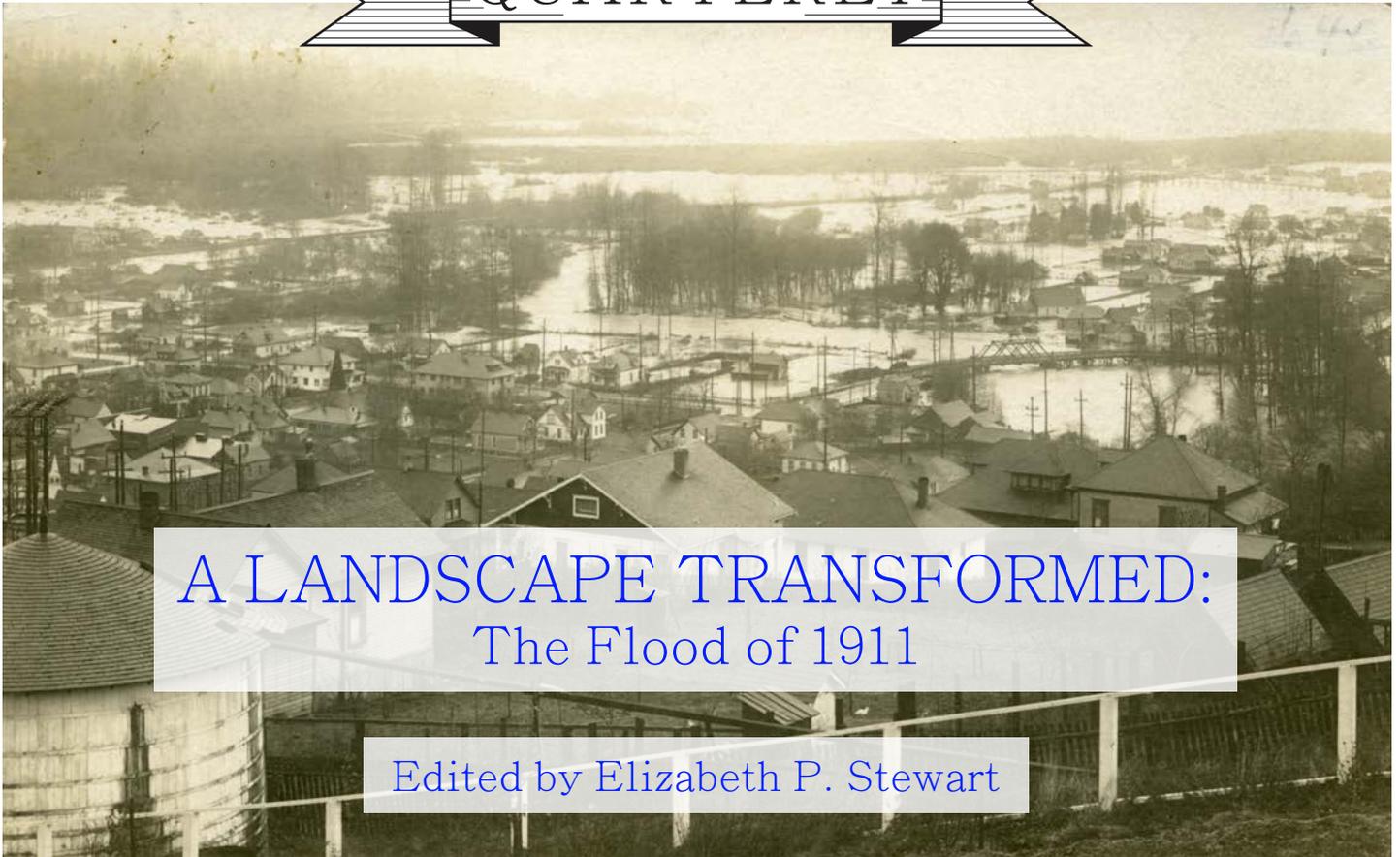


# RENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Summer  
June 2021

Volume 52  
Number 3

QUARTERLY



## A LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMED: The Flood of 1911

Edited by Elizabeth P. Stewart

*Beginning in the mid-1960s the Renton Library asked numerous seniors to recall their memories of early Renton. Many shared vivid memories of the Flood of 1911 in which downtown Renton was inundated with Cedar River floodwaters when the earthen dam that provided Seattle with its drinking water failed. 1911 was not the first flood in Renton, but it was the one that began the process of changing the Cedar River forever, part of the many gargantuan efforts humans have made to shape our region to our will.*

### SETTING THE STAGE

Jack Hayes in 1966: [The] Cedar River controlled the town in the winter. In other words, all transportation depended on the moods of the river. When old Renton was abandoned, sixty dwelling houses and one hotel were left. These were all swept away during one flood. Fortunately, nobody at the time occupied any of them.<sup>1</sup>

Continued on page 5

## Also In This Issue...



2 *Facing the Inferno*,  
traveling exhibit at  
RHM.



3 Museum Report  
by Elizabeth P.  
Stewart, Director.



4 Board Report by  
Colleen Lenahan,  
President.



10 Collections Report  
by Sarah Samson,  
Curator.

# FACING THE INFERN<sup>o</sup>

*The Wildfire Photography of Kari Greer*

The effects of wildfires, which are becoming more far-reaching due to global warming, are drastic. Smoke from wildfires has national impact. And the fire season now extends nearly year-round. In 2015, 10.1 million acres burned in the U.S. Locally, increased wildfire activity means summer skies change from azure blue to hazy brown. The goal of this project is to help propel an even broader understanding and public conversation of this volatile dynamic. This stunning exhibit features over 50 photographs taken by Kari Greer, a photographer for the National Interagency Fire Center based in Boise, Idaho.

From  
JUNE  
4  
to  
JULY  
30

## CRITICAL NORTH GALLERY RENOVATION

In April we said goodbye to *Sustaining A City*, a long-term exhibit about historic Renton foodways. Once the artifacts were safely removed, the large front doors from Henry Ford Elementary School were rotated and moved to a new location in the room. This new floor plan allows the north gallery to become a hybrid of programming/classroom/meeting space along with exhibit space on the outer walls. This is a long-planned change

and we are excited to have a flexible space that better serves our public. Thanks to 4Culture, City of Renton Facilities Division, and GiveBIG 2021 donors for making this possible!



## DOWNTOWN STREET WORK CONTINUES

The City of Renton's Downtown Utility Improvement Project has reached Mill Ave. S., blocking our front door and parking lot and reducing Mill Ave. to one lane on some days. The City is adding new stormwater pipes, sanitary sewer pipes, and water lines to facilitate future development. But we know it can be inconvenient, so if you are having difficulty accessing the Museum, please park in the Main

Ave S. lot behind our building and give us a call—we are glad to open the back door for you. In the meantime, we are so excited to see Renton's infrastructure improved for the future.



# MUSEUM REPORT

by Elizabeth P. Stewart,  
Museum Director

Our feature this quarter comes out of research we did relating to Renton's fires and floods for our new exhibit, *Facing the Inferno: The Wildfire Photography of Kari Greer*. *Facing the Inferno* is a dramatic collection of firefighting images from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and New Mexico that brings home the devastating effects of wildfire on our forests, wildlife, and, of course, human life. The exhibit was organized by the Prichard Gallery of the University of Idaho. It is our first climate change exhibit, something we have been wanting to host for a while.

One of the things the Renton History Museum excels at is providing local historical context for issues of the day. Whether climate change or infrastructure is in the news, we strive to provide you the Renton-specific background to help you understand how global or national issues impact you and your friends and family; then you can make your own decisions. So, while Renton has not had wildfires to fear since the early 1900s, we have regularly coped with floods. And now we are seeing the atmospheric effects of wildfires in California, eastern Washington, and British Columbia almost every summer.

"A Landscape Transformed" uses the words of Renton residents to explore how people living in the Cedar River Watershed coped with natural disasters. The catastrophic Flood of 1911 was caused by the failure of a City of Seattle timber crib dam at Cedar Lake, causing the rain-swollen Cedar River waters to crash into Renton. The flood provided the impetus for Renton city leaders to finally move forward with their plans to straighten and deepen the Cedar River channel. It also pushed the Seattle Water Department to build a stronger masonry dam that would be less likely to fail.

But there is a connection between water, trees, and fire, as humans are slowly learning. In order to build a bigger dam, Seattle allowed landowners around the watershed to log off their coveted timber before the city took over the land. The slash left over from a haphazardly managed forest tended to ignite in the hot summer and fall months. "After 1920, big fires occurred with frightening regularity," writes environmental historian Matthew Klingle, "sometimes as many as nine in one season" (Klingle, 110). Rentonites in the 1920s regularly read newspaper stories about families fleeing wildfire and some, like teacher Florence Guitteau, even experienced it for themselves.

The lessons of the past are instructive, when we take the time to learn them.



Elizabeth P. Stewart  
—  
Director



Emergency dike created by Dr. Dixon's house in an effort to stop the spread of the flood waters, 1911. (RHM# 41.0630)



Headline in the *Seattle Star*, 4 July 1922, p.1.

Want to learn more? Read Matthew Klingle, *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle* (2007) and David B. Williams, *Too High & Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle's Topography* (2015). Visit the Cedar River Watershed Education Center in North Bend.

## RENTON HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Sarah Samson  
Graphic Design & Layout  
Karl Hurst  
City of Renton Print &  
Mail Services

## RENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Colleen Lenahansen, President  
Laura Clawson, Vice President  
Staci VanderPol, Secretary  
Jessica Kelly, Treasurer  
Lynne King, 2022  
Rhea Kimble, 2022  
Mike Lennox, 2022  
Amy Elizabeth Gorton, 2023  
Maryann DiPasquale, 2024  
Daryl Delaurenti, 2024  
Elizabeth Stewart, Board Liaison

## MUSEUM STAFF

Elizabeth P. Stewart  
Museum Director  
Sarah Samson  
Curator of Collections &  
Exhibitions  
Stephanie Snyder  
Volunteer & Member Liaison

RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM  
235 MILL AVENUE S  
RENTON, WA 98057

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

HOURS:  
Wednesday - Friday  
10:00am - 4:00pm

ADMISSION:  
\$5 (Adult)  
\$2 (Child)



RHS acknowledges we are on the unceded traditional land of the Duwamish people. A people forced to relocate, but who have persevered.

The Museum views the history of Renton to include since time immemorial to today and is committed to exploring that through its partnerships, exhibits and programs.

SUPPORT  
PROVIDED BY:



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Colleen Lenahan, President

With the widespread rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and the loosening of the CDC guidelines, we are headed into the summer with the future looking brighter than it has in a long time. While settling into a new normal will take some time, things are heading in the right direction. We are grateful to all of you for your continued support to help us weather the storm.

The Board's committees have begun meeting to start our work for the coming years. The board has several committees: Executive, Finance, Board Development, Outreach, Fundraising & Events, and three Ad Hoc Committees. The Executive and Finance Committees are responsible for managing the ongoing business of the Board, and each of the other committees has outlined priorities for the coming years:

- The Board Development Committee will be working on adding more structure to the Museum's committees and revamping the Board Member onboarding and offboarding processes.
- The Outreach Committee will lay foundational groundwork for connecting more with our community digitally and in person.
- The Fundraising & Events Committee will lead annual efforts to bring revenue into the Museum and will continue to explore new and different fundraising strategies.
- The Ad Hoc Online Committee will investigate solutions to increase the Museum's presence online.
- The Ad Hoc HR Committee will finalize a formal Human Resources policy for the Museum's staff.
- The Ad Hoc Collections Storage Committee develop a strategy for increasing the Museum's storage capacity.

We look forward to jumping headfirst into carrying out these goals. Throughout all our work, we will embed a practice of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI). In June, the Renton Historical Society Board will take a City of Renton DEAI training with Benita Horn, the City's Diversity Consultant, and Preeti Shridhar, Director of Communications. All board and commission members in the City of Renton will be taking this training.

We are looking into the options for holding our Annual Members Meeting, which we usually host in June. We have missed the opportunity to come together with all of you to talk about Renton's past present, and future.



Colleen Lenahan  
—  
President



Spring means flowers and roadwork!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Museum's GiveBIG fundraiser on Facebook in early May. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to exceed our goal of \$2,000 and raise **\$2,350** for exhibits and programs. We are so proud to be part of this community!

# A LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMED



Two boys walk along the flooded 2nd St., 1911. The newly built Renton High School is in the background. (RHM #41.9785)

Continued from page 1

A branch of the river during the winter time took off where See's Lumber Yard is today and ran through where the city hall now stands [200 Mill Ave S], meandered through the land occupied by Peoples Bank and Penney's Store and thence on the Black River where it emptied. I have caught salmon right where Penney's store now stands.<sup>2</sup> A rough foot bridge made with two logs crossed this stream at Peoples Bank.

*Jack Hayes arrived in Renton 1883, early enough that he remembered "old Renton," a mining settlement on the river at the site of today's Renton Community Center complex. Their nearest neighbors were Duwamish Native Americans. Hayes recalled the many branches of the Cedar at flood stage: at today's Renton Library (See's Lumber Yard) and Peoples Bank and JCPenney's (at Third and Burnett today).*

Florence Guitteau in 1966: Early in the 1900's Seattle['s] famous engineer, R. H. Thomson, was busy [providing] the growing city with an adequate water supply. The source was to be Cedar River near Cedar Falls. The Cedar River Watershed was declared a reserve. Work, including a dam at Cedar Falls, went on for years.... The dam was not a major project like Coulee dam.... It was hoped it would serve, and it would have but for a very rainy September and October [1911]. There was no let-up in November, however,

Cover photo:  
Flooded downtown Renton, taken from Renton Hill, 1911. Dr. Charles Dixon hung this photo in his office for many years. (RHM #1967.005.0640)

Below:  
Emma, Lucy, and Florence Guitteau, 1926. (RHM# 1997.080.12809)



The Flood of 1911 seriously damaged the County bridge at Bronson Way, but left others intact. (RHM #2000.054.5374)



and it became apparent that the superstructure would need strengthening. There was constant vigilance and measures were taken to prevent its giving away.<sup>3</sup>

*In fact, Seattle's earthen and timber dam—constructed at Landsburg in 1904—turned out to be the aggravating factor that caused Renton's Flood of 1911. When the dam gave way, water from the reservoir behind it came crashing into the already swollen lower Cedar River. Incidentally, the pipeline bringing drinking water to Seattle also broke, leaving the city without clean drinking water for a week.*

Tom Harries in 1937: Several people were stationed on the brow of the hill above the clay pit of the Renton Brick Company with field glasses, who in turn would signal to the watchers on the roof of the railroad depot at the first appearance of the mighty flood that was expected to fill Cedar River Valley from bank to bank.<sup>4</sup>

### **ALL THAT NIGHT**

Dail Butler Laughery in 1973: The rains had been especially heavy that fall and on the day when my Aunt Zella Butler Garriott had spent the day with us, she tried to get to her home in south Renton, and there were some men stationed at each end of the wooden bridge over Cedar river and they were not going to let her pass, saying that there was a danger of the Cedar river dam going out, but she told them that her husband Harve Garriott, who was a barber[,] and her children, Harold, Mildred, Aileen and Jack were on the South

side and that she was determined to get across. So they let her pass. When she got home, she called Grandma and told her that the Cedar river dam was about to go out.<sup>5</sup>

Florence: All night long people living along Black River, and in the area back of present High School and close to Cedar River, were evacuated. Rowboats were used. People who lived in North Renton were told to go to Kennydale way and towards Issaquah instead of across Cedar River. People in Renton proper were not allowed to cross to North Renton.

I was visiting Kathryn F. Bassen.... Katie's folks had the Gladstone Hotel, a rooming house, then. When we got there, Mr. Bassen was sitting up waiting for us to tell us to obey the siren when we heard it. He told us so much heat would be generated by the rubbing of logs, rocks, brush, [and] debris of all kinds brought down by the river when the dam broke that there would be a river on fire.

Dail: The siren started to blow with its loud screech and wail, that turned our blood to water and shivers ran up and down our backs, when the first word of the dam breaking hit Renton, and it was about to blow as long as there was any danger of the flood that followed. It blew weirdly, loudly and mournfully for three days and nights.

Folks made for the hills with just what they could carry and most of our neighbors were camped with us in the big open gravel pit on the east side of the valley...making quite a crowd of us standing around in the driving, dripping, cold rain, trying to keep warm around a huge bonfire.<sup>6</sup>



The flood also washed away roadbeds in places, like this one at Mill Ave. and Bronson Way. (RHM# 1986.073.2213)

Florence: The siren blew. We dressed as fast as we could; I kept looking out the windows. People were everywhere, all headed towards Renton Hill.

I saw a man I knew carrying a red checked tablecloth by the corners. It was full of something. He also had a birdcage without an occupant. I saw a woman carrying some live chickens. Kate and I threw a few articles, such as a comb, tooth brush, several hard scrubby apples, into a small suitcase. We went downstairs. Breakfast was out of our thoughts. We joined the hill-bound company. On our way we saw a little girl carrying the family strong box. I took it from her. All day long I carried it. Because her parents were friends of mine, I hunted for them. Before night I located them and handed over the box.

[The] Cedar River, as it flowed through Renton, was very high, muddy, full of drift and angry. It ate away at its banks throughout the entire length and when it passed Mr. J. D. Farrell's ranch, now Maplewood [Golf Course], it spread out.

Where the Stoneway Sand and Gravel Company's plant is now, it was as wide as the hill back of Denny-Renton Brick and Clay Plant and the rocky hill on the opposite side would let it. When it reached the Columbia and Puget Sound bridge near the water tank it worked away at its approaches.... The wooden bridge where Bronson Way now is went out, but the one at Williams Street stood, and so did the Northern Pacific bridge just beyond Williams Street.<sup>7</sup>

*Zella Butler Garriott's experience underlined the way in which the Cedar River at flood stage could cut the city in half by*

*threatening the bridges, separating families, and sending fleeing residents to opposite hills. Unbeknownst to Florence Guitteau, her mother and sisters made it from their home in North Renton to a Kennydale ferry and then across Lake Washington to Earlington, while she and her friend Kate headed from Kate's family home in South Renton up Renton Hill.*

Florence: On our way towards the hill we saw and greeted many people we knew. Some of them had destinations in mind; we had none. We did not know where Kate's folks had gone. We stopped at the Presbyterian Church on Mill Street. It was full of people.

Tom: The doors [of the Presbyterian Church] were flung wide open by Rev. Edmondson where the first news of the flood was received and a crowd of folks from the lowland stayed in the church all that terrible night.

### **WAITING OUT THE STORM**

Dail: It was a constant job to keep the fires going with all of the men working gathering wood and the women were busy trying to shield their children and somehow finding food for them to eat. A big pot of hot coffee was setting on the edge of the fire for the grownups.

Finally on the third day Grandma and Grandpa [Butler] loaded us all in the wagon again and drove us further on the hill, next to the Beil home, and we stayed a night or two with the family of Dahl's....<sup>8</sup> We stayed there

Continued on page 10



The Earlington Golf and Country Club near Renton.

The former Bagley Mansion as the Earlington Golf & Country Club clubhouse, 1917. (RHM# 2001.014.5504)

# COLLECTIONS REPORT

by Sarah Samson, Curator of Collections & Exhibitions



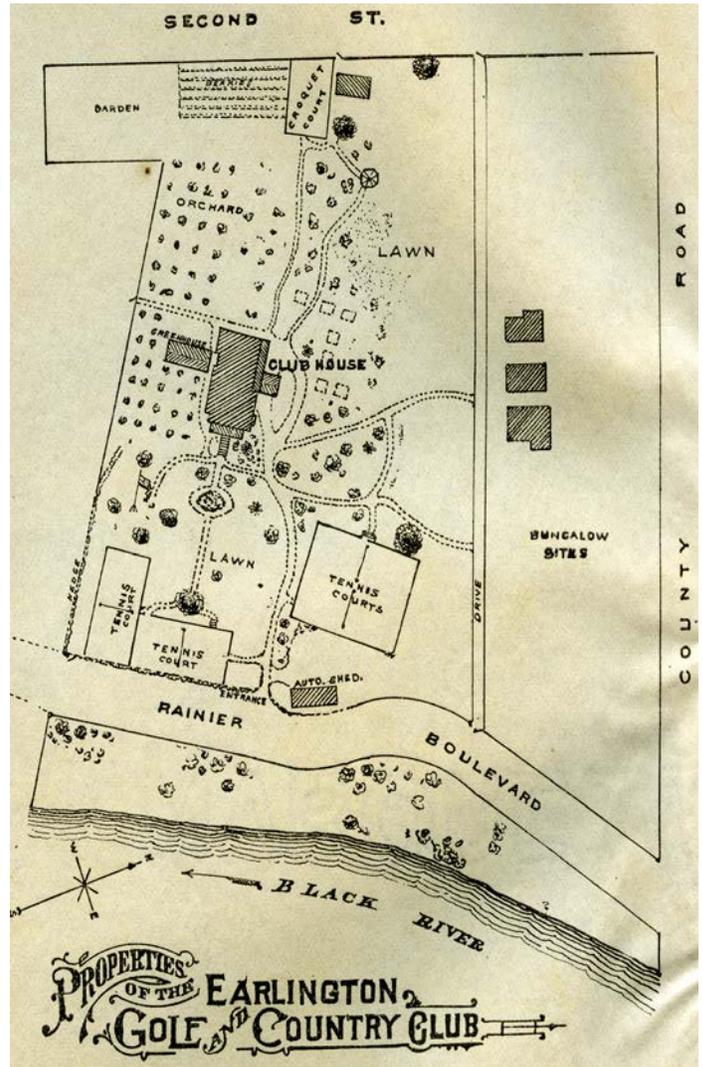
Sarah Samson  
—  
Curator

Research requests continued to flow in while the museum was closed last year and earlier this year. Some research requests are very easy to answer while others take some untangling. One question we spent some time on recently was placing the historic Bagley Mansion on the modern-day map.

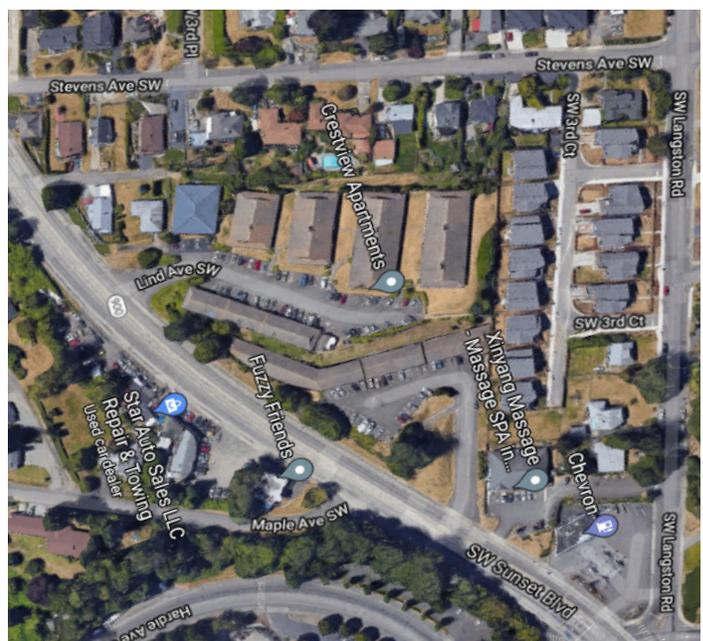
Built in 1880 by wealthy Seattle doctor Herman B. Bagley, the mansion was a massive, opulent, white home that dominated the lower Earlington hill west

of Renton. Bagley died in 1901 but his wife Kittie continued living in the mansion with her second husband until it became the Earlington Golf and Country Club. The club organized in 1907; Kittie lived on the property until 1923. The mansion was used as the clubhouse at least as early as 1910.

After much detective work, we discovered that the Bagley Mansion once stood where the Crestview Apartments are today. The 1913 map pictured here shows the layout of the grounds. The road listed as “County Road” is SW Langston Rd; “2<sup>nd</sup> Street” is Stevens Ave SW. The 1913 map also shows a “bungalows sites” space north of the mansion. Today there are only two original homes still standing in that area, both built in 1908. The famous “Bagley Maple” tree would have been where SW Sunset Blvd is today. (The maple is shown just west of the tennis courts on the 1913 map.)



Map of the Earlington Golf and Country Club from the 1913 club yearbook. Note that the top of this map is not north! (RHM# 2020.021.001)



Aerial image from Google Maps rotated to match the map above. The bend of trees at the bottom of this map is where the Black River used to flow past the country club.

# MEMORIAL DONATIONS

February 11, 2021 - May 14, 2021

Pearl Lindberg Burrows  
Shelley Lindberg  
Ross and Sue Burrows

Richard Illian  
Bill Anardi & Darlene  
Bjornstad

Ellie Simpson  
Basil Simpson

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE

Anita "Babe" Gaidos-Oliphant  
Ken Picini

Elizabeth Adams-Duke Picini  
Ken Picini

## THE 103<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY OF LOUISE GEORGE

Charles L. Isaacson

## IN HONOR OF THE CLASS OF '58

Michael Dire

## IN HONOR OF LYNNE & MIKE KING

Elizabeth P. Stewart

## NEW MEMBERS

Daryl Delaurenti  
Mike Hayes

## BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Don and Carmel Camerini  
Stanley Fitzpatrick  
Yvonne Redding-White

## PATRON MEMBERS

Rolland & Deloris Dewing  
Ken Steiner  
Basil Simpson

## DONATIONS OF \$1000 OR MORE

John Andrew  
Ila Hemm

## DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE

Anonymous (through  
Renton Regional  
Community Foundation)

Nancy Berry  
Colleen Cole-Bowron  
Laura Clawson  
Theresa Clymer  
Daryl Delaurenti  
Kathy Dirks  
Maryann DiPasquale  
Roberta Graver  
Lynne King  
Melinda Lawrence  
Colleen Lenahan  
Jerry Lenahan  
Judith Leu  
Gayle Y. Lewis  
Kim Tennican

Earlene Davis Lamb  
Daryl Delaurenti  
Gloria Delaurenti  
Kate Dugdale  
Marilyn Edlund  
Scott & Gaye Faull-  
McClellan  
Amy Gorton  
Don & Judy Gunderson  
Tina Hoggatt  
Sandy Hirai Ishihara  
Nolan Lenahan  
Tom & Linda Morris  
Elizabeth Mitcham  
Becky Nickels  
Marsha Nissen  
David Pickett  
Yvonne Redding-White  
Judith Richards-Ford  
Howard Snyder  
Elizabeth P. Stewart  
Patrick & Linda Texeira  
Steven Thomas

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

McCorkle & Associates

## DONATIONS

Robin Adams  
Joy Allison  
Debra Bailey Trail  
Shayla Baird  
Karin Blaine  
Jim & Fran Bourasa  
Mary Lou Burdulis  
Don Burrows  
Geri Bush



## CORRECTION

On page 6 of the March 2021 newsletter under "The Evacuation" we mistakenly wrote west when we meant east. The correct phrase should read: "extending east to the Kittitas County line."



We were able to donate eight exhibit cases and vitrines from the deinstallation of *Sustaining a City* to our friends at the White River Valley Museum. Our goal is to have as much flexible exhibit infrastructure as possible so that we create less waste when we change exhibits. When reusing something isn't possible, it's wonderful to send it to another museum instead of to the dump!



The museum's effort for the "Show Moms Some Love!" day of the Chalk Your Walk organized by City of Renton Recreation Dept.

Continued from page 7

two or three nights, and I still remember the glory of the sunrise and sunsets from high up on the mountain when the rain finally quit.

*Most of the residents of North and South Renton were stranded for 4 – 7 days before they ventured down the hills to check on their homes, farms, and businesses.*

## ASSESSING THE DAMAGE

Florence: The bridge had been badly damaged but it had not gone down the river. Men were making some makeshift repairs. The water was very high, but the volume had gone down a little. The railroad bridge was all right so we crossed it and walked the track to what is now Bronson Way—it was only a poor road then, not a street at all.

When we reached our house we stood on the front walk debating whether to go in the front door and track mud through the house or go round to the back door. I decided to go round and stepped off the walk. It was a sad mistake. The ground looked all right, but it was not. I went down knee deep. The soil was like gravy.... Everything was all right inside. It was cold and damp, but the fires would take care of that.

Dail: The siren was still blowing and we kids thought that we would all be drowned, but do you know, there wasn't any river in front of our home and the old Cedar river had stopped in Grandpa's 8' basement. How well I remember looking down into the churning river in the basement and seeing everything that was loose, floating next to the ceiling. What a frightening experience that was, and what a mess it was to clean up when the waters finally receded.

Florence: My sister [Lucy] said she had taken the street car—the Galloping Goose—from Bryn Mawr to a spot where Second Avenue meets Rainier Avenue. Then she had walked towards the bridge that spanned Black River. She saw nothing but water from there on any way she looked.

However, the board fence that confined Smithers' pasture was standing. Testing, she found it solid. So she inched her way along on the second and lower board while hanging on to the upper board.... She went back the same way to Bryn Mawr to get Mother.... When I judged my sister and Mother would be at the end of the track, I did what Lucy had done. We put Mother between us. She was shaky, but determined to get home.

When we reached the railroad bridge, we borrowed a lantern from a section hand. Lucy dropped it minutes afterwards, breaking the glass. She left it beside the track. When we started across the bridge, stepping from tie to tie, Mother balked. She refused to cross. It was scary. The fast flowing water was black and oily. There was not light enough to see the ties. She went into a panic.

I do not know to this day how I managed to do what I did. I gave Lucy what I was carrying, picked my Mother up, and carried her over. She was heavier than I was and a dead weight. I could not see over her to gauge the width of the spaces between ties. I stepped, hoping to put my feet in the right places.

*In 1910 the state chartered Waterway District #2 in Renton—Waterway District #1 regulated the Duwamish River—but property-owners' demands and lawsuits held up city officials' grand plans to protect the city from annual flooding and*

*develop the Lake Washington waterfront. The Flood of 1911 was transformative in getting Renton residents to move forward together. In 1912 City leaders set about dredging the Cedar and rechanneling it away from the Black directly into Lake Washington. In 1916 the Montlake Cut further tamed Renton's rivers by lowering the lake by nine feet, thus drying up the Black River completely.<sup>9</sup>*

Jack: To men like Joe Wood, Paul Houser, Doc Dixon and others who I cannot think of right now, goes the credit for sponsoring the digging of a new channel whereby Cedar River flowed directly into Lake Washington instead of into Black River. This helped to lower the crest of the river at flood times.

This condition is hard to believe, but it must be remembered that Lake Washington was nine feet higher than it is today. It remained higher until the canal and locks were built many years from the time I am writing about. When the Lake was lowered, Renton had no more to fear from the floods it had experienced in the previous years.



North Renton looking west toward the Highlands, 1911. (RHM# 1966.047.0635)

## END NOTES

- 1 Jack Hayes, "I Came Here in 1880," typescript, ca. 1966 (vertical file: Family-Hayes, Jack; Renton History Museum). In a 1934 letter, Lee Monohon remembered that the floods of 1906 and 1908 "were so very destructive that the people of South Park, Georgetown and Renton joined in an effort to do something to control the floods." The result was the law establishing state Waterway Districts. Monohon was the first chair of Waterway District #2. Lee Monohon letter to U.S. Engineer's Office, Seattle, 1934 (vertical file: Rivers-Cedar River; Renton History Museum).
- 2 See's Lumber Yard was located on the site of the parking lot of the 200 Mill Building at Mill Ave. S and Houser Way. Peoples Bank was situated on the northeast corner of S. Second St. and Wells Ave. S. The JCPenney building was located at 700 S. Third St., the northeast corner of S. Third St. and Burnett Ave. S.
- 3 Florence Guiteau, "The Flood," typescript, ca. 1966 (vertical file: Disasters-1911 Flood; Renton History Museum).
- 4 Tom Harries, "The High Water of 1911," *Renton News Record*, 5 Sep 1937.
- 5 Dail Butler Laughery excerpts are from Laughery, "Renton's Early Days," *Renton Historical Society Newsletter* (Aug 1973), p.4.
- 6 The gravel pit may have been the old Stoneway gravel pit off NE Third St. east of Mount Olivet Cemetery. During WWII the pit was used to test Sherman tanks. Laughery lists the neighbors who camped with them: "There were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dullahant, with their children, Clarence and Eleanor, the Fa[u]ll family with their children, Tommy and Viola. The Rowe's & Bill and Jane & Chester & Roy, the Stewarts, the Blackmans with their daughter Margaret, the Richards, and the Davis family with Claude and LaVina [sic], the Fullers and the Bennetts."
- 7 Actually, the NPRR bridge would have crossed at Burnett.
- 8 Probably Edwin and Florence Dahl, who operated a poultry farm in Kennydale from about 1907 to 1942.
- 9 "Renton Will Celebrate," *Renton Herald*, 30 May 1912, p.1; Lee Monohon letter to U.S. Engineer's Office, Seattle, 1934. Want to learn more? See David B. Williams, *Too High and Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle's Topography* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2017); Matthew Klingle, *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle* (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2007).



# WHEN YOU CAN'T GO HOME

## Portraits of Refugees in the Pacific Northwest

by artist  
**Karisa Keasey**

### COMING SOON!

**W**hen *You Can't Go Home: Portraits of Refugees in the Pacific Northwest* is the life work of Karisa Keasey, local artist, author, and advocate. With the help of World Relief, a globally celebrated refugee resettlement organization, Keasey spent hours with each refugee featured in this exhibit and helps viewers feel as if they have too. She has a passion for enabling some of the most marginalized people in the world to be seen and heard. *When You Can't Go Home* couples inspiring stories with the hard-hitting facts surrounding the current global refugee crisis.

Exhibit  
opens  
**AUGUST**  
12

## 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Visa or MC #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Renton Historical Society.



Renton History Museum  
235 Mill Avenue South  
Renton, WA 98057

Phone: 425.255.2330  
Fax: 425.255.1570  
rentonhistory.org

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

## IN HINDSIGHT...



The straightening and dredging of the Cedar River in 1912 did not put an end to flooding, as this 1990 view of Renton Municipal Airport shows. (RHM #2001.046.5552)