

SEATTLE -----

# A TALE “OF BETWEEN TWO CITIES”

SKYWAY HISTORY  
1870-1983

----- RENTON

HAROLD (JIGGS) HOYT

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

*In most compositions, the procedure is to give those who participate in gathering the material and pictures a pat on the back for their assistance in the work of putting the book together.*

*In this journal that would be impossible. All the people who have done their part are included in the lines of this home-grown journal, except Barb Shurin, whose editing and typing speak for themselves.*

*Harold "Jiggs" Hoyt*

## **FOREWORD**

This journal started out as an eight-page record of the Renton Avenue Commercial Club's activities, starting from almost the first days of the community. Pioneers still living in the surrounding area have too many good memories, however, and came in with lore that is practically unknown to many, even the old Skywayites. The tales of the pre-Skyway area could not be ignored, and the people in the community that have been wandering around this hill for quite some time wanted to tell their part of its early growing period.

When the gathering of the later information started to come in, the people who could not remember what had happened from 1941 on had their memories refreshed. They also started to recall happy incidents, including some that would be unheard-of today.

The days of Skyway's beginning, in about 1941, were reminiscent of a wild West town. The boys who had been traveling around the world on an expense-paid tour were young and, some say, a bit wild when Uncle Sam no longer had need for their skills. Things *were wild!* All that is needed to get the facts stretched is to have a few of the now-retired "kids" who were young in those formative years get together and listen to the tales of the then goings-on. But you don't have to believe *all* of it; *some* may be true!

Time has seen the surrounding communities of Renton and Tukwila expand from small towns and cow pastures to first-class cities, Bryn Mawr to a large bedroom community, and even Seattle has done some growing up.

Skyway's boundaries are just about the same as after the first builders started to turn the dirt to establish a bedroom community on top of the hill. Most of the empty lots have been built on, leaving very little area in which to expand. So here we sit enjoying ourselves!

## **THE HISTORY OF SKYWAY: 1870 - 1983**

The history of Skyway itself does not go back far beyond 1940, but the surrounding area was stirring quite a while before the first groundbreaking for the first modern homes on top of the hill.

On May 2nd, 1870, a Mr. B.L. Jones received a patent claim from the government for a quarter of a quarter section of land (10 acres) that is now in the vicinity of South 129th and 64th Avenue South. The property was subdivided and became, among other things, the Old Campbell Hill School. Dorothy Henderson, the daughter-in-law of Mr. Henderson, one of the earlier purchasers of land from Mr. Campbell, still lives on Langston Road near South 129th.

Not too many years later, in about 1880, John Monster obtained a donation claim in the area that now includes the Spider Staging Company factory. He proceeded to whittle out a farm of about 160 acres and settled down to make a living. A son, Charles, was born on the property, and Charles helped on the farm, eventually operating it himself. In due time, a son, John, was born to Charles' wife, Louisa, and was raised on the farm along with his brother, Frank.

This family had two ways in and out of the area: one by the railroad that soon passed next to their farm and the other by way of the Steel Hill Road. The road started at Renton Junction (which is now the intersection of Highway 405 and the West Valley Highway) and went north on what is now called Monster Road, until it met what is now the Beacon Coal Mine Road. It continued until it came to the road that went over the Steel Hill Bridge (a covered bridge built in 1910) into Allentown, and followed the river along what is now 42nd Avenue, north to Seattle. The Monster Road of today was put in

*Steel Hill Bridge, built 1910 [photo]*

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after the opening of Empire Way, in about 1936.

The Monsters had 50 head of dairy cows that were driven every day to pasture that was alongside where the Container Corporation is today. The cows were pastured also along the railroad tracks, next to the old Earlington Golf Course. They had to be driven over the railroad tracks on the way to pasture and home again for milking. Quite a job for John and his brother, Frank Jr. No cows were ever lost to any of the trains, however, which passed more frequently than today.

After years of teaming and digging basements and anything else that needed moving before the days of the bulldozer, John has semiretired. He lives on Empire Way near (naturally) Monster Road.

The first railroad from Renton to Seattle was the Seattle Coal & Transportation Company, which began operating in 1878 when the moving of coal from New Castle became a big thing. This arrangement continued for some years until the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad took over the operation which, in turn, became the Pacific Coast Railroad. The picture of the old covered bridge below was taken in 1951, just a few years before it burned in 1958. Pacific Coast was still hauling coal in 1951, over the same roadbed that was used in 1878, although the rails were traded for larger steel.

*[photo]*

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Another of the early happenings, in what is now the Skyway area, started in 1890, when Andrew J. Bossert purchased a piece of property from Pacific Coast Railroad. The property was a quarter of a section wide, between 64th South and 68th South; and a section long, between South 112th (Seattle limits) and South 128th. He started an apple orchard of many varieties to add to the family larder and the family purse. Part of the orchard is still producing on the property at 64th South and South 127th Place.

In about 1900, the City of Seattle Water Department was installing a wooden pipeline to the city from Cedar River. A young fellow, by the name of Duncan, had a job on the project that crossed the Bossert property, who courted and later married one of Mr. Bossert's daughters. In 1901, a daughter was born to this couple and was named Vesta, who still lives in the Skyway area. Both Mr. Duncan and his wife died shortly after and the young girl, Vesta, was raised by Mr. Bossert and his wife.

Vesta was raised on the old homestead property and attended the Old Campbell Hill School. It was housed in an old residence building that is still standing on the east side of the Seattle Water Department's line at South 131st. She attended the Old Campbell Hill School, which was built in 1914 and located on property donated by Mr. Campbell who worked for one of the local railroads. It was on top of the pipeline hill where the line crosses Langston Road (South 131st). The property is now occupied by Phil Raykovich. This building was the typical 1914 schoolhouse; it had four rooms on two floors, with wide, outside stairs to the main floor. The school was operated by the King County School District and had a board of local citizens as members. Some of the board members were Messrs. Henderson, Bossert, Glen

*Old Campbell Hill School being torn down in 1956 [photo]*

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Morrell, Harry Cutler, Plough and others, from time to time. The school was later taken over by the Renton School District when the way of controlling schools changed. The Old Campbell Hill School was finally torn down in 1956. Its operations were moved to the New Campbell Hill School, with Carl Howard as its principal.

Vesta Duncan walked a half-mile to school every day for six years before she was transferred to a Renton school, because the donor of the school property insisted that a certain teacher be fired. Vesta received the rest of her primary and high school education in the Renton school system. She later married Lynn Morell (a local boy), who raised a family of their own in what is now Skyway.

In 1894, a young Swiss immigrant, Joe LaFranchi, landed in the Duwamish Valley and acquired a fairly large piece of property on the north side of what is today South 129th, between the railroad tracks at the bottom of the hill, and up the hill past today's Empire Way. Joe started a farm and, in 1907, had the railroad dump off enough lumber to build a two-story house of ten rooms and three, large porches with large, Southern-style pillars holding the roof up.

When all was settled, Joe returned to the Old Country and brought his bride, Virginia, to America where they raised a family. A good many years later, in 1963, the old house was torn down to make way for the I-5 freeway.

One of Joe and Virginia's daughters, Florina Minalia, and her husband Frank still live on the same property after having raised a large family. The freeway has cut off a lot of the level ground, however. The night the covered bridge burned, the Minalias heard an explosion and had a good view of the conflagration.

Virginia LaFranchi today lives in an adjoining mobile home and remembers the nice, cool creek that was used in the "good old days." She also remembers the Beacon Coal Mine where Joe worked sometimes and also invested in, but the old mine did not turn out too well.

In those days of very few roads and very few autos, the way to get around was by "shank's pony" (walking). Vesta, when she was 18, obtained a job at Frederick & Nelson. The way to town was to walk to the Allentown Station, by way of the old covered bridge (Steel Hill Bridge),

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over the railroad tracks, and catch the Seattle-Tacoma Interurban. It didn't take long to get to Occidental Avenue and Yesler Way (north end of the line), once on board. It wasn't bad going to work, but it was a long drag back up the hill and through the covered bridge at night.

*Seattle-Tacoma Interurban station in Allentown in 1903 where the intersection of 42nd Avenue South and Interurban Avenue is today. The old South 124th Bridge is in the background and the visible pier is still in the middle of the river. This scene is looking north toward Seattle. [photo]*

Another good trip was to walk or go by horse to Renton by way of Langston Road; or to the north towards Seattle (where 51st Avenue is today), walk to Rainier Avenue, and catch the Rainier Valley streetcar that would take you to the north end of the line at Fourth Avenue and Stewart Street in Seattle (where the Bon Marché is today). The streetcar turned around on a "y" and headed back to Renton.

During the time Vesta was growing up and going to school, the hill looked as if a large fire had moved through the area. Mr. Bossert, after he had purchased the land, found that a lumber mill located on Lake Washington had acquired the timber on the hill without anyone's permission. Thus, Mr. Bossert's land was bare, except for a lot of stumps, some of which are still visible today.

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The only public building in this area was the Old Campbell Hill School, which was the polling place come election time as well. Other events were also held in this building, such as community affairs.

There was not much habitation on top of the hill, but there were a few farms and orchards besides the Bossert's. Daniel Parks had an orchard and a dairy ranch about where 78th South and Renton Avenue cross today. He drove his herd down the hill to the location of Renton Center today and home again every night. Some long hours!

A Mr. Watson had a ranch where he raised sheep, sheared them, and also, when need be, made meat of them. The ranch was located in a large, open area where the Dimmitt Middle School is today.

There was also good hunting in the area: grouse, pheasant, and even bear for the brave ones. The blackberry crop was usually very good and not too many pickers in those days.

During the hard times of 1930 and 1931, a young fellow decided that he could make a better living in the U.S.A. than in his homeland of Japan. So Kikujiro Mano and his wife Riki made their way to Seattle and, in time, landed in Bryn Mawr. They leased a greenhouse at the corner of 80th South and South 116th, and worked hard at this location until they saw their way clear to move to the sunny side of the hill and started a new greenhouse on South 132nd and Renton Avenue.

Things went quite well for the next few years until World War II started. Then this Japanese family of five was sadly interned; they leased their property out for the duration. When the hostilities were over, they returned and picked up the loose strings of their lives. After their eldest son Tosh spent 1946 to 1948 as a draftee in the U.S.

Army, he returned and worked with his dad and, with the help of his wife Tomi, have been successful in building up a good business as the Earlington Greenhouse.

About the same time, there were other greenhouses established on the sunny side of the hill, most of which are still in business. The Floralcrest Greenhouse was operated by Lyle and John Elliot and, later, by George Kawatchi, who still operates it. The Maekawa Brothers had greenhouses on the south side of South 131st and raised beautiful chrysanthemums in the ever-lighted house.

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In 1930, Edith Elliot, a sister of the Elliot brothers, built a two-story brick house on the crest of the hill on South 128th, opposite what is now the water tower of Water District No. 128. This house was visible for miles until the evergreens grew up to hide it.

In 1936 the City of Seattle Light Department had completed the first phase of the Skagit River project, and brought power into Seattle by coming down the east side of Lake Washington and across the vacant land on top of the hill (Skyway) that lies west of the old Bonnell Nursery, and then on to the Spokane Street switchyards. It has not, to this day, done anything to enhance the skyline of Skyway. The line was rerouted to the south of Renton in 1942 so that Boeing Airplane Company could start their war effort, as well as build a needed airfield on what was the old river bed of Black River, the main outlet of Lake Washington until the lake was lowered in 1917, when the Hiram Chittenden Locks in Ballard were built.

During the war years, the Army installed some balloons and a number of anti-aircraft guns all around the edge of Skyway hill to protect their investment on the lake [Washington] and at Boeing's.

Besides the couple of orchards and a farm or two, the only business on the top of the hill now known as Skyway was a holly farm owned by Dr. Webber, located where Herr Lumber now stands. Skyway did not take root on top of the hill until two years after a community of houses -- known as Renwood and Laugerquist Homes - had already been established in the war years of 1941 and 1942, on the west side of Renton Avenue.

Renton Avenue had been graded and graveled by the county in 1929 or 1930 as a short-cut to Renton and to take some of the load off the main highway (two-lane Rainier Avenue) to east of the mountains. Rainier Avenue wandered through Columbia City, Hillman City and Rainier Beach to Hub City (Renton).

The only active organization in 1942 was the Renwood Community Club which, in a few years, changed its name to the Skyway Community Club and continued until the late 1950s (about 1958).

In 1942, Mortenson Construction Company started to build the Skyway Homes that were completed in 1945. At the same time, Van Vorhees

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Construction Company commenced a group of homes west of where the Lakeridge School is today and west of Renton Avenue. This section of the community has been incorporated into the City of Seattle as of 1946.

In 1945 the two most important additions made to the community were the coming of a grocery store called, naturally, Skyway Foods; and a tavern (still with its original name), the Skyway Tavern, with Tom Pratt as its first operator. It is on the same site now occupied by C & P Family Foods. These two buildings were not as large then as the present store is today.

By the time of the first building, the county had paved half of what is now presently Renton Avenue. The rest was gravel and stayed that way for quite a while, even after a number of businesses were operating in the area. The raw edges of this fledgling community being built on the top of the hill were beginning to be sanded off and the light started to shine.

Religion also began to show its face when Rev. O.R. Kleppe arrived on the scene and gathered some people together and broke ground for the Lakeridge Lutheran Church in January, 1945. Reverend Kleppe and the church council hired a local Earlington contractor, Elmer Hurskainen, to build the first part of the final building.

*[photo]*

Over the span of years from 1945, when Reverend Kleppe started

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things going to the present day, a number of dedicated men have led the congregation with their pastoral blessings. Reverend Kleppe remained at the helm until 1951, when he was transferred to Bremerton. From the time that Reverend Kleppe left the area until Rev. O.C. Helland arrived in June, 1951 for a two-year stay, the position was filled by two temporary leaders. Reverend Helland received a call in 1952 as a sky pilot, but not in the pulpit. It was in the Air Corps!

When July, 1952 dawned, Rev. Christian Olson took over the congregation until June, 1967 when he retired. During his tenure the congregation celebrated Easter, 1956 in the new addition. In July, 1967, Rev. Paul Braafladt took over the reins until 1971, when he was called to serve with the American Lutheran Church. The present-day pastor is Gordon Coates.

Another addition to the community was a real estate office, operated in a private home by Hal Smiley, and situated where the present 7-11 Store is now located. Later, the house was moved to 7606 South 126th where it is still occupied as a residence.

At about this same time, Robert Thomas erected a building where the present location of Herr Lumber is now and called it the Lakeridge Supply Company. He handled mostly surplus building materials, as there was practically no new lumber at that time. Bob sold the business to his brother Cecil, who changed the name to Skyway Lumber in about 1951. Cecil built the business into a thriving affair until his death in 1958. The two mainstays with Cecil were Al Minshull and Babe Wehrer.

About the time Bob Thomas was going into business, another of his brothers, Harvey, opened up the Swap Shop next door, and handled most everything that wasn't new, where he continued in business until sometime in the 1960s.

Before Mortenson Construction completed the Skyway Homes in 1945, a couple of enterprising brothers, Babe and Rusty Wehrer, started to serve the gas-short public in a made-over construction building located about where the Dragon Inn is today. They also helped keep the weary autos that were on the road at that time in running shape. A year or so later, Babe operated the garage with Joe Wolf and stayed until 1948, when they moved to another location - where the Photo Mat is now located - and stayed until 1956.

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John Angel removed the building to erect the building now occupied by the Clipping Company. James Bossert took over the operation of the gas station until the building was torn down in 1949 to make way for the next addition to the growing business community.

As there was no public transportation in the area and it was a long walk to the bus at Prentice Street or to Renton, Vernon Plant and his brother started Skyway Taxi in the same building as the garage. They operated it for a few years until they sold the business to the Belden brothers, who had their office in the former office of Dr. Luke at 12073 Renton Avenue South. The Beldens sold the taxi business in 1950 to Cliff Dowding, who operated it until 1967, when Skyway Taxi faded out. Mr. Dowding, now retired, still lives in Skyway.

*Cliff's last taxi [photo]*

*Harold's Barber Shop, next to The Freezer. [photo]*

In 1946, Signal Oil Company erected a service station in the building now occupied by Ron's Transmission Shop at 12663 Renton Avenue South. It was operated by Kenny Zugschwerdt and his brother-in-law, Chuck Peterson, who is still in Skyway. They called their establishment Hillcrest Service. [No one knew the official name; it was just Kenny's.]

Shortly thereafter, the aforementioned Hal Smiley straightened up a couple of leaning buildings that were also located on the present 7-11 property and added two more: one on each

side of the two leaners. He put a face on them and opened up four business stores. The one closest

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to the present location of Peoples National Bank was occupied by Mr. Smiley as a real estate office for some time until he moved to a different spot. Hal's wife, Sadie, opened a dress shop in the vacant store.

Next in line was the first touch of "feminine rebuild" in Skyway, when Earl and Virginia Waldroup (now of Lynnwood) opened the Skyway Beauty Salon in 1947. Earl had the competent help of Sophie Gores, who later operated it under the same name for a number of years. Earl later opened a shop in Brier, north of Seattle. Sophie was one of the first presidents of the Renton Avenue Commercial Club.

Then the first barber shop appeared in Skyway, with Harold McCorkle as its proprietor. The man in the second chair, Art Dinzart, is the present owner of Skyway Barber Shop. Last in line was an ice cream store, operated under the name of The Freezer, by John Hagan.

In 1945 the big conflict (World War II) had ended and the boys who had been traveling around the world for the government returned to populate the houses that had been erected and to help establish a steady community. They also started one of the most active organizations in the Skyway area: Skyway Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 9430. To name a few of the live wires who were in on the ground floor - literally, as they had no place to meet! - were Otis Van Aiken as the first Commander, Cap Wildman and Claude Reiner. Frank Kline became the Commander in 1947, the three following years as well, and in later years also. The VFW Post was very active then and is still going great guns!

One of the VFW boys was Al Marchbanks who, along with a number of partners, proceeded in 1945 and 1946 to build Superior Hardware in the same building now occupied by Best Hardware. Along with Al was Dave Stritmater, who still resides in Renton Highlands. The contractor who built it was Bud Vanderford (still living in the Skyway area). It was the first permanent-type building in Skyway; it was all concrete, roof and all.

In about June 1946, the need for a business men's club had arrived and Renton Avenue Commercial Club was formed, with the first year being the most active of any in its life so far. Someone came up with the idea that the community would be better off ruling itself rather than have the County Commissioners do the job. A petition was therefore filed in 1946 to incorporate the area as a fifth-class city, with a slate of

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mayor and councilmen listed. The line was very plainly drawn after some citizens said they "did not like the idea" and subsequently filed for annexation to the City of Seattle. Until the time came for an election to determine which course would be taken, there were a lot of former good neighbors and friends who were no longer on speaking terms. But it was all ironed out in the long run by both sides being defeated, and peace once again settled over the fledgling community.

The large Bossert precinct did not have many voters in the early days; but, in 1946, when the annexation issue was presented, that precinct developed into the largest in the county.

The polling place was the new Superior Hardware building, as it was the only place that over ten people could congregate in the new community. All day of the election, the store was full and, at 8 P.M., the line waiting for the voting booth wound back and forth in the store. The voting was not over until 10 or 11 P.M.! Although there were a lot of tired people, everyone felt they were the winners. This vote at least got the County Commissioners busy, so they split the Bossert precinct into several precincts, which still remain today.

After the Superior Hardware building was finished, Bud Vanderford started erecting a theatre on the lot north of the hardware store for a Mr. Graff of Shelton, who decided the community was in need of some amusement (before TV was widespread). Being it was the first year after the war, he was discouraged by the governmental red tape from building the theatre. He did not get an O.K. permit from the Veterans' Housing Administration, although he did have all the lumber required to complete the structure. The theatre was never built past the foundation and a little bit of framework. The long 2x4s and other lumber were never wasted, however, as the LSR (Lakeridge-Skyway-Renwood Club) - a club made up of the VFW, the Skyway Community Club and others - used it later to build a rodeo fence.

In 1946 the first doctor arrived in the community and set up practice in a house on Renton Avenue at 12073. This ex-Major was Dr. Luke and he had to do his work in his major's uniform as there was a shortage of civilian uniforms. His head nurse (and his only nurse) was Elsie Martin, who still lives in Bryn Mawr. Dr. Luke later moved to Renton

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and practiced with Dr. Kegwin. Must have been a healthy neighborhood, although a good supply of kids kept arriving. Dr. Luke, later still, moved to Texas.

All the time these events were taking place, improvements were being made in the community, and the business area extended from 76th South and Renton Avenue to South 126th where Frank's Milk Barn is at the present time. The gravel and mud streets were graded to fill in the chuck holes, and everyone was asking the few service stations for their drained oil to keep the dust down - when summer came, it was like the Los Angeles smog!

Later, in 1946, the next of the permanent buildings to appear on the scene was the one erected by Clark Runyan, now occupied by Dr. Howard McDougall and Skyway Auto Parts. The first two tenants were Dr. Clausing and Skyway Park Drugs, operated by Clark Runyan; and later, in 1947, by Clyde Spencer, who helped to raise money for the VFW to aid in purchasing their building property. This addition was a big improvement; although there was a concrete sidewalk out in front, gravel was still on the street. Later, Andy Erickson operated the business until 1956.

In 1946 a missionary by the name of Laura Butler arrived on the scene and proceeded to gather some steady people together. They founded Hillcrest Community Church, which later was to become Skyway Methodist Church on the church's present site. In short order, Gordon Simpson and other members of the congregation obtained a Quonset hut that was on the east side of Lake Washington. They barged it across the lake and then trucked it to the rear of the present church site, and moved into it in November, 1946.

Later, in 1946, John Angel erected a four-story structure abutting the north side of Runyan's Skyway Park Drugs. The first store was occupied by Joe Marchbanks from The Freezer that

was in the Smiley building. The next housed the new Kimball Bakery, operated by Bob and Kay Kimball. Bob was just fresh out of the Service and treated the folks in the district to his good baking.

The next store had a succession of businesses: the first was Nick Kline, a self-proclaimed Communist who was also a good shoemaker, even

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though he was against profiteering . Nick stayed until 1951. After Nick, a number of owner cafe's were in and out, with Gene Leslie staying the longest. After the cafés, John Sacco operated a fruit stand for some time. The last store was Allnoch's Variety Store operated by Dan Allnoch, who later expanded into the store next door to the south after John Sacco moved out. The entire building is now occupied by Skyway Tavern, with Bill Near as its proprietor.

*Jessie Green and Dan Allnoch [photo]  
Kimball's Bakery [photo]*

In 1946, Mortenson Construction Company - the company that built the Skyway Homes - was in need of some place to collect rents and house payments, as well as to sell real estate. They renovated a construction office building into Skyway Realty and Skyway Cleaners. The realty end was operated by Jim Bennett and the cleaners by Earl Slade and Bob Oliver. The building was located where Vincent Realty is today.

In the back room of Skyway Realty stood a great, big, walk-in safe that had been installed by the Mortenson Company. It stood for quite a while until Al Marchbanks acquired it and moved it to the back room of Superior Hardware (now Best Hardware). Though Al grew fond of the safe, after standing there for quite some time, it was acquired by Chuck Kyar of Chuck's ARCO Station. Chuck moved it to his garage where it stood for another spell. In the meantime, Frank Pelligrino opened the Gun Shop, but his real nice display of hand guns and rifles was in dire need of protection. So Frank purchased the safe and hired Chuck to move it to the Milk Barn. Frank lined it with velvet and used it for a few years until he went out of the gun business and sold it to

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his nephew, who was also in the gun business. His nephew moved the safe out of the district. This was some move for this bug hunk of iron: 50 feet north of where it started 35 years before!

*A few things to note in this scene of part of the Skyway business district: [photo]*

- a) The tall light poles were finally removed completely in 1983;*
- b) Skyway Realty and Skyway Cleaners;*
- c) Part of a Texaco sign;*
- d) The start of Skyway Theatre above Superior Hardware; and*
- e) One of the wooden water towers in the area.*

The buildings were gradually getting farther from the raw frontier aspect and becoming citified. The first supermarket was built in 1947 by Jim Coulon on the property now occupied by the 7-11 Store, and opened under the management of a Mr. Cowen, the former owner of Skyway Foods.

In 1948 a couple of big operators, Mike Lotto and Bill O' Neil of Renton, reopened the store as the Market Basket and went on to bigger things. Paul Carey was their long-time manager. As the community grew, Paul was soon president of the active Renton Avenue Commercial Club. Vince Carneski oper-

*A 1960s scene of the old Market Basket, Vince Carneski's Meats, Evie Russell's Big Boy Café, and the Candy Shop (candy good - short life for shop). [photo]*

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ated the meat market in the store. Loren Leach also had a hardware store in the building and later moved to the store now housing Skyway Jewelers. Loren also had a small band of four pieces and they played for local doings.

In 1947, Bruce and Marilou Christianson moved into a spot in the Superior Hardware and set up shop as Skyway Jewelers & Sporting Goods. They continued here until 1957, when the new Market Basket complex was built. At that time, they moved into what is now the A & H Building, into a small shop next to the present Skyway Barber Shop. Their next move - and, so far, their last move - was made in 1959 to their present location at 12621 Renton Avenue South.

At the same time the Christiansons set up shop in Superior Hardware, Dave Stritmater installed the first postal service sign in Skyway, besides the carriers out of the Bryn Mawr station. Dave had an auxiliary station built in the hardware store, which lasted until the present Post Office was erected in 1960.

About the same time, Texaco Oil Company must have thought the area was growing up, for they built a small service station on the same property now occupied by Frank's Milk Barn . In fact, Frank used part of the Texaco building to build his present location. Harry

Schlies, who still lives in Renton, was a good, down-to-earth North Dakota mechanic at the Texaco station.

*Note the Post Office sign under Superior's sign. Al Marchbanks in his slimmer days.*

There were still no meeting places in the community except the stores, which were used in the evenings by the Renton Avenue Commercial Club, the VFW, the LSR, the Skyway Community Club, and others who used the generously offered facilities. The businesses were busy and very cooperative, but it was necessary for the Commercial Club to have their meetings in a restaurant in Renton during the daytime. Attendance was still only 10 to 13, with about 30 businesses in the area.

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In 1948 the active Skyway Community Club was fortunate to have members, Jim Tasa and Virgil Bower, working for the Seattle Housing Authority. Dances were held in the Holly Park Hall, with crowds of 200 to 250 dancers from the Skyway area. Loren Leach was one of the hot orchestras to beat out some real lively tunes.

Not much building activity was going on in early 1948. To keep things going, the Skyway Community Club put on a big recruiting drive to get members for the Skyway Fire Department;

or, as it is officially known, King County Fire District No. 20. In September, about 12 to 15 raw recruits traipsed to Bryn Mawr to take training under Chief Frank Longo and Capt. Roy Jordan.

Later, in 1948, other big things began happening. The VFW erected their first building, a surplus government building they had just acquired and put on the site of today's structure. The site was purchased from John Angel with nickels and dimes, sometimes quarters, saved by the members over the previous two years. Clyde Spencer, of Renton Avenue Pharmacy and also a VFW member, sweetened the pot. Clyde raffled off one of the very early TVs. The proceeds of the raffle bought part of a lot. Those were hard days for the VFW.

In 1948 the VFW and other groups were pushing for a Boys' Club in Skyway and the acquisition of a building was considered the thing to do. Bob Thomas of Lakeridge Supply, the forerunner of Skyway Lumber, was wrecking an old theatre building at Boeing Field. Bob offered three large beams to the club if they would remove them. The job fell to Burt Glazier who rustled together a crew. Included in the mob was Fred Sayler, a local carpenter who was also a high climber. Fred was just the fellow to climb on top of the high beams and hook them to the crane that was furnished by McCrea Brothers, free of charge for the job.

The beams were loaded on a long truck furnished by Hamilton Trucking, with a nudge from the VFW Post Quartermaster, Fred Buss. The beams were moved to a spot back of the Skyway Tavern, where the boys unloaded them with the aid of the crane from McCrea. Ollie Olson, the crane operator, and his oiler were presented with a bottle of liquid refreshment for their Sunday's work.

The beams laid where they were set until someone found a use for

## **18 SKYWAY HISTORY**

them. But they were never used for the Boys' Club, as it never materialized. Bob Thomas bought the beams back from the Boys' Club a few years later.

Early in the year, the Associated Oil Company erected a service station on the northwest corner of Renton Avenue and South 126th (the first building north of South 126th), or next to where the Pizza Hut is now situated. Dave Riggs operated the station a number of years until Associated moved out of the area. The property has since been used for a number of things in the ensuing years. It is now used by Foreign Specialties and operated by Ken Wright, the 1983 president of the Skyway Commercial Club.

The community was becoming established and, in 1948, it looked like it would thrive, so Richfield Oil Company filled a swamp that was alongside Renton Avenue. They erected an almost identical service station to the one there today and opened up in December, with Morris Woodward as owner and Jiggs Hoyt as its manager. Mr. Woodward gave up the lease in December of 1949; whereupon, Jiggs Hoyt took over and operated it as Hoyt's Richfield for the next 19 years.

Not many more startling things happened in 1948, but it changed in 1949. The floors deteriorated in the building Mr. Smiley had built in 1946, and it became necessary to evict Sophie Gores and Harold McCorkle at the same time that it was necessary for Mr. McCorkle to go to the hospital for an extended period of time. The community did not let Harold down, however. All the handymen in the area got together and moved the construction shed that had been the garage operated by Babe and Rusty Wehrer to a spot behind the Skyway Tavern.

They rebuilt it and set Harold's Barber Shop up in business again, with Art Dinzart operating the shop for Harold in his absence.

*Harold's Barber Shop in the background. Frank Kline in front [photo]*

Sophie Gores was moved also into part of the building. They kept the shops going until Mr. Angel finished the building where Chet Hughes operated as Chet's Barber Shop. [The fellow in the foreground of the

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 19**

above picture is Frank Kline, the VFW Post Commander, along with one of the members, who were stringing lights for the community Christmas tree.]

Mr. Angel's building was finished in 1949 where Skyway Jewelers are now. The first tenants were Harold's Barber Shop, Sophie Goresi Beauty Salon, Skyway Hardware with Loren Leach as owner (formerly in the old Market Basket building), Anderson's Realty, and a restaurant and ice cream parlor operated by Gordon Bruce.

The big event of the year was a rodeo, kids' parade, and a carnival put on by the LSR. The doings were held on the property now occupied by Dr. Compaan and the clothing store at 12626 Renton Avenue. There were lots of real cowboys, horses, cows, and everything. The event was held on July 23rd and 24th because Burt Glazier, one of the lead workers, read in the *Farmer's Almanac* that it hadn't rained on these days in the last 75 years. Wouldn't you know, it rained on Saturday, the 23rd, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm - just settled the dust!

*Kids' Parade. First prize - Dick Hoyt. [photo]*

Boy Scout Troop No. 445 was formed at the Skyway Methodist Church in 1949, and had meetings in the church Quonset hut under the able leadership of Ed Allard and Clyde Eberstein. In 1950, the troop sent Jim Bakke to the National Boy Scout Jamboree that was held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The Skyway Community Club contributed to the cause to make the trip a success.

Jim Bakke later worked for Jim Walsh at Skyway Foods while going to the University of Washington. Jim later worked for Skyway Lumber as an architect and planner. Today, Jim is in business for himself as a construction consultant.

Cora Santerelli and her husband had a powder monkey come in and blast out the side of the hill at 76th South and Renton Avenue, and built a delicatessen in the hole. Cora operated the deli for a number of years. During this time she hired Jim Bakke to tend the store part-time for a year or so. This aided Jim to pay his way while he attended the University.

## **20 SKYWAY HISTORY**

There have been a number of businesses since, including a church. Also, the State Highway Patrol Licensing Department operated out of the building for a few years before they moved to Renton Highlands. Later, one of the businesses was the Do Drop Inn, operated by Vi Moore, who later moved to a new restaurant next to the present Lucky Store.

In 1949 the Renton School District commissioners agreed the time had come to try to take care of the mob of kids that were starting to show up. So they had the Skyway School built and it opened in the fall of that year. The school is now the Thomson School and is named after John Thomson, who pioneered the Special Education program for retarded children in the Renton School District. This program turned out to be a model for the entire state.

At the same time the school was being built, the Fire Commissioners decided the time had come for the Skyway area to have fire protection in their own area. The volunteers - Chief Frank Longo and Fire Commissioners Charlie Hurd, Dale Merritt and Roy Jordan - bought, begged and borrowed the materials necessary to erect the building. It is still standing on the lot, across Renton Avenue from Walt Meland's insurance office. The Fire Department obtained a five-year lease from Jim Coulon, but moved out in 1952 when the new fire station was completed.

As there was very little money, the erecting of the temporary station was truly a community project. Burt Glazier, a local contractor, took on the "free" job of general foreman. On the first Sunday, the lot was leveled and the foundation was laid out. During the week, a couple of cement finishers, Mr. Mattson and Ed Rimbey, poured and finished the foundation. The next Sunday, Burt Glazier "bossed" his enthusiastic crew of about 30 local citizens and volunteers and framed the whole building. The following Sunday it was almost ready for the truck, but everyone thought it should be christened. This was done the next Saturday night and early Sunday morning. Then the 1946 one-ton GMC firetruck was moved in and fire protection became official in Skyway.

The VFW, as a community project, decided that the bog that had been dedicated for a park, in addition to the seven acres donated by John Angel to the Boys' Club, was in need of improvements, so the big drive was on. They procured a bulldozer and started to move lots of

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 21**

dirt. Though the effort was great, it took years to get the park in any condition to use as a ball field.

Seen in the picture at right is a stump showing the huge size of trees that once filled the skyline at the top of the hill. This stump was removed by local powder monkeys with startling results: the stump flew clear across Renton Avenue, but landed between two houses with no ill effects.

*Tree stump 9 feet across! Frank Kline in front [photo]*

In early 1950, Mr. Smiley renovated the building that had the bad floor. He made it over into a restaurant and a small real estate office at the north end of the building. It was later turned into a barber shop by Art Dinzart. The restaurant was first operated by Frank Cholaj and his 2 brother-in-law, Tom Hewitt, as The Drive-Up Dining Room. Then Evie Russell operated it as the Big Boy for a few years until it was taken over by Alice Witt, who operated it until the building was torn down in 1969.

*The Drive- Up Dining Room; part of Skyway Barber Shop. [photo]*

In 1960 the rage of the times was square dancing. Not to be outdone, the Skyway Community Club aided in forming the Pi-R Squares, one of the hottest square dance clubs around. Burt Glazier, one of the head callers and many times president in the last 30 years, is

still calling them out and just as strong as ever. Some of the charter members were Bertie and Virg Bower (now of Sequim), Woody and Jeannie Woodward, Burt and Marge Glazier, Bob and Kay Kimball, Dusty and Anna Bell, Rudy and Jo Parpart, and many other energetic citizens.

Later, in 1950, the second rodeo was held and it was a real show! All the local cowboys and some imports put on a show that rivaled Ellensburg - almost. Even a calf broke through the fence and ran down the middle of Renton Avenue with everyone chasing him on foot. That's some tail!

## **22 SKYWAY HISTORY**

*90 feet high plus a 10-foot cross! [photo]*

At Christmastime in 1950, someone got a great idea for the large fir tree that was at the rear of Skyway Foods. The tree was about 90 feet tall and had a beautiful double-tree shape, like a Christmas tree. The VFW obtained permission from John Angel to use the tree. Along with the Renton Avenue Commercial Club, the tree was lit for Christmas and could be seen for miles.

Everything went fairly smooth for a couple of years, even through a brown-out, until someone hooked the lights up wrong and burned out all the bulbs! If your eyesight is good, you can see two fellows at the top of the tree in the picture above. These daredevils are two VFW members, Al Luberts and Jim Parker. A couple of years later it was necessary to have the beautiful tree taken down as it was getting old and dangerous.

The light strings could not be wasted, so the Renton Avenue Community Club, spearheaded by Jim Walsh of Skyway Foods, strung them across Renton Avenue for a number of years until they became too dangerous to handle. After that happened, just the garland was used until it became too raggedy to use.

In 1951, Harold McCorkle was not up to running the newly opened barber shop, so a recently released sailor, Chet Hughes, took over the shop and operated it until 1981, when he passed away. Chet had been through the chairs of the local VFW Post and also through the Washington State VFW chairs.

Next in line was the block building now occupied by Walt Meland, the local State Farm insurance agent. It was built by Dusty Bell and Burt Glazier in 1951, and Dusty operated a shoe repair store there for quite a few years.

In 1952 the Fire District put a bond issue for \$50,000 on the ballot for a new fire station in Skyway and for a new fire truck. The bond passed and the District erected its present station in 1953 for \$25,000 and a fully equipped Kenworth fire truck for \$25,000. On today's market, this \$50,000 will buy slightly over half of an unequipped fire truck!

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 23**

*The new Fire Station in 1963, ready to be opened. Notice in right background: no Market Basket and no A & H Drugs in left background. [photo]*

The Renton Avenue Commercial Club, which was still active and kicking, decided they needed a more sophisticated name. Besides, there were a few gals letting their presence be known. After a lot of deep thought, the name became the Skyway Commercial Club. The Club

stirred things up to aid in getting the Water District to install street lights on Renton Avenue. The installation of the lights was accomplished, even though they were only the incandescent type. A match was needed to read by, but they were a 1000 percent improvement over the black nights of the past.

Jim Coulon in 1952 renovated a residence where the Skyway Beauty Salon is today. Mr. Coulon invited Dr. Cassutt to move his dental practice from downtown Seattle into the north half of the building.

Horace Nicholas, a fledgling CPA, moved into the front half of the other shop. Horace, with his bride Mary, lived in the rear of the office at a total cost of \$75 a month rent. Horace stayed in this location for a year until he moved to Renton and set up shop on Williams Street.

The Skyway Accounting business was then taken over by Horace's father, Ralph. Mr. Nicholas had just moved to Skyway after 25 years as a Collector of Internal Revenue in Denver. After several years, Mr. Nicholas Sr. moved and set up his business where Skyway Accounting is today. Later he moved next to Skyway Texaco until he retired the second time.

Dr. Cassutt stayed until 1954, when he became ill and sold his business to Dr. Donald Cornpaan, who was fresh out of the University

## **24 SKYWAY HISTORY**

of Washington Dental School.

Early in 1953, after many years of work and frustration, the County finally accepted the property that was to become Skyway Park. The first part of the park was when the Skyway Community Club accepted three lots on the park side of South 125th from the developer of the Renwood Homes in 1943. The Club then proceeded to improve the location with a picnic shelter and lavatories. The VFW procured the adjacent property from the Skyway Boys' Club and Mr. Angel. They improved sections of it in order to make a ball field. Mike Kearns of the VFW Post made swings, slides, etc. for the new park. At an acceptance get-together, King County Commissioner William Sears and other County officials dedicated the park property, which was the official start of Skyway Park as it is today.

*Color Guard: Cliff Reeser, Jack Smith, Danny Swartz, Mike Kearns [photo]*

The same year the park was dedicated in 1953, the Renton School District commissioners decided that the Skyway School couldn't take care

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 25**

of the expanding juvenile population. The Board opened the just-erected Lakeridge School to accommodate the first through sixth grades.

The age of enlightenment came to the community in January 1953, when a number of real, community-spirited citizens formed the Skyway Library Association. The building they used had been a government surplus housing unit. They located it behind where Vincent Realty is now housed. Mr. Angel leased the property to the Board, free of charge. The VFW also got into the act and worked on the building and furnished free water. Their first president was Christian Diede, and the Skyway Community Club loaned the fledgling Library Association \$500 (that's

1953 dollars!). The Skyway Library Board, made up of volunteers only, served our community well until the County got rich and opened a new library in 1970. A great many people put in a lot of hard work keeping the doors open; they sold licenses and did everything they could to keep it going.

*The just moved-in Skyway Library [photo]*

Mr. Angel then decided that the time had come to start another building where the Beachcomber Tavern is now situated. When the building was completed, the Beachcomber moved in and opened with an unknown operator and a rope-wrapped bar. It stayed open under this management for only a year. Then Marvin Taylor and his stepfather, Chris Christensen, assumed the new management, which they continued until

## **26 SKYWAY HISTORY**

1978 when Marvin semi-retired.

Kimball's Bakery moved from their small, original quarters in the first building Mr. Angel built (next to Renton Avenue Pharmacy) into larger quarters, next to Bob Kattigan's laundromat and liquor store - the first in Skyway. Joe Marchbanks also moved The Freezer establishment to fill the building.

Early in 1954 a couple of young fellows fresh out of medical training arrived on the scene. Drs. Leo Heye and Nicholas Nelson set up their practice as the Scenic Ridge Heights Medical Center, and they are still going strong. They were the first ones to see half of the kids that are running around Skyway today. Things were not all a bed of roses at first, so Drs. Nelson and Heye took turns going a day or two a week to Concrete, Washington, to help feed their families, but it was not too long before things began to look up.

In this same year, Marvin Taylor had a few spare minutes, so he watched the progress of the movie house's framework being torn down and the hole filled in. Removing the old building may have been an omen of things to come: Market Basket was starting to move on to bigger things.

1954 brought a lot of health care to the district. Along about the time Drs. Heye and Nelson moved in, Dr. Parsley opened up shop in a small office where the north half of the Dragon Inn is today. Dr. Parsley moved later to a clinic in the building now occupied by the Whole Life Clinic at 7623 South 124th. He was joined by Dr. Rosegay, who still practices at Southcenter.

In 1955 some of the local athletes decided that to get a good game of golf going and have companionship, it would be necessary for like minds to get together. Thus, a group headed by Roy Jourdan, Charlie Courtney, Roy Norbeck and Jiggs Hoyt gathered a number of fellows together and formed the Skyway Athletic Club (SAC). The Club held golf tournaments and fishing derbies, formed bowling leagues, started the Southeast Limits Little League and the Skyway Athletic Club's Babe Ruth team, and initiated other athletic entertainment.

A few in-house games of poker and cribbage were also in order. After a lot of companionship and good times, interest waned. In 1964 the Club went the way of a lot of organizations and just quit operating, with only fond memories left. SAC had over 150 members at one time

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 27**

*Skyway Athletic Club (SAC) patch [photo]*  
*Concentration Al Johnson [photo]*

and, during its life, the presidents were Jiggs Hoyt, Chuck Wintermeyer and Jim Bakke.

That same year, Peoples National Bank brought the first financial business to the area and set up shop where the Skyway Jewelers are now located. The manager was a young man from the South - I don't mean South Seattle - Albert A. Green Jr. Al stayed in the Skyway area until 1963 and, during this time, served a couple of terms as president of the Skyway Commercial Club and kept things stirred up with parades and carnivals and other community doings.

Soon after the bank moved in, someone wondered what THAT BUTTON was for and pushed it. The bank closed for business a good part of the day until the tear gas cleared out! In 1960, Peoples moved to their present location.

*Al Green and SuSu [photo]*

The big thing of the year was the start of Market Basket's new complex. It included the store now occupied by Family Market and A & H Drugs. The liquor store came a few years later. This was the biggest business in the area and operated as one of a chain of supermarkets in the Renton area by Mike Lotto and Bill O'Neil.

## **28 SKYWAY HISTORY**

They had operated the original Market Basket two blocks south on Renton Avenue. Paul Carey was also the manager as he had been at the old store, along with Pete Franz as assistant manager.

Shaw Brothers from Renton operated the drug store with Ron Dartnell as manager for a few years. They later sold the business to Austin & Hendrickson (A & H) Drugs of Renton, who are still in business and operate as A & H Drugs. Paul Owen, the owner of Owen-Hendry Drugs, sold his inventory to A & H in 1969, went to work for the company, and is still on the payroll.

Kimball's Bakery sold their equipment to Market Basket and ran the bakery that Market Basket set up. Bob and Kay Kimball operated the shop until Market Basket decided that the bakery business wasn't the greatest thing in the world for them. In 1960 they closed this branch of the business. Bob then went to work for Host Caterers at the then SeaTac Airport (now Henry Jackson Airport) and continued for 14 years, when he retired in 1979, and Kay more or less retired at the same time.

Art Dinzart moved with the Market Basket - his fifth move in Skyway - when he moved into his new shop in 1955, from which he just retired in July, 1982. A lot of changes, but his customers still followed Art around. Jiggs Hoyt says he has been getting his head gone over by the same hands since 1947, when Art started in Skyway working the second barber's chair for Harold McCorkle.

Next to the barber shop was a small office that Bruce and Marilou Christianson of Skyway Jewelers moved into in 1957. They stayed there until 1959, when they moved across the street into the store that Peoples National Bank had vacated.

Skyway Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Clarence Parr, was formed and, like a lot of other organizations in the area, they had no place to hold their services. So the VFW donated the use of their hall for several years until the church got on their feet. They later moved into a residence. Still later, in 1977, Skyway Baptist moved to a new building on South 125th and 79th South. The man in charge in 1983 is Rev. Keith Churilla and his congregation is still multiplying.

The first law practice in the Skyway area was set up by a fairly new barrister from Rainier Valley, by the name of Robert Strong. Bob set up his part-time practice in the office of Ralph Nicholas, the local

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 29**

CPA who had moved to the building that would be next to Vincent Realty. Bob came to Skyway in 1956 and stayed until 1972, when he moved to Edmonds for a full-time practice, along with a part-time practice in downtown Seattle.

In 1956, Standard Oil Company erected a service station where the Foto-Mat shop is at the present time, on the corner of South 122nd and Renton Avenue. The proud owner was Tom Pruett, whose able assistant was Ken Powell. Ken took over the operation of the business in 1960, and continued until 1972, at which time the building was torn down. At that time Ken moved to Renton and continued the Skyway Towing he had started in Skyway. Ken is still going strong in Renton in the towing and auto rebuilding business.

The Skyway business district had a problem keeping the rocks off Renton Avenue until 1956, because the west half of the street was nothing but gravel. At that time, the County, with a little pressure from certain people, saw their way clear to blacktop the entire street – a 100 percent improvement. No more continual sweeping.

The Sheriff's Department was not in very good shape financially in October, 1956. They could not furnish very much protection in the way of law enforcement. At that time the Sheriff's reserve officers offered to have a patrol car in Skyway if the Commercial Club would provide the organization with a headquarters office. After much discussion, the Club rented a small space in the back part of what is now Vincent Realty, to the tune of \$40 per month - and the Sheriff furnished the car. This arrangement continued until March of 1959, when the Sheriff was able to finance more regular police service.

In 1956 the old Market Basket building was not very active, but then the building began to house a succession of businesses: first, a kids' slot car track; then it housed a hardware store in competition with Superior Hardware, but it lasted only a couple of years. The next venture was Carl's Shoe Store, sponsored by Debbie Reynolds' husband. Debbie showed up for the grand opening and things went great at the start, but the store did not set the world on fire. The next try was a furniture store that lasted only a few years.

Milmanco, a Renton publishing company, then moved in for about three years, with Harry Uhorchak as manager. Milmanco writes manuals

## **30 SKYWAY HISTORY**

for the government or anyone in need of this sort of literature. After all these tenants, the Market Basket building stood empty; and, along with the Big Boy Restaurant that was operated by Alice Witt, was torn down finally in 1969. A short-lived Gulf Service Station was built on the spot, which was operated by John Campbell with the help of Dave Volante.

1957 saw the expansion of Superior Hardware, when Al and Dave hired Bud Vanderford to build an addition onto the original store that doubled their floor space. When the building was completed, Al became a furniture expert and kept at it until he retired in 1976. Al then moved to Sequim and is still hanging in there. The store is now the Family Clothing Store, with Chuch Lorber as manager.

*New Superior Furniture Store addition.*

*Note the wooden light poles and heavy wires, which have since been removed through the efforts of the Skyway Commercial Club. [photo]*

Down the street, Skyway Drugs had been operated by Andy Erickson for some years, until he closed it in 1956. The store was later re-

### **SKYWAY HISTORY 31**

opened by a new fellow to the community, who was "odd" enough to be able to ride a unicycle. In 1957, Paul Owen opened Owen-Hendry Drugs, operating it with the able assistance of Mable Highland until June of 1969.

Dr. Leonard Siebert, a dentist who was two years out of dental school, went into practice in what is now the Whole Life Clinic at the intersection of 77th South and South 124th. Len stayed in this location until he decided to build his own building on South 126th, across from the Skyway Post Office. Len made the big move in 1967 and is still practicing there. Dr. Taro Sasai, another dentist who formerly practiced in an office on Renton Avenue at South 122nd, has his office on the lower level of the clinic.

The first Little League sponsored by SAC to play on the newly graded Skyway Park ball diamond was on the field in 1957, and it was appropriately named the Southeast Limits Little League.

*Skyway merchants' baseball team in 1957, with Carl Walker and Doug Pritchard as coaches. [photo]*

The first year was a get-together league; but, in 1958, things got into high gear with regular league play in progress on top of the hill, still going strong with John Groen as president. One of the main-springs in starting the league was Gerry Mutz of the Federal Lease Com-

### **32 SKYWAY HISTORY**

pany, now located on Empire Way. Gerry was the president and one of the main money collectors.

The first few years there were not enough fields to go around, so the teams had to travel and they played on some pretty rough diamonds. Later, the Park Department, under the guidance of George Wyse, the King County Park Superintendent, got in gear and things smoothed out fairly well. The second season that the local fields were used, the Park

Department opted to put in a sprinkler system, which they started to install the first day of play! Some fun!

*The same idea, the same kids, the same managers and coaches.  
Just the years have changed: 1957 to 1983. [photo]*

That same year the Skyway Athletic Club fielded a Babe Ruth team, with Jack Hyde as head coach and Jim Bakke as assistant coach. The team did not do too much the first year; but after a couple more years under their belts, they went on to the championship season. Things did

### **SKYWAY HISTORY 33**

*Skyway Athletic Club's Babe Ruth Team*

*Left to right [back row ] : Coach Jim Bakke, Bob Eaton, Chuck Carver, Howie Wilson, Jim Lambro, Mike Fredericks, Steve Adair, Coach Jack Hyde.*

*Front Row: Bat Boy Sammy Hyde, Jerry Graves, Denny Shearer, Chuck Lewindowski, Tom Berg, Marc Mutz, George Fields, Corky Elfing, Virgil Forcier. [photo]*

not end with the first championship; they kept going strong for a few more years.

In 1958, Dr. Howard McDougall moved into the Skyway Park Clinic after Dr. Herbert Clausing moved to the Standring Memorial Hospital in Burien. Before Dr. Clausing moved out of the area, he loaded the 40-foot cabin cruiser he had spent years building on the bank that is at the rear of Skyway Auto Parts. The boat was then loaded on a truck and moved to Lake Washington where Herb proved he was a boat builder: it floated! Dr. McDougall stayed in the area treating all the ailing people until he moved to Renton and set up practice. He is still at it.

*Dr. Clausing's boat being loaded onto a truck. [photo]*

### **34 SKYWAY HISTORY**

Not much happened in 1959, but a young, energetic builder called Tom Williams decided that the Skyway area needed some multiple housing. He constructed the San Juan Apartments adjacent to the park on South 125th, and continued on until he had the entire hillside full of nice units. The complex is now called Green Tree Village and is operated by Joe Gray. The apartments and grounds are a compliment to the Skyway community. About the same time the San Juans were being built, a second apartment in Skyway was erected next to the Scenic Ridge Heights Medical Center - on what was thought to be an unbuildable rock pile.

Things may not have been very active in the area in 1958 and 1959, but things sure changed in 1960. Early in the year the Skyway Commercial Club figured it would be a great idea if the area could be cleaned up, so the Club purchased five trash cans. They had a showcard artist from Bryn Mawr, Bob Reichel, letter them and the Club put them out in convenient places throughout the business area. The cans were located by Skyway Foods (now C & P), in front of the Fire Station, next to Owen- Hendry Drugs, in front of A & H Drugs (the most used one), and our memory slips where the other one was located. Albeit, all the cans have disappeared but one; it is still in front of the Fire Station. The man who ran Skyway Disposal, Earl Noonan, had a regular job keeping the cans empty. Earl now lives in Whatcom County.

*Bruce Heisey, A & H druggist [photo]*

In early 1956, Mr. Bassetti, a publisher of many local newspapers, came to Skyway and solicited the local merchants for advertising in order to get backing to launch a weekly newspaper in the Skyway District . He was fairly successful for a few years and the four-page paper carried a lot of neighborhood news. Some of the steady journalistic contributors were Fran Schneider with her neighborhood news, Orville Peterson with SAC'S bowling news, Larry Patterson with local merchants' news, Jiggs Hoyt with "Red Galluses" (suspenders), news of the Fire Department, and other scribes from time to time.

## SKYWAY HISTORY 35

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# SKYWAY REPORTER

An Independent Weekly Newspaper Dedicated To The Welfare And Progress Of Skyway Park, Lakeridge, Bryn Mawr, Earlington, Panorama View And Terrace Park

## OFFICE and PLANT

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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 13

SEATTLE 44, WASHINGTON

THURS. MAR. 31. 1960

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## "Progress Day" Was Successfully Celebrated At Skyway Park Friday

**HUGE CROWDS FROM ALL SURROUNDING AREAS JOIN LOCAL RESIDENTS IN MEMORABLE FESTIVITIES**

**By FRAN SCHNEIDER**

Approximately 4000 people filed through the new Peoples National Bank of Skyway Park on grand opening day, Friday, March 25, and over fifteen hundred lovely carnations were given out to the ladies, Bernedette Reimer, model from Kathleen Peck's doing the honors. Albert A. Green, Bank Manager, Paul Danforth, Vice President of the Board of Peoples National, and Dan P. Danilov, Seattle Lawyer, opened the bank officially at 9:00

Beautiful **new Bank Bldg** of Peoples **Skyway** Branch is **shown above** in full glory of night illumination.  
- Photo by BOB STEARN

## THE PARTY LINE

**By FRAN SCHNEIDER**  
**PA 3-1143**

Dear Hearts and Gentle People,

Here I am again, along the news line, wondering how all of you are doing and how you are feeling. Is the world treating you well? My goodness but it has been an exciting week around our fabulous Skyway Park. Don't you think that our little city is growing by leaps and bounds? Gosh it's fantastic, unbelievable and amazing, but so true. It all fits in a beautiful line of endless development as the outstanding group of merchants work hand in hand to build the area to one of efficiency and thrift.

Another line also is the renowned Bill Carter's Original Party Line on KOL. Bill is achieving great heights on this program of his, as he steadily increases his long line of listeners, and adds another sponsor to this show of shows in radio. Mr. Carter is a diplomat, a leader, a friend to all, along his Party Line, as well as off the line. The new sponsor just recently joining the much heralded program is Underhill's Unfinished Furniture Company of Seattle, located at 5th N. and Broad St. Congrats Bill Carter! Skyway Park, let's penetrate Bill's line.

I've got a question for you. What would you do with a million dollars, if you had it? Would you put it in our new bank? Why, of course you would, and so would I. But I'd...

## LAKERIDGE KINDERGARTEN TO ORGENIZE APRIL 11th

A meeting for the formation, and pre-registration, of the Lakeridge Kindergarten Assoc. for the school year 1960-61 will be held at the Lutheran Church, 7465 So. 112th St., Monday, April 11 at 8 p.m., Mr. Ned Stokes, president, announced.

Plans for the kindergarten program will be discussed. Parents who are interested to enroll children should attend. Children five years old or before September 16 will be eligible.

## **TEEN SCENE**

By **FRAN**

Dear Fran,

Almost every Saturday night the teenagers from West Skyway Park pile into my dad's car and I take them down to the skating rink in Renton. The ones who go most of the time are Mark Twiner, Kathy Woodman, Ted Bear, Tom Smith, Dan McGrath, Miriam Stewart, Jerry Megers, Doug Erickson and myself. We can do the Collegian and we are learning the waltz. Gene Twiner goes too, but all he can do is watch, since he is recovering from a broken leg. The floormen at the rink treat the bunch from here exceptionally well.

After skating we usually go to a restaurant and have something to eat. Then on Sundays we make a neighborhood project of washing my dad's car to pay for the gas we use to go skating.

ROD "BUCKY" STEWART

## **MEN!**

By **PETE**

The final position round was rolled Tuesday night and Evie & Gale's came out of the three way tie with one game to the good. There are two weeks to go and a lot could happen. One of the rooters for Evie & Gale's (Pauline Wade) want...

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*A half-page spread for the opening of Peoples National Bank in the spring of 1960 [photo]*

Mr. Bassetti published the *Skyway Reporter* for about six or seven years until local advertising fell off. It is believed Mr. Bassetti kept the paper going because he enjoyed the work and was helping the community he had worked with.

A big improvement in the community was the new building of Peoples National Bank, as shown above on the front page of the March 31, 1960 issue of the *Skyway Reporter*. The bank was the classiest structure in the area and a big improvement over their original quarters. An odd thing happened shortly after their move, however. Someone wondered

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what THAT BUTTON was for and pushed it. It took the Fire Department the rest of the day to clear the building of tear gas!

When the building lease for the Bryn Mawr Post Office expired, the government decided to build a new Post Office because the center of population in the southeast end had shifted to the Skyway area. The Bryn Mawr Post Office had been operating for a good many years, though - perhaps 50. The day the new Post Office opened, three of the old standbys on the job then were Jim Bradbury, John Swadley and Carl Halgren, who have all since retired.

About the same time, the Renton School District got to thinking that the crowd of kids in the four primary grades in this area were ready for higher learning, so they opened the new A. W. Dimmitt Middle School in 1959 at 80th South and South 124th.

Not to be outdone, John Angel commenced his fourth building in the Skyway business district. He finished it and it currently houses the Room 13 Tavern. When completed, the first tenants were Southend Brokers, with Larry Patterson as manager, and the One-Hour Martinizing & Laundry. Larry Sepulvada opened the first official liquor store in the shop now occupied by the Clipping Company. Larry later moved to the front of the building where the Room 13 Tavern is today. Larry, after a hard-working stint, was put out of business by the new State Liquor Store.

*Queen Geri Evans; Doris Hoyt, driver [photo]*

The real doings of the year of 1960 was the second Skyway Balloon Festival. Though the Balloon Festival in 1959 was good, the first crew did not have the experience required for planning such an event, nor the quality and quantity that the 1960 committee, headed by Al Green and Fran Schneider, were able to put into it. Fran obtained floats, bands, marching units, fire trucks, a Sheriff's posse, convertibles for the Queen and her Princess, kids, and "millions" of bal-

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 37**

*Skyway VFW Queen and Court [photo]*

*Skyway Auxiliary Marching Unit [photo]*

loons for the parade that seemed like a thousand miles long. The parade was just part of that great day. Fran also induced Governor Albert Rosellini to be the Grand Marshal! The Governor was also the guest of honor at the luncheon that was held in the small restaurant run by Bert and Dorothy Hoffman, next door to the Skyway Barber Shop.

In addition to the parade, the main attraction was a dunk tank that featured a lot of the Skyway merchants on the end of the board. The real money-makers on Saturday were the proprietors of the local taverns, with Marv Taylor being the biggest money-maker of the day, although he didn't sell any refreshments during this period. For those who are unable to read the dunking schedule off the picture, the Saturday lineup was as follows:

Al Green - Peoples Bank  
Steve Malik - One-Hour Martinizing  
Dave Riggs - Dave's Associated  
Jiggs Hoyt - Hoyt's Richfield  
Larry Patterson- Southend Brokers  
Dave Hensey - Kenny's Signal

*Art Dinzart on the board [photo]*

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*Art Dinzart off the board! [photo]*

On Sunday there was a full board dunking schedule that started at 11 a.m. and went to 4:30 p.m., with all the business boys taking turns. With this lineup the Club made quite a few bucks to offset some of the expenses.

During the weekend, a lot of the local organizations set up booths and other money-making projects to try to cover their bills and, yet, still have a lot of fun. The committee procured a fairly large carnival that was set up on the lot that had a *Times* newspaper shack on it. Today, Bauer's Off The Avenue is on the spot. Thousands of people had a great time and the following week all the merchants took the week off to rest up. The same thing happened in 1961, but was not as wild as in 1960. Governor Rosellini was not able to show up, as he was a busy man at that time.

One of the better things – community-wise in 1960 - was the action taken by the Water Commissioners of King County Water District No. 69 (Renwood). They petitioned the people to replace the wooden water pipes and the wooden water tower that were installed by builders in 1942. The pipes leaked so bad that the maintenance man couldn't find time to drive in enough wedges to stop the leaks that used as much water as the residents.

For the first ten years - the District was formed in 1946 – Commissioners Bob Todd, Charles Heath and Tom McDowell had taken all the grief of handling the poorly installed Water District for no salary. After ten years they received \$10 per meeting. The community owes these men and Tom's wife Peggy a lot of thanks. After a much-heated discussion, the people of Skyway voted to tax themselves to rebuild new pipes and a steel water tower for the District . The commissioners did a good job because, 23 years later, the Water District is still in good shape.

Late in 1960, Jessie Green, a lady who really knew her ceramics, moved into the store next to Allnoch's Variety to set up her shop – after

### **SKYWAY HISTORY 39**

the washing equipment from the previous tenant was moved out and the store was cleaned up. Jessie stayed in this location for a few years until she and her husband erected the building now occupied by Tom Blake, the first, full-time attorney in Skyway. Jessie was in her new spot for only a few years when she retired. She had a hard time running her I business and doing volunteer work at the airport as a Traveler's Aide. Jessie is shown in the picture on page 14, along with Dan Allnoch. Both are leaning on their brooms, but no gravel to sweep, just dust.

The big move in Skyway was started in 1960 when John Vertrees, a local, part-time resident lawyer, started to develop the area north of South 122nd and Renton Avenue. This section of the community is commonly called North Skyway.

Jerry Allyn, who lived on the hill where the bowling alley is today, also had a horse ranch. When Mr. Vertrees purchased the land with the intent to put in a business center, he moved Jerry's house to an area behind where Herr Lumber is today. He proceeded to move the hill to the bog that was known as Skyway Park and used the fill to put the park area in shape so that the King County Park Department was able to develop it. There were other homes in the development area that were also moved behind the Herr property.

After Mr. Vertrees had all the hill moved and the building built, Skyway Park Bowl came into existence. He and his wife Lila continued to operate it for a number of years. Today it is being rebuilt by the present operators, Dave and Vicky Pardey.

While the development of the property around Skyway Park Bowl neared completion, Humble Oil Company decided that the North Skyway area would be the direction in which further expansion would really occur, so they erected a service station at the intersection of Renton Avenue and 68th South. The first and, to this day, the last man to be the general manager of Skyway Enco Service was (is) Jerry Comber. Jerry recalls that all that was near him when he moved in were a few houses, a lot of brush and Clancy's Market, further towards Seattle on Renton Avenue that was a narrow, two-lane road and not much else.

All the activity of the new bowling alley being erected and Jerry Comber moving into Enco brings to mind that a business had been operating in the north end of the Skyway area for quite a few years. In

## **40 SKYWAY HISTORY**

1949 a Mr. Gronvold built a "Mom and Pop" grocery at the intersection of Renton Avenue and South 116th Place, which is just outside the Seattle city limits, which he called Gronvold's Market. Mr. Gronvold also built the five houses on both sides of South 116th Place, up to the top of the hill. When 1953 rolled around, Mr. Gronvold wanted to move out of the area, so he had a fellow named Clancy operate the grocery until 1962, when Larry Bates took over the business and ran it as the L & L Market until 1969.

After a few other businesses for several years, the building then became a cabinet and woodworking shop. It was run by Andy LeDoux as Andy's Woodcraft, until the building slump arrived, when the cabinet business dropped off.

Although there have been numerous realties in Skyway, before and since 1961, when Keith Taylor and his mother, Billie Pacey, set up shop in a small building they erected alongside the Skyway Tavern, none were so in keeping with the Wild West theme of Skyway. Their business lasted only a few years, however, and then faded.

Flemon Dent and his wife took over the lease of the realty building, after the demise of The Frontier in about 1964, and operated as R & B Cleaners. Mrs. Dent was also a very good person to know when holes and seams had to be taken care of. In 1971, Mr. Dent's legs weren't what they used to be; he had to give up the cleaning business, as well as his long-standing position as Santa Claus to the kids of Skyway. Mr. Dent had donned the red suit and white whiskers each year, from 1960 to 1970, on behalf of the Skyway merchants to give a whole generation of kids a treat by passing out candy. He would wander through the business section for a couple of Saturdays each year, just before Christmas. He was just as happy as the kids and loved this pleasant task.

As the treasury of the SAC was not in very good shape after a few years of Babe Ruth ball, they took it upon themselves to bring fireworks into Skyway and set up the first stand. The sales helped to keep the team on the field.

In 1961 the King County Road Engineers decided that the small-town traffic routed through Skyway was not the best. They therefore revised the intersection of 76th South and Renton Avenue and made some semblance of traffic order on the corner with traffic lights and all.

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 41**

The Skyway Commercial Club thought that blacktop only on the divider on the corner would not look too well, so they installed a planting area to beautify it. While they were at it, the Club also had Vic Walters beautify another open area on Renton Avenue at 76th South, now next to the Foto Mat shop. Both areas are still maintained by the Club. They are not very large, but they certainly give a nice touch of color to each corner, with Tosh and Tomi Mano of the Earlington Greenhouse furnishing the color each year. In years past, some of the garden clubs in the vicinity, by doing all the layout and planting work, did much to enhance the triangle, with the Skyway Commercial Club footing the bill for the materials. In about 1971, Chief Donald Sorenson thought a little recognition was needed for the planted space, and thus carved the "Skyway Park" sign that is in the planter at 76th South.

In 1962, Herr Lumber of Seattle purchased at auction the assets of Skyway Homes that had been operated by John Luker, who ran into financial difficulties after he purchased Skyway Lumber from the estate of Cecil Thomas, who died in 1958.

The Skyline Apartments on Renton Avenue were built in 1962 and, due to the shortage of housing, were in business right soon. The builders saved the front, ground floor for stores and offices. The offices were soon full and one of the first was the representative for State Farm Mutual insurance Company, a short fellow by the name of Doug Crow. After a year, Doug had a new man come in with him to learn the business. It didn't take long for Walt Meland to learn the ropes, and he took over the business when Doug moved to another agency on Mercer Island. Walt stayed in this office for a few years until he found an empty office building at 12721 Renton Avenue in 1978. He bought and renovated it into a real classy office and continued his well-established clientele.

After the completion of Skyway Park Bowl, Mr. Vertrees added another phase of his projected shopping compound: he started the building that is now the Lucky Store and Fisher's Drugs.

Things were looking better financially in 1962 when Murphy Finance set up shop in the store front that had been vacated by Dr. Parsley, when he moved to the site that would eventually be the Whole Life Clinic building. Murphy imported a real live wire to run their operation named Leo Duffy. Leo also added to the life of the Skyway Commercial Club

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when he accepted the job of Treasurer and, later, the President's position. After a few years, Murphy closed their operation in Skyway. Leo went to work for Peoples National Bank and is still on the job in a downtown office.

In the years 1962, 1963 and 1964, the energetic members of SAC decided the Skyway merchants were not doing very much in the way of Christmas decorations. So SAC took it upon themselves to erect a 40 to 50-foot Christmas tree each season in the landscaped triangle at Renton Avenue and 76th South. The effort was well spent, as the end result was a credit to the community. Tragedy hit one year, though, when it became extra windy. The large tree was blown over twice in the same season until it was anchored better. The star, among others, was Lyle Bracken, an employee of the Bell Telephone Company.

Two fellows saw a good thing in 1963, when Will Jensen and Mr. Davenport formed a partnership and took over the operation of the One-Hour Martinizing Cleaners, setting up business as Davenport Martinizing Cleaners. A few years later they knocked out the wall between their establishment and the vacant store next door and installed a self-service laundry. This ambitious pair also opened Skyway Park Cleaning Center, next to Fisher's Drugs in 1969, and worked it until they sold it in the year of 1979.

After 20 years, the two partners decided that enough was enough and, in 1982, they sold the Martinizing Cleaners to Ken and Margaret Hatch. The Hatches thought the cleaning business would be enough, so they closed the self-service laundry.

The store that had been operating in Skyway since Day One passed into new hands, when Mitsujo [Mits] Abe, a Franklin High School grad, reopened Skyway Foods under the name of Tom Boy Market with the help of his two sons, Pat and Bruce.

Later, Mits tore down the old Skyway Tavern building and completely renovated the grocery, changed the entrance, put in new fixtures, and enlarged the whole store. He made it into a mini-supermarket, which is a credit to the community. Mits continued the store's operation after changing the name to IGA, until he retired in 1978. Mits is still in Skyway keeping busy. The store has continued under the name of C & P

### **SKYWAY HISTORY 43**

Family Foods, with Cliff and Pat Dourghty as the owners.

To progress backwards from 1963 to account for the previous owners of Skyway Foods who have not had recognition before, Mits Abe would like to recognize Pete Mykris and his brother-in-law, Sam Zerwoodis, who had taken over the store from Jim Walsh in 1953. Pete now has the restaurant in the Publix Hotel and Sam is in business in Auburn.

Another man who made his mark on the people with whom he associated in the Skyway Methodist Church was Rev. James Lane, who arrived in Skyway in 1958. He was later transferred to Chemicum, Washington, in 1963. If you don't know where Chemicum is, just go west on the Hood Canal Bridge and turn right at the first road to Port Townsend. Don't go too fast, though, or you'll miss it.

The oil companies seemed to want to fill the vacant spots at the south end of Skyway. To add to the already-existing Signal, Richfield, Texaco, Associated and Chevron stations, Shell Oil decided to get into the act when they filled in the big hole where the Century 21 Real Estate office is today. In early 1963, when the new Shell station opened under the guidance of Morry Running, things seemed to be going great guns; but, in 1967, Shell may have figured they were not getting their share of the local trade and, consequently, closed their station. Morry was very active in the community and, during his relatively short stay, made his mark with the Skyway Commercial Club.

A developer took over the lease of the building and changed the face by making it into an office-type building. He also developed the property further south after a while and induced the Pizza Hut chain to enter the area.

Soon a sewing shop was set up in business and, after a time, it was sold to another lady who had an idea for another type of sewing business.

The yellow house that is across the street from Walt Meland's State Farm office was renovated in 1973 by a realtor named Lee Hamre, who then changed the old Jim Coulon home into a real estate office, representing Century 21/Chenaur & Clarke. In 1978, Lee checked on the empty old Shell building and thought it was just the thing he needed. He bought it and altered it to suit his own needs by setting it up as Century 21 Realty where he is still selling lots and lots.

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In 1964, after Ralph Nicholas moved his accounting office from the south half of the building now occupied by Skyway Beauty Salon to the store vacated by Sophie Gores (which is now Skyway Accounting) - some shuffle! - Bill and Helen Lemieux overhauled the south half of the building and opened for business as Skyway

Park Beauty Salon & Boutique.

*Lee Hamre's Century 27 Realty [photo]*

Bill and Helen had the opportunity in 1966 to expand to the north half of the building, when Dr. Compaan completed his new building farther north on Renton Avenue. The Lemieuxs knocked out the wall between the two offices and made a work area out of the entire building. They continued in business until 1979, whereupon they sold to Nadine Park, who is still running the establishment today. Bill and Helen go South with the birds each fall.

Outside of the San Juan Apartments, there was not very much rental housing in the area, so a couple of fellows got together and built the Marianna Apartments, across the street from the Basket Case.

The Skyway Tavern, since its beginnings in 1946, has had a number of owners, but none has stayed the length of time the Near family has been in Skyway. In 1946, Howard Near and his partner Dorothy went into business in the original Skyway Tavern, staying until the Pacific Technology Company moved to Renton. Howard and Dorothy then completely renovated the premises where Odum Variety and Pacific Technology had been. The partnership then opened for business in the new spot. The move was not far or too hard as Howard installed all new fixtures, counter, and everything. Howard's son Bill worked for him and, when the time came, Bill bought his dad out in 1975 and is still the owner and general manager.

To add to the competition, Albertson's moved into the local market

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 45**

business by erecting a large building at 68th South and Renton Avenue, with more parking space than anyone else around. When they opened, they were ready to give the Lucky Store or anyone else a run for their money.

The first manager of the Albertson's establishment was Art Jones, who held the reins for a few years, after which a succession of managers ran the store. One of the popular managers who soon appeared on the scene, in about 1976, was Dick Knight, a two-year president of the Skyway Commercial Club. Dick later thought a salesman's job was a better idea, so he retired from the managing business and the job was taken over by the present-day whip-cracker, Frank Marsden.

In 1964, Richfield Oil Company did not think they were getting their share of the gas business in Skyway. Consequently, they erected a service station at the bottom of two hills and on a curve of Renton Avenue. The first and only operator of the station was a former Shell station manager in Renton, who thought things would be better on top of the hill. Alix Milonas operated the Skyway Park Richfield station for quite a few years until he retired in 1979. Alix spent 29 years in the service station business and, in all this time, made many close friends and acquaintances.

Since Alix retired, the station has been operated by a number of short-term operators, until ARCO decided that the business was just not there and folded their tent at this location. The populace is finding out these days that there's a vast difference between a *service* station, and the present-day *gas* station; for on a windy, rainy day they wish the old way would come back,

both in price and service. The building today is a rental shop run by the Rent-It Shops, with Steve Scott as manager.

After operating as a local, home-town-type market in Skyway for 17 years, the Market Basket owners, Mike Lotto and Bill O'Neil, decided to take life easy. They sold the grocery chain in 1965, except for the Yakima store, to Fred Meyer of Portland and more or less retired. A few of the employees stayed on with Fred Meyer for a while, but eventually moved to other fields. Frankie Longo, who started with Market Basket as a box boy, went over to Fred Meyer as manager of their Lewis and Clark store. Later, he became a salesman for Wonder Bread.

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*Market Basket store and adjoining businesses [photo]*

Paul Carey, the manager of the old Skyway store and, for a few years, manager of the new store, worked for Fred Meyer in Skyway. He later moved to Portland as a property manager and, still later, went into the real estate business on his own.

Other managers were Pete Franz, who later went into the contracting business; and Phil Nygard, who went into trailer sales. Jack Skagan, after a number of years as the meat manager for Market Basket, went into the wholesale meat business as the owner of E & J Meats. An assistant manager, Vic Malligrini, worked for Fred Meyer for a while, then moved to another market. The head meat wrapper of the Skyway store, Donna Whitehead, moved with Meyer's to the Lewis and Clark market.

In the produce department some of the fellows also moved around. Pete DeSanto went to work for the Market Basket store still retained in Yakima and, later, into the produce business for himself. Louis Mallesis worked for Fred Meyer in four stores and finally decided the jumping around wasn't for him. He opened Mallesis Flowers in the Renton Shopping Center so as to be "in the roses."

After Fred Meyer took over in 1965, things were not the same as in the old stores and things must not have lived up to Meyer's expectations. They sold the business to Art's Food Centers, after about two years in the Skyway area, and moved to Holly Park. Art's Food Centers kept the chain for about seven years and then, in 1975, it was taken over by the Family Market (Tradewell), which is still being operated by them.

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 47**

In 1965, one of the unique clubs of the area that was never very well publicized, although active, was the Skyway Bicycle Club. Paul Owen of Owen-Hendry Drugs was president and Walter Rue, the *Post-Intelligencer's* weather prognosticator of the 1940s, '50s, '60s and '70s and a local resident of Skyway, was secretary.

The mobile equipment consisted of one unicycle that was ridden by President Owen, one walking stick used by the recording secretary, and one bicycle used by the dues-paying member, Jiggs Hoyt. Jiggs used the bicycle between the service station and fire station on fire calls. The bike was used also for fast trips to the Big Boy Restaurant for coffee and to loan to customers for pick-up and delivery service.

Union Oil Company found an open space in North Skyway, near the new Skyway Park Bowl, and couldn't resist the temptation to fill it. They built the ninth service station in Skyway proper. At the grand opening the beaming faces of the new operators, Jim and Paula Corner, were very evident. Jim has run a very successful business there for the last 18 years and, by the looks of things, he is still hanging in there. Jim has one of two service stations in Skyway that boasted ten at one time.

*Jim Corner's 76 Station [photo]*

*Dr. Compaan's dental office [photo]*

After 12 years in a small location where Skyway Beauty Salon is today, Dr. Donald Compaan figured that rather than pay rent, he

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would erect his own office building the way he wanted it. In 1966 he built a very nice one next to Superior Furniture and moved into it in the fall. He has been doing a first-rate business since. Dr. Compaan has a man in the second office filling everything in sight - Dr. R. David Mitchell.

One of the mainstays for Dr. Compaan over the years was Nancy Messall, who greeted all the patients. Sadly, Nancy contracted muscular dystrophy in 1973 and had to retire. She is now living with her mother in Napavine, Washington.

*Archie Codiga Bridge [photo]*

*Codiga Barn [photo]*

In 1966 the Federal Government rebuilt a way to get off the top of Skyway Hill. As part of the interstate highway system, they put in a bridge over the freeway at South 129th that leads to the Allentown flats going toward Interurban Avenue.

The bridge is officially the Archie Codiga Bridge, as inscribed on the north, upper end of the structure. Archie Codiga was one of the old settlers in the Allentown area and had a ranch that is still standing at the lower end of the bridge. The big barn, old silo and corn fields are still operated by his son, Jim Codiga, and his grandchildren. County Councilwoman, Lois North, is also a daughter of Mr. Codiga and grew up in the area.

In 1967, John Vertrees progressed further with his development plans for the area adjacent to the Lucky Store and Fisher's Drugs that

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 49**

he had completed in 1962, when he added a new wing to the south. In the new building was a self-service laundry and cleaning plant, run by the owners of Davenport Martinizing Cleaners, and Steve's Too Barber Shop, which was later taken over by Craig Cole operating under the name of Cole Cuts/Mr. Roberts' Beauty Salon.

Vi Moore, formerly of the Do Drop Inn who was in business for years in the Santerelli building at South 76th and Renton Avenue, opened a brand new, fancy restaurant and the first cocktail lounge in Skyway under the name of the Lemon Tree. Vi sold the restaurant after a few years to Joe Azus, who operated it as Tenderloin Unlimited. When Joe closed the Tenderloin

Unlimited in 1981, Sergio Fernandez completely rebuilt the business into a real nice Mexican hacienda. He opened up in 1982 under the name of El Tapatio III and is going great.

While all the commotion was going on near the rear of the Lucky Store, the Dairy Queen ice cream chain erected a small, chalet-type structure facing Renton Avenue and operated it several years. Bill Corie took it over and ran it as Bill's Drive-In for several more years. Next, it was taken over by Ed and Virginia Moorhead in 1979. Today finds them still in the same location.

The variety store business disappeared from Skyway in 1967, when Mr. Odum, who had bought out Dan Allnoch in 1957, decided that he could do better by retiring. Mr. Odum through the years did his part in our community by supporting a Little League player for a number of years, along with other community projects.

After Mr. Odum moved out of the variety store at 12641 Renton Avenue, a new type of industry for Skyway moved in. Pacific Technology, with Warren Leyde, Gale Russell and others, made all kinds of electronic equipment. After a couple of years the group moved to the old Spider Staging building in Renton on Airport Way and continued there for quite a few years.

After 19 years in the same location running Hoyt's Richfield and a vacation trailer business, Jiggs Hoyt figured it was time to semi-retire. In January, 1967 he made arrangements with his top helper, Al Brown, to purchase the service station business. Jiggs moved to the old Signal Service Station at 12817 Empire Way South, and set up his operation as Hoyt's Rentals. The business was primarily trailer rentals and trailer

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welding and wiring. However, Jiggs did not get a chance to semi-retire until he took the bull by the horns in 1977 and completely retired from a paying business. Jiggs still lives in Skyway and is active in various community projects and other non-paying jobs.

In July 1968, Gerry and Kay Mutz erected a small office on the lot of Hoyt's Rentals and went into the used car business. They were not new to the business; they had been associated with Jesse James on East Marginal Way since 1965. When Jiggs retired in 1977, the Mutzes purchased the building and property from George Moore and are still in business.

To make a quorum, the American Oil Company erected the tenth service station in Skyway, across Renton Avenue from Skyway Park Richfield being operated by Alix Milonas. The identities of the first few operators are somewhat obscure until Joe Wolf, a local mechanic, moved into the location from a shop he had in the old Hillcrest Signal Station. Joe stayed a few years until he retired. Joe was in business in Skyway in 1946 with Babe Wehrer and was working on autos at that time. Joe still lives in Skyway and keeps his hands in the auto repair business on a small scale.

The American Service Station had a number of operators over the years until American Oil pulled out of the Seattle area altogether. At the present time, the location is being operated by Sam Wong as Sam's Automotive. The property is owned by Ken Williams, an old Skywayite. Ken has the vehicle storage lot surrounding the service station, as well as a landscaping business in the area behind the storage lot.

In 1968 the Southland Corporation built a 7-11 Store on 76th South, between South 124th and South 126th. They ran it for a couple of years and then closed the store. After a year or so of being closed, a bakery from Burien - the Golden Oven - used the premises for a wholesale bakery for a couple of years.

The next tenant was an ambitious fellow by the name of George Bauer, who spent some time renovating the building into a first-class restaurant. George opened in 1979 as the EATS Restaurant, which he changed in a year to Bauer's Off The Avenue. George and Beverly are still going great guns and are a welcome addition to the area.

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 51**

In the late 1960s, Dave Stritmater and his wife Olive built the Highlands Convalescent Center in Renton. Al Marchbanks operated Superior Hardware and Superior Furniture 'til 1969, when George Brown, a former employee of Superior and an old-time hardware man, took over the hardware end and Al went strictly into the furniture business with his brother Joe. George had a partner from Renton, Don Custer, who was more or less silent. George operated the hardware business for a year or so until he took on new partners in October, 1971. Tom and Marion Carlin, along with George Brown, ran the hardware business together until 1977, when George retired. After taking it a little easier for a few years in Sequim, George died.

Al Marchbanks decided in 1976 he should make a place for someone else, so he retired and moved to Sequim also. The Carlins then assumed the helm of the furniture store as well and worked it with the aid of their sons, Mike and Tommy. After a couple of years, the Carlins figured the furniture business wasn't for them and let it go. The Carlins moved then to the north store to deal in hardware, household fixtures and supplies.

After all the hard work the Skyway Library Board put in to keep the old portable painted, cleaned, heated, and all the other things needed to keep a library running, the County procured enough money to erect a new building. They located it on South 126th, across the street from Peoples National Bank. They did things up a light brown; the building, inside and out, is a credit to our community. The King County Library Board opened the building in April of 1970, but the old, hard-working Board just faded away. The last one around was Walt Steinhart picking up the loose ends of the Board.

*King County Library, Skyway Park Branch [photo]*

1970 was a banner year for Skyway. The King County Library

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Board erected a new building and Lyle Sandalius became the manager of Peoples Bank. Lyle had the longest tenure as a Skyway bank manager after Al Green's eight years. Al stirred up the most enthusiasm, but Lyle was the bulldog type; he started something and didn't let go. Lyle had a project going for each year in Skyway and kept after them, accomplishing most of them until he retired in 1977.

The first thing that bugged Lyle in the district was the 80-foot light poles that were strung through the business district, as shown in the picture on page 15. He kept after the City Light officials until they must have become tired of listening to him. They finally removed the top 25

feet, after moving the larger wires to some other location. This improved the avenue considerably, but it still had the "forest" look.

There was a hole in the landscape on the south side of Renton Avenue, between Skyway Park Bowl and Skyway Union Station. Seattle-First National Bank filled it with a local branch in January of 1970, and staffed it with a live wire named Norm Anderson as manager. Norm served his hitch as president of the Skyway Commercial Club and matters ran smoothly during his term; but, like all branch managers, he went off to greener fields.

*Seattle-First National Bank, Skyway Park Branch [photo]*

The next two managers, Ken Foster and Doug Foxx, were also live wires Commercial Club-wise; but when their times came, also moved on to other areas. The next manager was a hometown girl. Margaret Norbeck has lived in Skyway since 1952 and really knew the people in the area. Margaret served as president of the Skyway Commercial Club and there was never one who worked any harder than that gal.

However, to the bank it makes no difference about a person's likes and dislikes; it's

### **SKYWAY HISTORY 53**

what the computer says to do. In June of 1983, Margaret was transferred to the Westwood Branch. Her replacement and present manager is Dorothy Beck, the former assistant manager under Margaret. Such is life in a far-off Western town!

Lyle Sandalius did such a good job with the light poles, the Skyway Commercial Club elected him president in 1971. He didn't like the looks of the business district, so he stirred up the idea of changing the looks of the buildings. He contacted the County for a block grant for a survey and got some money; then he bugged the merchants and obtained enough to hire Felix Campanella to draw some pictures and plans to upgrade the business area. About the only thing that came out of this study was that some of the building owners put on Western fronts. Among the face-lifts were Superior Hardware, Skyway Tavern, Walt Meland's insurance building, Jiggs Hoyt's Ice House, and Mits Abe's IGA Market.

As the members of the Commercial Club appreciated the efforts made by Lyle, they elected him president again in 1972 with Jack Thomas, the manager of A & H Drugs as vice president and chief helper.

There was a rumble of a chance that the community might be able to obtain some of the Forward Thrust money that was floating around. Lyle kept after the right people and started things rolling in this direction, but the action was a distance off. Metro was going into the bus business about this time, so Lyle worked on that project and, before long, a bus was running through Skyway every hour in 1973. Lyle kept pushing the beautification idea - always very quietly - and there were a lot of plans drawn, but things didn't materialize.

As the wheels of government turn slowly, not much was heard of Forward Thrust in 1973 and 1974, but Lyle jabbed someone every chance he got, and it seems he got in quite a few jabs from the later results.

Skyway Park Radio and TV Repair, with Toku Okamura as its head man, started in business in Skyway in the store where Skyway Accounting is today. Toku stayed in this location until he built a building of his own in North Skyway, next to the Methodist Church, in 1979.

Toku's wife Mari, who worked for the Lemieuxs, occupied the other half of the building under the name of Mari's Beauty Shop. The husband-and-wife team are going great.

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*Skyway Radio & TV - Mari's Beauty Salon [photo] Ralph Nicholas [photo]*

After 25 years as a Collector of Internal Revenue in Denver and 19 years in Skyway taking care of income taxes and other business for a whole generation of folks, being the perennial treasurer of the Skyway Commercial Club, and just being a heck of a nice fellow, Ralph Nicholas (see picture above) died in November, 1972. Mr. Nicholas left a lot of friends in Skyway and perhaps in Denver. He also left a son, Horace, who is still a CPA in Renton, and two daughters: Kay in Richland, Washington, and Janet in Jerome, Idaho.

Debbie Hilde worked at the Skyway Park Beauty Salon for Bill and Helen Lemieux 'til she found out in 1973 she could take on a lot of worries running a business herself. She moved across the street into the store vacated by Owen-Hendry Drugs in 1969. When she stood back a little, it looked good to see that "Deborah Ann" sign over the door for the next couple of years. She moved in 1975 to her present location where, under the new name of The Clipping Company, Debbie operates with her partner, Ken Oswald, in the store on the north side of the building, north of the Family Market. Debbie and Ken have a good business thing going and things look as though they may get better.

Before Debbie moved into the Owen-Hendry building, another hair expert, Ken Ball, operated a shop for a few years under the name of Mr. Roberts' Styling Salon. Vicky Nelson had operated the Talk of the Town, another beauty salon before Ken Ball.

Not much happened in Skyway in 1973 building-wise, but not to

## **SKYWAY HISTORY 55**

let things fall flat, the Skyway VFW Post No. 9430, under the leadership of Commander Roy Rogers [not the movie star], christened the new Post home on the 15th of December, 1973. After years of planning, holding bazaars, fund drives and everything where a few bucks could be made, the VFW boys cut loose and celebrated the coming of Christmas and New Years all at once. The dream that started in 1946 had come true at last! Roy happened to be Commander at the right time, but he says that the project was a concerted effort of every man in the Post.

*The home of Skyway VFW Post No. 9430 [photo]*

The Post building is not only one of the nicest buildings architecturally in the area, but has also been used to a good extent by the community. Meetings in the Post home certainly beat the first organizational meetings that were held in the basement of the old, uncompleted, damp theatre building that was next to Superior Hardware!

In 1974 the Southland Corporation again decided that, with a new spot, they could make the grade in Skyway. They tore down the short-lived Gulf Oil Station that had been run by John Campbell and put up another new building. The store is managed by Darryl Rudolph.

In January 1974, one of Lyle Sandalius' friends - and the friend of a lot of other people - passed away. Frank Longo had been a mainstay in the Skyway, Bryn Mawr and Lakeridge communities. He first became associated with Fire District No. 20 in 1942, when he became a Captain in the all-volunteer department. Frank became Chief in 1946 as a volunteer and traveled on the road for Puget Sound Stamp Works. In

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1952 he became the first paid man in the department. Over the years Frank did a very good job until he retired on disability in 1973. He died of a heart condition in January, 1974.

*Chief Frank Longo [photo]*

The wheels started turning in 1975 with Forward Thrust. Through the plans Lyle helped formulate, 64th South and 68th South were widened from two lanes with dirt shoulders to four lanes, sidewalks were put in, and trees were planted. The same treatment was given to Renton Avenue, from 74th South to South 126th. Renton Avenue was widened, down the hill towards Renton, from three lanes to four, and sidewalks were installed. When the job was finished, Lyle and the Skyway Commercial Club could be proud of a job well done! Lyle was again elected president of the Commercial Club to show him that he was appreciated.

Another big thing that happened in 1975 was when Lyle needed an assistant. The best man obtainable in this area was the assistant manager of the Renton Branch of Peoples National Bank. Bill Favro transferred and filled the job in Skyway until he retired in 1983. During his stay in Skyway, Bill was very active in the Skyway Commercial Club. He was the mainstay when anything had to be planned and the job had to be carried out. Bill was the man who also put the parades together in 1980 and 1981.

King County Fire District No. 20 had the feeling that the 1944 wartime Seagrave pumper was getting too old and too small for the jobs required of it in the district. A new, 1,500 gallon-per-minute pumper was purchased to replace the aging workhorse. The new pumper was bought without the

*1975: New 1,500 gallon pumper [photo]*

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need of a bond issue, as the commissioners had saved enough money over the years to purchase it outright! The old Seagrave was sold to a fire district near Shelton that had no equipment at all. That old red streak is still on the road.

One of the "sweetest" events to happen since Kimball's Bakery left the Skyway district was the coming of Winchell's Donut Shop, between the Skyway Union Station and Albertson's, in 1975. The business lasted only a couple of years and, as it evidently didn't produce enough profit, went the way of some other businesses.

Soon after its closing, Great Western Realty set up shop in the building, but also closed after a time. The next, and so far the last, business has been Kamas Realty, with Sol Abzarael as manager.

There had been a need for quite some time for an auto parts store in the community. Nothing new showed on the horizon until 1975, when Gordie Mjelde and his dad Gene found just the spot. The store had been vacated by Deborah Ann's Styling when Debbie moved to The Clipping Company.

Gordie and Gene purchased the building and moved in, but soon ran out of space. Thus, when Dr. McDougall decided to move to Renton in 1979, Gordie and Gene tore out the wall between their store and the clinic. They now use the entire building which they purchased from the original owner, Clark Runyan.

The Bi-Centennial year was celebrated in Skyway, as well as in the rest of the country, with flags and flowers. The Skyway VFW erected a real nice flagpole in the planting area triangle at the intersection of 76th South and Renton Avenue. The organization put a nice bronze plaque at the base and a large, beautiful American flag at the top of the pole. The first flag installed lasted only two nights, when some dirty thief stole the flag, along with the same-

*VFW-installed flagpole [photo]*

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type flag the VFW Post had installed on their own new pole in front of the Post building. In the years following, when a flag would wear out, the Fire Department installed a new one furnished by either the Post or the Skyway Commercial Club. One was once furnished by the widow of Guy Roy, an ex-Marine.

To make the triangle look really nice, Lyle Sandalius approached Tosh Mano of the Earlington Greenhouse with an idea. Between them, Lyle obtained enough red, white and blue petunias to fill the planting area completely. The rest of that summer it was something to be proud of; Lyle looked after the flowers with tender, loving care. In 1976 and each summer thereafter, he did the same thing until he retired.

A relative newcomer moved into the old Hillcrest Signal Station building in 1976 and set up Foreign Specialties. Ken Wright did not stay at this location too long, as he ran out of space and had to move. His move was north on Renton Avenue, about a block from the ex-service station that is next to the Pizza Hut. He is still cramped, but still on the move. Ken was also the 1983 president of the Skyway Commercial Club and, between the small cars and the Club, is a busy bee.

In 1978, after all the years Marvin Taylor had spent serving the public at the Beachcomber, he and Isabell wanted to go on a long vacation. They sold the business to Phil Semandaris and headed for the hills. The time off was good while it lasted, but Marv had been hitting the ball too long just to sit down, so he took a "restful" job with Van's P-X for a few years.

The Skyway Commercial Club applied for a block grant for various district improvements. The application was filed by Chief Don Sorenson and, after a year, the grant was given. Nothing was done on any community projects, however, until the following years, which progressed very

slowly before their completion in 1983. The Club also applied for a grant to remove the unsightly, tall, wooden poles that have been an eyesore since Day One.

Among the improvements applied for was a tennis court for the Skyway Park, which was put into play in 1982. Other projected plans include a tree-lined pedestrian entrance on the north side of the park, with a foot bridge over the stream now full of débris. The north baseball diamonds will also be overhauled, which will include new stands and a new backstop.

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A grant was made also for the Fire Department to conduct a survey for long-range planning of improvements for the district. This survey was made by a Bellevue firm in 1979, who canvassed every spot for relocating the Skyway Fire Station. The survey also investigated all phases of the response times and the alarm-running times for both stations so as to recommend a more efficient operation. The survey determined ultimately that the location best suited for a new station was that of the present station in Skyway.

*Comm. Gene Kampsen, Councilman Bob Grieve, Capts. Johnston & Cariveau, Comms. Doug Case & Jiggs Hoyt [photo]*

The aid car business was getting to be a big thing in all the fire departments across the country. The station wagon that District No. 20 had was getting too small for the kinds of treatments that were being expected. The commissioners - Dale Merritt, Gene Kampsen and Jiggs Hoyt - after looking at quite a few types of aid vehicles, chose a Horton chassis with a Ford to handle the district's future needs. There was enough money in the kitty to pay for the car with the help of a grant, which the district was able to obtain from the government with the assistance of King County Councilman Bob Grieve.

The aid car has been put to good use, as the aid calls were (and are still) running about 75 percent of the total calls. The car is well

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equipped, both by the district and by donations to the King County Fire District No. 20 Aid Car Fund from families and friends of those who have had need of the vehicle. The crews have been well trained, having received their training through Harborview Hospital, the County, and the State; and the crews have been certified as Emergency Medical Technician.

Like a lot of other things, an end comes to everything. Lyle Sandalius retired from the employ of Peoples National Bank. The community should be proud to have had a man with such good ideas who was able to carry them through to completion. About the first thing Lyle did after he got on his own was to break his leg skiing! He got over the break o.k. and went back to the slats.

Bill Favro had not come to Skyway just for the ride. In 1980 the Skyway Commercial Club thought it would be a great idea to put on a parade and a Play Day for the kids, which was right down Bill's alley. With a lot of help from outside organizations, the Fire Department, the VFW, and many other organizations and individuals, things went as smoothly as could be expected. The kids and everyone else had a great time! Bill put in long hours to make the parade and Play Day a success.

For years the water districts in the Skyway area and other surrounding districts had talked about consolidating the six districts into one large district. The idea was tried in 1979, when King County Water District No. 14 of Bryn Mawr and Nos. 69, 77 and 88 of the Skyway area got together and put the consolidation of the districts to a vote. It failed because one of the districts turned the proposition down.

Consequently, District Nos. 69, 77 and 88 continued to work together as separate districts until the consolidation proposition was put on the ballot in November, 1982. It was approved by the voters. Out of this affirmative vote a new district was formed and became King County Water District No. 128, with nine commissioners on the Board. Two commissioner positions will be eliminated each odd year until the Board is reduced to three.

John Groen, the perennial president of the Southeast Limits Little League, has a sideline in Skyway: he is the owner of Skyway Accounting & Bookkeeping. This business is located in the same building as Skyway Jewelers, as well as in the same store that Sophie Gore's Beauty Salon, Mr. Nicholas' accounting, Toku Okamura's Skyway TV Repair,

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and others had occupied over the years. John is also the clerk and office manager of the newly formed King County Water District No. 128.

Like everything made by man, fire equipment keeps wearing out, so Fire Commissioners, Victor Seifert, Don Chareilton and Jiggs Hoyt, took a look at the 1952 Kenworth fire pumper. It had been purchased fully loaded for \$25,000; but had come to the point, after 29 years, of needing replacement.

*1952 Kenworth fire pumper [photo]*

In 1981 the Board authorized procurement of a 1,500 gallon-per-minute American LaFrance pumper to replace the aging Kenworth. On arrival of the new pumper, the old Kenworth was retired. On bid, Dick Lewis, a Kent citizen, purchased it because he likes old fire trucks and wanted the chance to drive it in community parades. He's right in his glory too when kids gather around and want to sit in the rig and adore it.

*1981 American LaFrance pumper [photo]*

1982 saw the completion of a project erected by Tom Williams, the builder of the San Juan Apartments (Greentree Village). The new Parkside Condominiums were built on the east side of Skyway Park, at the end of 74th South and South 125th. As with all other work done by Tom, this complex is pleasing to the eye and a nice addition to our community.

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Also in 1982, another thing happened that gladdened the heart of Lyle Sandalius. After his start in 1971 of trying to get the unsightly, wooden poles on Renton Avenue removed, the job was finally completed by the installation of sleek, new aluminum poles - a vast improvement! Lyle started the move to cut down the 80-foot poles. He had succeeded in two cuttings to get 40 feet lopped off the tops; but if he'd had his way, they would have come down, ten feet at a time, until they were just stumps.

*Aluminum poles replace wooden forest [photo]*

*Cross walk signals at South 126th [photo]*

The last addition to the light poles was the turning on in 1983 of the County-installed pedestrian signals to complement the new light standards. The signal is at the intersection of South 126th and Renton Avenue; the other is on Renton Avenue, opposite the Lucky Store complex.

The last part of the grant that was obtained in 1978 was the fulfillment of the authorized survey. It finally bore fruit in 1982, with the completion in 1983 of the new fire station in Skyway. The station was designed to accommodate four, single, male residents who are in the volunteer program. The residents make it possible for the district to have fire fighters on duty almost 24 hours, making faster response to calls. The station has space for three pieces of equipment: an aid car and two pumper engines, in addition to service space and offices for the Chief

### **SKYWAY HISTORY 63**

and the paid personnel.

A meeting room has also been made available for community functions and, in doing so, adds to the upgrading of the community. Chief Sorenson invites interested persons to stop in at the station for an inspection tour or for a blood pressure check.

*King County Fire District No. 20 (Skyway) Station [photo]*

Within the last six or seven years, the Skyway Commercial Club has been able to procure federal block grant money to help upgrade our community. Special thanks go to Councilwoman Ruby Chow and her assistant, Doug Eglington; and also to Councilman Bob Grieve and his helper, George Matonik, for their help in making sure the application were steered through County bureaucracy, and for other aid they rendered in obtaining community-related information.

But like all good things, this tale must come to an end. If anything else of importance happens in the balance of 1983 and thereafter, the next author that chronicles the next 40 years of Skyway's history can pick up the loose ends and carry on.

It has been an enjoyable pleasure to be able to obtain information, pictures and memorabilia from 90-year-old-plus pioneers, some young pioneers, and just about everyone who has been on the hill long enough to

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be called a "native offspring." Passing this tale onto the interested and the youngsters who are growing up in this now-established community of Skyway is my way of thanking all the people I have met and associated with for the last 40 years.

**Harold "Jiggs" Hoyt**