Rachel Bianchi

Kaitlin Brauner

Bill Brining and Terri Small

Tim Burdick

William and Bonnie Carrabba

Gloria Casdell

John and Mary Charles

Frank and Joanne Clemm

Frederic Cooper

Connie Cox

James Creevey

Laura and Stephen Day

Daphne Dejarnius

John Defillicio and Eileen Ryan

Mark Defillicio

Nancy Dulaney

John Ellis

Brian and Sharon Eshelmen

Brian and Evelyn Fairchild

Martha Astinolino

John and Linda Fishery

Rebecca Freeston

Cassie Grayson

Shelia Harvey

Gwen Heaton

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Chuck Stack

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Nancy Dulaney

Diane Rasmusson

Sharon Richards

Ric Rivera

Jay Schuck and Lynette Benallate

Don Shaffer

Aziz Swafford

Lisa Smith (obit)

Laura Wiese

Linda Zichy

Individual/Family

Memberships

Jo Ellen Barton in memory of Jack

Earl & Gene Bartol

Judith Clarkridge

Annabelle Fitzi

Debra Gillett

Anna Hummelz

Richard Kartar

Elizabeth Katz

Susan Mar

Paula McKendle

Judy McGough

Annette Dixon

Stephen Peringer

Catherine Wickwire

Gifts to Endowment

Nancy Dulaney

Karen O’Brien

Gifts to Operating Fund

Chuck & MaryLou Adams

Annabellle Fitzi

Debra Gillett

Catherine Wickwire

Jody and Ed Zumwalt in memory of
Russ and Betty Zuppe

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This was the Heritage Festival 1995 presentation given by Buzz Anderson; it will be available on our website and in the office for $16.95

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IN THE EARLY 1900s, Gordon Clark and his father, Si, sold their farm in rural Canada in search of a business in America. They found it in Seattle, and in 1929 Gordon and his brother, Russ, bought Genesee Coal and Stoker, still operating today as Genesee Energy. A narrative nonfiction saga of three generations of family, culture, and energy issues, *Twentieth Century Boys*, shows how relationships and values have carried one small company through near devastation time and again from the 1920s to the present day. Congratulations to RVHS Lifetime Member Andrea Clark Watson for writing this ambitious memoir about her father’s family business on Genesee Street in Rainier Valley!

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Now on our website and in the office for $16.95

rainiervalleyhistory.org or 3710 S Ferdinand Street

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This was the Heritage Festival 1995 presentation given by Buzz Anderson; it will be available on our website and in the office for $16.95
of ex-slaves immediately began to celebrate the anniversary of their freedom every year on June 19th, which came to be known as "Juneteenth." For many, it was a bittersweet holiday, as the promise of freedom had not been fulfilled. As African Americans moved to other parts of the country, they took the holiday with them. The first documented Juneteenth celebration in Seattle took place in 1890.

**Dora Abney:** "I says 'Juneteenth,' and then to me, everybody blossomed."

Dora Abney was the Director of Twinks Early Childhood Education Center and Preschool in Columbia City, and originally from Marshall, Texas, where her family celebrated Juneteenth. She moved to Seattle in the early 1960s. She shared her memories of Juneteenth in 2002 with Mikala Woodward, where she explained the importance of the holiday for African Americans and others today.

Dora: What I can remember about Juneteenth in Texas is mostly my dad; my dad died when I was about eleven. We used to celebrate it every summer, and to me it was a joyful thing. It was hot. I just remember how my dad used to say, you know, 'Juneteenth, that's a big thing for us,' and by being born in the South, I kinda understood what he was saying. I saw what was going on, but didn't really understand why. I got the idea that it was for freedom, but the history behind it was really not told, because it's a sad situation, what had really happened. As I got older it was more explained to me.

But [my dad] would always go out and shop like it was Christmas, and he would buy food, picnic stuff, and we'd be out – whether it fell on a Sunday or Monday, it was a holiday to us. And everybody in the neighborhood, everybody in the city took off. The whole city was shut down. And we would picnic away.

My father, he would always sing, and he would play ball, and he was just excited. All the men, they played ball. I don't know how you explain it. But I don't know how you explain it. Some people say like the Fourth of July, but the Fourth of July was a joyful thing. It was okay, but I think this was better. This particular day, it was more exciting for my father, that's what I'm saying. But now I recognize why, because from reading, and observing some of the past, [I learned] that the day they considered [they got] their freedom. I guess it was his dad's dad's – it was passed down. They understood what it meant, and why that day was so meaningful to them.

When we came to Washington State it kind of faded out of the family, people didn't celebrate it. They said, "What do you mean, Juneteenth, what's about it?" I was answering them that we used to take off, and they said "We don't celebrate that," so I figured I'd let it slide. Then about four years ago, when I started at the daycare center, I brought it up again. I said, "We need to celebrate Juneteenth. The kids don't know what it's about." So in 2000 we had a Juneteenth celebration at Twinks, where we blocked off the street, we sold barbecue, and the kids played, and it was exciting. I says 'Juneteenth,' and then to me, everybody blossomed. And all of a sudden everybody did know about it. You know, you don't hear about it and then all of a sudden, "Yeah, I heard about that, what is it about?" So we started digging up information so we could put it out, so people understand what it is.

But again, like I said, it's a thing that my dad did. All I can remember is that we packed up and we went to the baseball field – every year it was somewhere different. And we would just celebrate. The men and the women would just dance. The kids would look, 'cause you know, we didn't know they explained the basics, but we didn't know. To them, 'cause they lived the life, they understood it. So now, I'm trying to feed that little knowledge that I know to the other children - not only just black, everyone - to understand that. It's freedom.

I was explaining to some of my staff members about the Ethiopians and the Somalis, and over in Jerusalem – I've been to Jerusalem and Cairo and all those places, and they are fighting. And I said, sooner or later when they say, "The fighting is over with," you'll celebrate freedom. Theys may be called August Tenth, or April Fifth or something like that. But I assume that once people get them wars over with, people celebrate that. All these dates that we do celebrate right now is from the results of something. So Juneteenth is one of the ones that, as blacks, we celebrate. And it's pretty, Juneteenth. Which is June Nineteenth.

**Mikala:** What kind of foods did you eat at the Juneteenth celebrations?

Red represented the blood that was shed during slavery. [We had] red pop, red velvet cake, ice cream. Watermelon. And chicken barbecue, barbecue ribs. The blood was really flowing!

Everything was fresh because in June it's at the end of the harvest for the South. So we would have corn on the cob, fresh everything – fresh chicken out of the yard. They'd get a pig in the ground, cook it all night. They'd put on a fire and the ribs be on bars hanging over the fire, not like what they do now, with a grill. They just hang it. It would cook, they'd roll it over. What the women made was cake and pie. And the rest of it the men did. We don't see that now. The Hawaiians does it. The Samoans, they celebrate as a family, men take over and do, but you don't see a group of men, family people, get together a whole community, and cook. You hardly see it any more. The men would do the whole work!

Oral history conducted and edited by Mikala Woodward, author of Rainier Valley Food Stories Cookbook

**RED VELVET CAKE with Cream Cheese Frosting**

Dora Abney, originally from activemeasures.com

**Cake:**

1 cup shortening
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. butter flavoring
1 1/2 oz bottle of red color
3 Tbsp. cocoa
2 1/2 cups sifted cake flour
1 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. vinegar
1 tsp. baking soda

Cream shortening and sugar.
Beat in egg, vanilla, and butter flavor:
Make a paste of cocoa and food coloring and add it to the first mixture.

Alternate add flour and buttermilk.
Mix baking soda and vinegar in a small bowl;
add to batter. Bake in three 9" or 10" pans for 20-25 minutes at 350°. Let cool completely before frosting.

**Frosting:**

6 oz. cream cheese, softened
6 Tbsp. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups sifted powdered sugar

Blend all ingredients until smooth.
Lou DeFranco, RVHS History Maker, passed away on April 16, 2022. Lou will be missed for his selfless and unwavering community leadership. Lou’s civic activism in Rainier Valley was an inspiration for others to follow. Lou’s volunteer career began with St. Edward’s Catholic Church and School in Hillman City where his six children attended. In 1962, he became involved with the Rainier Chamber of Commerce and was president from 1980-1982. As the 1970s brought about change to Southeast Seattle, Lou’s activism and involvement heated up and the local Chamber of Commerce responded with a crime prevention council. In 1987, a new anti-crime group was formed – the South Seattle Crime Prevention Council. Lou and others in the community met monthly with police to stop crime so that businesses could survive. Other organizations benefiting from Lou’s association were Graffiti Patrol and St. Vincent de Paul. Lou was recognized by the City of Seattle with the Mayor’s 1985 Small Business Award for outstanding achievement in our community and was awarded the Washington State 2001 Jefferson Award for his lifetime of service to Rainier Valley.

Lou served on our board of directors from 2000-2007. Lou was affectionately known as the Mayor of Lakewood-Seward Park!

Nancy Kay Detzer Hevely, RVHS Lifetime Member, passed away on March 1, 2022. She was a lifelong resident of Seattle, born June 29, 1931 in Hillman City.

Nancy attended Franklin High School, graduating in 1949. From there she attended the University of Washington and studied journalism. While at UW, she was an associate editor of the UW Daily, one of the first women to hold an editorial position there. She graduated in 1953 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and remained a faithful Husky throughout her life, holding football season tickets for nearly 60 years.

Nancy had a distinguished career as a journalist. She joined the staff of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer shortly after graduating from UW, beginning as a Society reporter and spending the last 13 years of her career as a national award-winning editorial page writer and editor. Nancy specialized in editorializing about education and the environment. She served as president of Seattle Professional Chapter, Women in Communications and received the organization’s Georgina Davis Founder’s Award. In retirement, Nancy earned a University of Washington certificate in genealogy, wrote a book on western history for young readers, and edited books for local authors including Emmett Watson and Shelby Scates. RVHS looks forward to receiving a copy of her memoir of Hillman City.

Barbara Chamberlain (Feb. 9, 1942 - Jan. 4, 2022), leads the toast to Buzz at the 2015 RVHS Founder’s Dinner and Auction.

Barbara Chamberlain, RVHS Lifetime Member, passed away at the age of 79 on Jan. 4, 2022. Barb was a pillar of strength, encouragement, and wisdom for her family, friends, and the community. Along with her husband Norman donated the land for the Southeast Seattle Senior Center, where Barb remained actively involved as board president until her death.

Barbara had a distinguished career as a math teacher at Shorecrest and Shoreline High Schools. She won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for Washington State in 1985. She was appointed to the Governor’s task force in education, and she chaired the Mathematics Standards committee for the Washington State Commission on Student Learning, developing the Mathematics Learning Standards for the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SP) and standards-based math education models locally and nationally (1997-2008). Barbara was a long-serving member of the Washington State Mathematics Council (WSMC) and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2013. She served as President (1990-92), Co-Chair (1995), Program Chair (1989). She also organized workshops in Teaching Excellence in Mathematics. In 2004, WSMC created the “Barbara P. Chamberlain Award” for outstanding female mathematics educators. Barbara’s math colleagues called her the “Mother of Mathematics.” Barbara’s leadership and philanthropy will be remembered in Rainier Valley for years to come.

Thank you Nancy Dulaney! There’s not enough space to write a thousand thank you’s of appreciation to Nancy, our board treasurer since 2008! Nancy has championed RVHS’ financials with bookkeeping skills compared to a Fortune 500’s. She is retiring from this role, and thank goodness, she continues on the board as historian, editor, author, researcher, and locator of those presumably missing items.

Thank you Nancy for being an exemplary treasure, we will miss your reporting!

At this time, we do not have a replacement bookkeeper. We are seeking a candidate outside of the board as a paid position. If you have a referral, please send my way. Sincerely, Karen O’Brien
RVHS Board of Directors
Karen O’Brien, President
John DeFranco, Vice-President
Mary Charles, Secretary
Nancy Dulaney, Treasurer
Teresa Anderson
Tim Burdick
Rebecca Corpuz
Laura Weiss Day
David Eskenazi
Joan Neville
Jody Anderson Zumwalt

Programs and Archives Manager
Katharine Anthony

You can opt-in to receive the spring and fall Heritage News by email – please let us know at: office@rainiervalleyhistory.org

Support Rainier Valley History
If you haven’t joined Rainier Valley Historical Society or renewed your membership this year, we urge you to do so now. RVHS is a 501(c)(3) organization, membership dues and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Please clip and fill in this form and mail it to:
Rainier Valley Historical Society
PO Box 18143
Seattle, WA 98118

Donations, memberships and merchandise sales are also accepted on our website: www.rainiervalleyhistory.org.

Name ..............................................................
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Please provide us with an email to receive our E-News, “Past is Present!”

Credit card:
Visa/MC/AMEX # ..................................................
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Donation in honor/memory of (please circle one):

☑ Lifetime Member ................................................. $500
☑ History Maker .................................................. $350
☑ Patron .............................................................. $100
☑ Sponsor ............................................................. $60
☑ Individual/Family (per household) .................. $30
☑ Senior/Student (per household) ...................... $20
☑ Additional donation to Operating Fund .................. (Amount)

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*If you provide us with an address, we will be happy to send an acknowledgement of your gift.