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The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

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WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

BLUEBILLS 30th Anniversary Year



September 27th Chapter Meeting Presentation

By Jim Beasley

Our presenter on September 27th will be Milissa Davis, Deputy Editorial Editor of the Seattle Times. She will give a presentation on "Sharing Information", how we go

from sharing information to shaping it.



August Meeting Summary

By Mary Ulibarri

Doug Hoople opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. There were no August birthday attendees, but several on my list: Bill Baker, Keith Johnson, Milton Piatok and Howard Syder. Heinz Gehlhaar shared a few words about his and Lonnie's residency at Judson Park Retirement Community and provided some brochures.

Jim Beasley then introduced Diane Dobson, Chief Executive Officer at Greater Renton Chamber of Commerce.

Dobson joined the chamber staff in March 2018, before stepping in as interim director when the former leader retired in June. Diane is a born-and-raised Rentonite with a longtime family legacy in Renton and the North Renton neighborhood. Before joining the chamber, she was an active community member and worked in the legal field with her father Wyman Dobson's Renton firm downtown. Accompanying Diane from the Chamber were Ashley Dobson - Ambassador for the Renton Chamber working with events and Founder and Operator for Urban Market and Kevin Hays - Finance Director at the Renton Chamber of Commerce.



With the help of onscreen visuals, Debbie began her presentation The History of Renton, WA: From Early Settlements to Modern Development.

Pre-1850s Renton was the home of the Duwamish people and was rich in resources, which supported a vibrant native community. During the 1853-1901 timeframe, the area saw the European settlers arrive. Henry Tobin was one on that list, claiming land in 1853. After his death, his widow Diana and her new husband, Erssmus Smithers, developed the area, officially establishing Renton in 1875. The city was named after Captain William Renton, a local industrialist.

Development Through the Decades

1900 to 1910 Industrial Foundations:

Population: 1,176

Area: one square mile

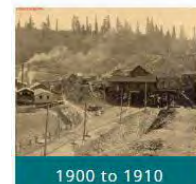
Key developments:

1901: Official incorporation of Renton, spurred by coal mining and the local timber industry.

1905: Arrival of Pacific Car and Foundry, which started manufacturing railcars, playing a pivotal role in the local economy.

Community Growth: Establishment of the first public library, a municipal water supply, and a volunteer fire department. Renton also became a hub for Italian immigrants, enhancing its cultural diversity.

1910 to 1920 Growth Amidst Adversity



Population: 2,740
Area: 1.8 square miles
Key Developments:

1911: Devastating flood leads to major urban planning efforts to tame local rivers.
Industrial Diversification: Introduction of diverse factories including a glass bottle factory and a macaroni factory.

Social Progress: Hattie Butler becomes Renton's first female councilmember; significant labor movements among coal miners.

1914-1919: A new Carnegie Library and the impact of Prohibition which saw local saloons pivoting to groceries or operating underground.



1920 to 1930: The Roaring Twenties and Prelude to Hardship

Population: 3,301
Area: 1.8 square miles
Key Developments:

Auto Industry Rise: Replacement of livery stables with auto dealerships, marking a shift in local transport.

Infrastructure improvements: Introduction of concrete sidewalks and the expansion of the Sunset Highway.

Aviation Foreshadowing: Charles Lindbergh's overflight hints at future aerospace significance.



1930 to 1940: Depression and Recovery

Population: 4,062
Area: 3.4 square miles
Key Developments:

Economic Hardships: The Great Depression impacts Renton deeply with widespread unemployment and makeshift hobo camps.

1933: Repeal of Prohibition brings a resurgence of saloons.

1935: Tragic plane crash involving Will Roges and Wiley Post, leading to the naming of the local seaplane base after them.

Community Resilience: The introduction of the Triple XXX Barrel drive-in and other community initiatives help revive the local spirit.

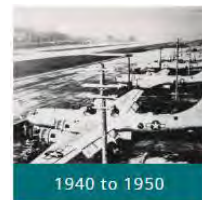


1940 to 1950: World War II and Its Aftermath

Population: 4,488
Area: 3.4 square miles
Key Developments:

1941-1945: Boeing establishes a major plant, radically transforming Renton into a critical center of war production, especially with B-29 bombers.

Post-War Expansion: Significant federal investment leads to rapid urban development and a permanent shift in the city's demographic and economic landscape.



1950 to 1960: Post-War Prosperity

Population: 16,039
Area: 14.2 square miles
Key Developments:

Aviation Milestones: Introduction of the Boeing 707, marking Renton as a key player in commercial aviation.

Cultural Shifts: The emergence of television changes local culture and business dynamics, with the Renton Municipal Pool and new city hall marking urban progress.



Recent History and Future Forecast

Modern Developments:

2000 to Present: Renton has continued to grow, becoming a diverse and technologically advanced city.

The establishment of The Landing shopping center and the ongoing development of residential and commercial spaces reflect its dynamic growth.

Future Prospects: With strategic urban planning and investment in infrastructure, Renton is poised for sustainable growth. Projects like the expansion of the Sound Transit light rail system will enhance connectivity and support further development.



Conclusion

Renton has evolved from a native settlement to a bustling industrial city and now to a diverse urban center. Its rich history of resilience and innovation provides a strong foundation for a promising future.

Debbie concluded by thanking the audience and with hopes the presentation gave the members a deeper appreciation of Renton's unique heritage and its exciting path forward. She then answered a number of questions from the audience.

The meeting was adjourned, and a special potluck drawing conducted.



Diane Dobson won Carla Becker's Zucchini Brownie recipe along with the main ingredient.

The usual door prize tickets were missing from the supplies, so Doug concocted an impromptu system. Then the potluck lunch got underway.



Renton Chamber of Commerce

HONORING OUR VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, Sept 30th, 2024 from 8am - 4pm

Located at Maplewood Greens in Renton

Join us for the fourth annual Honoring Our Veterans Golf Tournament! This event is a tribute to our veteran community, bringing together neighbors, businesses, and organizations for a day of celebration and camaraderie. It's a fantastic opportunity to network, participate in contests, and show appreciation for those who have served in the armed forces. Registration includes greens fee, cart, small bucket for range, 2 drink tickets, and 1 food voucher per player.

OUR SPONSORS



PLAY INDIVIDUALLY OR IN A GROUP

Ask your colleagues or fellow chamber members to join you for a day on the course. Groups of four will play together. Individual players will be matched with other golfers for the day. It's a great opportunity to network and meet new people!

REGISTER NOW

PARTNERING WITH OUR VETS

Make a meaningful impact by sponsoring a veteran, or a veteran foursome! This allows them to enjoy all the facilities and a day of golf. Includes name recognition on the Chamber website and promo materials, thanking you for supporting a veteran.

SPONSOR A VETERAN

[2024 Honoring Our Veterans Golf Tournament - Event Registration \(chambermaster.com\)](https://chambermaster.com)



Submitted by Micki Brown

Dear Colleague,

As we celebrate the 89th anniversary of the Social Security Administration, we reflect on nearly nine decades of dedication, service, and support to the American public. Since 1935, we have played a crucial role in providing financial security and stability to millions of Americans, especially during their most vulnerable times.

As we celebrate, please view our [Social Security Action Plan for 2024](#). This document, the result of employee suggestions, outlines the steps necessary to continue to meet the needs of our customers given our current budget and staffing challenges.

Social Security is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs in the world. Our collective efforts have ensured that retirees, people with disabilities, and families facing hardship receive the benefits they need. This milestone is a demonstration of our unwavering commitment to compassionate public service. View our most recent [blog](#) to read more about how Social Security has protected families for 89 years.

Remember, *we are all in this together* and [we are stronger together](#)

Social Security produces a monthly publication of articles to share with local media outlets. The [October 2024 publication](#) is now available online and includes articles and images related to our programs, services and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bystry
Associate Commissioner
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications

News then - History now

Opening Day

Returning to our back-to-school feature, we note a few educational institutions that celebrate anniversaries this week, beginning with [Washington State Normal School](#) (now Central Washington University), which opened in [Ellensburg](#) on September 6, 1891. Tacoma High School – now known as [Stadium High](#) – opened on [September 10, 1906](#), and Seattle Community College welcomed 11,000 students at 13 campuses on [September 6, 1966](#).

Washington State Normal School opens in Ellensburg on September 6, 1891.

By Paula Becker - Posted 1/22/2003 - HistoryLink.org Essay 5093

On September 6, 1891, the Washington State Normal School opens in Ellensburg, located in Kittitas County near the center of Washington. The school specializes in the education of elementary and junior high school teachers.

Established in 1890

The Washington State Normal School was established in 1890 during the Washington State Legislature's first session. Classes began the following fall, though when the school opened it had no building of its own. From 1891 to 1893, classes were held in four classrooms at the Washington Public School in Ellensburg. The state paid no rent for the space, but shared the cost of fuel and lighting with the Ellensburg School Board. In 1894, the Washington State Normal School's first building was constructed and given the name Barge Hall. Benjamin Franklin Barge (ca. 1835-1926) was the school's president during its first three years.

Initially, students attended the institution free of charge. This was a common method of enticing students in order to produce qualified teachers quickly to meet the needs of the state's rapidly expanding population. Also, teacher salaries were so low that it was impractical for students to expend large sums for their training. The so-called Normal School movement began in Massachusetts in 1839. The goal of normal schools was to produce educators qualified to inspire in their pupils a thirst for learning, not just a literate authority figure who listened to recitations and doled out punishment.

In 1937, the name of the institution was changed to Central Washington College of Education, and in 1961 to Central Washington State College. In 1977 it became Central Washington University.



Barge Hall, constructed in 1893, the first building at Washington Normal School, Ellensburg

Courtesy Wiki Commons (CC-BY-SA-3.0)



Dormitory, Washington State Normal School, Ellensburg, 1912

Photo by Asahel Curtis, Courtesy UW Special Collections (23660)

Tacoma's Stadium Bowl opens on July 10, 1910.

By David Wilma - Posted 1/18/2003 -HistoryLink.org Essay 5070

On July 10, 1910, Stadium Bowl (originally called Tacoma Stadium) opens next to Tacoma High School in Tacoma. The facility features concrete seats for 11,000 and will host high school sporting events and pageants, professional sports, and presidential visits. Twenty-five thousand people attend the opening ceremonies. Tacoma High School opened in 1906 and in 1913 its name will change to Stadium High School.

Tacoma High School was built out of an uncompleted resort hotel north of downtown Tacoma. The building stood at the head of Old Woman's Gulch, named for the widows of working men who lived in shanties along the shore. The school board decided to build a stadium in the gulch when local businessmen agreed to lease it for 10 years. Then the board decided to build it with public funds. School board architect Frederick Heath called the facility:

"...a poem in masonry ... a great athletic field set in the midst of superb natural scenery. In the symmetry of its terraced seats, in the enthusiasm that built the structure is the grandeur of the poetic spirit" (Morgan, 96).

This essay made possible by:

City of Tacoma Economic Development Department



Stadium Bowl (1910), Tacoma

Courtesy Tacoma Public Library (7\1598)

Children's Orthopedic Hospital opens in Seattle on September 8, 1911.

By David Wilma - Posted 10/23/2003 - HistoryLink.org Essay 4254

On September 8, 1911, Children's Orthopedic Hospital opens in a brick, three-story building on Warren Avenue near Crockett Street on Queen Anne Hill. The structure is built with funds raised by the trustees of the Children's Orthopedic Hospital Association and has 29 beds. The trustees will eventually add another

floor (1921), a new wing (1928), and a three-story nurses' residence (1924). In 1954, the hospital will move to Laurelhurst where it will eventually become Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

In 1907, 23 women gathered to form the Children's Orthopedic Hospital Association to provide for the medical needs of crippled children. With funds solicited from supporters and with doctors who donated their time, the trustees began with seven beds in the maternity ward at Seattle General Hospital. In 1908, the trustees opened the 12-bed Fresh Air Cottage on Queen Anne. The new hospital was designed by Seattle Architect Marbury W. Somervell (1872-1939).

After the hospital moved to Laurelhurst in 1954, the Queen Anne building was sold to King County and operated as a unit of the County Hospital. In the 1980s, the building became Queen Anne Manor, an assisted living residence for senior citizens.



Children's Orthopedic Hospital, east side, 1911



Old Children's Orthopedic Hospital (1911), 2001

Photo by David Wilma

Bits & Pieces

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU MOVE TO THE SOUTH.

1. A possum is a flat animal that sleeps in the middle of the road.
2. There are 5,000 types of snakes and 4,998 of them live in the South.
3. There are 10,000 types of spiders. All 10,000 of them live in the South, plus a couple no one's seen before.
4. If it grows, it'll stick ya. If it crawls, it'll bite cha.

5. Onced and Twiced are words.
6. It is not a shopping cart, it is a buggy!
7. Jawl-P? means: Did you all go to the bathroom?
8. People actually grow, eat, and like okra.
9. Fixinto is one word. It means I'm going to do something.
10. There is no such thing as lunch. There is only dinner and then there's supper.
11. Iced tea is appropriate for all meals and you start drinking it when you're two. We do like a little tea with our sugar. It is referred to as the Wine of the South.



Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



Sept 27, 2024

Social: 10:00AM

Meeting 10 :30 - 11:30 AM

Speaker: Milissa Davis, Seattle Times Deputy Editorial Editor

Subject: Sharing Information



Come to the meeting, enjoy coffee, donuts, informative presentations, and socialize with other Boeing retirees.

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnet Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

Calendar of Events 2024 In Person Meetings

Jan 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Jul 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Feb 23	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Aug 30	Chapter Picnic/Potluck
Mar 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Sept 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Apr 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Oct 25	Chapter Monthly Meeting
May 31	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Nov 22	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jun 28	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Dec 20	Chapter Holiday Potluck

**Don't Forget to
Report Your Hours!**

PDF format Newsletter available

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Our mailing address is:

Bluebills - Heritage Chapter

PO Box 3707 M/C 1K-B02

Seattle, WA 98124

(206) 544-6286

e-mail: bluebills@boeing.com

Web Site: www.bluebills.org

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