



Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. Nov. 2020
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SADLY, NOVEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAM CANCELED IN 2020

The Covid-19 virus has forced the Board of Directors of the North Slope Historic District to cancel the usual November Holiday Program this year. This is the third of our programs canceled in 2020. Unfortunately, it is impossible for us to even predict whether we can have programs in 2021.

It has been impressive to see the good cheer I've encountered walking around our neighborhood, and from my front porch from passersby. So many walkers - old and young, parents with children and

so many people walking dogs! We should be grateful for the unusually sunny summer we enjoyed.

If you are short of things to read, remember that the NSHD website has many articles written over the last 25 years about our District. There are articles that tell how and why a group of us started an historic district, and how it grew - and what we all learned along the way. Here is the website:

TacomaNorthSlope.org

August Clean-Up Day Was a Big Hit

The annual Clean-Up Day in August that NSHD, Inc. has sponsored, in coordination with the City's Environmental Services Dept., was changed to a drive-by and pick up trash by Solid Waste trucks in 2020. And, it was a hit! It was certainly less work for our NSHD volunteers, too, and much easier for residents to participate.

In fact, several residents commented that they did not miss the waiting in their vehicle, in a line that was often several blocks long outside of Jason Lee Middle School so that they could drive up and deliver their trash.

The cleanup program was also much more successful this year in volume of trash hauled away. For example: Last year, 228 households (7% of eligible residential solid waste customers) participated in the program while this year, 842 households (26% of eligible solid waste customers) participated. With the increase in participation, the tonnage of garbage hauled away more than **doubled** from 29.76 tons last year to 66.68 this year. And, the number of old refrigerators hauled away tripled from 9 last year to 27 this year. Interestingly, the number of tires hauled away this year (72) is about the same as last year (66).

However, according to Solid Waste Department's *initial* estimates, the average cost of cleanups has gone up about 120% with curbside collection. That does not include the increased cost of running the trucks. Environmental Services is still assessing what will be done with neighborhood clean-ups for next year.

So, we'll need to wait to see what the City's budget for next year does to this new version of the Clean-Up.

	2019	2020
No. of Attendees	228	842
No. of Possible Attendees		3211
No. of Large Item Stops		102
No. of Loads		21
Garbage Tonnage (Total) @ \$39.00/ton	29.76	66.68
No. of Refrigerators	9	27
Tires (Quantity)	66	72

RESEARCHING TACOMA'S OLD HOUSES

Taken from a Tacoma Public Library's Northwest Room Article - with permission

The City of Destiny has also long been known as the City of Fine Homes. An abundance of these fine homes survives today; from grand mansions of the 1880s, simple but elegant bungalows of the 1910s, to Spanish Mission stucco houses of the 1920s. According to U.S. census figures, nearly 50% of Tacoma's homes were built before World War II.

So how do you discover the history of your house? Can you determine who built it, and when and why? Although you may not find an old photograph of your house, and the chances of locating architectural plans are slight, many facts can be uncovered. The following sources available in the Northwest Room can lead you to answers.

The Northwest Room

Located in the Main Library's original 1903 Carnegie Library, the Northwest Room is home to an extensive collection of material on Tacoma and the Pacific Northwest and genealogy, including books, photographs, newspapers, manuscript collections, unique online resources, and much more. Visit us to research your Northwest history project, find information about your older Tacoma home, view thousands of local photographs and postcards, and research your family tree.

Tacoma-Pierce County Buildings Index

This comprehensive source indexes home construction news in Tacoma newspapers from 1883 through



1963. Look up your address to see if your house received newspaper coverage during its construction. It will list the architect, contractor and building style for your address, if known. It will indicate if architectural plans for your house are known to exist. It indexes the Tacoma Public Library photography collections for photographs of Tacoma homes. It may even reveal a murder, suicide, party, wedding or other "event" that took place in your house. The Tacoma/Pierce County Buildings Index also indexes over 200 books related to Tacoma architecture or history.

The Tacoma Neighborhoods Index

A guide to information about greater Tacoma area neighborhoods, subdivisions, additions and housing projects. Important histories of our area include:

History of Pierce County by W.P. Bonney, *Tacoma; Its History and Its Builders* by Herbert Hunt and *South on the Sound* by Murray Morgan.

Tacoma Cultural Resource Survey

The City of Tacoma's Historic Preservation Department surveyed Tacoma's neighborhoods for historic properties in 1982. Look up your address for a listing. A separate survey of the Hilltop neighborhood was completed in 1993.





Tacoma City Directories

R.L. Polk's city directories list the residents of your house. Occupations are also usually listed. The first directory was published in 1885. Spouses are listed starting in 1911. Cross-referencing by address started in 1928.

Image Archive

Street scenes, aerial views, and other photographs are an invaluable source for neighborhood history. You can search our online Image Archive for images of your neighborhood.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Sanborn Maps outline structures block by block for most of the city. Consulting maps for different years may reveal additions or remodeling that took place. You may also discover that your house previously went by a different address. Studying the history of your street, your neighborhood and your city will help "flesh out" the story of your home. Was it built near a streetcar line? What schools and churches did local residents attend? Were all the houses on your street built at the same time?

Tacoma-Pierce County Obituary Index (<http://cdm17061.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p17061coll3>)

A home is more than bricks, wood or mortar. Who lived in your house? What brought them to Tacoma? Consult the Tacoma-Pierce County Obituary Index at the Tacoma Public Library to see if a former resident is listed. Relatives of former occupants can sometimes be located from information found in obituaries. They may even be willing to share old photographs of your house with you.



Local History & Biography Index (<http://cdm17061.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p17061coll12>)

Find general news articles on local individuals and companies. Your home's architect or contractor may also be listed. What other buildings did they design in Tacoma? What was their training? How prominent was their practice? Were they known for a particular style?

Newspapers / Clipping files

Articles cited in our indexes are available on microfilm in the Northwest Room. We have Tacoma daily papers from 1883 to the present, as well as several smaller run Pierce County and regional papers. Clipping files contain articles arranged by topic. Files are organized alphabetically by subject in the Northwest Room.

Manuscript Collections

These discrete collections of papers and records collected by local individuals and organizations uniquely speak to the history of our area. Finding aids to the Northwest Room's growing collection of manuscript collections can be found online via ArchivesWest (<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/>).

FROM THE ARCHIVES . . .

Taken from the National Register of Historic Places, NSHD Nomination

The house at 502 N. L Street was built in the American Foursquare style, and was the home of George H. Plummer, Chief Draughtsman of the Land Dept., Northern Pacific Railroad. The home was built in 1901 for \$3,000.

The first floor had a "parlor, library, dining room and kitchen. On the second floor are four bedrooms and a bathroom. The parlor has a large pressed brick mantel..." Garage was added later.

George Plummer was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in 1868. He came to Tacoma as a 21-year-old, to form a partnership with his brother Fred, who was a civil engineer and surveyor. (Fred Plummer would later become the chief geographer in the forest service of the U.S.) George was appointed a land examiner by the NPRR, was their chief draughtsman, and served as road land agent for the states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Plummer was very involved in the State Historical Society. Plummer was a serious collector of historical autographs and his large collection included an addressed envelope from Queen Victoria and from Albert, Prince of Wales; autographs from all the Civil War generals but two, as well as Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, and Robert Browning, to name just a few autographs in his collection.



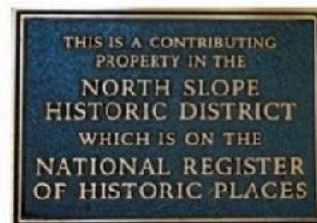
502 North L St. c.1977

FOR SALE NSHD BRONZE PLAQUE

Want a Plaque for Your House?

If you would like a bronze plaque to mark your house as part of the NSHD National Register of Historic Places, the NSHD, Inc. Board has them for sale. Plaques are 5 x 7 and cost \$80 each.

253-779-0160 or klmay@centurylink.net



We who live in the North Slope Historic District have the obligation to help preserve our homes, block, street and District for the future.

Winter Garden Care 2020

By Angie Clark

Many local homeowners have been enjoying their gardens during the pandemic and quarantine this year and may not be familiar with gardening in the winter months.

November, December, January and February are such slow months for actual gardening but a few important things should be kept in mind. For instance:

1. The lawn may still need *mowing* if the temperature stays mild and there are always weeds that like to keep growing and need to be nipped in the bud!

2. Fallen *leaves should be removed* from the lawn and paths and used as mulch for flower beds and to protect tender plants like roses, peonies, dahlias and veggie beds.



3. *Garlic can be planted* in November for a summer crop.

4. If you have pots of perennials and/or shrubs, these should be protected by placing them close to the house or garage or placed in the garage, shed or basement. If they are placed inside, do not forget to make sure they do not dry out by checking the soil and keeping it moist during the winter. If a dramatic drop in temperature to freezing or below is predicted, wrap your pots in old blankets or tarps to prevent the roots

from freezing and the pots from breaking, and mulch the plants.

5. If you have forgotten to plant your spring bulbs, you can still do that as long as the ground is not frozen. I recommend putting the bulb a little deeper than suggested, especially the tulips and crocus that the squirrels love to dig up and cove the area with compost or leaves.

6. This is a good time to *clean and sharpen* your gardening tools to be ready for use in the spring.

7. From January on we are blessed to have so many blooming shrubs like camellias, witch hazel, daphne odora, and clematis Armandii. After blooming they can be *pruned back*, remembering to *cut the three 'D's*, the dead, diseased and damaged. (I like to add a 4th 'D' I call the disobedient, the branches that are straggling or where I don't want them!.

8. Finally this is a good time to decide what seeds you want to grow and where, and what changes you may want to make, so get out the seed and plant catalogs and plan away.

Happy Gardening in 2021!

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LET'S CREATE A BEAUTIFICATION TEAM!

By Tom Giske, Chairman of the Beautification Committee

We need to create a team. Think of this not as a chore, but a chance to get out and have some fun with your neighbors making our community a better place to live. I have divided the district into 19 sections, each of which includes between three and ten blocks. I am seeking someone who lives within each section to raise their hand and claim their territory! Hopefully this will give us a team of 20 to manage the effort. I say manage because I expect each section will include other volunteers who will work with the section leader.

The role of section leader will take three to five hours per month and serve as the communication link to that portion of our neighborhood.

- Litter Patrol: about once a month, find a partner or two to walk the area and pick up any litter that you find. I have found this to be fun – we really do not have much litter, and our neighbors appreciate the effort. You will be surprised at the encouragement you get. [Time: 2 hours per month to participate, or less if you organize others to do it.]

- Maintain any traffic circles within your section. Volunteers are already maintaining the traffic circles, so the effort is to coordinate with them, and ensure they have back-ups when necessary. [Time: half an hour per month to coordinate]

- Help with annual neighborhood clean-up: Once every year the city will take away unwanted junk. We ensure our neighbors know about it and help make sure the day goes well. [Time: Two days per year – one planning with the team, and one for the day itself.]



- Record issues that need attention:

Let me know if you see something that I should report to a city department, such as an abandoned car, or improper external work being done on a home's structural elements protected by NSHD's ordinance. [Time: half an hour per month.]

Now for the really fun part. We have the opportunity to create programs of our own. Some of the ideas that people have suggested include finding volunteers to serve as garden mentors for those who want ideas or need to solve a problem in their garden, an award program for beautiful landscapes, a tree planting festival and self-guided tree walking tour, an annual garden tour, a barn raising day, a public art program, and special art for trash cans.

Please call or text me at 425-301-5925, or just send me an email at tgiske@gmail.com, to let me know that you are interested in joining the team. **I promise you, this will be fun!**

A Tale of Three Samaritans...

... and what they did in our neighborhood

By Harry McAlister

This past summer my wife Diane and I went for a walk, as we are wont to do. We went quite a few blocks east on North J and then went up to North K to return home. We walked at a good pace and everything was going well until we were at North 12th, going for home. Somehow I managed to totally stub my right foot and went down **hard**, on my face, chest and knees.

I am getting on in years and realize that falling can be a common occurrence. So, I have at times, thought "what would I do if I was falling - quickly brace myself, put out my hands, and etc., etc." Well, having now having gone through the experience, I feel it took about half a second for my face to get from six feet in the air to direct contact with rough sidewalk.

By this time, you are probably wondering how the Good Samaritans are involved - they are why I am

writing this article. Now, on our return trip home, I noted three young teenage girls walking ahead of us. I also noticed that they were having a good time with each other, but their good time came to a sudden halt when my plaintive wail went up!

I suspect they were wondering what they should do and likely saying, "We'd better go and help him get up." When they came back to where I'd fallen, my first thought was that they are just young girls and won't be able to do much. *But, I was wrong!* They came running, and with Diane's help and my puny efforts, they all helped me pry myself off the sidewalk.

I would like to express my gratitude to these young women, so if anyone knows them, please have them *write the editor*, telling how I could contact them. *Isn't it wonderful to have great people such as these folks walking in our neighborhood?*



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TacomaNorthSlope.org the NSHD web page

TROLLEY TIMES. The NSHD newsletter, published Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. The current edition can always be found at: <https://goo.gl/5sdbHq>

North Slope NEWS. Sign up on NSHD web page, and have items of general NSHD news, events, and the on-line *Trolley Times* sent to you.

Send your questions, comments and remarks to news@TacomaNorthSlope.org



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