



Trolley Times



Volume # 33

News of Tacoma's North Slope Historic District
National Register of Historic Places

Oct-Nov-Dec 2003

Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 25 is the 13th annual "Make a Difference Day," when millions of Americans come together to serve others. The day is sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine, Points of Light Foundation, and Newman's Own.

We will collect food for the food bank, which is always in need. (Washington State has the second highest unemployment in the US.)

When you come to the October 8 NSHD meeting, please bring some non-perishable items for our local food bank on 6th Avenue. Perhaps some North Slope residents can volunteer to do something in their own block to make a difference for their neighbors.

(www.makeadifferenceday.com or 800-416-3824)

Candidates Forum

There will be a candidates forum for the finalists for Tacoma City Council At- Large Positions 7 & 8 on Monday, October 20. Refreshments will be available at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church at 9th & North J. The forum will start at 7 p.m. (The meeting planned for September 3 was canceled due to a conflict with the City Club's city-wide forum that same day.) Come and be better informed before the November 4 election. For more information, call 272-7222.

Street of Treats

The Stadium Business District is sponsoring its 5th annual Halloween "Street of Treats" on Friday, October 31, from 3 to 6 p.m. Besides offering candy for children, some businesses will have games and activities available. Free tractor-driven hayrides will begin by the Friendly Chevrolet across from Wright Park. All North Slope neighborhood children are welcome. Wear a Halloween costume and join the festivities!



North Slope HD Meeting

The next North Slope Historic District meeting will be Wednesday, October 8 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Refreshments will be available at 6:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 7 p.m. Two experts on plant care will talk to our interests. Don Stewart, a master arborist, horticulturist, and gardener will tell about new advances in protecting plants against disease and pests. Chris Hogan will describe the practice of using beneficial organisms for healthy soils and landscapes.

Come with questions about lawn and garden care for the Q/A session. Remember to bring donations for the food bank as our participation in "Make a Difference Day."

Terrific Tour

The North Slope's architectural tour and tea on August 17 was a sold out event. The tour highlighted five houses in the American Foursquare style. The proceeds from the tour helped pay for the plants in our 8th & K Street park.



Many thanks to Jennifer & Tulsi Dass, Holly & Fred Minniti, Meredith & Erik Neal, Paul Britt & Perry Brown, and Stacey & Chuck Kahler who graciously opened their North Slope homes and served refreshments. The homeowners furnished the treats, so all the ticket price went to the park fund. Thanks also to Patty LeBlanc and Julie Turner who co-chaired the fund raiser.

One woman who attended commented that it was the best home tour she'd ever taken---well organized, small groups, interesting restoration information, and delicious food!

In Praise of the Northwest Room

by Velda McDonald

Have you ever investigated the information available in the Northwest Room at the Tacoma Library? It has a marvelous collection for either personal genealogy or for the genealogy of your house. So most people don't think of the history of their homes as genealogy but in many ways it is the same kind of research using the same sources. And the Northwest Room has resources no other library can supply to its community. The standard items are there and we'll come back to them. The real jewel is Brian Kamens' The Tacoma neighborhoods index information on greater Tacoma neighborhoods, subdivisions, additions and housing projects from the Tacoma Daily Ledger (1883-1937), the Tacoma News Tribune (1938-1941) and other sources (call number NWR 979.778 K128T). A smaller bound version is The Tacoma house and building index information on greater Tacoma homes and buildings from the Tacoma Daily Ledger (1883-1919) with a similar (NWR 979.778 T121T). NWR denotes items available in the North West Room of the main library. All of these materials are research materials and not available for circulation.

The North West Room has R.L. Polk's city directories available. They were first published in 1885 with spouses listed beginning in 1911. It is cross referenced by address for the first time in 1928. If your house was built after 1928 you do not need to know who occupied it to find it. Just look up the address and you will know. You can make this work for older houses, to a point. With the possibility that the person who lived at an address in 1928, was there in 1927, you can work backward. It isn't foolproof but a start.

I used the city directories to add to the information that was available for two of the bed and breakfast houses in another article. For example, the story of the Cushman house apartment conversion places it in the 1940s. The city directory for 1942 listed Frank C Hart as the occupant. I decided to check the telephone directory for 1945. (These are also available in the NWR.) Frank C Hart, Dr. was listed at the 723 N Cushman address, in apartment 3. We could decide, from this information, that the conversion took place in the 40s and that Dr. Hart was responsible. Additional information, Dr. Frank C. Hart had an office in the Fidelity Building with the telephone number, BR(oa)dway 2685. Using the city directories and telephone directories, I found that in 1945, the 619 North K house was occupied by Fredrick D. Dean who was the owner of Dean Drug Co. The Drug Store was located at 2612 6th Ave. The telephone number was MAin 2726. That address puts Dean Drugs in the same block with Shakabrah Java (for newer residents of the North Slope).

FROM THE ARCHIVES

of the National Historic Register

In 1920 the new home of Roland and Marie Borhek was built at 715 North Sheridan on the site of land belonging to Job Carr. Borhek was an architect, originally from the East Coast. He opened his office in Tacoma in 1910, and designed many prominent Tacoma buildings. He was president of the Tacoma Architects Association for 10 years.

Job Carr's two story frame structure with blue-green color faded into original weather beaten boards, was torn down in the spring of 1920. (This was not the original log cabin Carr built when he first came to Tacoma, a replica of which is now in Old Town Park.)

This Job Carr tract house stood for over 40 years. There is no date on record of when this house was first built, but it was likely before 1880, Job Carr died in 1887. His original abstract was signed by President Grant, conveying the land from the US Government to Carr.

Since the land was platted at a different time, the property lines ran at odd angles to the streets. It was replatted prior to the 1920 sale. The property, which was said to have the best view in the city, had a large fruit orchard. Thirty trees remained in 1920 when Borhek built his house.



To look up data in the National Register Archive book, please call Jay Turner at 383-2329.

Adopt-a-Spot News

Thanks to the neighbors who pick up after their pets when walking by our yards! Don't we wish everybody did!

Would you like to use one of your two free yearly pick-ups of junk from the City of Tacoma? Call 573-2468 to request a pick-up of boxes, appliances, carpets, mattresses and other trash from your front parking strip. Let's keep the North Slope looking clean!



The Junk Vehicle, Minimum Building and Structure and Nuisance Code issues are enforced in cooperation with Tacoma CARES. Call 591-5001 to report an unkempt property or to report graffiti.

New Delivery Volunteers Needed

Several "Trolley Times" deliverers have moved, and we need more volunteers. It takes about an hour to deliver approximately 50 papers in a 3 to 6 block area. We have 4 issues a year. If you would like to help deliver, please call 627-4537 to leave you name and phone number. It's another way to meet neighbors as well as get some exercise! Thank you!

Dates to Remember

October 8---7 p.m., North Slope meeting
 October 13---Columbus Day
 October 20---7 p.m., Candidates Forum
 October 25---Make a Difference Day
 October 26---Set clocks back c
 October 31---Halloween
 November 4---Election Day
 November 11---Veterans' Day
 November 27---Thanksgiving
 December 22---Winter begins
 December 25---Christmas
 January 1---New Year's Day



Police/Community News

Tacoma Police Sector 2 staff are: Lt. Ruiz (591-5697), CLO Stark (594-1837), CLO Rush (594-7961), and CLO Kothstein (591-5290). CLO Kothstein sends along the following information about home security:

Keep in mind that summer is waning and darkness comes earlier as fall approaches. Soon we'll be setting back the clocks an hour and it will be dark by 5 p.m. Take the time to inspect the exterior lighting of your home to see if everything is still in working order. Have bushes or tree branches encroached into the path of the view of your home, virtually blocking out the view of your house and light emitted? Sometimes the street lighting can be sufficient, but that's frequently not the case. Take a good look at your house when it's dark out, and ask yourself if you are comfortable with the lighting, and check to see if the neighbor can see the house.

If you feel it's too dim with the bulbs you are using, think about bumping up the wattage. Be careful about overkill. High wattage tungsten halide lighting is great for parking lots, commercial applications, and business districts. But it will certainly detract from the aesthetics of your house, fry the retinas of anyone who looks at your house too long, keep the next door neighbors awake, and probably attract tons of moths.

Also, many people put a lot of faith in motion detectors for their lighting. There is nothing wrong with them, but keep in mind that if a prowler has activated the motion detector, your property line has been breached, and more than likely your home has been cased by potential burglars. Another available option is photo-electric cell switches that will turn the lights on when the lighting dims to a certain level. It can be a real balancing act between security and what looks good. Certainly nothing is 100% failsafe, but lighting is an important part of making your home less attractive to burglars.



The Back Page...

North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:

Victoria Hankwitz	404-1061
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Brian & Betsy Johnson	
Bill Johnston	627-6860
Dan & Angie Klein	272-0938
Chuck & Stacy Kahler	779-8757
Nick Kristensen & Patty LeBlanc	272-2884
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Bev & Charles Lord	572-5742
Velda McDonald	627-4192
Judy Martin	572-3059
Mitch Robinson	272-0165
Barbara & Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Marilyn Torgerson	627-4537
Julie Turner	383-2329

Candidates Forum

Tacoma City Council At-Large Positions 7 & 8
Monday, October 20 - 7 pm
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
for information, call 272-7222

Don't forget to order your National Historic Register plaque. Cost is \$50 and you need to order it from Ralph Tomberg at 572-1532.



Thank you to:

Tacoma Cares

for the printing of the newsletter. We appreciate your support.

National Night Out - Alternate Plan B

Plans for National Night out in our park August 5 were changed at the last minute due to the first raindrops Tacoma had seen in three weeks! Jay & Julie Turner graciously opened their house for the 55 neighbors who ventured out. There were lots of goodies to share and friends to visit.

Thanks to Bev Lord and the committee who planned the neighborhood event. See you on the first Tuesday of August in 2004 for the next National Night Out, and let's hope for a warm, sunny evening!



A Visit with Tacoma's Past

Michael Sullivan explores Tacoma's architecture in a presentation on October 7, at 7 pm in the Olympic Room at the Main Library. Mr. Sullivan will discuss the blossoming of formal architecture in Tacoma during the first decade of the 20th Century.

North Slope Historic District Meeting "Plant Care"

Wednesday, October 8 - 7 p.m.
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
See you there!



The North Slope Historic District is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele.