



N. S. N. C.

No. 3

• News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

April 1997

Next Coalition Meeting @ Bavarian: April 5 9:00 a.m.

Join us for an informative hour! Meeting begins at 9:00 and promptly ends at 10:00. On this month's agenda:

- Innovative Fund Grant
- Beautification Grant
- Historic Preservation
- Police Report/Citizen's Patrol
- Safe Streets
- Guest Speaker: Owner/renovator of The Legacy Apartments
- Proposed Park update (sub-station at 8th & K Streets)

The North Slope Neighborhood Coalition is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele Streets. If you live in this area as a property owner or tenant, please join us on Saturday morning, April 5 at the Bavarian Restaurant (upstairs). The Bavarian is located on the corner of Division and "K" Streets. Free coffee is generously provided to us by the owners, Karen & Dennis Faker.

Name the Newsletter Contest!

For the past couple of editions, we've been publishing under the name, "N.S.N.C.". It's time to come up with a new (and more fitting) title for our neighborhood publication.

Put on your thinking cap and submit your entry (forms will be available) at the next Coalition meeting (April 5). Or, if you're unable to attend, you may submit them directly to me, Angie Klein, 272-0938. Please remember to include your name and phone number as a means of contacting you. Entry deadline is May 19.

We will gather all the entries, list them and then attendees at the June 7 Coalition meeting will vote and

select the new publication title. The person who submits the winning entry will receive a gift certificate. Let's get those creative juices flowing and submit those ideas!

The Last of the Planters

In each newsletter, there has been mention of the beautification grant and the availability of planter boxes for people who live on a corner or alleyway. Many planters have been placed around the neighborhood; however we still

Our thanks to Safe Streets for the printing of this newsletter. We appreciate their support!

SAFE ST

have about nine left. They have been stored in a backyard all winter and the homeowners would really like their yard back! Welcome Spring with a riot of colorful flowers! If you're interested in obtaining a planter(s), talk to Marie Dudley at the Coalition meeting (she will be bringing a planter box for display) or contact her at 383-2116. Let's find homes for the last nine planters!

Neighborhood Reflections

"What shutter speed are you using?" "Talk to you guys later. My back is killing me." "We have a new minister now and they will need a bigger home." "That sure is a well behaved dog!"

Bits and pieces of conversation floated through the dark as a cluster of neighbors shared the same corner to watch the September 1996 eclipse of the moon. Somehow, it was an old-fashioned night. There was the feeling that we were all just a few steps from

our front doors although some were really three blocks from home. There was the feeling that perhaps this one night we would not later regret it if we did not lock the front door when the left the house, because the night felt safe. There was a lazy, summer's holiday feeling in the air that took no notice that it was fall. No one felt pressured to be social so the conversation flowed in the naturally halting way that a person's mind tends to work. The moon moved and was eclipsed and we were held in the wonder of it, sensing the urgency of the old folk tales we had heard. Reluctantly we had to admit that the event that

had held us was now in the past. Slowly we separated and parted in that wonderful neighborhood night.

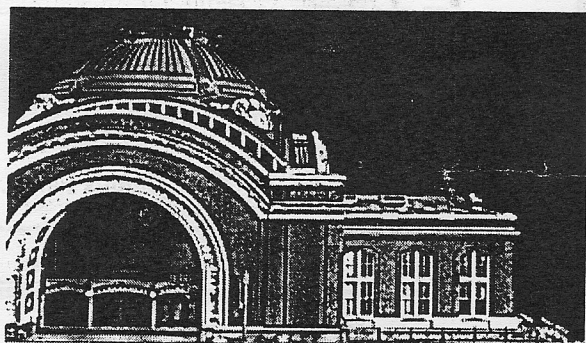
Maggie Kelly
Sheridan Avenue

Strange, when you come to think of it, that of all the countless folk who have lived before our time on this planet not one is known in history or in legend as having died of laughter.

Laughter

Sir Max Beerbohm (1872-1956)

Tacoma vs. Seattle: A Tale of Two (very different) Cities



The comparisons between our fair city and that of our bigger neighbor north hit me in two stages. The first while I was in San Francisco a couple of months ago and the second as I was driving through downtown Seattle a few days after I returned.

The time I spent in San Francisco was just down the street from North Beach and a couple of blocks from Chinatown. I had a free day prior to my meeting so I took the opportunity to walk around. The similarities between San Francisco and Tacoma are remarkable! Of course, there is more of San Francisco than Tacoma, and San Francisco has had the good fortune over the years of having a well run city govern-

ment. But as Tacoma's rebirth picks up steam you can see the comparison. The wonderful old buildings, the oddball streets off at every angle, and walking through North Beach, I could envision a new busy Sixth Avenue

alive with funky restaurants and stores. And the hills - just like Tacoma. Flatness only on the waterfront. San Francisco Bay and Commencement Bay even look alike on a gray, cloudy day.

Where does Seattle come into my story? Well, as I said, I was driving through downtown Seattle a couple of days after returning from San Francisco. I went by the old Coliseum Theater. It was a beautiful and classic building in its day and now has been turned over to the purveyors of the urban Jungle Jims and Janes. It's a Banana Republic store! Down the street is Nike Town and Planet Hollywood. I suppose it is great for Seattle's yuppie transient population, but Tacoma's lack of those very commercial stores made

me proud of our city.

Our great old theaters, The Pantages and The Rialto, were purchased by the city and its people and restored to their former glory. The wonderful old buildings on Pacific are being restored by the University of Washington, not torn down. Even the personality will be different for the UW's Tacoma Branch, than on the main campus.

Our city's new face is also our old face. That is the real face of the Pacific Northwest, not of the chain operations springing up in other major cities around the country. It may take a little while longer to get our downtown back, but it will be worth the wait. In the end, Tacoma will be the San Francisco of Washington and Seattle relegated to the level of another Los Angeles with its character reflected back at itself in plastic and glass. Give me brick and cobblestone, and streets that never turn but still change names three times before you reach your destination! Give me buildings that my grandparents knew as well as I do.

Bill Johnston

Planning Commission Hearing Well Attended

The North Slope Historic District's Planning Commission Hearing was held on March 19. More than 40 residents or property owners came to testify for or against the expansion of the district, to include I, K, L and M Streets. North J Street already has Historic District designation.

The Historic District, if finally approved, would be the FIRST and ONLY residential Tacoma Historic District. The city has several historic business districts and many individually-registered homes and buildings. Registration as an historic building provides protection for the exterior structural elements through the Landmarks Preservation ordinance.

The ordinance mandates approval for major exterior structural modifications, which require a building permit, by the Landmarks Commission. Such approval is designed to make sure modifications do not compromise the architectural integrity of the structure. Improvements not requiring a building permit are not subject to Commission review.

At the March 19 hearing, the Public Works Department of the City requested that the Planning Commission ask the Landmarks Preservation Commission for more specific language regarding the parts of the public right-of-ways the ordinance would cover. Specifically, Public Works wants locations of historic street lights, street paving and trees identified so that there is a clear understanding of what Public Works Department's responsibilities are.

The NSNC's goal in establishing a residential historic district is twofold:

- Provide protection for the historic character of our neighborhood

- Prohibit demolition of homes for the building of more apartments.

As coordinator of the Historic District Expansion, I would like to commend all of you who have signed petitions, passed out flyers, solicited signatures, made phone calls, written letters and most of all, have COME TO HEARINGS! This has been a classic citizen-initiated project, and has gone this far only because of all of us working together.

Let's hope we can finish it up with one final hearing before the City Council. The Planning Commission will study the expansion proposal before acting on approval. If approved, a city council hearing will be scheduled for early summer.

Julie Turner, 383-2329

We hope you find this newsletter informative, comprehensive and that it gives you the information you need. If you have ideas/thoughts on how to improve the format or content, we would be happy to hear them! Call Angie Klein at 272-0938.

'The Legacy' Open House

The Legacy, 115 N. Yakima Ave., recently celebrated a grand re-opening of their totally remodeled apartments and grand suites.

This unique property, listed on the National Historical Register, was built after the turn of the century as the "finest residential apartments in the region." It has finally been totally restored to the graciousness of times past.

Along with upgrades to the apartment units, the building also has a new elevator, controlled access entry, garages and off-street parking, traditional ornamentation and decor, and a landscaped patio courtyard.

The community is invited to take a tour directly following the Coalition meeting, April 5 at 10:15. Come and see what a great job they did in fixing up those apartments - they may be interested in renovating other properties in our neighborhood, too.

Recycle For Animals' Benefit

Our local Humane Society has an ongoing aluminum recycling program to benefit their animal shelter. The proceeds go to a general fund which is used to buy food and medical supplies for the animals. It also helps support educational programs.

Initially, this project was started nationally by PAWS. Cans were only collected for a few months but due to the success, the Tacoma Humane Society decided to continue the project full time.

Any size donation is accepted; but to make it easier on the shelter staff, try to fill larger size sacks,

like garbage size instead of grocery size, smash cans and donate ONLY aluminum cans. The drop off bin is located at the far end of their parking lot.

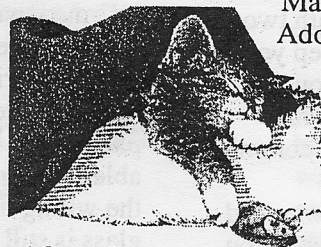
May 3 is the National Adopt-a-thon celebration.

Last year, 94 pets were adopted from our shelter — this is a state record!

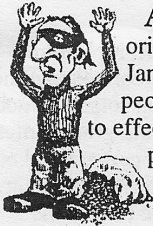
If you want additional information about upcoming events or

educational programs, you may contact: Bob Walter, Education Director, at 383-2733, ext. 814.

Chris Brosnan



Citizen's Patrol



At our most recent orientation session in January, six more people learned how to effectively and safely participate in our neighborhood patrol. For some, this was a refresher from an earlier orientation session held last summer. We now have over 30 people who are trained to take a one hour shift a month for the patrol, however, only 13 people have actually taken a shift.

Given everybody's busy lives and schedules, we knew going into this that it would be hard to find people willing to squeeze in one more thing. In looking at the effectiveness the West Slope has had in drastically reducing crime since their patrols began, our neighborhood wants that type of crime reduction, too. To make this work, we have to all get involved in some way.

If your involvement is only watching out for your block - that is great! Because that too, makes a big difference. After the recent homicides of three women in the East side, one retired lady made it a habit to look out her windows every night before going to bed and actually saw a man entering a house next door. The police apprehended the man and he was subsequently charged with two of the three homicides. Keep your eyes and ears open for you too may catch someone who has committed or is about to commit a crime.

Get involved in some way and make a difference for where you live! Criminals do not like it when neighborhoods watch out for each other; it is too easy for them to be caught. Be safe, and we are excited to see the changes in our area!

Will & Marie Dudley

Where the Heart Is

I'm taking a much needed break from painting to write this. No, I am not an artist. I am trying to paint the front hallway of our 1916 house. This particular paint project is not my favorite because it involves so much work. The front hallway consists of a front door, door to the kitchen, two large sliding doors to the living room, an open stairway leading to the second story over which vaults an impossible ceiling that continues to the second-story hallway. I am not the meticulous crafter that our neighbor is. On the other hand, I do set a minimum standard for myself which is slightly higher than my comfort level.

If I dislike painting that hallway, why don't I 1) pay someone else to do it or 2) move to a one-story house? Because I love my Sheridan house! It was love at first sight, that October day in the early 1970's when I first said in awed tones, "This is it. This is the one I want." (It was not until years later that I realized that I was responding to this house because it had the same floor plan of another house that held happy memories for me). Of course, I immediately lost all bargaining leverage that might have accrued to some aloofness. I am heart-bound to this house in a way that will allow me to pay someone else to paint it only if I am physically too infirmed to do it myself.

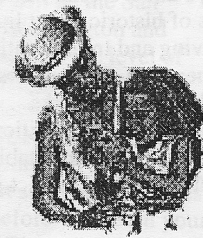
The house had once been owned by an electrician, so of course it's not adequately wired! I keep playing the lottery, hoping to be able to afford some day, to have all the wiring updated. Almost all the glass is still original, so it's like being in the carnival's funny house to see the wavery reflections that the old glass provides. Some of the windows had already been painted shut by the time we arrived. Some remained shut, for we would have broken that old

glass to open them. We managed to free enough for airflow and egress to the roof. Each year it gets harder to wriggle out the window, onto the roof, in order to clean the upper level gutters or re-caulk the skylights that were added in the 80's.

All the woodwork including the picture rails were painted when we moved in. My friends and I had gone through this terrible phase when we were a few years younger - it was called "strip all wood paint and see the glories that lie underneath". However, since there were built in bookcases in the living room and shoulder high wainscoting in the dining room, plus the sliding doors to deal with, I was cautious, even in my youth. One small patch told me that there was no "glorious wood" under that paint so all the woodwork is still painted.

A few changes have been made over these many years, both in the house and the yard. I rather suspect that those changes somehow reflect revolving tastes, interests and generally, place in life. The house was comfortable and "livable" immediately when we bought it and quite frankly I rather suspect we'll stay here for the rest of our lives.

Maggie Kelly
Sheridan Avenue



**Don't Forget!
Sunday May 11**

Mother's Day