



# Queen Anne Cobblestone

The Newsletter of the Queen Anne Historical Society

May 2014

## Great Learning Opportunities at Meetings and Tours in May and June

By Michael Herschensohn, PhD.

### ANNUAL MEETING: THE HISTORY OF SEATTLE'S GOLDEN POTLATCH WITH DAN KERLEE

The society's annual meeting takes place on May 22 at 2555 8th Ave. W. at the Church of Christ (formerly Seventh Church of Christ Scientist) at 7 p.m. We'll begin with a brief business meeting. A quick look at the sanctuary, which many of us have never toured, is followed by the big treat: a talk by Dan Kerlee about Seattle's Golden Potlatch festival, which began on July 17, 1911. In the following five days, approximately 300,000 people visited Seattle to attend parades, concerts and demonstrations by "automobilists" and an aviator. The citywide celebration commemorated the 1897 arrival of the steamer Portland from Alaska loaded with Klondike gold. The Golden Potlatch festival intended to maintain the national visibility of Seattle after the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909. An automobile race up Taylor Avenue N. brought Queen Anne into the 1911 festivities. In 1913, soldiers and sailors marred the festival, looting and burning the offices of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the Socialist Party. The Potlatch was started again in 1934 but canceled after 1941 following Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II.

Dan Kerlee, a Magnolia resident, is an expert on the history of the Golden Potlatch. He is known throughout the community as a major collector of artifacts and images from the first half of the 20th century. His collection focuses on

the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and the Golden Potlatch. His talk brings to life an important moment in our history, which left us the marvelous legacy of the annual festival now known as Seafair.

*May 22; 7 p.m.; free admission with membership; <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/682385>*

### ARCHITECTURAL TOUR: MODERN QUEEN ANNE

See the excerpt from the tour brochure on page 2 for details. Learn about the roots of mid-century modern architecture at Canlis and the Swedish Club while meeting five architects who have added a contemporary touch to Queen Anne. The architects will discuss their works from the sidewalks. Interiors are not on the tour.

*June 14; 2 to about 6 p.m.; \$15 members, \$20 non-members; [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/677773](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/677773)*

### TOUR: MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY

Meet at the south entrance to the cemetery (700 W. Raye St.) for the Queen Anne Historical Society's annual tour of the

cemetery. Kim Turner leads again this year where he'll combine the highlights of the last several years into one exciting visit that will galvanize your interest in local history. The Clise Family tomb sites will surely draw everyone's attention this year, not only because they once owned the cemetery, but also because the family is now the proprietor of the last major portion of the Denny Regrade to go undeveloped. A big part of that land has just been sold for Amazon's two big towers between 6th and 7th Avenues. People attending Dan Kerlee's talk at the society's annual meeting (May 22) on the Golden Potlatch will wonder if there is a connection between the 1913 riots at IWW headquarters and the 1916 Everett Massacre whose victims are buried at Mount Pleasant.

*June 28; 10 a.m. to noon; free admission; <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/682405>*

### CHECK OUR WEBSITE

We continue to improve our website ([www.qahistory.org](http://www.qahistory.org)), including better organization of our historical database and images. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

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Seattle Golden Potlatch parade float, 1911



CULTURE

# Queen Anne Historical Society

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## Modern Queen Anne Architectural Tours: Canlis and the Swedish Club

By Michael Herschensohn, PhD.

*On June 14, from 2 to about 6 p.m., the society will offer Modern Queen Anne, a new tour that focuses on two mid-century structures with unrivaled views—Canlis and the Swedish Club—while stopping by five recently completed homes to learn from the architects who designed them about program goals and the place of their work in the contemporary idiom. Join the tour by sending an RSVP to help@qahistory.org or purchase tickets now at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/677773](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/677773).*

*June 14; members \$15, non-members \$20; automobile tour starts at 2 p.m. at Canlis; bike tour begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Swedish Club*

*The following text is excerpted from the tour brochure:*

Architect Roland Terry (1917-2006) is celebrated as a prime contributor to the regional approach to post-World War II modernism. His work is marked by a deep understanding of Pacific Northwest wood, stone and color. Nearly all of his residential and commercial work takes

advantage of stunning views to the water, mountains and incredible vistas of the Pacific Northwest. Canlis is no exception.

In designing Canlis, Terry “imagined a timeless place of Frank Lloyd Wright discipline and subtlety.” Canlis is perched high on the cliff over Lake Union. Reminiscent in some ways of Fallingwater, Frank Lloyd Wright’s iconic 1937 home hanging over a tumbling brook, Canlis’ eastern wall of windows is canted out to reduce ceiling light reflections and leans out over empty space to views of Lake Union, the University of Washington campus and, in the distance, the Cascade Mountains. Like many Wright designs, Canlis is anchored to the ground by a massive chimney whose place of honor in the design is reinforced by the strong wall of stones supporting the porte cochère where guests alight, protected from the rain. The restaurant also turns its low-slung western back to one of the busiest highways in the state, where service entrances and kitchens buffer the sounds of the road.

Peter Canlis, who already operated a Canlis Broiler on Waikiki Beach, also designed by Terry, stuck with the UW graduate and Washington native for his new Seattle steakhouse. Now known for its fine and elegant dining, Queen Anne’s Canlis Charcoal Broiler may owe its site to the old west coast roadhouse tradition of placing eating, drinking, dancing and lodging retreats along stagecoach lines and highways.

Terry conceived the structure and collaborated with Pete Wimberley on the interior design that he dreamed of as a restaurant where guests would feel comfortable kicking their shoes off under the table. Together they created an architectural icon that captures the beauty of the Northwest with breathtaking splendor. Additions were made in 1954 by Terry and Moore associated with Wimberley and Cook. Join us on June 14 to learn more about Seattle’s first modern architects who designed Canlis and the Swedish Club and mingle with five of today’s designers and see great modern homes they’ve done.



*Canlis restaurant, perched above Lake Union, boasts unrivaled views of Lake Union, the University of Washington and the Cascade Mountains.*

The mission of the Queen Anne Historical Society is to record and preserve, in permanent form, the history of the settling of the Queen Anne community in Seattle, WA and to develop within the community an appreciation and concern for its history and its historical sites.

## President's Letter

By Michael Herschensohn, PhD.

I can't wait for our annual meeting on May 22 when we will return to the Church of Christ on 8th Avenue W. Dan Kerlee's talk about the Golden Potlatch will bring new and exciting knowledge about the summer celebration that Seattle embraced trying to recapture the spirit of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition after 1909. The Golden Potlatch lasted until WWII, and its parades and other events foretell the Seafair celebrations that mark modern Seattle's summertime fun.

At the May meeting, we will elect the board of the society for a new year of service. I invite anyone interested in the exciting

work of the Queen Anne Historical Society to contact me (mh982501@gmail.com or help@qahistory.org) ASAP about joining our dedicated group. We have successfully added young and energetic folks to the board over the last couple of years. The society's well-being depends on continuing that success.

Speaking of success, the oom-pa-pa of the Ballard Sedentary Sousa Band echoed across the majestic trees as we celebrated the rededication of Lower Kinnear Park on April 26, 2014. Elected officials (Jean Godden, Sally Bagshaw and Jeanne Kohl-Welles), Deputy Mayor Andrea Riniker (a Queen Anne neighbor), Parks Department dignitaries and hundreds of folks from all about the hill experienced the urban oasis Angeline and George Kinnear gave to the city in 1897. Once overlooking the beach on Elliott Bay, the park now looks out over

Elliott Avenue, railroad tracks and the grain silos. FOLKpark, a grassroots group of neighbors led by Debi Frausto and Kay Knapton, secured the funds to rebuild the stairs, tennis courts and pathways while creating a new off-leash area near the western edge. The Queen Anne Historical Society happily paid for the Sousa Band, which reflected the early-20th-century tradition of concerts in the park.



Seattle Golden Potlatch parade float, 1911

In April, Culture awarded the society a grant to finish digitizing our oral history collection. Once that work is done, we can start anew recording the stories of people living here now.

Make sure you find the news of our two June tours elsewhere in this issue of the *Cobblestone*. The tours close our program year, whose focus on Queen Anne churches has been a great success. Next year's theme, multifamily housing, begins in September. As Queen Anne becomes more densely populated in this first quarter of the 21st century, it will be interesting and great fun to explore the many buildings that added density in the first quarter of the last century, when Queen Anne was much more blue collar than now—and probably not quite as young.

So, what's your favorite Queen Anne apartment house?

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"KINNEAR HOME"

## Kim's Musings

By Kim Turner, Chair of Research Committee

It was with both some relief and some sorrow that my family sat on the top steps at 3rd Avenue North and Ward Street. It was June, 1945. My cousin, Adrienne Hull, had just died of complications from measles. But the war in Europe was over and the war in the Pacific was now concentrated on Japan and her outskirts. As the sky grew dark, we sat there in silence. Suddenly, lights began to appear, not only around us, but buildings downtown were glowing with it! After nearly three years, the lights had come back on in Seattle! Less than two months later the end came for World War II, and we could return to the growth and development which was a common factor in Seattle's history.

The following year the old Mercer School was torn down, pile drivers set many pilings into the ground and the new Seattle Public Schools Administration Building at 4th Avenue North between Roy and Aloha Streets was completed. In early 1947, the fields and trees across from our house at the foot of the stairs were bulldozed away. My sister and I had our pictures taken standing on a huge (to us) boulder which had been left by the retreating glacier at the end of the Ice Age. Apartments went up in the place of the greenery. They were nice, commodious units of two or more bedrooms each. D.O. Selby, later one of my mom's coworkers at the B.F. Shearer Company, moved into one of them.

Barbara Hanel and her father lived in another. It was the beginnings of new housing on the hill, much of it both multifamily and/or business structures. The National Bank of Commerce built a branch on Mercer Street, between Queen Anne Avenue and 1st Avenue North. Growth began again all through Seattle. Two years later, in 1949, Peter Canlis began building his restaurant, perched onto the northeast rim of the hill, right next to Aurora Avenue (Highway 99) with all of its traffic and became a special place for dining.

The rush to build, remodel, etc., was on!