



# Trolley Times



Volume # 34

*News of Tacoma's North Slope Historic District*

*National Register of Historic Places*

Jan-Feb-Mar 2004

## Sesquicentennial

The Territory of Washington celebrated its sesquicentennial (150 years) on November 11, 2003, Washington was a territory from March 2, 1853 until it became a state November 11, 1889.

In 1853 there were 2000 corporations filed in the territory. Today 114 of those still exist. Twenty of those are churches, including Immanuel Presbyterian.

At a ceremony in November, Secretary of State Sam Reed presented a Certificate with the Great Seal of the Territory of Washington to Immanuel's pastor, Becca Parkins. The seal shows a lady of hope pointing to the word "Alki," meaning "the future" or "by and by."



## NSHD Non-Profit Status

In early December the North Slope Historic District was incorporated as a non-profit in the State of Washington. The Steering Committee is now in the process of completing the paper work to be recognized by the IRS as a non-profit, eligible for tax deductible contributions.

This decision to incorporate came after several years of discussion. There appear to be several advantages for the North Slope Historic District neighborhood to be incorporated. The IRS application will be completed this winter.

## North Slope HD Meeting

The next North Slope Historic District meeting will be Monday, February 23, at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th & J Streets. Refreshments will be available at 6:30 p.m. and the program will start at 7.

First on the program will be Julie Anderson, new Tacoma City Council Member At-Large. She will need to leave before 7:30 to attend another meeting.

The evening's main speaker is Reuben McKnight, the new Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer, who has taken over from Jennifer Schreck. Reuben was acting coordinator of the Pioneer Square Preservation District in Seattle. He served a term on Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board, and had worked with Historic Seattle, a non-profit authority that rehabilitates historic buildings. He has degrees in archaeology, anthropology, and urban planning.

Reuben will be speaking about the Preservation Office and North Slope interests in remodeling, design review, and community planning.

Come to meet our new Preservation Officer and learn how we can work together. Bring your questions for Reuben to answer.

## Park News

Metropolitan Parks has taken back the maintenance of our North 8th & K park as of December 6. They will do the mowing and watering, but we will be responsible for weeding.

Thanks to Bernie's Lawn Service for last summer's volunteer maintenance, and to the neighbors on Nick Kristensen's park committee who helped during Metro Park's budget cutbacks.





## You Can Bed & Breakfast in Your Neighborhood

by Velda McDonald

Beginning in Europe, bed and breakfasts have been around for a long time. They were traditionally a room in the family's home. The guest shared the bathroom with other members of the family. It was considered a less expensive way to travel but in return provided contact with people of the community. It is still a popular way for many people to travel and meet local people. For confirmation, just check out some of the travel programs on PBS.

Several years ago the idea of the bed and breakfast arrived in the United States. But being Americans, we have, in many instances, "updated the concept". From the room or two, with the shared family bath, we developed several varieties of the bed and breakfast. It is still possible to find the original—a few years ago a popular magazine published an article about the listing services that helped the householder avoid advertising that he, or she, was regularly renting a room. (This avoided some problems with leases, in some places, and taxes in others.) But we have also developed the bed and breakfast inn. This is the large house that has been remodeled to provide each room with its own bath. Two places with shared baths, that I think of today, are camp grounds, Crater Lake Lodge and Edgefield Farms. I understand that the desire for private baths has even influenced travel accommodations in Europe and the British Isles.

Did you know that there are four bed and breakfast homes in the North Slope Historic District? They are as varied as our neighborhood. If you begin on I Street and work your way up hill, you will start with the Geiger Victorian Bed & Breakfast at 912 North I. It is a wonderfully restored Victorian structure. Featured in *Victorian Decorating & Lifestyle* magazine; "America's Painted Ladies"; News Tribune, Tacoma WA "Making History a Home"; HGTV's "Restore America" and it has been on the Tacoma Historical Society's Grand Homes Tour. In June it was on the Red Cross Garden Tour. It is owned by Jane & Skip Easley (383-3504) who did all of the restoration work.

If we continue up the hill to North K and over toward North 6th, you will find the second bed and breakfast in the North Slope Historic District. It is The Plum Duff House Bed & Breakfast at 619 North K. The house is one of architect C.A. Darmer's many structures in Tacoma. It was built for Col. William S. Skank, the cashier for the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Co. and Notary Public, in 1901. A note in the index in the Northwest Room tells us that the plans for the house are available at the University of Washington in the Special Collections Department. Kip Duff was the person who developed the house for its bed and breakfast role. It may have been two or three apartments when she purchased it. This was done in several of the large homes, with the blessing of Tacoma's city fathers, in the 1940s. Now called The Aussie Plum Duff Bed & Breakfast, it is currently owned by Tuli and Jennifer Dass (752-8175). Yes, there is a tie to Australia for the Dasses, but you'll have to ask.

To get to the next bed and breakfast, we'll walk back to 8th, turn left and walk up to Cushman. The address is 723 North Cushman but the door does face North 8th. This house was built in 1892 for Col. Clinton A. Snowden, who became editor of the Tacoma Daily Ledger. He had been the editor of the Chicago Sun. Col. Snowden was the author of "History of

There is no information about the architect, contractor, or builder available. This is an interesting house, for other reasons. Eveline Smith (383-0595) purchased the house several years ago intending to live there and manage the rest of the apartments in the house. A few years ago she wrote an article for the "Trolley Times" explaining her decision to convert some of the apartments to a bed and breakfast operation. Eveline probably had the first bed and breakfast in the North Slope.

For the last stop on our tour, we will continue up North 8th to Ainsworth and cross to the opposite side of the street. The Dutch Embassy Bed & Breakfast is on the corner, at 1601 North 8th. The house was built about 1892/4 for John R.L. Cort van der Linden. The architect was C. A. Darmer, G. L. Fries the contractor, and H. E. Knatvold, the builder. During his residence, Cort van der Linden's brother would be the Prime Minister of the Netherlands (1913-18). The house received the title Dutch Embassy when it "entertained the community" during the brother's visit. Today it is described as "a stately Queen Anne Victorian." Probably its tower is the most Victorian feature of the house. One of the interesting facts about the occupants of the house, Cort van der Linden lived in it for about six years and then returned to the Netherlands. (He had been in Tacoma for a longer period.)

The second family to own the house were the John Donahues. He was president of the Donahue-Caithness Lumber Co. and president of Mineral Lake Lumber Co. He also served on the city council, at one point. The Donahues owned the house from about 1900 thru 1927. They apparently began the remodeling process before the house was ten years old—part of the porch was enclosed to become part of the parlor. It took the current owners, Ken and Velda McDonald (627-4192), ten years to complete furnishing the house. It was a do-it-yourself project that included upholstering many of the pieces themselves.

You've completed both the walk about the North Slope Historic District's bed & breakfasts and the walk from the North to South boundaries of the district. Walking back is all down hill.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES . . . .

of the National Historic Register

In 1896 Ambrose Russell, one of Tacoma's foremost early architects, designed and built his own residence at 1222 North 4th Street. He lived in the North 4th and M area until he moved to American Lake in 1908. The two-story Queen Anne style house was clad in horizontal wood clapboard, with a gambrel roof with gable extension.

Russell was born in India where his Scottish father was a missionary. His architectural training was in Paris. He came to America in 1884, and apprenticed in Boston, Kansas City, and St. Louis. He came to Tacoma in 1892, and was the architect of many different styled Tacoma houses, some of which are in the North Slope. He also was involved in designing the Governor's Mansion, the Rust Mansion, and the Washington State Guard Armory. (picture, page 3)



## Adopt-a-Spot News

After a winter break the litter pick-up on North I Street will start again on Saturday, March 6, at 10 a.m. The Adopt-a-Spot program of Tacoma CARES helps us keep the North Slope looking more attractive.

Volunteers interested in helping can meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot behind Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th and J. If it is raining, we'll try the next Saturday, March 13.

Litter is dropped by those walking, and also from vehicles driving past. There is always a lot to pick up. Pierce Transit has placed some more garbage baskets on the bus stop poles on I as part of a grant the North Slope received from the Neighborhood Councils. When weather improves, we'll be getting some benches and bus shelters as part of the grant.

Thanks to the North Slope neighbors who gather litter when walking in their neighborhood. Every little bit helps!



Ambrose Russell house, 1222 North 4th Street

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

## Police/Community News

Tacoma Police Sector 2 numbers are:

Lt. Ruiz (591-5697)  
CLO Kothstein (591-5290)  
CLO Stark (594-1837)  
CLO Rush (594-7961)

The Sector 2 office at Metro Parks, 4702 S. 19th Street, will be closing at the end of January. They will be relocating to the Wright Park Community Center. They hope to be operational the first week in February. Phone numbers will remain the same. They expect to be there until the permanent station at North 26th and Baltimore is constructed in 2006. We'll have the temporary station nearer to us for two years.

Interested in starting a block watch in your neighborhood? Safe Streets has a free training on Tuesday, February 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Slavonian Hall, 2360 North 30th. For more information, call 272-6824.

Homeowners who are remodeling can donate reusable building materials (lumber, bricks, doors, windows, etc.) to the City's Recycling Center at the Landfill, 3510 South Mullen. You can also purchase reusable materials at the ReHarvest Center at 1113 St. Paul Avenue. Call 531-5845 for more information.

The Stadium Business District is planning its annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, by the community center building in Wright Park. There will be thousands of candy and dyed eggs. The Easter Bunny will make an appearance at this free event. Children should bring their own baskets.

## Dates to Remember

February 16---Presidents' Day  
February 22---Washington's Birthday  
February 23-- North Slope meeting. 7 p.m.  
February 29---Leap Year Day  
March 6---Litter pick-up, 10 a.m.  
March 17---St. Patrick's Day  
March 20---Spring begins  
April 4---Palm Sunday  
April 4---Daylight Savings Time begins  
April 11---Easter  
April 30--Arbor Day  
April-May---Next newsletter





# The Back Page...

## North Slope Historic District

### Steering Committee:

Victoria Hankwitz	404-1061
Jim Hoard	272-7222
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

### North Slope Historic District Plaque For Individual Homes

The good news: Eighty-nine NSHD homes now have the National Historic District plaques on display. Further good news, we have three additional plaques immediately available at \$50.00 each to the first three persons to call Ralph Tomberg at 572-1532.

The bad news: The NSHD program to procure brass plaques for individual homes to perpetually recognize the District's new status as being on the National Register of Historic Places is changing. We can no longer expect to collect at least 25 orders within a reasonable period of time. Therefore, we will now place orders for a minimum of 10 plaques at the bulk price of \$75.00 per plaque, including shipping, if sufficient orders are submitted within 60 days of this newsletter. If we are unable to reach the 10 order level within that period, we will refund your payment. To order, please provide a check for \$75.00 made out to the NSHD to Ralph Tomberg, 510 N. Sheridan, 98403.

Naturally, if we get sufficient interest to meet a minimum 25 orders within that 60 day period, we will process the order at the old cost of \$50.00 per plaque and refund the \$25.00 difference (encourage your neighbors to participate!).

You may still place an individual order for a single plaque at \$84.10, including shipping, at any time.

Thank you to:

## Tacoma Cares

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

Grant Cooperative Preschool will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 6. For ages 2 to 5, the school is located at 310 North K Street, and the telephone number is 370-1858.

Do you have old cell phones you don't need?

Recycled phones can be given to domestic violence victims to be able to dial 911. Unneeded phones with battery and charger can be donated to Goodwill stations, City of Tacoma Recycling Center, Tacoma Public Utilities Lobby, and Tacoma Municipal Building (2nd floor lobby). For more information call 591-5151 or visit [www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle).

THIS IS A CONTRIBUTING  
PROPERTY IN THE  
NORTH SLOPE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
WHICH IS ON THE  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES

North Slope Historic District Meeting  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
Monday, February 23, 2004  
Refreshments 6:30 p.m.  
Program 7:00 p.m.  
Speakers: Julie Anderson  
& Reuben McKnight  
See you there!



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