

# ARSCE

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## News

March/April, 2007

The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees

Volume 34, No. 5

### OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Walt North

I have been reading that the Earth is experiencing "extreme weather". The glaciers are melting in the Antarctic, it is snowing in Las Vegas, and Seattle residents were either without electricity or were staying home off icy roads. By the time you read this message, I hope the snow has melted and everyone has recovered. Spring is around the corner and with it comes a time to renew.

Your ARSCE Board members did a great job in 2006. A special "thank you" goes to Donna Fisher for printing the programs for our ARSCE luncheons. Her programs keep everyone on target at the luncheons. The person who keeps me on target is Marlene Mowry, ARSCE Recording Secretary. Thank you for all your hard work Marlene. Have you noticed how great our *ARSCE News* looks? Well this is the hard work of our Interim Editor, Judy Flemings. I do not believe we need a new Editor because we have one of the best there is right now. The paper has never looked so good.

Hopefully we never stop learning and I am always surprised at how much more there is to know in life. For the holidays, we went to Spain, France, and Wales with friends. Boy, was that a learning experience, my head is spinning. At dinner, when we had fish, I was given a pointed knife. (Looked like a bread knife with two points.) Never had I seen or used this utensil before, but you can "...teach an old dog new tricks". We were so impressed with this new tool that our friends gave us a set of "fish knives" to bring home. We had to pack the knives in our suitcase because with all the regulations, they would have never made in on board the plane in our carry-on. Now to have friends over to spread the use of these utensils.

Have you heard the exciting news? The funding ratio that will eventually lead to a COLA was at 93.68% as reported at the January Retirement Board meeting. (We need it to be 95%.) Mary Norris will probably have more news regarding this. Please check her column in this paper.

Enjoy life ~~

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### Eddie Haw Honored

By Eda Anthony



Eda Anthony and Eddie Haw at the ARSCE Christmas Party  
(Photo by Gwen Jensen)

At the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Annual ARSCE Christmas Party, Eda Anthony presented Eddie Haw a plaque honoring him for his years of dedicated service to the Association of Retired Seattle City Employees (ARSCE). Eddie (officially Eddie Haw, Jr.) was elected to the ARSCE Board of Directors in 1981. He completed 25 years of service to the organization in 2006.

Eddie Haw is part of the history of ARSCE. He was Chairman of the Pension, Insurance, and Legislative Committee. He has been at the forefront of the struggle for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all of our retirees, not just a few. He has regularly and consistently attended the monthly Retirement Board meetings -- sometimes referred to as the Pension Board. At almost every monthly meeting he has asked the Board members to approve a COLA, constantly describing the need.

He has talked with various Seattle City Council members to ask them to approve a COLA because the Council has the final say. He has spent many hours looking for the best health and dental insurance policies to offer City retirees. He has reviewed and interpreted legislation which would affect the operations of the ARSCE Board and all City retirees.

Eddie has been the Vice President of ARSCE five times. He has never been President because of health problems. He said his wife would "kill him" if he took on that task. Of course she probably didn't say exactly that, but the message was clear.

Many members who attend our luncheons will remember seeing Eddie buzzing about taking pictures, many of which were published in the *ARSCE News*. Many of you will remember Eddie best as the author of the popular Engineering Department column which appeared in the *ARSCE News* for many years.

For all of these reasons and more, the ARSCE Board of Directors was pleased to honor Eddie Haw with a plaque for his devoted commitment. Inset into the plaque is a clock which represents the many hours of service he has given the ARSCE Board, our ARSCE members, and all City of Seattle retirees. ARSCE is grateful for Eddie's leadership and dedication.



## Your Pension News

By Mary Norris  
Retired  
Employee Member  
Of the Seattle City  
Employees  
Retirement System



We are nearing the end of the first month of 2007. Another month will pass before you actually read this issue of the *ARSCE News*. First, you will be anxious to know that the estimated funding ratio on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 was 93.68% **AND** our retirement funds reached a total of **2.011 billion dollars**.

Once again, these dollars don't just happen. It takes the talents, experience, and dedication of our Investment Committee, Investment managers that we hire, our legal advisors, the Retirement Office, and the Retirement Board. I would like to share Acting Executive Director, Mel Robertson's, response to a question that I asked on investments. "We are taking heed of our attorney's input and trying to bring on more resources in the form of consultants to help us evaluate what we have and compare it to other more sophisticated investors such as foundations, endowments, and larger State plans. While our investments are performing much better than most of the other plans in the comparison universe, the sophisticated plans are 'hand-over-fist' better than we are. Additional resources will help us evaluate which of the available investment vehicles would also fit into our conservative nature." The goal, for all, is to select sound investments that will provide COLA's for all retirees and continue to support the needs for all future retirees.

To avoid confusion for some, I would like to suggest to retirees that the Retirement System subtracts health care costs, membership dues, etc., from paychecks as a service. They have absolutely no control or responsibility for the amount, coverage, etc. These decisions are made through labor negotiations, the Personnel Department, etc.

My best wishes for 2007 and remember that you are always welcome to attend a Retirement Board meeting the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 AM, at 720 Third Avenue, Suite 1000, 10<sup>th</sup> floor. Public comment is available at the beginning of each meeting.



## The View from the Buses

By John D. Love

I received an e-mail from Lloyd Moore. He was in Bullhead City, AZ. He spent the month of February in Texas. Ken and Judy Teague are back in town after spending time with relatives in the southwest. It was great to see them on their return.

I received two phone calls on the same day. One call from Chuck Moulton and another from Ted Lammers. It was so nice to talk to the two of them and recall our days of driving. Both have been enjoying retirement. Ted and spouse Betty have been very busy taking cruises to the exotic corners of the world. Chuck was voted operator of the year and honored by his peers. Chuck retired on 02/07/89 and Ted retired the last day of 1989.

I received an e-mail from Joe Kramer down Las Vegas way. Joe is driving a charter bus to all parts of the states. Joe revealed that he has one charter to New Hampshire and he has traveled over 5,800 miles. Joe meets with Bob Stewart who has set up housekeeping in Las Vegas. He reports that Bob and his wife are doing fine. The ice cold winter has put a damper on the breakfasts and lunches held hereabouts. I was snow-bound and missed the lunch at Andy's in January. I also missed the breakfast at the Burien Elks on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January.

### TAPS

I have just received word that Harry Gordon has passed away. Harry moved to Oregon several years ago. Harry was responsible for the telephone system installed for Seattle Transit. He was liked by everyone at Transit. He was active in lobbying the Seattle City Council members for a cost-of-living pension adjustment for retirees. Harry retired on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1981. When Harry was living in Seattle he would attend every Board of Directors meeting. A memorial service was held in Canby, Oregon. Harry was employed with METRO Transit for 35 years as Crew Chief of the Electrical Department. He was 89 years old and is survived by his wife, Margaret.

**If you have news that you want to share, please send me a note and I will see that it is in the next *ARSCE News*. Send your news to John Love, 3227 S. 184<sup>th</sup> Street, SeaTac, WA. 98188-4955. My telephone number is (206) 242-8665. You can also reach me at e-mail address [Dennerle1@juno.com](mailto:Dennerle1@juno.com)**

That's all folks ~

## Golden Contributions

Leroy Eagon, Building  
Judith Flemings, Human Resources  
Robert Flemings, City Light  
Ted Lockhart, Parks  
Anne Miller, Transportation  
Rod Rich, Associate  
Betty Smith, Beneficiary

## MEMORIALS

Irene Pennell  
In memory of Joe Norris  
  
Helen West, SPU  
In memory of Janice Greene,  
Seattle Public Utilities



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Contact us at [www.arsce.org](http://www.arsce.org)

## ATTENTION

### Former Skagit City Lighters...All Ages

Annual Skagit Reunion Luncheon  
Mt. Vernon Royal Fork Restaurant  
**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – 11:30 AM**

Questions? Call Joyce Harrison  
at 1-360-757-1635

## Old Timers Luncheon Group MTD/DAS/ESD

By Jerry Robertson

The Old Timers Luncheon Group continues to meet the first Monday of each month at the "Old Country Buffet", 4022 Factoria Square Mall, S.E. Bellevue, WA. at 11:00 AM. Remember to mark your calendar for luncheon dates in 2007: March 5, April 2, June 4, May 7, July 2, August 6, September 10, October 1, November 5, and December 3. As you will see, some of these dates are on the second Monday because the first Monday falls on a holiday.

As we are all aware, our birthdays keep occurring annually. January birthdays were celebrated by Janice Eickstadt, Mo Fukui, Kiyoto Hashimoto, Earl Rouleau, and Jim Stubbs. The group sang happy birthday to Mo Fukui who turned "90" years of age on January 6. February birthdays were celebrated by Stella Hashimoto, Denis Keyes, Arne Smedsrud, and Roger Smedsrud. We wish a very happy birthday to each of them.

The two inches of snow I mentioned in my last article became two feet of snow which resulted in a power outage for six days, and roads there were blocked and not cleared for five days. We certainly appreciated our gasoline generator during that time. Also the propane furnace provided heat and the propane stove a way to cook. Two weeks ago, we had another snow storm that provided us five inches of snow again. This one did not interfere with our going and coming, as the County snow plows kept the roads open. All in all, this has been an interesting experience for us.

Congratulations to Bob Bentler and Iona Kellogg who were married in August of 2006. We were not aware of this momentous occasion until the December luncheon. Best wishes to Bob and Iona from the luncheon group.

Jon Wong told me about a cruise he will be taking in August of this year. They will fly to Australia, get on board the ship there, and cruise Australia and the Orient. This sounds like a fantastic voyage.

Finally, a little senior humor that I received online:

### SENIOR BREAKFAST SPECIAL

We went to a restaurant where the "senior special" was two eggs, bacon, hashbrowns and toast for \$ 1.99.

"Sounds good," my wife said, "but I don't want the eggs."

"Then I will have to charge you two dollars and forty-nine cents because you are ordering ala carte," the waitress warned her.

"You mean I have to pay for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously.

"Yes," stated the waitress.

"I'll take the special."

"How do you want your eggs?"

"Raw and in the shell," my wife replied.

She took the two eggs home!

**Don't mess with seniors, we have been around the block more than once!**

Again, let me remind all of you that have retired from our department to join us for some fellowship at our monthly luncheons.

All of you remember to keep the first Monday of each month in mind and join us for lunch at "**The Old Country Buffet**" at **Factoria Square**.



## Internet Schmineternet

By Jim Taylor, ARSCE Webmaster

### Election 2008 Websites: Part I

A number of people have already announced their presidential candidacy in 2008 or the formation of study committees for their possible candidacy. The candidates and the parties will be using the Internet to send their unfiltered messages to the public, and it is none too soon to become familiar with their websites. Virtually all these websites provide direct contact information for the party or the candidate. Unlike news websites, political websites are full of opinion and political rhetoric. In this issue we will look at the Democratic and Republican parties. In the next "Schmineternet" column we will look at the candidates.

#### The President and the Speaker

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) is the official website of the president. It covers every aspect of presidential activity and includes a wealth of video as well as text. If you want to see what President Bush has proposed, or what his public comments and actions have been, you can find it all here. Though this is an official government website, and therefore non-partisan, currently there is a Republican emphasis.

[www.speaker.gov](http://www.speaker.gov) is the website of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Because the Democrats are presently in the majority, this is Nancy Pelosi. This site is perhaps the nearest Democratic equivalent to [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

#### The Party Websites

Party websites typically have links to current events, platforms, and comments about their positions those of the other party. They often have links for voter registration, party membership and elected officials. A significant portion is usually devoted to suggestions for involvement, and to issues scheduled for debate in Congress or the state Legislature. Design of the local Republican websites is quite consistent with that of the national party, while the Democratic sites seem more diverse.

#### The Republican Party

[www.gop.com](http://www.gop.com) The national website for the Republican Party, with links to the Republican National Committee and the websites of the state affiliates. As one might expect, President Bush is prominent on the site.

[www.wsrp.org](http://www.wsrp.org) Website of the Washington State Republican Party. There is a visible emphasis on the current legislative session. Includes lists of state party officials and announcements of meeting locales.

[www.kcgp.org](http://www.kcgp.org) The King County Republican Party website. Contains an interesting table comparing the platforms of the King County Republicans and the King County Democrats.

[www.seattlerepublicans.org](http://www.seattlerepublicans.org) A very well done website that focuses on the activities of Republicans in the legislative districts wholly or partially in Seattle. [www.snocogop.com](http://www.snocogop.com) Another nice site for those in Snohomish County. [www.piercegop.com](http://www.piercegop.com) Still another well done site, this one for Pierce County

#### The Democratic Party

[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org) The national website for the Democratic Party. This site is very similar to the Republican site. [www.wa-democrats.org](http://www.wa-democrats.org) The website of the Washington State Democratic Party. Once again the legislative session is prominent, but the Democratic governor is featured. Good links to local affiliates.

[www.kcdems.net](http://www.kcdems.net) This is the website of the King County Democratic Party. It is easy to navigate.

Legislative districts. Many legislative district Democratic Party affiliates have their own websites, for example [www.46dems.com](http://www.46dems.com) for the 46<sup>th</sup> district and [www.34dems.org](http://www.34dems.org) for the 34<sup>th</sup>. For a complete list see [www.wa-democrats.org/get\\_local\\_leg.php](http://www.wa-democrats.org/get_local_leg.php).

[www.snohomishdemocrats.org](http://www.snohomishdemocrats.org) Pretty obvious what this is.

[www.piercecountymdemocrats.org](http://www.piercecountymdemocrats.org) As is this.

Note: as candidates from parties other than the Democrats and Republicans announce, I will attempt to include their relevant websites in future columns.



## Parks Department Retiree News

By Pat Coupens

Hasn't this been a winter to remember, from excessive rain, floods, snow, and strong winds which caused trees to fall on power lines and power outages which lasted for days? I hope March will be a better month. Think spring soon!

The Parks Retirees Christmas Luncheon was cancelled due to the power outage that happened that day. A number of the retirees drove to Marie Callenders' thinking they might be open. They waited outside the restaurant hoping the power might come on, but after an hour waiting, it was decided the luncheon would be cancelled.

At the February luncheon, Bill Fagerland told us he and his wife had sold their house in Seattle and moved to Clinton, WA.

Marian Goddard went with a group of other docents from the Woodland Park Zoo to Africa in November, 2006. (Read Marian's interesting travel article in an upcoming issue of *ARSCE News*.)

Debbie Skaw told us at the February lunch she wouldn't be at the luncheons for a couple of months since she was going to have back surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery Debbie.

Our sympathy to Stan and Pat Mendenhall. Stan's mother passed away the first week of January. She was 97 years old.

I spoke with Ray Wineinger's daughter, Gale. She had been to Shelton, WA. to spend the weekend with her Dad. She said he was about the same and wanted to come home. She hopes he hears from some of his friends that he worked with. I did write to him and I told him about Jerry.

Until Next time.



Marty and Debbie Skaw



Marian Goddard in Africa — Nov, 2006

## In Memory

Note: Names with an asterisk (\*) are ARSCE Members

	Thelma Morangopoulos, Administrative Services*
Doyle Cariker, City Light*	Retired: 05/88
Retired: 11/02	Died: 11/27/06
Died: 09/30/06	Age: 81
Age: 69	
	Lew Morrison, City Light
Lucille Connolly, Health	Died: 10/31/06
Died: 10/06/06	Age: 93
Age: 77	
	Henry Osawa, Water*
Inocencia Della, City Light	Retired: 11/82
Died: 10/03/06	Died: 10/31/06
Age: 82	Age: 83
	Martin Owens, City Light*
Bennett Erickson, Library*	Retired: 05/89
Retired: 04/84	Died: 11/13/06
Died: 10/12/06	Age: 85
Age: 84	
	Susan Reynolds, City Light
Charles Evans, City Light*	Died: 10/24/06
Retired 05/83	Age: 79
Died: 01/16/07	
Age: 85	
	Bella Shore, Municipal Court
Lyle Gleason, City Light	Died: 10/02/06
Died: 10/03/06	Age: 80
Age: 94	
	Laurence Stromme, City Light*
Uriel Kocher, Water	Died: 10/06/06
Died: 10/06/06	Age: 84
Age: 84	
	Stanley Tomich, Water
Harry Lewin, City Light*	Died: 10/29/06
Retired: 04/80	Age: 82
Died: 10/07/06	
Age: 89	
	Beverly Willis, City Light
Arnie Madsen, Engineering*	Died: 10/15/06
Retired: 02/76	Age: 86
Died: 01/10/07	
Age: 91	
	Frances Winchell, Parks*
	Retired: 01/94
	Died: 11/03/06
	Age: 86

## BOOK NOTES



By Lorry Garratt, Library

### A LONG SHADOW. By Charles Todd

The author is actually a mother and son writing team which makes this series the more extraordinary. Scotland Yard's Inspector, Ian Rutledge is a shell shocked survivor of the Great War but nevertheless able to perform his duties brilliantly. In 1919 at a New Year's Eve party with his sister he is drawn into a strange, almost ghostly mystery involving unfinished business of the war, a dark wood that villagers are terrified to enter, two missing women, and a constable shot in the back with a bow and arrow.

### DIGGING TO AMERICA. By Anne Tyler

Two families meet at the airport as they wait to greet their adopted Korean daughters. One family is Iranian, the other American. As they bond over the years each year they celebrate the "arrival party date". One grandmother, Maryam Kazdam, continues to feel her "outsideness" even after 35 years in this country. The two cultures and their different and tender observations of each other provide another of Tyler's luminous searching novels.

### THE POET. By Michael Connelly

Jack McEvoy is a crime beat reporter in Colorado. His twin brother, a homicide detective, has just killed himself. Jack is unwilling to accept that verdict and in his personal investigation notices a disturbing pattern of cop suicides throughout the country. To add to the puzzle are the suicide notes left behind which Jack eventually traces to the poetry of Edgar Allan Poe. But there is more – a pedophile network that seems to overlap these cases. The suspense is riveting and the final answers far from what Jack expects.

### THE WORST HARD TIME: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE GREAT AMERICAN DUST BOWL. By Timothy Egan

This year's winner of the National Book Award by a Seattle native who has also won the Pulitzer Prize, this historical reportage chronicles nature's fury but also the extraordinary story of human endurance and heroism. The 1930's were some of the worst in American history, millions unemployed and homeless, and an environmental disaster of epic proportions in the Great Plains with rainless years and constant dust storms that buried, killed, and caused hardship beyond imagining.

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## 2007 ARSCE Executive Board Election

Please familiarize yourself with the candidates who are running for a position on the ARSCE Executive Board. The candidates autobiographies and platforms are listed below in random order. (A drawing determined the placement of these names.) Your vote is important! ARSCE must remain a viable, efficient, and effective voice for all City of Seattle retirees. There is no other organization out there — anywhere — that has our collective interests as priority. Your ballot is included in this newspaper issue. **Please take time to vote and return your completed ballot for tallying, postmarked no later than Wednesday March 14th, 2007.**

**NOTE: Please vote for 6 of these 9 candidates.**

The candidates who are offering their services for this election are:

**HOWELL, SHARON:** I am currently an ARSCE Board Member. When I ran last year, I was an alternate but was appointed to the position vacated by Eddie Haw when he retired from the Board. I am currently Co-chair of the Meetings, Programs, and Tours Committee and would like to continue in that capacity. It is my desire to continue Eddie's fight for a fair and equitable COLA for all retirees.

**LARSEN, AL:** I retired after 30 years of service for the City in 1989, spending approximately half my years with the Engineering Department, working first as a mail clerk than an Engineering Specialist for the Assessing Office.. After 3 years on military leave I returned to work in Traffic Engineering where I eventually acquired my Professional Civil Engineers License and worked in Signal Design where my duties included making presentations to the Seattle Art Commission and various communities. The second half of my career with the City was with City Light where I switched careers and became a Senior Systems Analyst working in Information Systems on City Light's main billing system. While there, I created the first Information Technical section and managed the switch from Univac computer terminals to the IBM terminals for the city-wide computer switch. I pioneered the effort to hook up the terminals with existing telephone lines resulting in a more flexible system. After retiring, I was elected to the Retired City Light Employees Association where I held the office of Financial Secretary and Webmaster. I believe my experience in working for multiple departments, interest in COLA for retirement and previous board experience would make me a good candidate for the ARSCE Board.

**CONNALLY, VERNON:** I was elected to the ARSCE Executive Board in 2006 as an alternate member to serve and to help continue to build a strong voice of support for retired City Employees. As of January, 2007, I became a voting member and have a little over 5 months of this election term to work with the Board addressing important pension issues. During my 6 months as an alternate, I have seen the dedication of the ARSCE Board members and heard their strong support for the well-being of all ARSCE members. Let's continue working together to build up and improve our retirement system remembering that it will only be as good as we the members make it to be. I began my career with the City of Seattle in 1970 after graduating from Garfield High School in 1969. I have served the Seattle community in a number of different capacities. I worked as a laborer; Senior Heavy Equipment Operator; Crew Chief; Manager; and the Director of the Solid Waste Division before retiring from the position of Director of Drainage and Wastewater in 2002. Thank you.

**OVERLAND, MERLE:** I have been retired from the City for three years, after working 33 years in the Personnel Department and its predecessor, the Civil Service Department. I am most interested in the continued monitoring of the City Council and Retirement System Board on the issues of COLA for retirees and health care cost containment. ARSCE remains one of the few ways for City retirees to remain connected with former co-workers and with City actions that directly affect them. There is a large community of City retirees and I would like to see ARSCE continue to develop effective ways to strengthen that community and represent its interests.

**GRAHAM, BARBARA:** I am completing my first incumbency on your Board and would appreciate your vote so I may continue to serve you. My goals include attaining equal benefits for all City retirees — even after we receive the pending COLA, and helping to protect and, hopefully, increase other benefits. I retired from the Seattle Engineering Department after over 33 wonderful years of service.

**BOEHM, RON:** My City career began in 1959 in the Engineering Department's Sewer Design Division. In a 1981 "re-org", I was transferred to the Water Department where I worked in Water Design; and, in the 1986 "re-org" was transferred to the Seattle Public Utilities' Contract Documents and Contracts/Specifications Division, where I retired in 1998. I am a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) with degrees in Civil and Hydraulic Engineering. I would like to help ARSCE continue to monitor and be prepared to act on our pension issues. Thank you for your consideration.

**FISHER, DONNA:** I have served as an incumbent on the ARSCE Board for two terms. I retired from City Light in 1987 where I was secretary to the City Light Superintendent. I have served as past Financial Secretary for RCLEA and ARSCE. Currently I serve on the ARSCE Entertainment Committee and I am active in the Shrine ladies group. I strongly support the COLA for ALL retired City employees.

**RANDALL, JOHN:** I was born in Seattle, raised in South Park and graduated from Cleveland High School in 1947. After discharge from the Army, I started work for the Engineering Department as a truck driver in 1952. My supervisory career began in 1959 and I retired in 1991 as Street Maintenance Director. Retirement brought much travel for my wife and me, including Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and, of course, Hawaii and Reno. We enjoyed a large garden of both vegetables and flowers until my Joan's passing in 2003. I am presently active in the American Legion and V.F.W. As an ARSCE Board member, I will help to continue monitoring issues important to all retired City employees — especially in achieving the COLA equity for ALL.

**WILLHELM, GERRY:** I began my career as an Engineering Aide in the Seattle Engineering Department in 1968 while attending the University of Washington. In the spring of 1971, after a two-year military leave of absence, I returned as a Civil Engineer I, in the Traffic Division of what was then the Seattle Engineering Department. I retired in the spring of 2002 after serving the last six years of my career as the Director of the Traffic Management Division. Our retirement system is one of the best. I believe that the ARSCE Board has made significant accomplishments and as a potential Board member, I will work to continue that success; therefore, keeping our retirement system one of the best. I live in northeast Seattle with my wife, Liz, who retired last January from the Seattle Department of Transportation.

You can contact this newspaper by writing ARSCE NEWS,  
P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA. 98175-0385.

Or contact the paper at  
[arscenews@yahoo.com](mailto:arscenews@yahoo.com)

## Ken's Motorcycles and Memories

By Ken Hunich

*(Living alone has impressed on Ken the importance of memories.)*

**Memories** As we get older, things change, we are not as active and we have accumulated a lifetime of memories. I've wondered sometimes whether the more fortunate people are those who can recall the fewest bad memories, those who can't recall much of anything, or those who can recall very important memories--especially involving being with other people--and saddened by the fact reality has changed and memories are all there is now. I've got a lot of good memories and I accept the fact that that my eyes don't see clearly when I think of some of them.

**Planning The Future** While serving in World War II in the Navy, I helped my morale by fantasizing of better times when I was once again back home. That mental picture included getting a motorcycle and traveling/camping through mountains, forests, and along the seashore. So, when I was discharged from the service in late summer I fulfilled part of my dream and bought a used motorcycle. But the soon-to-start university classes clearly would limit my time to be a free-roaming spirit on the open road on a motorcycle with a war surplus GI pup tent and sleeping bag. So, instead, I got some part-time jobs, saved my money and prepared to be a diligent ex-sailor studying on the GI Bill. Reluctantly, my dream of wandering on two wheels would have to be postponed until next spring.

**On The Road** When classes ended at the beginning of the next summer, I was on my motorcycle camping down the Pacific coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. I stopped to visit a former shipmate and his wife in Santa Monica, California. He had a motorcycle, too, and offered to show me around the area. He suggested I meet a woman friend of his wife's and do the sightseeing as two couples. I found his wife's friend very interesting and I enjoyed riding with her while guided by my shipmate.

I stayed in Santa Monica longer than I originally planned, which gave me more time to be with my new friend. I taught her how to drive my big Harley-sized Indian Chief motorcycle. She was in great joy driving it around Los Angeles---I was in great terror as the passenger.

**Things Change** I changed my mind about my grand tour and generally headed home to Seattle. There I found I had no personal peace. I wrote the lady a letter; she sent me a telegram. Shortly thereafter I met her at the King Street Train Station.

Three weeks after I met her in California I married her and she became my bride for the next 55 years. I went back to school and my new wife got a job. We decided to take a weekend trip on the motorcycle and camp near Mount Rainier. On a sunny, clear day she was driving on a winding, empty two-lane road near Kent at about 35 miles per hour driving calmly in a straight line-- while the road made a left curve. When we collided with a guard rail I was only slightly bruised, but she was critically injured and was on the verge of death for some time. She spent the next three and a half months in the hospital. Fortunately, she too had been in the Navy and so could be hospitalized as an ex-GI without funds.

She did recover. I never let her drive the motorcycle again; actually, she didn't want to.

**Do With What You Have** I remember seeing her sitting sidesaddle on our motorcycle in a dress, silk stockings and high heels when we went to a formal gathering. It was either going on city buses and transferring, or taking the motorcycle. We decided to go by motorcycle. Her legs, of course, extended on the right side. I drove sedately with gentle starts and stops since she could hold on to me with only one arm. I'd tell her before I was about to make a right turn so she could raise both legs and avoid scraping her high heels on the street when the bike leaned into the turn.

When we stopped at a traffic light, most adults in nearby cars, as now, kept looking straight ahead. But small kids in the back seat were looking every which way. When they saw our motorcycle with me in a suit and necktie and Dear One in formal dress sitting crosswise, I could see them forming words I couldn't hear, after which all adult heads in the car turned in our direction. I gave them a half smile, a nod of the head and a half wave of the hand in greeting as we drove off when the light turned green.

**Mountain Climbing** Other memories I have concern my bride's following me in my pursuit of mountain climbing--which was not really her interest. She was scared spitless on rock cliffs, even if

she had on a safety belay rope. She couldn't get interested in purposely jumping into a deep crevasse on Mount Rainier's Nisqually Glacier with a climbing rope on as part of the Mountaineers' (club) Climbing Course on how to get out of a crevasse if you inadvertently fell into one.

"And anyway, I don't want you as my climbing instructor. You make things too difficult!", she declared (I was teaching crevasse rescue at the time.).

"Yeah, well that's how you learn how to keep from getting hurt when an accident happens." I explained.

**Learning** We shared other personal moments, some of which were educational. For example, when pitching your tent on hard, spring snow, though it has a waterproof bottom, you can't sleep comfortably on your air mattress on its cold floor in your sleeping bag without special insulation underneath.

At another time she had to crawl out of the tent in the middle of the dark night and asked: "How do I hold the flashlight and see where I'm going when I need two hands to crawl with?"

"Hold the back end of the flashlight in your mouth" I explained.

Moments later, I heard her frantic cries for help. I anxiously dashed out with my flashlight, found her nearby and I practically fell over laughing.

"**STOP YOUR LAUGHING!!** and help me get out of here!!!" she demanded.

We were camped with a climbing group in a forest that still had about four feet of remaining hard spring snow. In late spring, the snow melts away from around the evergreen tree trunks leaving an encircling trough down to the ground level. It seems Dear One selected a place to drop her pants in the dark on the hard snow that was near one of these tree-caused pits in the snow. She lost her balance and slid on her back into the hole, head down, with her shoulders wedged against the bottom of tree and her boots and pants near the top of the snow... with no dignity in between.

"Get me out of here!" she demanded; "I can't move from this position!"

I pulled her from her awkward position and helped her restore her dignity. Afterwards I held her very close and gave her a long meaningful hug; then assisted her to crawl back into our tent.

There are many other memories I have.  
You know... I miss her.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dale Anderson, City Light  
Joan Anderson, Municipal Court  
Calvin Barnard, Administrative Services  
Eugene Blonder, Health  
Patricia Campbell, Arts Commission  
Gloria Chard, Beneficiary  
Norma Clark, City Light  
Gary Davenport, Engineering  
Anna Elarth, Health  
Louise Frombach, Parks  
Charles Gehrts, Transit  
Randall Hardy, City Light  
Michael Harrison, City Light  
Kathleen Harvey, Library  
Richard Hernandez, City Light  
Darlene Hodges, Seattle Public Utilities

Cresencio Javidando, Administrative Services  
Ken Katayama, City Light  
Suzanne Kay, Health  
Mary Margaret Kolze, Beneficiary  
William Mayberry, Parks  
Toni Myers, Library  
Lurye Phillips, Police  
William Roach, Transit  
Shirley Ruble, Law  
June Smith, Parks  
Benita Staadecker, Dept. of Transportation  
Richard Stedtfeld, Dept. of Transportation  
Betty Tonglao, Library  
Robert Van Inwegen, Engineering  
William Westerman, City Light  
Darryl Withrow, Water



**BOOK NOTES** *continued from page 4***GODS IN ALABAMA.** By Joshilyn Jackson

When Arlene Fleet heads north to college she promises God she will reform if she can have just one miracle – that his body is never found. For ten years she stays away but then she must go back, taking her African American boyfriend to meet her lily white kith and kin, all the southern eccentric types that are such fun to meet on pages. And she confronts her old demons and secrets that weren't quite what she remembered.

**THE ROAD.** By Cormac McCarthy

McCarthy is one of the finest authors writing today, winner of many prestigious awards. This latest novel is not only a remarkable departure from his previous works but one of horrific beauty. The world has been destroyed though the reader never learns how the apocalypse occurred. A father and his young son walk, always west toward the coast, struggling to persevere without any knowledge of something better ahead. Their relationship comes to represent goodness in a world that is devastated.

**SNOBS.** By Julian Fellowes

The Academy Award winning author of "Gosford Park" has written another stylish story of snobbish wealthy people involved in a society scandal. A beautiful girl with some money but no title and definitely not in the castle crowd marries Lord Broughton, decent, kind, and dull. She soon finds this privileged life not what she had expected and rashly goes off with a handsome, mediocre, married actor. The repercussions are divinely funny and the insight into this part of English social life is delightful entertainment.

**THE ASSASSINS GALLERY.** By David Robbins

History has assured us that FDR was not assassinated but as you read this runaway alternate-history fiction you get caught up in questions. In 1945 WWII nears its end and a ruthless female assassin prepares to take out the President. She is foreign born, beautiful, and trained in the assassins' rituals and weaponry of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Top flight for this genre.

**KILLER INSTINCT.** By Joseph Finder

Called the CEO of the corporate thriller Finder adds another fast moving tale but with a twist. Jason Steadman is a sales executive, well liked at the office but without the killer instinct to climb the corporate ladder. Then he meets Kurt Semko, former special services officer just back from Iraq and in need of a job. Jason hires him for corporate security and in a fast series of unexpected events Jason's career takes off while his rivals strangely fall by the wayside. But Kurt is more than his friend – he becomes the most dangerous enemy imaginable.

**WANTED . . .**

a dependable individual who is outgoing, who loves to meet people. This person will replace this newspaper's outgoing "circulation manager".

Every two months, when the paper is published, it is picked up and distributed throughout City departments, offices, and the various SMCU branches. While it is not necessary to physically visit each destination, it is necessary to label and bundle the papers and deliver them to key locations for dissemination.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please telephone Walt North at (206) 365-5416 or e-mail him at [president@arsce.org](mailto:president@arsce.org). There is a small remuneration paid for this service.

**OBITUARY**

*(from the Internet)*

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Mr. Common Sense. Mr. Sense had been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies: (don't spend more than you earn); and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge).

His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well-intentioned, but overbearing regulations were set in place: reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

Mr. Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student.

Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live when criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a bit in her lap and was awarded a huge financial settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

He is survived by two stepbrothers: My Rights and Ima Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

**Short and Funny**

The irony of life is that by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

~~~~~

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

~~~~~

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

~~~~~

I dialed a number and got the following recording:

"I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

**WANTED . . .**

someone interested in a fun, part-time job opportunity. Would you be interested in learning how to put the *ARSCE News* together? If you have computer skills, familiarity with Microsoft Office software (or its Publisher feature) and a little "time on your hands," you can learn to compile and edit the *ARSCE News*.

Once familiar and experienced with "putting the paper to bed" you could become the next Editor of the paper. If this opportunity appeals to you, contact Jim Taylor at [webmaster@arsce.org](mailto:webmaster@arsce.org). There is a small remuneration for each paper published.

## ARSCE SPRING LUNCHEON



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21st, 2007  
AT THE LAKE CITY ELKS  
14540 BOTHELL WAY NE**

11:00 AM—Noon: No Host Bar and visit with friends  
Lunch is served at Noon  
COST: \$ 17.00 Per Person  
**RESERVATIONS by Tuesday, March 13th, 2007**

**A speaker from the Port of Seattle will talk about Port facilities and other Port details you may not know. A question and answer period will follow.**

(Cancellations no later than 48 hours prior to the luncheon. Cancellation questions? Call Joanne Kinsella at (206) 362-0902)

Please mail your check or money order with your completed coupon below.



NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### LUNCHEON CHOICE:

| # Attending | Menu Choice                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
|             | Roast Beef, Mash Potatoes, Vegetable |
|             | Chef Salad                           |
|             | Vegetarian Pasta                     |

**MAIL TO: ARSCE LUNCHEON  
P.O. BOX 75385  
SEATTLE, WA. 98175-0385**

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. Thank you!**

As income tax time approaches, have you ever noticed when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it spells



# "THEIRS?"

## 2007

### MEETING & PUBLICATION DATES

- Fri. Feb. 16 ..... Insert Ballots/Mail ARSCE News (Mar/April)
- Wed. Mar. 14 ..... Ballots due in PO Box
- Fri. Mar. 16 ..... Count Ballots
- Wed. Mar. 21 ..... Luncheon Meeting (Introduce new Board members)
- Tue. Apr. 03 ..... News Deadline (May/June Issue)
- Wed. Apr. 11 ..... Executive Board Meeting – Elect Officers
- Fri. Apr. 27 ..... Mail ARSCE News (May/June Issue)
- Tue. May 29 ..... News Deadline (July/August Issue)
  
- Wed. June 20 ..... Luncheon Meeting (Swear in Officers & new Board members)
- Fri. June 22 ..... Mail ARSCE News (July/Aug Issue)
- Tue. July 31 ..... News Deadline (Sep/Oct Issue)
- Wed. Aug. 08 ..... Executive Board Meeting
- Fri. Aug. 24 ..... Mail ARSCE News
  
- Wed. Sep. 19 ..... Luncheon Meeting
- Tue. Sep. 25 ..... News Deadline (Nov/Dec Issue)
- Fri. Oct. 26 ..... Mail ARSCE News (Nov/Dec Issue)
- Wed. Nov. 14 ..... Executive Board Meeting
- Tue. Nov. 27 ..... News Deadline (Jan/Feb Issue)
- Wed. Dec. 12 ..... Annual Christmas Party

**Note: Calendar is subject to change by Board approval**

### Application for Membership

#### The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees

Address Change?( ) Dues Payment?( ) Donation?( ) New Member?( )

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date Retired \_\_\_\_\_ From Dept. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Encl. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$ 8.00. Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. Dues for Jan. 1 to June 30 are \$ 4.00.

If you wish to have your dues deducted from your July pension check, please fill out the following section for the Retirement Office and include it with the rest of this coupon when you send it to ARSCE.

#### The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees Dues Deduction Authorization

To: The Board of Administration, City of Seattle Employees Retirement System:

The undersigned hereby authorizes the City of Seattle City Employees Retirement System to deduct from my retirement, beneficiary and/or disability allowance, such dues as are duly established from time to time by The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees. Until further written notice by me to The Retirement System Office, such deduction shall be made annually from my July allowance and shall be paid to The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees, P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA. 98175-0385.

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Association of Retired City Employees. P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA. 98175-0385. Attn: Joanne Kinsella**