



# Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. 501(c)(3) Organization May 2016 Volume 78

## GARDENING IDEAS FEATURED AT MAY PROGRAM

Sharpen your gardening skills at the May program where a Pierce County Master Gardener will be sharing knowledge of spring gardening chores and ideas. Have questions? We will have answers! Need ideas? We have those, too! We'll even have gardening gloves for sale.

Join the NSHD, Inc. for a fun evening of how to take better care of lawns, gardens and shrubs, all courtesy of the Pierce County Master Gardener Speaker Program. The program specializes in sending speakers to talk with groups seeking informative help with gardening problems.

Come prepared to improve your gardening skills, ask your questions and find answers to make your yard healthy and happy this year. We're looking forward to having a good crowd at this meeting, so come and bring a neighbor along.

**May 19, 2016 Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 No. J. St., 7:00**  
**Basement Meeting Room, Entrance on North 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Coffee Hour at 6:30. Program starts at 7 pm.**

## EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE

Join us and have fun celebrating July 4! The 10th annual **North Slope Historic District Children's Parade** starts at 10 a.m. in front of St. Patrick's church, at N. 12th and N. J. Street.

This year's sponsor is **TurnKey Realty**, and we need 2 or 3 parents to help start the parade. **Call Judy Martin at 572-3059 to volunteer.**

TurnKey, at N. 13th and I St, is providing flags for the marchers and treats at the Park. Parents are stationed at each of the intersections as the parade moves slowly east on North J to North 8th, and turns south one block to the North Slope Historic District Park. There, children can play and adults can visit with their neighbors.

Only **non-motorized** vehicles are allowed, but strollers, wagons, trikes and bikes are appropriate, as is just strolling. Many children and vehicles sport red, white and blue decorations. We also need parade watchers to



cheer for the marchers, so bring your lawn chair and wave a flag!

**Thanks Parents and TurnKey!**

# NEW/OLD LOOK FOR THE TROLLEY TIMES

Don't be startled at the look of the newsletter this time. It's the same newsletter, but a different format.

Board Member Gary Johnson has been formatting the Trolley, but has decided to move on to other work for the Board. He will be missed! The Board Directors thank Gary for his work to develop the formatting, and for putting together the puzzle of articles and ads each issue.

This issue returns the Trolley Times to its historic look of **1997**, with the masthead at the top. Our neighborhood organization was then called North Slope Neighborhood Coalition, and the newsletter started in November, 1996.

The Coalition needed a name for the newsletter, so a contest was held to pick a name.

"... And the credit goes to Nick Kristensen! Nick submitted the winning entry of the "Name the Newsletter" contest. From this publication on, our newsletter will officially be the "NSNC Trolley Times". We thank Nick for his submittal and providing our newsletter with an identity."

***The April 2001 issue was the first issue that said, "NSHD Trolley Times". The April 2002 issue, for the first time, had a streetcar in the banner; in fact it had two. One streetcar was used starting April of 2004. The present street car design was first used in the body of the newsletter in 2001 and first used in the banner in Feb 2014.***

## A PEEK AT THE PAST

If you would like to look at old Trolley Times articles, go to our web page at [TacomaNorthSlope.org](http://TacomaNorthSlope.org), then click on "Newsletters and Articles." To the right, click on a button that says "ARCHIVES" for TT Archives.

*Below is an article from the April, 1997 issue, written by a neighborhood resident, Maggie Kelly.*

### 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)

# FROM THE ARCHIVES...

*Taken from the National Register of Historic Places Nomination*

The house at 923 North M St, was the home of Givin G. Hicks, who was a native of Olympia, his grandfather having been among the first settlers to arrive in what was then Oregon Territory – before the days of Washington Territory or State. Colonel Hicks was involved in real estate and building in the "early boom days, but like many others went broke for it." He worked as a collector for the IRS for many years, and then moved to California, where he was "fortunate in oil speculation."

He returned to Tacoma in 1909 a wealthy man, and purchased his brother's home (923 North M), where he would build a "finer home for himself and family." On the site were locust trees planted by him 20 years before, which he claimed were "the first and original locust trees brought to the Northwest by his grandfather 60 years ago."

The residence at 923 N. M St. was completed at a cost of \$8,000 in 1909. The house was designed with nine rooms, and featured "two large fireplaces in the living and dining rooms, and a large billiard room in the attic ...," as well as "quarter-sawn oak finishing" on the main floor, and birds-eye maple in the kitchen. The original architect and builder are unknown.



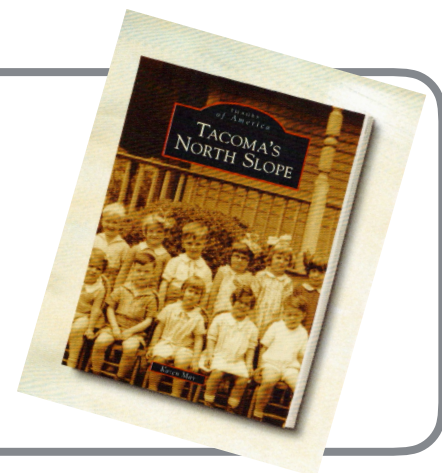
## **FROM THE ARCHIVES - - ALL OF THEM!**

*The NSHD website Library has a collection of all previous "From the Archives" articles. To see the collection, go to the NSHD web page, [TacomaNorthSlope.org](http://TacomaNorthSlope.org) then Newsletters and Articles, then NSHD Library and click on "LIBRARY".*

*Just scroll down to the last chapter and you will find a baker's dozen of past "From the Archives." Look for the one telling of a the wealthy mother moving her house on a barge from Gig Harbor and locating it next door to her daughter's house!*

Read other stories about NSHD in [Tacoma's North Slope](http://Tacoma's North Slope). The book is available in local stores, including the Pacific NW Store in Proctor, Watermark Gifts across from the Post Office on A Street, Kings Books and others. There are some copies in the Northwest Room at the downtown library as well.

Author Karen May: 253-779-0160 or [klmay@wamail.net](mailto:klmay@wamail.net)



## COMING EVENTS

**May 19** NSHD Program Meeting,  
Subject: Gardening

**July 4** Children's Parade – 10am,

**July 9** NSHD Garage Sale

**August 2** National Night Out  
Get to know your neighbors!

**August 13** Annual Clean-Up,  
Call Geoff to volunteer: 627-4408

**August 19** NSHD Program Meeting,  
Subject: Safety

**November 17** NSHD Holiday Program

*Look for details of these events in  
coming Trolley Times issues.*

## GET LANDMARKS' NOTICES

*If you'd like to know when a NSHD  
property owner applies to make  
changes to a house, or to build  
something new, go here:*

*[landmarks@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:landmarks@cityoftacoma.org)*

*Ask to be put on the list for LPC  
notices and agendas.*

*Or, call Reuben McKnight  
591-5220 with the same request or  
to ask questions.*

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## NSHD GARAGE SALE ON JULY 9th

It's time to clean out your closets and attic in  
anticipation of the annual NSHD Garage Sale:  
Saturday, July 9th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Here's how it works:** Maps listing participating  
homes are handed out the day of the sale at  
515 North M Street; shoppers won't receive the  
maps until 9 a.m., so you won't have early birds.

**To Participate:** Fill out the form below.

**Attach \$8** cash or a check made out to NSHD.  
This fee helps cover the cost of advertising and  
flyers; any additional funds go to NSHD, Inc.

Contact Judy Martin with questions, 572-3059.

## North Slope Coffee House At Stadium Thriftway

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Offer ends June 18, 2016

NSHD Garage Sale 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Where is sale? Circle one: Parkway or Alley

One item you like to feature in the map and advertising?  
(example: baby clothes, plants)

Mail or drop off by 7/6/2016 (**with \$8**) to Judy Martin at  
**515 N. M St.**

# From the Editor...

I was walking on North J Street one day when I saw a yard-waste container with a blue tag. I read on it, that "...the container should be removed from the curb or alley after pick up." I had forgotten that containers left out take up parking spaces, and, frankly, they don't really make good scenery on our streets. There are a few more tidbits listed below.

Below is what I found from the City's Website for Solid Waste:

- Set container out by 7 AM on your pickup day.
- Set container four feet from any obstructions, such as other containers, vehicles, telephone poles, fences and buildings.
- **Container Placement**
  - For curbside pickup place the container in the street or alley.
  - For Call-2-Haul the container must be placed on the front street.
- Container must weigh 250 pounds or less and the lid must sit flat on top. If you overfill your container, you will be charged an additional fee.
- If you leave extra garbage within five feet of your container, we will pick it up and charge your account an additional fee.
- **Remove container(s) from the curb or alley after contents have been collected.**

If you forget to put your container out in time for pickup, call Solid Waste at (253) 502-2100. They will try to pick it up the same day. An additional fee may apply. **Julie Turner, Editor**



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(253) 756-7200 [teamtuttle@tkrei.com](mailto:teamtuttle@tkrei.com)

Turn Key is a proud supporter of the North End 4th of July Parade! We hope to see you there!



# IS YOUR HOME HISTORIC?

By Jay Turner

What is the definition of an historic house? You will be surprised to find out that the answer has nothing to do with size or style or location. To understand the answer, let's start at the beginning.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, was a U. S. Senate bill sponsored by the late Henry M.

"Scoop"

Jackson, a Senator from the State of Washington.

It was signed into law by Lyndon

Johnson in

Oct. 1966. The

passage of the act established the National Register of Historic Places, with the register administered by the National Park Service.

The **National Register of Historic Places** is the official list of U.S. cultural resources worthy of preservation and is part of the National Historic Preservation Act. Properties listed in the Register include districts (like the NSHD), sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

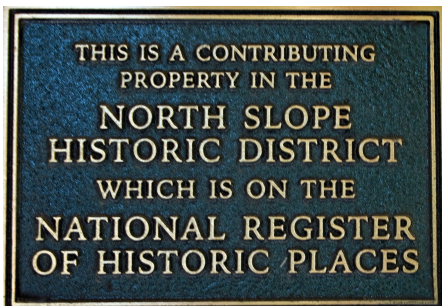
The NPS delegates authority to each state to review all nominations. The State Dept. of Archeology and Historic Preservation does that for our state. In Nov. of 2002, the NSHD was nominated for the National Register and was placed on the Register on Feb. 7, 2003.

The NPS defines an historic property as one built in the period of significance. There! That's the answer to the question! **If your house was built in the period of significance, by definition, it is historic.**

What is the period of significance for NSHD? The period of significance for Tacoma's NSHD begins in 1881, the date of the oldest, still-standing house in the District. By the end of

1953, homes that fit the form and feel of the "older" homes we know in our neighborhood stopped being built. The answer to the question, is your house historic, depends on when it was built. If it was built in the NSHD between 1881 and 1953, it is a NSHD historic home - as defined by the National Park Service's Register of Historic Places.

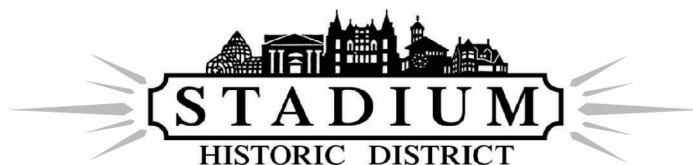
In the next *Trolley Times* - - -  
Is your house **CONTRIBUTING?**



**Mark your home with pride.** We have a supply of North Slope plaques. These 5-by-7-inch bronze plaques identify your property as part of the North Slope Historic District and National Register. Bronze Plaques cost \$75 each, including with tax. To purchase your plaque, contact:

Karen May: Phone: 253-779-0160

Email: [klmay@wamail.net](mailto:klmay@wamail.net)



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# BRIDGING THE GULCHES

By 1888, it was clear to the Tacoma land speculator Allen C. Mason, that bridges were needed over the gulches that bisected the land west of downtown in several key places. Specifically, Mr. Mason wanted a bridge over Buckley Gulch, where North 21st St. dead-ended, as well as over Garfield Gulch on Tacoma Avenue, at about N. 6th St. Mason needed to open up routes to the west of the downtown area, so buyers could be enticed to purchase his large land holdings west of downtown. Roads were being graded and improved, but the two gulches were obstacles to development. And, the city was slow to act.

The gulch didn't help development in Buckley's Addition either, which was just getting started in the area between N. 21st St. and North 8th, and from Steele St. to Pine. North Steele and North Prospect were accessible from N. 21st, but beyond there the streets which ended at N. 21st

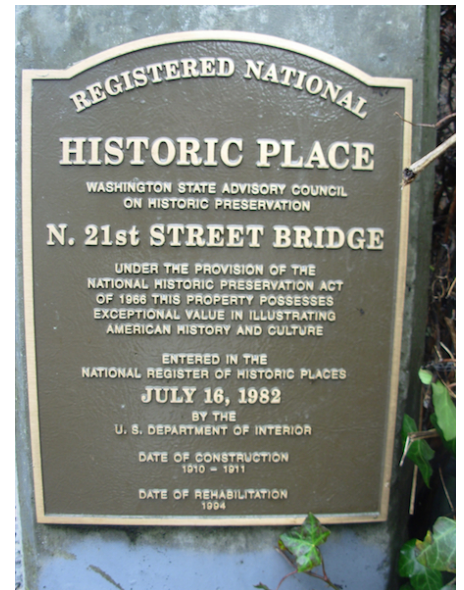
could only go west. However, there were routes into Buckley's Addition from the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue trolley line, and from the the trolley line from N K St along N 12th. But these routes did not solve Mason's need for easier ways into what is now the Proctor neighborhood, which was to the north and west of both Buckley and Garfield gulches.

So, Allen Mason decided to build the bridges himself and give them to the City. Mason figured to recoup the cost of the bridges as his lands west of the bridges sold.

And, he was right – his lots sold quickly when the wooden bridges were built. So did the lots in the north end of Buckley's Addition and along N 21st; the Bates Store was built, for instance, in 1904, on the corner of N 21<sup>st</sup> and Oakes St. When the trolley tracks were laid

and the cars running on N I St/N 21st St, Buckley's Addition lots and Mason's large holdings further west had easy access to routes south to downtown. People could also ride to the west, as well as to the northwest to the new Point Defiance Park, just recently donated to the City by the military in 1888. Mobility via trolley spurred residential development.

Allen Mason's wooden bridge over Buckley Gulch was replaced by a new concrete bridge in 1910; it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. An identical bridge was also built over the Gulch at Yakima Avenue, but Garfield Gulch was filled, rather than bridged so a road could be built out Tacoma Avenue to the west.



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