A Horse, A Cow, Chickens, and Turkeys, Oh My!

By Teresa A. Anderson

“At this place we had a horse and a cow, a few chickens and turkeys. My wife would take care of the chickens and milk the cow and it was my job to look after the horse.” In An Immigrant in 1887, John W. Nordstrom, co-founder of the Nordstrom department store chain, tells his story of emigrating from Sweden to New York in 1887, and finally settling in Seattle where he once owned property in Rainier Valley.

John Nordstrom was 16 years old when he left Sweden. He arrived in New York with only five dollars in his pocket and not a word of English to his name. He made his way across the country and eventually to the West Coast, laboring in mines and logging camps and doing odd jobs. In “the summer of 1896 I went again to Seattle, as I liked it there. My work there was in a Fremont sawmill at a dollar and a half a day.” In 1897, while living in

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Arlington, Washington, he saw the headline in a Sunday morning Seattle Post-Intelligencer that gold had been found in the Klondike of Alaska. The next day, in Seattle, he bought a ticket to Alaska. In The Seattle Daily Times, August 8, 1897: “Willamette Goes to Dyea [Alaska] Tomorrow with Eight Hundred Passengers and Two Hundred Head of Horses.” J.W. Nordstrom was listed as a passenger. Two years later, with $13,000 from his share of a claim, Nordstrom returned to Seattle. “I was certainly happy to be back and at my sister’s house. I had my first bath in over two years.”

Nordstrom invested his money in real estate. He bought a lot on Bellevue Avenue between Pike and Pine Streets ($800) and had two 7-room houses built there ($2,500). On October 3, 1899, he bought a 10-acre tract of land in Rainier Valley on Juneau Street just west of Renton Avenue South. The sellers were Birdsey and Sarah Ella Wetmore. Purchase price: $1,300.

That same year, Nordstrom renewed his acquaintance with a “girl I had taken out a few times before going to Alaska. The next spring this girl, Hilda Carlson, and I were married. This was in May 1900.” After a honeymoon in Sweden, they returned to Seattle and lived in one of the houses on Bellevue Avenue. Later that year, Nordstrom began to improve the land in Rainier Valley but realized, after working on it a few months, he couldn’t make a living from the land and started looking for a small business to get into. He had met Carl Wallin, a shoemaker by trade, in Alaska and on Mr. Wallin’s return to Seattle he had set up a shoe repair shop on Fourth Avenue and Pike Street. Nordstrom often visited Mr. Wallin in his shop -- one day Wallin suggested that they join in partnership and open a shoe store.

In 1904, when the shoe store business was three years old, Nordstrom had a house built on his property in Rainier Valley, at 3516 Juneau Street. The Nordstrom family moved to “the country” with their three children who were born by that time.

Later that year, according to The Seattle Daily Times, December 11, 1916: Nordstrom exchanged “two acres with residence in Rainier Valley at Juneau Street and Empire

continued from page 1

image property of the Nordstrom family

Image courtesy of The Seattle Daily Times, June 8, 1916.

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Honor Roll

Many thanks to our members and supporters who make our work possible! Below are those whose gifts we received between November 10th, 2016 and April 1st, 2017. Contact us with any corrections or omissions: 206-723-1663 or info@rainiervalleyhistory.org.

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in memory of Buzz Anderson
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Treasurer’s Annual Report 2016 Summary

REVENUE:
Memberships................................................. $3,450
Earned Income................................................ $1,970
Interest/Dividends......................................... $5,611
Donations...................................................... $15,318
Grants.......................................................... $992
Outreach & Fundraising................................... $19,010
REVENUE TOTAL................................. $46,351

EXPENSES:
Facilities....................................................... $6,297
Administration............................................... $1,941
Personnel....................................................... $24,845
Communications/Marketing.......................... $2,735
Collections.................................................... $2,046
Merchandise................................................... $548
Outreach & Fundraising................................... $4,703
Depreciation................................................... $1,157
EXPENSE TOTAL................................. $44,272

LIABILITIES:
Sales Tax Payable........................................... $115
Payroll Taxes Payable...................................... $836
Consignment sales.......................................... $45
LIABILITIES TOTAL................................. $996

ENDOWMENT VALUE
12/31/16: ............................................ $235,242

SouthEast Effective Development
Joanne Anderson
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Buzz & Joanne Anderson
William and Bonnie Carrabba
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David and Sharon Eskenazi

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2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating the Locks, the Lakes, and a Century of Change

Saturday, April 29th, 2017
10:00am - 1:00pm

Celebrate RVHS at our annual meeting for members and friends! This year the meeting will be at historic Pioneer Hall along the shore of Lake Washington in Madison Park. Lunch will be served after the program.

Leschi Beach Dock, Kirkland Steamboat Side-wheeler, circa 1890, Rainier Valley Historical Society Collection, 1998.007.0002

9:30 am Doors Open
• coffee & socializing
• Lowering of Lake Washington displays

10:00 am Business Meeting:
• Finance Report
• Collections Update

10:30 am Program:
• Pioneers of the Ship Canal video by Vaun Raymond, from his documentary series, Legacy of the Locks
• Guest speaker, Jennifer Ott, co-writer of Waterway: The story of Seattle’s Locks and Ship Canal
• Drawing the Line: 1916 Lake Washington Shoreline, video by Mikala Woodward and Andrew Kidde

Pioneer Association of the State of Washington
PIONEER HALL
1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle 98112

noon Lunch
Way, owned by J.W. Nordstrom, for a residence at 2811 Montlake Boulevard, owned by A. Laney, and the family moved north. Everett Nordstrom, the eldest of the three sons, had attended Franklin High School and entered the University of Washington in 1919, at the age of 16. He also attended Whitworth.

In 1929, after many years of working together in many locations in downtown Seattle, Mr. Wallin wanted to sell out, which turned out for the best. Mr. Nordstrom then sold the business to his three sons, in 1930. And the rest, they say, is history. With a little Rainier Valley history in the mix... John Nordstrom died in 1963 at the age of 92.

Note: Quoted material from An Immigrant in 1887, John W. Nordstrom, 1950, unless otherwise referenced.

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### Seattle Public Schools Creates New Hall of Fame for Athletes

On February 16th, 2017, the SPS High School Athletic Hall of Fame held its inaugural induction ceremony at the Washington Athletic Center. The first class of inductees spanned many generations, and included athletes from each of the major high schools in the Seattle School District, including several from schools in Southeast Seattle.

From the Hall of Fame website:

*The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to identify outstanding SPS high school student athletes, teams, coaches, administrators and athletic supporters and to celebrate their accomplishments.*

*The Hall of Fame is also designed to engage the larger Seattle sports community with SPS Athletics, help reconnect inductees and their families with the Seattle Public Schools, enhance the current student-athlete understanding of and pride in the history of SPS athletics, and encourage and facilitate donations supporting high school athletics.*

These were this year's inductees from schools in Southeast Seattle:

**Cleveland HS:**
- Cheryl Taplin 1990

**Franklin HS:**
- Fred Hutchinson 1937
- Ron Santo 1958
- Rhonda Smith 1991
- Jason Terry 1995

**Rainier Beach HS:**
- Ginny Crawford 2002
- Nate Robinson 2002

Honoring Bonnie Bosworth

RVHS extends our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of long-time Rainier Valley resident Bonnie Jean Bosworth, who passed away in December of 2016. Bonnie was a great supporter of RVHS and donor to our collections.

She was also the founder of the Franklin High School Alumni Association. In the photo to the left she is shown with other members of the Association (far left, front), after 7 years raising money brought the FHS reader board to the school.

The photo below shows Bonnie (back, left) during the time she spent at Gonzaga University as a cheerleader.
Collections Update

RVHS thanks the following donors of items recently added to our collections:


Buzz Anderson Family: Columbia Merchant baseball uniform owned by Arthur Anderson, father of Buzz Anderson. Pants, top, jersey, and socks. c. 1930. 2016.003.0002

Buzz Anderson Family: navy uniform. 2016.003.0002

Franklin Alumni Association: Franklin Tile Program Notebook, 2015, reference to tile project at the school. 2016.006.0001


Carleen Bell: Homer Venishnick interview of June 29, 1989. Oral history transcription interviewer Carrie L. Bergquist from the Renton Historical Museum. Homer, born 1926, was a descendant of Captain Burrows and Renton lifetime resident. 2016.011.0002

Carleen Bell: reproduction of family portrait c 1915, Captain Ferry Burrows with wife Martha and daughters Ruth and Melba. 2016.011.0003

Print of watercolor “Captain Burrows Summer-Winter Pleasure Resort.” Resort was in Bryn Mawr, along Black River on Lake Washington.
5th Annual Founder’s Dinner
Save the date! The 2017 Founder’s Dinner will be October 15th, at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, starting at 5:30pm. Tickets will be available now on our website.

(right) The Tarantellas, performing Italian songs at the 2015 Founder’s Dinner.

Advertise with us!
We have opportunities for advertising in all of our publications for a full year, or a one-time ad in the program for the Founder’s Dinner in October. For details and pricing, contact Executive Director Virginia Wright, director@rainiervalleyhistory.org.

Rainier Valley Heritage News
Editor and Layout ........................................................................ Virginia Wright
Rainier Valley Historical Society
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Phone & Fax.................................................................206.723.1663
E-mail....................................................................office@rainiervalleyhistory.org
Website........................................................................www.rainiervalleyhistory.org
Office Hours...........................................................Tuesday 1:00pm - 4:00pm
                                             Friday & Sunday 10:00am - 1:00pm
RVHS Executive Director....................................................Virginia Wright

Auxiliary aids and assistance are provided upon request to persons with disabilities.

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Support History

If you haven’t joined the Rainier Valley Historical Society this year, we urge you to do so now. RVHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. 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
PO Box 18143
Seattle, WA 98118

Books and memberships can also be purchased on our website: www.rainiervalleyhistory.org.

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**Book Order**

Please send me *Images of America: Rainier Valley*. Each book in-state is $29.00 (includes King Co. sales tax/shipping). Each additional book in-state is $24.00 (includes King Co. tax/shipping). Each book out-of-state is $27.00 (includes shipping).

Number of copies: _____ Total book order $______

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