

January 17, 1975

MEMO

To: Dr. A. D. Martinson

From: Richard D. Osness

Subject: Parkland Historical Project: Interview with Mrs. Howard Doering, 523 So. 118th, Parkland, 531-0317.

On Monday, October 21, 1974, I conducted an interview with Mrs. Howard (Helga Nygard) Doering. Mrs. Doering came here in 1906, with her family, from Utah. Her comments were more of a miscellaneous nature and to show what pictures she had which may be of interest. I made copies of these and, if needed, we may borrow the originals at a later date for publication.

Mrs. Doering mentioned the following:

The red house across from Trinity Lutheran Church's parsonage was here in 1906. ² 117th and Park, ¹ corner house, also in Parkland in 1906. Bjug Harstad was very controversial. Peter Smith, pioneer; son was William Smith. William Wilson owned the land PLU is now on. Wilson had bought land from Peter Smith. Christopher Mahon, pioneer in Brookdale, had a rest stop for travelers on Naches Pass. Monument at Brookdale Golf Course. Picture of Parkland school: James Sales, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Anderson (got things done), Mrs. Emma DeVoe, and Mr. Bailey (principle of Parkland grade school). Mrs. Dahl - overslept and did not ride street car on July 4, 1900 when it crashed at the bottom of Delin Hill in Tacoma. "Old Betsy" had a route on C Street; turned left on 116th St. and went to South Tacoma depot where passengers changed to street car for Tacoma. Religion controversy at PLU. Mrs. Doering would not comment on this. She said Mrs. Dahl and Mrs. Alma Storaasli knew more about it. Erickson and Graabel store on Garfield Street. Two houses up from Mrs. Doering's, ³ on old Cleveland Street built by Mr. Sinland, Mrs. Dahl's father. A United Lutheran church used to be located behind the present Post Office. Mrs. Doering's home built about 1900. They moved in in about about 1908. She went to high school at Stadium. She said that Parkland is from Brookdale to McChord. McChord was Fawcett Swamp.

These additional notes were also received:

Peter Smith, 320 acres. Edward Croft, 324.90 acres where Sales home is now. John Fawcett filed on 320 acres on Sept. 27, 1854 - portion lies within Parkland. Parkland is in part of the old Tallentire claim. Tallentire claim $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Edward Croft claim. James, son of William and Eliza Sales. (Fawcett swamp by McChord Field.)

① 604 117th ST.

③ 509 118th ST.

② 411 121st ST.

William Wilson, father of Mrs. W. T. Smith, one of the founders of Parkland. He platted his farm, 1890, which is now center of Parkland. PLU is located on it. Also named Parkland according to newspaper article in Tacoma Review. Donated site to Methodist Church, built in year 1900.

✓ The Donation Claim Act of Sept. 27, 1850. President Fillmore, 21 years - select half section of land. Married man with family 640 acres.

✓ Thomas Tallentire - east of Peter Smith's donation claim. June 14, 1852. 640 acres. One of the earliest voting precincts of Pierce County was named after him. Later changed to Muckan. Precinct.

Influenza Epidemic of 1918 - bad in Parkland, being near Camp Lewis. People going to work that rode on the street car, wore gauze masks.

✓ Edward Croft claim $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of Fawcett's.

✓ Christopher Mahon located his claim on the banks of Clover Creek where Brookdale Golf Course is located. 640 acres. Immigrant train of 1853 camped for last time before they seperated to locate in other parts.

✓ Pierce County created Dec. 22, 1852. Named in honor of Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire. April 28, 1890 - The townsite of Parkland became a reality when Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson platted a portion of the farm which they had located on edge of prairie and two miles north of Spanaway. During the same year - the Lake Park Railway and Improvement Company built their electric line through the townsite to Spanaway.

Old Betsy was a steam engine that pulled several cars - passenger and freight from South Tacoma through Parkland and to Spanaway and back, turning west from C Street on to Harrison Street, which is 116th Street - west on railroad track to about old 99 to South Tacoma. There it made connection with street car to Tacoma. A station with ticket window, located on north-west corner of C street and Garfield.

Remarkable growth in Parkland since WWII.

✓ Biles - Longmire Party - Oct. 1853, arrived at Clover Creek after corssing Naches Pass. First immigrant train to come directly across the Cascade Mountains into Puget Sound country. Route decreased in importance as steamboats from the Columbia River and California made entry to the Sound less toilsome.

Pictures

The following are notes that Mrs. Doering has that are from Mrs. William Smith, daughter-in-law of Peter Smith:

Thomas Tallentire located his claim on June 14, 1852. 640 acres. Peter Smith located his claim on March 17, 1853 - later buying from Thomas Tallentire. Wm. Wilson bought from Peter Smith 200 acres of the Tallentire donation claim about the year 80 or 82. He platted - 1890 - and sold to PLA a part of the acreage (5 acres) for a college. Peter Smith bought the north 320 acres on which Parkland is built.

Mrs. Doering said she would be available for other information.

5. About 1906. The Hows family lived there at the time. Vacant lot, 2 blocks north of F&W Library Very truly yours

6. Parkland Elementary School. Eight grades. 1910.

7. House on C Street, by Lucky Steve. RICHARD D. OSNESS

8. Built about 1906 - one of the few houses on prairie west of Park Ave., about 1/2 mile from McHard Field. (Taken about 1913?)

9. Before 1926. Edge on back states: Shenandoah at the morning mist at Camp Lewis. It was a beautiful clear day when she arrived sailed all day around above our place as she could not land till evening on account of heat. A big silver shark swimming in the sun. It was a sight to behold. Very little noise... /s/Hellen

10. Newspaper article about Parkland Methodist Church.

11. About 1898. Picture taken on old school house porch where the present school was built. Parkland Grade School.

12. Located directly across from Present library. Old depot was built when old Betsy used to run on C St. Vacant when this picture was taken.

Pictures

1. Parkland Grade School, Graduation Exercise, 1912. Mr. Bailey, Principal; Mrs. DeVoe, Speaker; Mr. Sales, Mr. John Anderson, Mr. Campbell, School Directors.
2. Old United Lutheran Church. South of present Post Office.
3. House on 118th St. Third House, N. E. Formerly Cleveland St. Built by Sinland, father of Mrs. H. Dahl, and Alma Storaasli.
4. Old Stuen House. Built by T. Larson. Later torn down and property sold to university.
5. About 1906. The Hovd family lived there at the time. Vacant lot, 2 blocks north of PLU Library on Park Ave.
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7. House on C Street, by Lucky Store.
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