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MAGNOLIA'S NEW HISTORY BOOK - WRITING DONE, WE ARE IN DESIGN!



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for holiday gift giving

Magnolia Historical Society Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 21st 7:00-9:00PM
3555 W. McGraw
Pilgrim Hall

DUST OFF YOUR LETTERMAN'S JACKET, POODLE SKIRT,
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MAGNOLIA: MIDCENTURY MEMORIES EXCERPTS

Magnolia (Boys) Youth Sports...by Jim Eicher

“...Another one of the best things about living where we did was easy access to Magnolia Village, about a 10-minute walk down McGraw hill on the west side and a short few blocks to the stores. It was a different time in 1959. An eight-year-old, or at least this eight-year-old, would wander about carefree without today’s cellphones. The only rule was to be home at mealtime. I became a regular at some of my favorite village stores.

My brother, John—five years my senior, had decided about then, that baseball cards were no longer important in his life, so he offered me his full shoebox of cards, much to my excitement. I was hooked... Packs of baseball cards in those days were a mere 5 cents, which included 5 cards and a flat piece of gum that was almost the size of the cards. We usually had two or three pieces in our mouths at one time.

I would often negotiate with my mother or sometimes a neighbor to do some minor weeding in their yards. With the task completed and my new income (usually a quarter or so) in my hand, I headed to the Village by myself. My first stop and best sources for cards and candy was Meredith’s Five and Dime or the Magnolia Pharmacy. Backup stores were the J&J Pharmacy and occasionally Evelyn’s Ice Creamery, the best source for unusual candy and ice cream. My adventures to the Village, at least during that summer, was sometimes three times per day. All my money went to baseball cards, candy, or an occasional comic book...”

A New Idea for Magnolia: Blaine School and Community Center...by Whitney Mason

Opening the Door to a Modern Magnolia...

When Ralph and Doris Barter’s house, on 32nd Avenue West was hoisted onto blocks, then moved through the neighborhood streets of Pleasant Valley to a view lot on the ridge of Magnolia’s east hill north of Dravus, a big change was underway. During the summer of 1950, the Barter house was one of twenty homes that were removed to make way for controversial combined junior high school and fieldhouse, to be constructed at 2550 34th Avenue West, just north of Magnolia Village.

This modern, joint school and recreational structure was the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River, planned and financed by both a school district and a city parks department. Its eventual existence was the result of historic circumstances, local controversy, and creative collaboration...The building would incorporate a contemporary design for its era, noted as "an outstanding example of the large public school in the full-fledged post-war Modern idiom"...

The Glory Days...Street Racing on The Boulevard...by Monica Wooton

“...Rob Hitchings admitted he had participated in the street racing on Magnolia Boulevard back then: “Yeah. Guilty as charged! My 57 Pontiac wagon was a frequent winner (389 CID with an aftermarket Edelbrock double pumper 600 CFM 4 BBL carb) we even painted white lines across the Boulevard marking off a 1/4 mile and we would have someone with a stop watch time us. We would make a run north then turn around and do another. The races took place mostly on a late Friday PM or early Saturday AM. We would have lookouts for the then one Seattle Police patrol car on Magnolia just North of the big curve at the South end of the Boulevard and another just before the S curves at the North end by the Perkins Lane road. If they saw the police car they would flash their headlights and we would either scatter up the side streets or duck into the overlook parking spots “The Pits” on the Boulevard, short for “Passion Pit” where couples went to “watch the submarine races” - really to make-out!”

“It was also a way for those of us more serious drag racers to test our cars before taking them to Seattle International Raceway or Arlington for the “Grudge Races” on Saturdays. There were those that just wanted to see how fast Dad’s car could go in that 1/4 mile. It was mostly Magnolia kids though quite a few Queen Anne guys would come because there wasn’t a straight stretch long enough on Queen Anne hill.”

“Then there was also a little thing we called “rat racing” it was a sort of a high speed follow the leader through the side streets, alleys, etc. that ended up at Boulevard lookout...”

About the same time, Eric Berge had a friend whose father had bought a new 1975 Dodge Dart, four door and thought that car was a real street machine. “We headed to the Boulevard to settle that! We paired off on an early Saturday evening heading from the big corner by Perkin’s Lane to the Magnolia Look-out – The Pits.” Berge says “The Pits” also referred to the idea that racers would gather there before for racing. From a standing start at start line on the count of three he won. His friend complained he had lost traction on the start and of the subsequent rematch Eric says he, “blew the doors off that Dodge Dart” which was no longer used for anything other than family day-to-day transportation!...



MHS Board for 2019-2020 Election of Board Members will take place at our 50's & 60's Party on Tuesday, May 21st

"History is who we are and why we are the way we are!" - David McCullough

Dee St. George will serve as President. A Magnolia resident for over 40 years, she joined MHS in 2006 as Grant Bookkeeper for Magnolia: Making More Memories. She will continue to serve as Acting Treasurer.

Kathy Cunningham will continue to serve as Secretary. Retired from the Federal Government, she is a long time Magnolia resident with a love of history.

Greg Shaw will continue to serve as Book Sales Coordinator. Raise in Magnolia, he attended Magnolia Elementary, Catherine Blaine, QA High School and UW in Marketing. He has worked as a Management Broker for Windermere in Magnolia for 18 years.

Monica Wooton will serve as Consultant. She is a native Magnolian working on her third volume of academically research history and memoirs. She served on the founding MHS Board. She hopes to educate and inspire others to help make more Magnolia history.

Nicole Bailey will serve At-large. Nicole grew up in Seattle with a childhood steeped in a love of the Puget Sound and our local environment. A Magnolia resident, Nicole works for Windermere.

Brian Hogan will serve At-large. A longtime resident of Magnolia, he is also interested in local and regional historical research. Brian has a degree in history from the University of Washington and actually history for about a year and half for the Seattle School District.

Guy Besner will serve At-large. A recent resident of Magnolia, born in Montreal, he is an architect in private practice working on residential projects. He has collaborated with many architectural institutions in researching and promoting the legacy of Modern architecture including the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Historic Seattle and Docomomo WEWA.

Lisa Meoli will serve At-large. A resident of Magnolia, she is interested in local and regional historical research. She has a degree in geology and archaeology and Master's Degree in public history. Her specialty is environmental history. She will assist MHS with community projects and future archive work.

Sherrie Quinton will serve At-large. She is a lifelong Magnolia resident with interests in writing, gardening and genealogy.

Jeff Cunningham

serves as MHS Facebook Administrator
in charge of designs and updates

www.facebook.com/magnoliahistoricalsociety

Bruce Jones

retired from IBM and has served as
our Webmaster
since Smith Design Works created our website
www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org

A Special Thank You to Businesses Who Donated to our 50's & 60's Party

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Books will arrive in October for Holiday Gift Giving

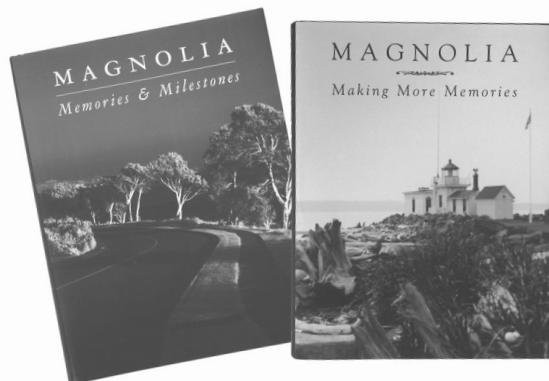
Preorder - \$35 per book until fall book launch

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Only a limited number of books are available at this lower preorder price.

Instructions and starting date for preorders
will be announced at our
50's & 60's Party on May 21st - JOIN US!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org



Magnolia: Memories & Milestones
&
Magnolia: Making More Memories

\$50 per set and sold separately

To order:

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www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org
- ◆ Visit Magnolia's Bookstore
3206 West McGraw St., Seattle

See you at the Farmer's Market!



Magnolia Historical Society Mission

Initiate interest in Magnolia history - gather and protect it for future generations.

Inspire the Magnolia community to help us gather acquisitions for our photo and document archives at UW Special Collections.

Invest in community historical research and writing of Magnolia history that encourages historic projects and events.

Encourage a more accurate "sense of place" through our work preserving the stories and images of Magnolia.