

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER



Connections for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

HERITAGE REFLECTOR

Fall 2013

Volume XIII

Issue III

Vision

To be a destination heritage museum and research facility that enhances community identity through the preservation and stewardship of the Eastside's history.

Mission

To steward Eastside history by actively collecting, preserving, and interpreting documents and artifacts, and by promoting public involvement in and appreciation of this heritage through educational programming and community outreach.

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The Story Behind a Bike

Sherry Grindeland
Trustee

Barbara Fox Curran always intended to restore her old bicycle. She kept it through a long and happy marriage, through moves around the world, and finally, for the last 3 ½ decades, in the garage of her home in Bellevue's Woodcreek complex.

Fox recently moved to The Gardens senior living complex in downtown Bellevue. As part of the downsizing, she donated the bike to Eastside Heritage Center. The bike has an interesting track record.

On July 2, 1940, as part of the Lake Washington Floating Bridge opening festivities, Fox pedaled the bike in a race from Seattle to Mercer Island. She was 18. And she zipped by the mostly-boy crowd to finish first.

Her memories of the day have dimmed. She doesn't recall if she won any prizes that day. But she does remember that her family didn't know she was headed to the bridge opening.

Former Seattle Times columnist Don Duncan remembers the race well. He wrote about it in a 1990's column.

"Hearts pounding, my buddy and I hunched over our bulky, balloon-tired bikes, impatient for Gov. Clarence D. Martin to cut the ribbon so we could race across the brand new Lacey V. Murrow Floating Bridge.

(...) we were going to make history by leading the first official charge to the Mercer Island side. Imagine, a concrete bridge that floats right here in the center of the universe, Seattle, Washington.

We didn't win the great bike race, my buddy and I. A mere girl, astride a new-fangled bike with skinny tires and a gear shift, blew past us and was interviewed by a radio announcer. It hurt our pride, of course, her being a girl and all..."

"The boys were younger than I was," Barbara said. "But I was used to riding my bike a lot. I rode it everywhere. That's how I got along."

Fox believes that was the same summer she had a more memorable experience on the



Above: Barbara Fox Curran, ca. 1940.

bike. She and a friend rode from University Avenue and 22nd in Seattle to Tacoma and spent the night. The next morning they peddled to Mount Rainier. They spent the night at the ranger station in the park. In the morning, they headed downhill and were home in Seattle by dark.

"It was safe to ride on the streets then," she said. "We didn't worry about cars because it was crowded. And

Continued on page 2...

...Bike, continued from pg. 1

those cars and drivers that were around were polite.”

Fox, who was born Sept. 12, 1921, spent most of her youth in Seattle with the exception of a brief stint in California and a couple years in Medina. She attended fourth and fifth grade in Medina. She remembers walking to school there and said downtown Bellevue was open fields then.

Both sets of her grandparents were early Seattle residents. Her paternal grandfather was on the board of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. Her grandmother Lucinda Diane Horback told her stories about coming west on the Oregon Trail in 1857.

Fox graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1938 and started classes at the University of Washington. She had no desire for an office job – too much sitting. She preferred something active so she began working at Sandpoint Naval Air Station taking care of airplanes. There she caught the flying bug and always an adventurer; she earned her pilot's license. She flew a Piper Cub and was the only girl in a class of 10 men.

She married a young Navy Officer on May 25, 1942. After the war, Navy life took them to Italy, France and Japan, and a lot of time on the East Coast. They had four children. When school was out each summer, Fox would load the children and suitcases in the family car and drive cross country back to Seattle. Upon retirement, they moved back to the Northwest.

Moving to a retirement home has its advantages, Fox said. There are a lot of classes. “I like to keep busy. I particularly like the exercise class.”

Wanted!

By Nancy Sheets, *Volunteer*

It is a fact, Bellevue, along with the rest of the Eastside, is growing up and out, and forever changing; and as an organization we must keep up.

Questions are being asked, and we should have the answers. We are requesting your help in keeping our collection and research archive up-to-date.

Here are some of the subjects we need more information on:

Parks - community and neighborhood

Neighborhoods - e.g. Surrey Downs and Sherwood Forest

Performing Arts, Entertainment, Activities - including programs, pictures with people participating, and information on venues (theaters, movie complexes, ice rinks, bowling alleys, etc.)

Schools - e.g. Odle, Interlake, Newport, Sammamish

Shopping Centers - e.g. Lake Hills, Eastgate and Kelsey Creek

Churches - old and new

Businesses - from all around the Eastside

Pictures and information on any of these would be greatly appreciated. And remember, history is happening now – so in addition to information from the “old days”, we also need information from more current times.

We need all we can get from the past to the present to answer the questions – and inform and educate. Thank you!

Recent Accessions

Thank you for your donations to the collection:

Trisha Nerney

- Photos and archives related to the Easton family of Bellevue

Jane Morton

- 1980 Bellevue teacher's strike t-shirt

Rob Foxcurran

- Barbara Jean Fox's bicycle, used to win the 1940 race across the Mercer Island Bridge

Kathy Lindquist

- Brick from Medina School, wood panel from Medina Store

Pat Sandbo

- Materials relating to the history of the Bellevue Library system

Carl Lind

- Photos from the 50Fest Moto-rama car show

Margot Blacker

- Kathy Gwyllim files relating to the Three Towers project, Enatai substation project, Bellevue traffic ordinance file

City of Bellevue

- 1993 Seafair parade photos

Barbara Sharpe

- Misc. artifacts, photos and archives relating to the Sharpe family and general Bellevue history; complete archive of the Bellevue Reflector

C.R. Bowar

- Photos for the Mercer Slough

Heather and Nick Trescases

- Assortment of Microsoft Office product installation discs

BOLA Architecture and Planning

- Blueprints and architectural drawings from the Clise Mansion/Willowmoor farm

Ross McIvor

- Village Inn matchbook

Knute Berger

- Complete archive from the *EastsideWeek* newspaper



Above: Village Inn matchbook donated by Ross McIvor.

To Donate Items:

call 425-450-1049 or email

collections@eastsideheritagecenter.org

Collections Corner

Sarah Frederick
Collections Manager

Exhibits

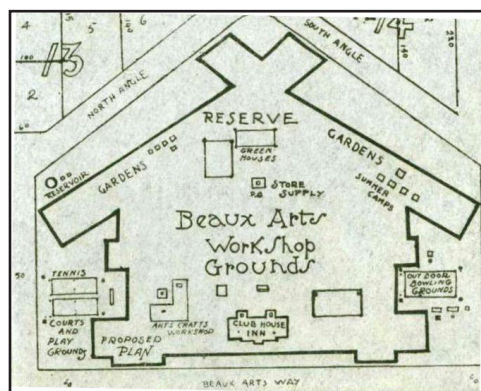
Stop by the Winters House to check out our new exhibit on the history of Beaux Arts. This exhibit will only be up until the first week of December, so don't miss it! Santas from the Golliver Collection will then be on display at both the Winters House and at Crossroads Shopping Center throughout the holiday season.

Upcoming Projects

Our Collections team is working on two exciting projects this winter.

The first is finalizing the manuscript draft for our upcoming Arcadia book project, *Bellevue – The Post-War Years*. The book will focus on the transformation of Bellevue from a rural, agricultural area to a classic American post-war suburb. Watch for more information in our next newsletter. A big thank you to our book Editor, Michael Luis, and lead researcher, Diana Ford.

We are also in the beginning stages of an exciting oral history and interpretation project in partnership with the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Thanks to generous IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services) grant funding, EHC will be working



Above: Detail from a 1908 map of Beaux Arts, showing the proposed clubhouse.

to collect oral histories from those associated with the history and development of the Garden. Information from these oral histories, and other archive sources, will be used by the Garden in the development of interpretive elements in the new visitor center, park signage, and in the creation of other education materials.

If you are interested in assisting us with this project by helping to conduct interviews (previous experience conducting interviews is a plus) or transcribing them, please send an email to Sarah at collections@eastsideheritagecenter.org.

Walk Through Bellevue History

Eastside Heritage Center is very excited to introduce a newly developed Early Bellevue Walking Tour!

As Bellevue continues to grow and attract visitors from all

over the region, State and the world, we have noticed an increasing desire and need to tell the Bellevue story. Some preliminary work was done in 2012 in partnership with Visit Bellevue Washington, providing guided historic walking tours to visiting travel writers as part of the organization's efforts to promote Bellevue as a tourist destination. But, it quickly became clear that what was needed was a self-guided walking tour brochure, in order to share some of Bellevue's early history with visitors and the public at large.

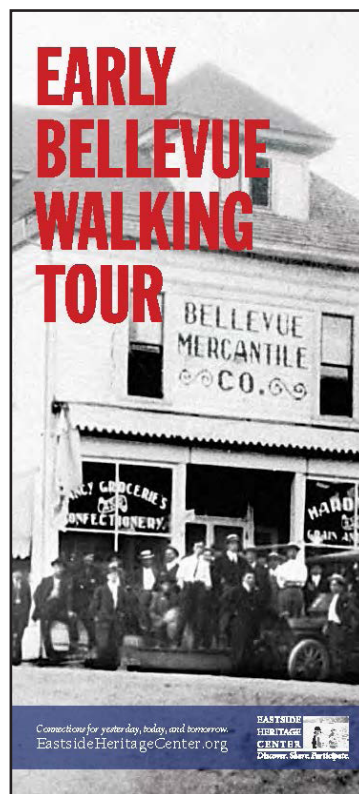
Over the past few months EHC worked to develop the brochure with the help of Gravity Design. A total of 24 sites are included on the tour, which starts at NE 8th St. & Bellevue Way, heads south to the Downtown Park, then west to Meydenbauer Beach Park, along the waterfront, and

then back up into Old Bellevue, covering a number of historic sites along Main Street.

The brochure will be available online through the Eastside Heritage Center website, as well as at VisitBellevueWashington.com and others. The printed brochure will be available in November, and we plan to distribute it to hotels, Old Bellevue merchants and other public sites in the community.

In the Spring and Summer 2014 we hope to do some guided walking tours for the public, to promote the brochure and share some of Bellevue's 'hidden' history.

Thank you to 4Culture for funding the brochure through a Heritage Special Projects grant, and we also really appreciate the support of Visit Bellevue Washington in this endeavor.



Above & Right: Front and back cover of walking tour brochure, 2013.



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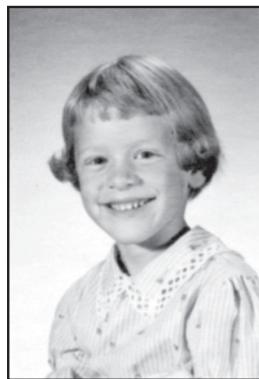
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President's Message



Kim Radcliffe
President

EHC is finishing up year three of its five year strategic plan called "A Journey Home" – "Home" being a permanent heritage facility. The plan prepares EHC to explore the feasibility of a capital campaign for our Vision at the end of the fifth year.

The number "three" caught my attention, as my nephew – three years old – is about to turn four. Our family has been sharing his joy at being able to do new things, as well as experiencing his pain and frustration at things he's not ready for yet. I know we can all relate to that joy and frustration! He will keep moving forward because that's what he's supposed to do – learn and grow.

We at EHC keep moving forward as well.

During the last three years, EHC has been focused on expanding programs, partnerships, and visibility. For the next two years, we are looking at expanding our staff and growing our budget

in order to support that. We will also be looking at how prepared we are for a capital campaign; doing more of the things we do well and finding and filling the gaps elsewhere.

Like my nephew, we will celebrate every step that brings us closer to our facility and vent frustrations at detours. We will keep moving forward because it's right for the community, for you our loyal supporters, and for us the volunteers, staff and board of EHC.

One of the exercises the staff and board went through at our April retreat was a visioning exercise about what EHC's Heritage Facility would look like. Although everyone's responses were a bit different, we all saw it: in Bellevue, interactive, hands-on, engaging, guiding and educating the community with "stories of us". It is the vision that inspires all of us to keep growing and moving forward.

I am grateful to all of you for the continuing support you give to EHC. I see great things ahead for us. Just writing this, I have a grin on my face as big as my Kindergarten picture from Central Elementary in Kirkland. I have a grin as big as my nephew's when he learns something new and is ready for what's next.

I'm ready. I know you are too. Let's take the next steps together.

Upcoming Programs

LAKE EXCURSIONS: 25 CENTS

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 5, 2013
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: The Microsoft Store (Bellevue Square)

Discover the story of Lake Washington ferries and parks created as a result of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909. A fleet of 14 steamboats carried 1.5 million passengers to and from the fair at the University of Washington campus, to destination parks on the Eastside, or on scenic tours around Lake Washington. The graceful boats and happy parks were a major Eastside contribution to the A-Y-P; and 1909 has been known ever since as the "Golden Age of Steamboating on Lake Washington."

HANDS-ON HISTORY PROGRAMS

Dates & Times: Third Thursday of the Month
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: KidsQuest Children's Museum
(Factoria Mall, Bellevue) FREE.

EARLY SETTLER LIFE November 21, 2013

What was it like before washing machines, clothes dryers, running water or supermarkets? You can help with the household chores by rolling dough, washing clothes and hanging them out to dry, or beating rugs. These were daily chores that kept the early settlers busy!

HERITAGE CRAFTS December 19, 2013

Celebrate Bellevue's history with family heritage crafts. Create holiday ornaments from paper, pipe cleaners, beads, paper cups, yarn and more. Discover craft activities enjoyed over one hundred years ago.

PERSONAL TIME CAPSULES January 16, 2014

Remember the past and look to the future by making a personal time capsule. What will the world be like in 2014? What will it be like in 10, 20, 30, even 100 years? Bring items to put in your capsule, label it and then use a traditional canning machine to seal your can to be opened at a later date.

Eastside Heritage Center partnership with KidsQuest Children's Museum.

Save the Date

February 27, 2014

5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Meydenbauer Center

ONCE UPON A TIME...

AN EVENING OF EASTSIDE STORIES



HERITAGE BENEFIT DINNER

Contact Heather at 425-450-1049 or
email director@eastsideheritagecenter.org
for more information on how you can get involved!

MAGIC SEASON SPECIAL EVENT

"The Shoemaker & The Elf" Marionette Performance

Date & Time: Sunday, December 15, 2013
11:00 AM Showtime
Doors open at 10:00 AM

Location: Winters House (2102 Bellevue Way SE)

Step back in time at the historic Winters House for a magical marionette performance. Children adore the thrill of anticipation as they watch the shoemaker puzzle his way through the mystery of beautifully finished shoes.

The Winters House will be all decorated for the holidays with a special magic season exhibit and will be open for tours 10AM - 2PM.

Presented by Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services. Marionette performance by Shaver Marionettes.

In Memoriam

Robert "Bob" Sandbo

Longtime Eastside Heritage Center member, volunteer and friend, Bob Sandbo, passed away on September 5, 2013 in Snohomish.

Bob was the firstborn of Albert Maurice Sandbo and Alma Josephine (Ehrenberg) Sandbo in Montevideo, Minnesota on June 5, 1920. In 1928 the family, which now included siblings Marge and Jack, moved to Bozeman, Montana. He learned and practiced drafting in the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's and early 40's.

During World War II Bob joined the Navy and was stationed in California and Connecticut as a radar technician. After the war he earned his electrical engineering degree from Montana State University, then moved to Bellevue and worked for Boeing until his retirement in 1985.

In 1947 Bob married Lois Goodenberger of Scotts Bluff, Nebraska. They turned a house in Bellevue into a home and began raising a family together, until Lois succumbed to cancer in 1957.

In 1962, Bob married grade school teacher Patricia "Pat" Groves Bruce. Bob and Pat recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.

After retirement, Bob's life was enriched by family, hosting Japanese college students and a 100-day trip around the world.

Pat and Bob were founding members of the Bellevue Historical Society and



Eastside Heritage Center, and volunteered in many capacities over the years. In 2008, they were jointly honored as Volunteers of the Year for EHC, and they also received a "First Citizen of Bellevue" award.

"Their unsurpassed enthusiasm and commitment to educate the youth of our community helps instill a greater understanding of Bellevue's history in the minds of our future civic leaders." Geoff Bradley.

Bob is survived by his wife Pat, sons John (and Donna), Steve (and Claire), Eric, and Mike (and Heather). Grandchildren include Lisa, Bill, Charlie, Ryan, and Caroline, and a great grandchild, Jessie.

May he rest in peace.

The family has suggested that donations be made in Bob's memory to the Eastside Heritage Center.

Education Happenings

Jane Morton Education Coordinator

During the second week of August, Eastside Heritage Center helped 150 students (K-5th grade) make a very special time capsule.

Sarah Frederick and Jane Morton took EHC's canning machine "on the road" for the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club summer camps. Eastside Terrace, South Bellevue, and the Main Boys and Girls club sites were all visited. The week's theme was 'Time Travel' and the students each made their own individual capsule using a small can.

A personal fact sheet and label were put with the can before the canning machine was used to put on the lid. Observations

were heard during the hour such as "Cool!" and "How do we get the lid off?"

EHC and the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.



If you are interested in having the canning machine or another hands-on history activity as part of your next event (birthday party, school pioneer day, company team-building, or family reunion), we would be happy to participate!

EHC Board Welcomes Rona Ji

Rona, a senior in the Gifted and Talented Program at Interlake High School, was elected in September to the EHC Board of Trustees as our Youth Board Member. We are honored to have her.

Although Rona's resume is impressive, it is the letter she wrote to EHC Trustee Tim Johnson and Board President Kim Radcliffe, that encapsulated the talent and passion she will bring to the organization:

"I have always been fascinated

with culture and the history behind communities. My parents are immigrants and I have been taught since youth that I must preserve and appreciate my own heritage before I can be successful at anything else I wish to pursue in life. Half of my heritage belongs to my Chinese family, but the other half belongs to Bellevue and the Eastside, the community in which I have grown up. I would like to give back to my community in the most important way possible – by helping to preserve and cherish its memories and past."

Well said Rona. Welcome.

Volunteer Corner

"Research has shown that people who volunteer often live longer."
- Allen Klein

Karen Klett

Volunteer Coordinator

Many kudos and thanks to all the energetic and dedicated Strawberry Festival volunteers who helped with the countless tasks and challenges required for a successful event in June!

Again this summer EHC volunteers were out in our community sharing history at the Fraser Cabin, greeting shoppers at the Crossroads Famers Market, directing visitors at Bellevue's 6th Street Fair, and participating in neighborhood events such as Medina Days, the Lake Hills Blueberry Festival and Sammamish Days, among other things.

At the McDowell House, Sarah Frederick, our Collections Manager, has been interviewing and assembling a great new team of volunteers

to assist with our current oral history program. They will be interviewing candidates, recording their stories and transcribing. Welcome to Cynthia Diederich (also a Winters House host!), James Anderson and Julianna Hawes.

The third Thursday evening of the month, from November through April, EHC will continue its very successful partnership with the KidsQuest Children's Museum, presenting hands-on history activities. If you love history and enjoy kids you might want to look into this great volunteer opportunity!

Contact EHC and get involved today.

Karen Klett
Volunteer Coordinator
425-450-1049

karenklett@eastsideheritagecenter.org

Eastside Heritage Center MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
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Enroll me as: ☐ New Member ☐ Membership Renewal ☐ Gift

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- ☐ Check (make checks payable to the Eastside Heritage Center)
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NAME ON CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE

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Additional Contribution: _____ **Total Enclosed:** _____

☐ My company will MATCH my gift

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The Eastside Heritage Center is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

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All Eastside Heritage Center Members receive:

- Membership Card
- Quarterly Newsletter with historical features and program updates
- Invitations to exhibits and programs
- 10% discount on books and gift shop items

CATEGORIES:

Benefactor - \$1,000

Receives Steward Benefits, plus:
Honored at Annual Event

Steward - \$500

Receives Supporter benefits, plus:
Special publication
Curator's Tour of the collection

Supporter - \$250

Receives Organization benefits, plus:
Historic photo reproduction

Organization (schools, scout troops, etc) - \$100

Receives Contributor benefits, plus:
Free Treasure Box rentals
Discounts on field trips and classroom presentations

Contributor - \$100

Additional benefits include:
Access to Archives fee waived

Family - \$40

Individual - \$25

Student (under 18 years of age) - \$15

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Tel: 425-450-1049

Fax: 425-450-1050

E-Mail: director@eastsideheritagecenter.org

Website: www.eastsideheritagecenter.org

McDOWELL HOUSE (EHC Administrative Offices)

Visiting Address: 11660 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

Tel: 425-450-1049

WINTERS HOUSE (National Historic Site and EHC Research Services)

Visiting Address: 2102 Bellevue Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Tel: 425-452-2752

Hours of Operation: EHC Research Office Hours

Tues., 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Winters House Public Visiting Hours:

Tues 10:00 AM-4:00 PM ; Thurs-Sat 10:00 AM-2:00 PM ; Closed Mon, Wed & Sun.

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EASTSIDE
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