

RENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Summer
June 2017

QUARTERLY

Volume 48
Number 2

RENTON'S FIRE STATION NO. 1 AT 75

by Elizabeth P. Stewart



The history of Renton's Fire Department began with an emergency women's fire brigade, quickly mustered in 1899 to fight a blaze started by sparks from a North Pacific train traveling down Walla Walla Avenue (now Houser Way). By 1903 Jack Pritchard, Jim Flynn, and Joe Wood Sr. had organized the Renton Volunteer Fire Department into a more formal firefighting force. Chief Wood took over as Fire Chief in 1906 and served until his retirement in 1932. One of Chief Wood's first accomplishments was to obtain an official charter from the City in 1908 that obligated municipal funds for a station and equipment for the subsequent fifty years.

After this Fire Department charter was signed, the City provided a space for a station in a wooden building that also housed the first City Hall on Wells Avenue between Second and Third Streets. When the new brick City Hall was built in 1923, the fire station also got a more substantial home. By the mid-1930s, however, the Renton Volunteer Fire Department was sorely in need of facilities that would meet the needs of a growing population. The Great Depression made new construction impossible until 1939 when the City figured out how to tap into Pres. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal for federal dollars.

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upcoming exhibit.



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Engagement Coord.

A HISTORY OF RENTON IN 75 OBJECTS



Come relive poignant moments in Renton history illustrated by 75 iconic artifacts and photographs from our collection. Curated by a team of University of Washington Museology graduate students, *75 Objects* brings some crowd favorites out of storage and back into the limelight. They will be exhibited alongside newer acquisitions on display for the first time! Featured stories include the Duwamish, coal mining, WWII, Longacres, Roxy Theatre, and Triple XXX root beer.

From
MAY
30
to
JANUARY
20

SPECIAL KING CO. GRANT

Councilmember Reagan Dunn awarded the Renton Historical Society a special grant of \$2500 this spring to assist with the costs of programming to accompany our recent *Sorting Out Race* exhibition. The Museum organized its largest calendar of events associated with one exhibit ever, including a performance by CryOut!, book talks by Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga and Anu Taranath, a series of productions by Living Voices, a panel discussion, and opportunities for dialogue. These programs

aimed at exploring ongoing struggles with issues of inclusion in our very diverse community. We are very appreciative that the King County Council was able to assist in this series of conversations!



KING PARKER 1939-2017

King Parker, a retired Councilmember and longtime Museum supporter, passed away on May 2. He founded King and Bunny's Appliances, "home of the Whammer Deal," in 1982 and served three terms on the Renton City Council, including as Council President in 1999. King was the classic example of a community-minded man: involved in as many nonprofits as he had time for, and always ready with a smile and words of encouragement. As a founding

member of the Renton Community Foundation, a Communities in Schools mentor, and a Renton Technical College board member, he left an enduring mark on the Renton community.



MUSEUM REPORT

by Elizabeth P. Stewart,
Museum Director

In April and May the Museum hosted a traveling exhibit, *Sorting Out Race*, that was a game-changer in terms of opening up the museum as a safe space for community dialogue and engagement. Created by the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, Kansas, *Sorting Out Race* uses thrift store donations to explore racial and ethnic stereotypes and their effects. Some of this was tough to look at; these every-day objects—toys, advertising, party goods, even food packaging—depicted the ugliest of stereotypes: the “pickaninny,” the “lazy Mexican,” “Aunt Jemima,” and Native Americans in feathered headdresses. The exhibit led visitors through the origins of these misconceptions and demonstrated how they put people in boxes that threaten to make them less human.

These stereotypes are everywhere and they populate our minds with dumb ideas about people we don’t know. We don’t want to think about these images, never mind talk about them, and yet we must confront them to come together as a stronger, more just community. Working with a diverse advisory committee, we developed a schedule of programs to support *Sorting Out Race* that would provide opportunities for education, dialogue, and, yes, some fun. These programs offered visitors the chance to learn about other people and to question their own assumptions.

But Rentonites took these opportunities even further. We hosted special visits by Renton High School sophomores; teens from CryOut! Studios; Radiant Covenant Church; The Next Curve; the City’s Communications and Human Services Divisions; and the Mayor and all City Administrators. We were amazed by the people who gave of their time to help make this conversation successful: Diversity Consultant Benita R. Horn, Police Chief Kevin Milosevich, Native Education Program Liaison Tommy Segundo and his students, and Pastor Michael Thomas, among many others.

All this is to say that we have been incredibly gratified by the response to this exhibit. Visitors shared with us their very personal “aha” moments and commented on the exhibit itself. “So relevant and necessary for today,” wrote one visitor. “I knew racist stereotypes were a thing,” wrote another, “but to see everything here all at once, I’ve realized just how pervasive these stereotypes & depictions are & how harmful they can be.”

I hope you had a chance to be a part of the *Sorting Out Race* initiative, but if not, we hope to offer many more thought-provoking programs and exhibits in the future. This exhibit demonstrates that Renton History Museum has an important role to play in these vital community conversations.



Elizabeth P. Stewart
—
Director



Curator Sarah Samson with KUOW’s Jamala Henderson. Both KUOW and KNKX featured *Sorting Out Race* and our companion exhibit *Renton High School Indians...A history of a name* on air.



“Undoing Racism in Renton” panel discussion in April.

RENTON HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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Curator of Collections &
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Kim Owens
Public Engagement
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RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM
235 MILL AVENUE S
RENTON, WA 98057

P (425) 255-2330
F (425) 255-1570

HOURS:
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00am - 4:00pm



CULTURE

UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNUAL MEETING

June 8

5:30-8:00 pm

Join us to celebrate our 50th Annual Meeting and our building's 75th Anniversary!



CURATOR'S TALK: SARAH SAMSON ON *A HISTORY OF RENTON IN 75 OBJECTS*

July 13

6:00-7:00 pm

Curator Sarah Samson discusses how some of the favorites in RHM's collection tell colorful stories about Renton's history.



RENTON RIVER DAYS

July 21-23

10:00-4:00 pm on Fri. and Sat.; 12:00-4:00 pm on Sun.

The Museum is FREE during Renton River Days week. Check out our special history activities in the Museum yard!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alexis Madison, President

Happy Summer! The Renton Historical Society holds its 2017 Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 8 this year. This meeting is a wonderful time to learn about the museum's 2016 accomplishments, meet new board members, and learn about our exciting exhibit *A History of Renton in 75 Objects*. This year the Renton Historical Society introduces two new trustees to the RHS board: Colleen Lenahan and Patricia Carroll. Colleen was the Renton History Museum's Public Engagement Coordinator in 2013 – 2015. Colleen's knowledge of museums, non-profits, and marketing has been a great asset to the board. The other new board member, Patricia Carroll, has been a longstanding volunteer, member, and contributor to the museum. Patricia has volunteered for the last eight annual fundraisers for the Renton Historical Society. We are lucky to have these two individuals volunteer their time to support the museum!

Also a part of the annual meeting program is honoring the recipient of the 2017 George and Anne Lewis Custer Award. The museum gives the George and Annie Lewis Custer Award for Heritage Citizenship annually to recognize extraordinary accomplishments in the documentation, preservation, or education about Renton's unique history. The award is meant to honor and encourage efforts to put history at the center of our community's life. This year's George and Anne Lewis Custer Award winners are Dave and Monica Brethauer, who purchased the old Woolworth's building (formerly Renton Western Wear) in 2013 and immediately began the process of rehabilitating the building, but with the express desire to preserve the historic look of the exterior. Their hard work put the Cortana building on the 2015 National Register of Historic Places.

Another exciting event that will be happening this year is the 2017 History-Making Party Silent Auction and Dinner, our annual fundraiser that will be held on Tuesday, October 17th at the Renton Senior Activity Center. At this event you will be entertained by Aunt Dottie and have the opportunity to watch local artisans create and display their work. Tickets will be available online in August—we hope you will attend! The money raised at the auction will help support programs, activities and exhibits at the museum throughout the year. Mark your calendar and join us!



Alexis Madison

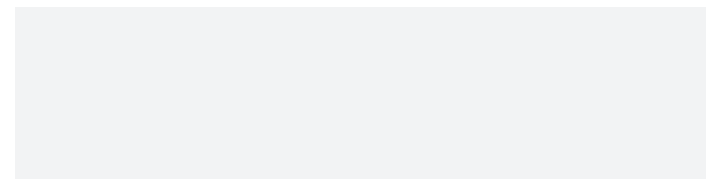
—
President



New Trustee Colleen Lenahan celebrating her raffle win back in 2015 at our History-Making Party fundraiser.



New Trustee Patricia Carroll docenting a preschool tour, 2017.



RENTON'S FIRE STATION NO. 1 AT 75



The 1st Renton Volunteer Fire Department building on Wells Ave., 1908. (RHM# 1972.018.0076)

Continued from page 1

Plans for a new \$30,000 Fire Station were launched just in time, as thousands of families headed to Renton for defense work at Boeing and Pacific Car & Foundry. Renton's population would triple during WWII, and the volunteer firefighting force would be busier than ever. Yet city funds were still tight after the Depression, so decisions surrounding the new fire station were made carefully. Before his sudden death on the job in January 1940, City Engineer Frank W. Harris identified four lots fronting Mill Street, as well as other land across the street for a future City Hall.¹ This particular parcel would also allow the city to extend Third Street past Main Street to meet Sunset Highway, another WPA project.²

Ultimately, the City paid about 23 cents per square foot for the land purchased from Peter Szymonski's estate.³ Mayor George W. Beanblossom said he "breathed a sigh of relief" once the property was obtained. "It is conveniently located to a degree that couldn't be better," Mayor Beanblossom said. "We get space in abundance for our needs, and we get the strip which we so badly needed for our Third Avenue right-of-way."⁴

The project was slow getting off the ground, as the City of Renton got in line for federal Works Progress Administration projects. The WPA was the largest of the

Cover photo:
Fire Station No. 1 in
Downtown Renton, 1974.
(RHM# 1999.120.5414)



Renton Fire Station No. 1, 1946.
(RHM# 1988.100.2646)



Ivan Palmaw, ca. 1940
(WA State Department of
Archaeology & Historic
Preservation)



Young William Hay Adams
as a member of the Renton
Volunteer Fire Dept. Drill
Team, 1908.
(RHM# 1980.010.0966)

federal employment programs designed to pull the U.S. out of the Great Depression. The agency worked with local governments to get construction projects done: local governments covered 10 – 30% of the cost of construction—usually the land, heavy equipment, and supplies—and the WPA supplied the rest, mainly workers’ pay. By July 1940 a Renton delegation began pestering Washington for quicker action on the city’s application, without much luck. A construction crew finally broke ground six months later, on Friday, January 17, 1941.⁵

Ivan M. Palmaw, a 1929 graduate of the University of Washington School of Architecture, was selected as the architect for the Renton Fire Station project. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1896, Palmaw was nephew to the last Imperial Architect of Russia, Alexander Kranoff. He studied engineering in St. Petersburg, but after the Russian Revolution was forced to leave because of his family’s close association to the Russian czar. In 1920 he joined his exiled uncle in Shangahi, China, where he assisted with several building projects. In 1923 Ivan applied to study architecture at the Barbizon in Paris, but he was refused. He chose instead to come to Seattle where he knew he could study under Carl Gould, a Barbizon graduate.⁶ After earning his degree in architecture, Palmaw launched a successful career in Seattle. He designed two Byzantine-style Russian Orthodox churches in Seattle, St. Nicholas (1935) and St. Spiridon (1937), both still standing today. By 1940 he was ready to launch his own independent practice; the Renton Fire Station would have



Renton Fire Department, 1947. Fire Chief Floyd Lawrence is 2nd from left in the middle group of men. (RHM# 1987.105.2293)

been one of his very first independent projects.⁷

For the city's first stand-alone fire station, Palmaw chose an Art Deco style sometimes called "Moderne" for its rounded corners and low-slung look reminiscent of the fast cars, trains, and planes of the 1920s and 1930s. This style was a perfect choice for a city looking to the future: the Roxy Theatre's neon sign and the Boeing Co.'s air travel innovations exemplified Renton's future orientation. Palmaw's Moderne fire station was part of a Renton trend, with a series of similar buildings completed around the same time, one of which—the medical building on North First Avenue—is still standing.⁸

William Hay Adams, son of early Renton settlers John P. and Janet Adams, served as project supervisor on the fire station, and the project would require all the skills he had gained as a WPA roads project supervisor.⁹ On Day One of construction, workers excavating for concrete footings uncovered a human skeleton buried about three feet deep. All work stopped, the coroner was notified, and he took charge of the bones; Deputy Morgan ventured his opinion that the death was due to natural causes.¹⁰

At the beginning, city officials estimated that the project would take eight months for completion, but the pouring of new firehouse walls was delayed for six months, until June 1941. Supervisor Adams coped with labor shortages, lack of skilled labor, WPA restrictions on length of the workday, and lack of funds for construction materials. The city was responsible for providing money for material

and skilled labor, but the Depression continued to take its toll on the municipal budget. Bill Adams found creative ways around these challenges. Rather than purchase forms to pour all the walls at the same time, ultimately he saved money by pouring the south wing and then reusing the concrete forms for the north wing.¹¹

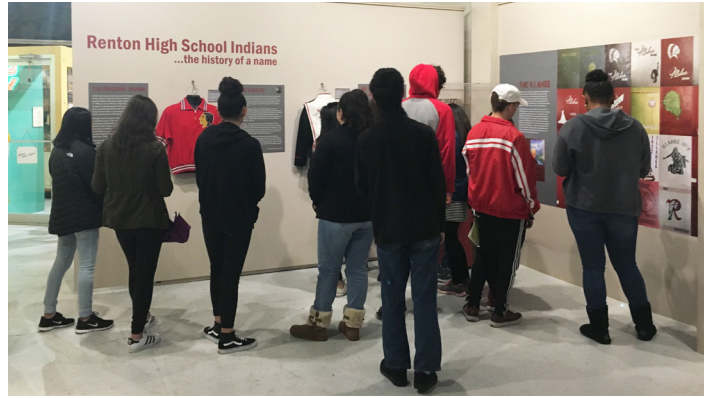
Nevertheless, Adams was proud of his project and he invited the public to visit as it progressed. "Mr. Adams welcomes residents of Renton... to inspect the work[,] as such visits enables [sic] those interested to see the splendid work being done with limited amounts of skilled labor and to see the novel features incorporated in the structure," reported the *Chronicle*.¹² The station was touted as being "earthquake proof," built "along what is termed 'hinged' construction lines" that would allow a certain amount of give when the ground started to shake.¹³

The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred between the groundbreaking and the building's completion, and U.S. entry into WWII completely changed national and city priorities. Firefighters "got used to talking about it like they talked in Seattle about the Spokane St. viaduct or like the promise that father used to make me about fixing the loose board in the walk," the *Renton Chronicle* observed. "The building was forced to withstand many a joke about its degree of progress."¹⁴ Almost exactly two years after purchasing the land, in April 1942 the city was finally ready to dedicate its brand new Fire Station No. 1.

Continued on page 10



CryOut! founder Celestine Ezinkwo performs at the Museum.



Renton High School sophomores visiting the Museum.

PROGRAMMING REPORT

by Kim Owens, Public
Engagement Coordinator



Kim Owens
—
Public Engagement
Coordinator

I am pleased to announce we have seen record breaking Museum attendance in March, April, and May of this year. This was all due to the run of *Sorting Out Race* and the many programs taking place during these three months. And while these numbers may not be surprising, I think they are telling. Prior to the opening of the exhibit, Museum Staff, Board Members, and Historical Society Members wondered if Renton was ready for this type of

exhibit. I think we can safely say it is. From a preliminary look at *Sorting Out Race* surveys, an overwhelming majority of exhibit attendees would like to see more exhibits like this and would recommend the Renton History Museum to their friends based on seeing this exhibit. Additionally, most people who completed the survey found the exhibit meaningful. Not only is our Renton community ready, they want more.

We have also seen an increase in diversity and Museum first timers in our program attendance. Groups like CryOut! brought their own audience, most of whom had never been to the museum before. The Living Voices programs were also very successful. The actors were extremely powerful in their delivery and the questions and conversations afterward were informative and thought provoking. One question that came up during the *Within the Silence* program was, "When did Washington repeal the Alien Land Law?" because an audience member remembered voting on it. This law denied First Generation Japanese, and other immigrants, from owning any property in Washington State. It took Washington State two prior



Storyteller Roger Fernandes performs at the Museum.

attempts before voters finally overturned the law in 1966. This is a sobering reminder that even our beloved state has a history of oppression.

Our range of programming was also very successful at engaging audiences of all ages. Our storytellers Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga and Roger Fernandes did a wonderful job of engaging children and adults alike - both prompting the audience to think about their own personal histories and ancestry. The facilitated dialogue led by Benita Horn and the panel discussion with Renton community members were well attended and generated much needed discussion about race and stereotypes in Renton.

During the run of the exhibit we have also hosted multiple tours and meetings. For example, Renton High School requested a tour for all 10th graders specifically to look at the *Renton High School Indians...The History of a Name* exhibit. They are currently learning about the mascot legacy. When introducing the students to the Museum we asked who had been to the museum before. Out of 247 students who came through the museum approximately 90% of them had never been in the museum before. This is exactly the kind of impact we hoped we'd get: new audiences and experiences.

With our highest Spring visitation numbers on record, an increase in visitor diversity, and an increase of new visitors to our programs, I am happy to say we accomplished what we set out to achieve.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

February 16, 2017 - May 15, 2017

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REMEMBERING THOSE YOU LOVE

Memorial donations to the Renton Historical Society are a loving way to commemorate the life of a family member, friend, or other person of significance by securing their place in history. Significant donations may be directed to our Endowment for the future of the Museum; smaller donations help us meet our mission to document, preserve, and educate about the history of Renton through exhibits, programs, collections care, and outreach. Your gift is acknowledged in our quarterly newsletter and to the family. Talk to us if you have questions about memorial donations or estate planning.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:



NEW MEMBERS

Sara Barbee
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Elizabeth P. Stewart

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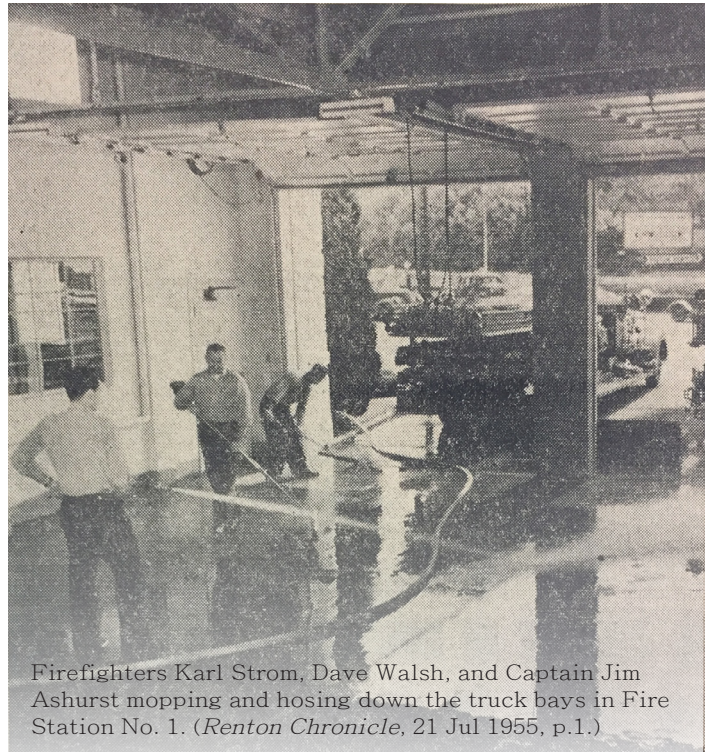
“There is ample reason for congratulations that we got our fine, modern fire department headquarters finished when we did,” the newspaper opined. “[Visitors] are going to be surprised at the completeness of the plant and pleased with it throughout.”¹⁵ The south wing housed the Fire Chief’s Office, a store room for smaller equipment, and a dormitory, showers, and lockers. In the north wing was the kitchen, dining room, and assembly room. The 36-foot tall hose drying tower was located in the back, with the boiler room and fuel room underneath.¹⁶

The new Fire Station represented a turning point for firefighters in Renton. On January 1, 1944, the fire department switched from all-volunteer to a paid staff of one Chief and four firemen, supplemented by volunteers. The first paid firemen worked 24 hours on and 24 hours off and earned a salary of \$200 a month.¹⁷ The disciplined firemen developed agreed-upon rules for their home-away-from-home, about sleeping, eating, training, and maintaining the new station. “The life of a housewife and the life of a fireman have much in common,” observed one reporter. “It is a repetition of scrub, wax and polish for both housewife and fireman, and every little while the schedule is thrown out of gear by an emergency.”¹⁸

As the force professionalized and purchased improved equipment, Fire Station No. 1 grew “crowded and cramped” and too small for modern ladder trucks. City officials discovered that remodeling the poured-concrete structure would cost more than new construction. In 1974 and again in 1975 they floated \$2M bond proposals to finance a larger station, both of which were turned down by voters. Once again the federal government stepped in with the possibility of funding. The Economic Development Administration, established in 1965 as part of Pres. Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society programs, offered funds for construction projects that would increase employment; a new

fire station qualified. The new \$940,645 firehouse, built one block north of the old one, was large enough to sleep 11 and allow the department administration to return from separate offices in City Hall.¹⁹

As soon as rumors floated about a new firehouse, volunteers of the Renton Historical Society had their eye on the historic Fire Station No. 1. President Ethel Telban and Vice President Ernie Tonda, himself a retired captain in the Renton Fire Department, began working behind-the-scenes on a new location for a museum. And the rest, as they say, is history.



Firefighters Karl Strom, Dave Walsh, and Captain Jim Ashurst mopping and hosing down the truck bays in Fire Station No. 1. (*Renton Chronicle*, 21 Jul 1955, p.1.)

ENDNOTES

- 1 “Frank W. Harris, City Engineer,” *Renton News Record*, 25 Jan 1940, p.1; Dan McGovern, “After Thinking It Over,” *Renton Chronicle*, 22 Feb 1940, p.1. Other land was purchased from Anna Wood Marlowe, Robert Henderson Wood, and George Boyes.
- 2 The Third Street extension came together much more quickly than the Fire Station. City Attorney Paul W. Houser and Engineer Frank W. Harris obtained a right-of-way from the Pacific Coast Railroad and quickly put together a WPA project to move the existing Bronson Way Bridge over to extend Third (now Houser Way) over the Cedar River, giving Renton two bridges over the Cedar in the “main part of the city.” This project had been one of Mayor George Beanblossom’s campaign pledges. “3rd Ave. Bridge Looks Nearer This Week,” *Renton Chronicle*, 4 May 1939, p.1; “City Buys Right-of-Way for Bridge,” *Renton Chronicle*, 6 Jul 1939, p.1; “Council Tells Engineer to Move Bridge,” *Renton Chronicle*, 3 Aug 1939, p.1.
- 3 Dan McGovern spells out details of the deal in, “After Thinking It Over,” *Renton Chronicle*, 22 Feb 1940, p.1.
- 4 “Council Votes Approval of Lot Purchase,” *Renton Chronicle*, 29 Feb 1940, p.1.
- 5 “Promise Action on Fire Station,” *Renton Chronicle*, 1 Jul 1940, p.1; “Work Starts on New Renton Fire Station,” *Renton Chronicle*, 23 Jan 1941, p.1.
- 6 National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, “Renton Fire Station #1,” 1978; Michael Houser, “Ivan M. Palmaw, 1896 – 1979,” Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation,” Jan 2012, accessed at <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/learn-and-research/architect-biographies/ivan-m-palmaw>.
- 7 Michael Houser, “Ivan M. Palmaw, 1896 – 1979,” Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation,” Jan 2012, accessed at <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/learn-and-research/architect-biographies/ivan-m-palmaw>; National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, “Renton Fire Station #1,” 1978.
- 8 Among these were: the Medical Security Clinic on First Street in North Renton

- (still standing); Renton Telephone building on the west side of Williams between Second and Third (no longer standing); Wright-Derringer Motors building at Third and Burnett (no longer standing). *Renton Chronicle*, 28 Aug 1941, p. 1; *Renton Chronicle*, 30 Oct 1941, p.1; and *Renton Chronicle*, 6 Nov 1941, p.2.
- 9 “Works Starts On New Renton Fire Station,” *Renton Chronicle*, 23 Jan 1941, p.1.
- 10 “Mystery Skeleton Is Unearthed on Site Of New Fire Station,” *Renton Chronicle*, 23 Jan 1941, p.1. The *Chronicle* never followed up on the case.
- 11 “New Fire House Walls Being Poured,” *Renton Chronicle*, 19 Jun 1941, p.1. Later a *Renton Chronicle* writer listed the problems that slowed construction: “it was a WPA job, begun just about the time skilled workers begun [sic] to quit the WPA in droves, ... its final construction periods paralleled the increasing program of war work, and ... city officials have also been head-over-heels in defense jobs.” “New Fire Hall Dedication Sat.-Sun.,” *Renton Chronicle*, 16 Apr 1942, p.1.
- 12 “New Fire House Walls Being Poured,” *Renton Chronicle*, 19 Jun 1941, p.1.
- 13 “New Fire House Walls Being Poured,” *Renton Chronicle*, 19 Jun 1941, p.1.
- 14 “New Fire Hall Dedication Sat.-Sun.,” *Renton Chronicle*, 16 Apr 1942, p.1.
- 15 “New Fire Hall Dedication Sat.-Sun.,” *Renton Chronicle*, 16 Apr 1942, p.1.
- 16 “New Fire Hall Dedication Sat.-Sun.,” *Renton Chronicle*, 16 Apr 1942, p.1. More details of the floor plan are in “New Fire House Walls Being Poured,” *Renton Chronicle*, 19 Jun 1941, p.1.
- 17 Andrew Fickes, “Honors Go to Last Remaining Firefighting Pioneer,” *Renton Magazine*, Mar 2008, n.p.
- 18 Doris West, “Fire Fighters Don’t just Fight Flames—Keep Station Spic-Span As Job Confines ‘Em to Quarters,” *Renton Chronicle*, 21 Jul 1955, sect. 2, p.1.
- 19 Eric Pryne, “Fire Station Old, Crumbling Say Firemen,” *Renton Record-Chronicle*, 24 Oct 1974, p.16; Michael Prager, “At Last! Renton Just May Get New Fire Station,” *Seattle Times*, 22 Jun 1977, p.H8; “Fire Station Rings In,” *Renton Record-Chronicle*, 17 Apr 1979, p.A2.



SAVE THE DATE!

Invite your history-minded friends and family to the History-Making Party benefiting the Renton Historical Society! This fantastically fun event features a catered dinner, dessert dash, raffle prizes, and silent & live auctions featuring upcycled home furnishings by local makers! Lively and lovable local emcees Aunt Dottie and Nephew Aaron will be on-hand providing entertainment and laughs. Tickets are \$45 and will be available on BrownPaperTickets.com and at the Museum.

On
OCTOBER
 17
 doors open at
5:30 PM

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please select a membership level:

BASIC MEMBERSHIPS

- Individual \$30
- Student/Senior \$20
- Family \$40

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

- Benefactor \$75
- Patron \$150
- Business/Corporate \$175
- Life membership \$750

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation! Your donations help us provide new exhibits and exciting programs.

Donation: \$ _____

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Please make checks payable to the Renton Historical Society.

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Phone: 425.255.2330
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rentonhistory.org

RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM
235 Mill Ave. S
Renton, WA 98057



Retired Fire Department Captain Ernie Tonda at the dedication for the Chief Sealth fountain in August 1982. Ernie was instrumental in converting Fire Station No. 1 into a museum. (RHM# 2012.001.006)