## DID IT REALLY HAPPEN IN TACOMA?

a collection of vignettes of local history written

by

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Tacoma Public Library

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## INTRODUCTION

This collection of vignettes of local history is the product of a number of years of work at the Tacoma Public Library. It began as a project during the 1969 Tacoma Centennial and has been added to from time to time until the present.

Much of the material obtained for these little stories has been obtained through research in the extensive Northwest collection of the Library. Unfortunately no notes were made as to exactly where the information came from and often what was written as the sum total of information received from a number of sources.

The long running collection of local history written by E.T.Short and published in the Tacoma Times in the 1930s and 1940s was an excellent resource as was the Tacoma Municipal Bulletin published under the auspices of the office of the Mayor of Tacoma before World War One.

Like other works of this nature the author covers himself by saying that this is a preliminary edition and all errors will the corrected in subsequent editions.

The distribution of this collection of stories as all other works in this series of library produced materials is the direct result of continued questions about local history for which no resources have been found. Consequently as a matter of self preservation the Library produces these items to fill an expressed need of patrons of the Tacoma Public Library.

Gary Fuller Reese. Tacoma Public Library.

## PREFACE

The stories in the collection are arranged in no meaningful order and portions of the same story may appear in another form in connection with something else.

It was decided not to title any of the vignettes and to separate them only by a series of dashes so that more text could appear on each page thus reducing the total amount of paper used in the project.

It is hoped that the descendents of anyone mentioned by name in this collection will "take" the comments about their ancestors in the spirit in which they were written. Since everything came from printed sources in the first place whatever good or evil said is already in the public domain. The abundance of fish and game available just for the taking was a little embarrasing to certain elements of Tacoma society in the early days. Those who preferred more civilized food from back east were hard put to explain why tinned fish and other products were tastier than the local varieties. Some even suggested a certain amount of disloyalty in those who refused to eat home products especially when they had to bring the canned items across the county by rail or around the Horn by ship.

When the panic of 1892 and the depression of 1893 hit Tacoma the importation of the fancy foods was one of the first things cut off as local supplies were more and more called into use.

Congressman Francis W. Cushman in reminiscing about the period said that "...the residents of the Puget Sound district ate so many clams that their bellies rose and fell with the tide."

Prize-fight enthusiasts of Tacoma in 1910 were anticipating with pleasure the upcoming scheduled match between Denver Ed Martin and Jack Lester. It was to be the first really big show in the City of Destiny in several years. Promoters expected to be able to put Tacoma on the map "fightwise" and make a lot of money besides.

Tacoma had adopted a commission form of government the year before and was operating with a clean slade in regards to administrative rules and regulations. Commissioners were having a great time legislating in almost every area one could think of and had just gotten around to hammering out the details of a new public amusements law.

After hearings and a good deal of talk Commissioner Ray Freeland introduced an ordinance which banned or severly curtailed all the activities near and dear to the fight promoters except the actual match. Gambling and the delights attendant to it, saloons and dance halls, were to be outlawed.

A most sorrowful wail came from the prizefight crowd but the law and order element meant business and with only a prize fight to go to the whole proceeding was cancelled.

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The two candidates for the office of mayor in the election of 1889 were successful businessmen who were expected to offer the city sound conservative government.

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Robert Wingate, the Republican nominee, was billed as a "sterling young man of independent wealth who would be able to devote his time to city affairs." The Democratic party standard bearer, S.A. Wheelright was called a "mature executive whose business ventures have brought nothing but credit to our fair city."

The party machinery on both sides began working to boast of the successes of their candidate while decrying the failures of the opposition.

The Democrats decided that candidate Wingate was too wealthy and based their campaign on the supposition that he would spend so much of his time gadding about and enjoying his wealth he would have little time to devote to city affairs.

The Republicans had difficulty observing flaws in the character of Mr. Wheel right until they discovered that he enjoyed an occasional game of pool.

Since Tacoma boasted of few pool tables Mr. Wheel right was forced to go where the tables were, namely the town's saloons. Immediately the opposition pictured Wheel right as a habitue of the saloons with their low moral atmosphere and all the wild goings on that"everybody" had heard of.

Charges and counter-charges were hurled back and forth as Tacomans made their choice. Apparently the majority preferred a candidate who knew all levels of society for Wheel right received sixtytwo votes more than Wingate. Although his incumbency lasted just a year, Mayor Wheelright promoted a movement for a new city charger which was to make Tacoma a city in fact as well as name. When Peter Nyholm arrived in Tacoma in the late 1880s he hoped that his training as a musical instrument maker would help him find employment in the new city. In the 1890s when another of the periodic panics struck, Nyholm lost the job he found and was forced to sacrifice his savings and most of his real estate holdings.

With only twenty-two acres of logged off land left to his name he abandoned his trade and moved his family to a small house on the land. His total assets besides the land amount to forty chickens, ten dollars in cash and a will to succeed.

He found a job at a dollar and a quarter a day working on county roads while Mrs. Nyholm raised chickens. Soon one or two hogs were acquired. These animals set about eating underbrush while in the evenings Mr. Nyholm cut wood. A cow was added as soon as an acre was cleared.

In a comparatively short time there were 1,000 laying hens, half a dozen cows, several hogs, an orchard, berry patch, garden, pasture and meadow.

Nyholm never got back to musical instrument making and having been "burned" once stayed away from the boom and bust, wheeling and dealing atmosphere of the "big city" to raise chickens and become a valued member of rural Pierce County society.

Daniel Collins, an early Pierce County coroner, was so consciencous about his official duties that he attended nearly every funeral held in the area in the 1850s and 1860s. On some occasions when the deceased was particularly unliked or unknown Collins would often be the only mourner.

On these special occasions the coroner would don a silk hat, swallow-tail coat and low vest to see his charges properly interred. When funerals were large Collins appreciated the free lunch served afterwards and took more than his share of the free liquor that was usually dispenced on these occasions.

When business was slow Collins found time to operate the Russian Chemical Steam Baths of Steilacoom. Advertised as a "quick, certain and permanent cure for rheumatism, paralysis, typhus, and typhoid fevers" oldtimers remember the baths consisting of nothing more than one tub with no plumbing.

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Although Collins accepted his position with complete seriousness his clerk, Henry Bradley, was not above playing jokes on his boss. One day following a report from Bradley that someone had died mysteriously at the Thomas Chambers home, Collins impa neled a jury of six to investigate.

Mrs. Chambers welcomed her guests with a quizical expression but hospitably set out hard cider for their refreshment. When the time came to view the corpse all had been let in on the joke except the cor oner and the hostess and great fun was had by all while the two searched high and low for the body which Collins expected to find and Mrs. Chambers knew nothing about though neither would admit what they were looking for.

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Marriage between members of the Puyallup tribe was strictly a business operation. When a young man saw a girl who struck his fancy he arranged to purchase the young woman from her father. An elaborate system was devised to control the activity and keep supply and demand in proper relation.

Indian women often chided one another over their own valuations. A woman worth two cows and a gun would often look down on someone purchased for a lesser price, and looked up to someone whose price had been higher.

By the time the white man arrived at Tacoma polygamous marriages had practically been abandoned except by the chiefs or head men who married their daughters to neighboring chiefs to cement relationships and keep peace in the neighborhood. The price for a marriage of this kind was often adjusted to the power of the seller and the social standing of the buyer. Tacoma boasts of one of the largest municipal park in the country only because of the farsightedness of the United States Army which declared the Point Defiance area a military reservation thus precluding any settlement within its boundaries.

The army had founded a fort at Steilacoom in 1849 only because the substantial farm of a recently deceased Englishman, Joseph Thomas Heath offered a ready made establishment.

Over the years officers assigned to Fort Steilacoom complained of its poor location and inaccessibility often pointing to the Point Defiance location as a much better site. In 1868 Fort Steilacoom was abandoned and the military not feeling the need for a site in Pierce county did nothing.

In 1888 the City of Tacoma was authorized to occupy the land at the Point for park purposes and finally in 1905 United States Congressman Francis Cushman and others persuaded the government to assign its claims to Point Defiance to the city of Tacoma giving its citizens possession of the entire site.

The 1872 business directory of Puget Sound published in Olympia by the Murphy and Harned Company ignored Tacoma in its index but listed it as the first mill town north of the capital city. Reported to contain a population of one hundred, Tacoma's businesses consisted of a photographer, a painter, a physician, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, three general stores, a lumber company, a wagon makers shop, a post office and of course the inevitable saloon.

A dense forest covered the site of New Tacoma and it was not until 1873 that a great fire was set to burn off the land and make it available for the construction of further stores, shops, and of course saloons. R.F. Radebaugh, founder of the Tacoma Ledger, was a man of many talents and interests. Because so many possibilities for development presented themselves it was not considered strange for a newsman like Radebaugh to also be a real estate promoter and an owner of one of the street railway systems in the City.

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Some men, recognizing his abilities, joined with Radebaugh in financial ventures while others differing with him on political or other grounds opposed him, often violently.

Radebaugh was as partisan as those who became his enemies and at times used the columns of his newspaper to express his views.

C.T. Conover, a well-known Seattle pioneer, worked for Mr. Radebaugh in 1887. Writing years later Conover recalled Radebaugh's partisanship by telling of the editors blacklist of his enemies. It was a rule at the Ledger that the names of the blacklisted men were never to appear in print except in their respective obituaries.

Jacob Mann,purser on the Steamer Messenger headquartered in Tacoma, was a quiet and orderly citizen who had no political ambitions whatsoever.

Someone as a joke voted for him as mayor in one of the city's early elections. The one vote convinced Mann that somebody in Tacoma wanted him for mayor so he ran as an independent candidate.

Someone pointed to the fact that Mann had arrived in the city broke but had through his diligence amassed a respectable fortune. It followed that if he could do so well with his own funds he would be a good person to watchdog the public weal.

With this in mind Mann's candidacy in the election of 1885 was taken seriously and when it was all over Mann had been elected the third mayor of the city of Tacoma. Mayor W.W. Seymour's administration of the affairs of the city of Tacoma was considered by many to be a marvel of efficiency and organization.

Soon after the contracts were let for the building of the Green River water supply system, contractors were invited to attend city council meetings to explain their progress.

Builders were amazed at Seymour's intimate knowledge of the project and were often embarrassed in having to explain why they didn't live up to this or that part of their contract.

Quite often Seymour would be forced to arbitrate between city inspectors and builders usually accompanied by large amounts of publicity.

Long after the project was completed one of Seymour's friends admitted that the mayor had hired his own engineers to keep tabs on both the contractors and the inspectors to make sure Tacomans got the best possible service for their tax dollar.

Those who wanted to consolidate Old and New Tacoma in 1883 were having a difficult time convincing the residents of both areas that merging into one city was the answer. Boosters knew that further expansion would be difficult without one government and the similiarity of the names of the two places, Tacoma City and New Tacoma, would lead to endless confusion.

Old Town citizens were especially concerned over the possible loss of their post office and shcool district. A.J. Whipple, a former membert of the town council, was adamant in his refusal to go along with the consolidationists.

Whipple claimed that the two towns were too far apart to be governed effectively from one point. He had recently tried to go overland from old to new Tacoma and got stuck in one of the many mud holes. Whipple maintained that joining the two far removed points by decent roads would tie up the tax receipts for both towns for so many years that schools, libraries and other improvements would have to wait too long and the two towns should stay apart.

Opponents of the administration of City Marshal E.O.Fulmer complained about the rapid rise in chicken thefts in Tacoma in the 1880s. These critics announced that the lack of action on the part of the police was an indication of Fulmer's inefficiency.

Fulmer replied that he had more to do than watch henroosts. He expressed a belief that the stories about chicken thieves were very much exaggerated by his enemies just to nag him.

His attitude changed appreciably one morning when he found five of his best hens missing. Immeidately a var of extermination was declared against all chicken thieves.

Suspicion pointed to a citizen who lived near 18th and South Yakima. Reinforced by a deputy sheriff and one of his own patrolmen Fulmer hid near the suspects home.

About midnight the suspect returned home and being "caught with the evidence" was escorted off to jail.

Before he was finished, Fulmer had arrested five more chicken thieves and was then able to return to more serous business.

During the panic of 1892 Tacoma officials were worried that the banks holding city deposits might fail, leaving no ready cash to pay city warrents. Municipal money was spread among several of Tacoma's twenty-two banks. City officials notified the banks that on a certain day they would have to bring the municipal funds to the city hall to be counted. Some of the banks didn't have the actualy cash represented by the city's deposit slips but with a little lending all city cash was accounted for. The county commissioners thought it would be a good idea to protect county deposits in the same way. Since the county had more money deposited than did the city there was quite a flurry of activity between banks as the cash was pooled. The commissioners saw the money counted and instead of letting it go back to the banks they ordered it placed in the treasurer's vault.

The bankers screamed and threatened but the money stayed in the vault. Since the banks had foolishly overextended themselves they drying up of this source of ready cash left them in a real bind.

One by one the banks whose assets did not match their liabilities were forced to suspend payment and close their doors. When the depression of 1893 hit Tacoma the citizens were already used to tightening their belts and while the rest of the county was suffering Tacoma was well on its way to recovery.

When the city water company was in private hands in the 1890s Tacoma's citizenry had a difficult time complaining about poor service and high rates. Since it was impossible to threaten the company with finding someone else to deliver water the only alternative was to bombard the city council with complaints. The council it was hoped would be moved upon to threaten the water company with withdrawing the franchise.

The water taken from Clover Creek and later Lake Spanaway had a bad taste and had the habit of disappearing altogether at inopportune times. Housewives complained that water was frequently shut off during the weekly laundry operations.

The manager of the water company, C.B. Hurley, stoutly maintained that the water tasted fine and that Tacoma people expected too much for their money and if they didn't stop complaining he would raise the rates. He further announced that those who weren't paying their water bills in protest had better pay up or they would wake up some morning to find their water shut off.

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The council was finally forced into action in January 1890 when a fire broke out in the convalescent ward of the Fannie Paddock Hospital. A general alarm brought all the fire apparatus in the city but when the hoses were attached to the hydrants there was no water. A bucket brigade kept the fire from spreading but the ward burned.

In the battle that followed Tacoma ended up owning its own water company, but E.T. Short in writing about the proceeding said that it "caused one of the biggest political and financial scandals in the city's early history."

Although Tacoma was about as far removed from the battlefields of World War One as any pother point in American mobilization changed the entire character of the city.

The four companies of coast artillery assigned to the Tacoma region were at half strength so officers and men set out to recruit the needed men. Within a week nearly every town in the county had been visited, each one giving its quota of men.

Anybody who could use a hammer or saw could get a job just outside the city where the great army depot of Camp Lewis was being built.

One of the first groups to be organized was one to increase food production. With a great amount of ballyhoo the citizenry was urged to get into the act. The park board offered fourteen acres in Point Defiance park to raise potatoes. All over town parking strips and vacant lots were dug up for garden space.

Mayor A.V. Fawcett proposed that city employees be organized into an armed force to protect the city in case of German attack.

Detractors suggested that it would be better to organize city employees to do their jobs instead of wasting taxpayers money in continued public demonstrations of patriotism.

City Attorney C.M. Riddell charged that city officers were spending so much time playing at war that the crime rate was increasing alarmingly. His charges were so well founded that when he was told to "put up or shut up" he "put up" and in the next election was given the opportunity to see what he could do as Tacoma's wartime mayor.

When the tower of the Donau brewery building was blown down in a terrific rain and wind storm in November of 1889 the church crowd in Tacoma shook their heads and announced that it was just the first in a series of clamaties to be rained down upon the wicked elements in the city.

Brewery owners noted that the vats were undamaged and plenty of beer and ale would be available to help Tacoma welcome in Washington as the nation's newest state on November 11th.

The church element shook their heads again and numbers of them went to prayer meetings as the wind and rain continued.

One group gathered in their building near the present post office while another met in a tent while their building at 10th and G. was being finished.

Loose boards blown from the top of the post office building then a wooden structure landed on the roof of the church sending worshipers into the stree t in confusion.

The tent church people were left without shelter when the wind tore the canvas top of their temporary house of worship scattering hymn books and tracts up and down the muddy streets.

While the tavern crowd laughed loudly the church people went home quietly leaving the "wicked element" in posession of the streets to welcome in the new state with appropriate revelry.

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Most of the harbors, bays and inlets of the lower Puget Sound were named by the men who explorered them or settled or their shores. Since nearly all the explorers and most of the settlers were English or American these locations often bear Anglo-Saxon names like Gig Harbor, Pitt Passage, or Case Inlet. In other cases the explorers and settlers used the local Indian names which, with modifications, include Nisqually, Olalla Bay, and Wollochet Bay.

The name for the small bay near Long Branch fits into none of these categories. It seems to be neither Anglo-Saxon nor Indian in origin. Edmond S. Meany, whose study of geographical names of this area is still the best available, reports that he could find no explanation for the name of the bay, Filucy.

An interesting number of explanations have been given by people who have tried to solve this mystery. One writer suggested that since the spelling at one time was FILUCE it could be connected  $t_0$  the Spanish word FILUDO which means sharp or sharp edge, referring perhaps to the shape of the bay.

One local resident wrote: "The crew that surveyed the bay intended to name it as they had named Gig Harbor, after a boat the ancient Mediterranean Felucca. They were poor spellers. It came out FILUCE."

Some who have studied the problem suggest that the English explorer R. Inskip had the right idea when in 1846 he ignored the name Filucy and honored Nicholas B. Turnour, Captian in the British Corvette Clio, by calling it Turnours Bay.

Francis Graiville was a French-Canadian employed by the Hudson's Bay Company near Fort Nisqually in the 1840s. When the Company gave up its claim to what is now Pierce County a number of the former employees decided to remain in the area. Graiville was one of these men and he settled north of the present town of McKenna. To encourage settlement in the Northwest after the Hudson's Bay Company lost control of the area the United States government enacted the Oregon or Donation Land Law. Under its provisions any single man who claimed land in the present states of Washington and Oregon before a certain date would be granted up to 320 acres. If married, a man could claim up to 640 acres. It was reported that many "child bride " marriages were performed during this period of time for men who took the "fatal step" for the extra 320 acres.

During the Indian war of 1855 many of the former Hudson's Bay Company employees were accused of aiding the Indians against the American government. There was probably some truth in these accusations since a number of the French Canadians had married Indian women and would, of course, assist their relatives.

Governor Isaac I Stevens declared martial law in Pierce County and after jailing the federal judge who protested he ordered a number of the French Canadians into "protective custody." A lot of bitter feelings arose between the French Canadians and the Americans and it was not for many years that good relations were restored. With the company of peace and in the years that followed Graiville and his associates proved to be valuable members of society.

Graiville Creek runs through the former Graiville Donation Land Claim north of the town of McKenna and empties into the Nisqually River.

Since all of the Oregon County which includes the present state of Washington was at one time claimed by at least four countries there is a certain amount of mix-up when explorers from all four countries placed names on the geographic features.

Both the Spanish and the Russians did not conduct extensive surveys of the area and generally their names were given only to the

most prominent of features. The Americans and the British, however, conducted long and detailed surveys given two and sometimes three names to the same place.

Anderson Island in Puget Sound west and south of Tacoma is an example of this name changing process. When Charles Wilkes of the United States Navy conducted his survey in 1841 he named the Island for Alexander C. Anderson, chief trader for the Hudson's Bay Company, who happened to be at Fort Nisqually during part of Wilkes visit.

Later when the Nisqually and Snoqualmie Indians attacked the fort and a young American named Leander Wallace was killed local residents wanted to memorialize the young man by naming the Island Wallace for him.

In 1846 R. Inskip of the British Navy visited Puget Sound on an exploring and mapping expedition. He close to rename geographical locations to honor men and ships assigned to the area. He chose to call the Island Fisgard on the charts he prepared after the British frigate Fisgard which was assigned to the Fort Nisqually Station by the British Navy between 1844 and 1847. Needless to say Mr. Inskip placed his own name on one or two geographical features as well.

Later the United States Board of Geographic names weighed the evidence, ignored the local settlers and the British and stuck to the name offered by the official explorer Wilkes. It took a while for the local citizenry to adopt the official government view and some County citizens born just before the turn of the Century have birth certificates for Wallace Island.

In 1883 a geologist working for the U.S. geological survey began mapping portions of the slopes of Mount Rainier. While the young man, Bailey Willis, was climbing on the northwest slope of the mountain he came across a group of shallow depressions which he immediately connected with the volcanic origins of the mountain and called them

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craters. A nearby lake was called Crater Lake as well.

Later when Mr. Willis had gained a lot more experience he wrote: "...the amphitheatres which the young geologist mistook for craters are now known to be glacier basins eroded by ice."

Fortunately a Chinook jargon name for deer was available and the lake became known as Mowich.

Mr. Willis was not completely forgotten by the name givers for when the time came to name a vertical cliff on the north slope of the mountain his name was suggested and Willis Wall remains today as a tribute to him.

Official governmental recognition of geographic names sometimes has little to do with what people call a location. Even when there has been no controversy regarding a name like the bitter fued between those wishing to change the name of Mount Rainier to Mout Tacoma and the "stand-patters" difficulties can arise.

The small island officially described as being 0.5 miles long and 0.15 miles wide extending from the east shore of Puget Sound opposite the east end of Fox Island was named by the Wilkes Expedition for Stephen W. Days, a hospital steward on one of the Ships.

Since Days with the s is perhaps a bit too long for the short word lovers and few remember Mr. Days the island has become known to all but the purists as Day island.

Elhi Hill near Bonney Lake has long been connected with some of the more interesting events in the history of the county. The Longmire-Byles wagon train of 1853 crossed Naches Pass and struggled down the steep sides of the hill as they left the last barrier to the valleys of Puget Sound. The first military road in the area climbed the hill on its pathway from Fort Steilacoom to Fort Walla Walla. During the Indian War of 1855 several skirmishes and one battle were fought on the hill or nearby on the plain at the top.

The rich soil at the bottom of the hill was found suitable for raising rubarb, berries and hops. Farmers moved into the area and for a number of years the county poor farm was located at the base of the hill.

The name Elhi did not fit into the local pattern of naming sites either after early settlers or explorers, surface features, of Indians. Several attempts have been made to attach a name origin to the location.

Dr. J.H. Corliss explained to his friends that actually the name Elhi, resulted from a mistake. When Indians from across the mountains came into the valley settlers would ask in the local jargon KA MIKA CHAKE(From where you come?). To this the Indians would reply MIKA CHAKA KOPA ILLAHEE (I come from the land). Settlers hearing the last part ILLAHEE more distinctly than the rest of the statement soon corrupted the location from where they thought the Indians came to Elhi.

The Pierce County auditor in his 1909 report reported that the name Elhi came from the physical make-up of the hill which sweeps around the Puyallup River as it flows toward the White in the shape of the letter L while it towers high above the valley. Romeo Hagen, a Tacoma prize fighter, gained a special honor in January 1916. The night of the 31st of December Hagen was doing his best to help liquidate the liquor stocks of Hegemeyers cafe in preparing for State prohibition which became effective the first day of the new year.

When midnight came the cafe doors were closed. Hagen resented the intrusion on high rights to drink all he wanted and proceeded to tell the management of his annoyance.

Officers of the law were called in to assist the now befuddled prize fighter out the door. Hagen made the stars twinkle for two policemen with quick rights to the jaw but fell under the group technique of officer John Huckaba who surrounded him with a squad and hauled him off to jail.

Thus Romeo Hagen became the first Tacoman in 1916 to be jailed for defending his right to drink even after prohibition had begun.

Tacoma, at the turn of the century, was faced with a serious traffic problem. The city had grown into a metropolis and the lives of pedestrians were threatened by bicycle riders speeding at ten to twelve miles an hours. Old men, ladies with long dresses and little children seemed to be especially susceptible to accidents with the speed demons.

Brewery teams going back with empty kegs were running too fast. Cab drivers were a problem, especially on St. Helens avenue.

Tom Maloney, chief of police, told the city council that the main problem was that Tacoma was built on hill and it was very hard for vehicles to brake all the time. He suggested that pedestrians needed to be more careful.

The city council debated Chief Maloney's additional suggestion, that of changing the traffic flow on St. Helens making the left hand side of the street the right-of-way for vehicles. This novel experiment, Maloney felt, would make it easier for the wagons to brake properly and give people puffing up the hills a better chance to see them coming.

All that was produced was another hour of oratory in the city council meeting while a campaign was launched to teach Tacomans to look before they leaped.

When the 1910 census figures were complete, the City of Tacoma registered a city population of 110,000. Everyone in Tacoma was happy with the great advance in population. The census bureau personnel, however thought the figures were too high.

A special agent was sent to check the returns and cut 4,000 names from the list leaving a population of 106,000. This still seemed too high so another agent was sent. His study eliminated 23,527 names giving Tacoma's official figure as 83,473.

The census bureau followed the stream of abuse flung at it be irate Tacomans by sending a United States attorney to the city. The attorney prepared indictments against the supervisor of the Tacoma district and about twenty census enumerators for "irregularities."

When the whole battle blew over and tempers cooled, people realized that over enthusiastic enumerators assisted by volunteers had several times counted residents temporarily out of town. Tacoma was a very friendly city and a person out of town could be counted by at least a dozen friends who did not want him to be missed.

All Tacoma gathered at the dock in the summer of 1882 to greet the arrival of the Nellie Boyd Dramatic Company in the city. The company had been booked to open the recently completed Alpha Opera House on Pacific Avenue near South 9th Street.

Doctor C.H. Bostwick, city health officer, was among those present. The city had recently experienced a small-pox epidemic and the doctor was being extra careful in watching new arrivals.

Bostwick found symptoms of small-pox in the caste and refused to let the show go on as scheduled. Alpha Opera House owners had a full house but no show.

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The Portland Oregonian had praised a comedy troupe called the Muldoons. This group was rushed from P<sub>or</sub>tland and the Alpha was opened in typical northwest style. The next issue of the Daily Ledger announced Tacoma's reaction to the substitute in the"Local Brief" column.

The reporter wrote that the Muldoons were a washout and that the dramatic critic of the Oregonian must have been crazy when he wrote about the "good show" they put on in Portland. As an afterthought, he suggested that perhaps the folks in the Rose City had a low idea of dramatic art.

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E. T. Short, a veteran Tacoma newspaperman, recorded for posterity his impressions of the great events in the history of our city. One such event, considered by many as the end of civilization, was the closing of the bars and saloons under the state prohibition law on January 1,1916.

"The transition from wet to dry took place as the tremulous, blearyeyed 1915 staggered out of the way of the lively young 1916 presents a picture of conflicting emotions. Up on the hill the drys were jubilating at Watch Night services. Downtown, the spirits of the followers of John Barleycorn were at an extremely low ebb.

"Though the bibulous old gentleman did not actually pass out until the clocks were striking 12, the requiem started several hours earlier. In fact, it really began early in the morning of December 31 with the realization that prohibition would become a reality at midnight. Before daylight, forewarned citizens addicted to juleps, highballs, and not toddies formed a procession in and out of the saloons and liquor houses preparing for the blight that was about to fall.

"Those who joined in the celebration at the Tacoma hotel were more fortunate than many others. Sensing that a run on bottled goods all day would create a short market, the waiters laid by a supply of the best wines and liquors. Through their forethought the celebrators were able to greet the New Year with the popping of champagne corks. As the last cork popped, an orchestra went into the doleful strains of Chopin's funeral march. Then it was all over."

A wave of excitement swept through Tacoma on the morning of January 15,1881 when news of the collapse of the trestle across City Waterway spread throughout the city. Part of a train on the Puyallup branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad made enough noise with a crash and a splash that the whole city was alerted.

The engine fell through the trestle completely and sank into the silt under ten feet of water at low tide. The crew escaped from the wreckage with slight bruises but the engineer was nearly drown.

Investigation showed that the pilings had been undermined by the strong current of the branch of the Puyallup river which flowed into the bay above the trestle. Railroad officials solved the problem by constructing a seven hundred foot dam across the stream forcing its flow back into the main channel.

For many weeks the locomotive remained in the water while various salvage schemes were tried. Many Tacomans came to watch, shout advise, and generally having a good time seeing the railroad people in trouble.

The engine was finally raised from the mud and silt by the use of a large number of jacks and the trestle was once again open to through traffic and the eastern portion of Pierce County was once again connected with "civilization."

While many of the Indians who inhabited Pierce County preferred to continue to live as closely to their ancient ways as possible, numbers of them adopted the white man's religion and mode of living. Often these people took up individual land claims and settled down to become valued members of the community.

Indian Henry, a famous hunter whose name is perpetuated at Mount Rainier National Park, embraced the Catholic faith and with his three wives took up a claim in the Ohop valley.

Since the plurality of wives bothered the puritan leaders of the

community, Indian Henry was haled into the court of Judge James J. Wickersham of Tacoma and told that he must choose to live with just one of them.

After a moment's hesitation Henry chose one and the other two wives were relegated to lesser positions. It is not known how Henry felt about this encroachment upon his domestic bliss, but it is of interest to note that the next child born in Henry's family was named in honor of the judge.

Salvador Picani, an Italian resident of Tacoma, was scheduled to be the main attraction at a by-invitation-only hanging on July 1, 1892 when he was rescued by some neat political action of a committee of the Tacoma Commercial Club.

Salvatore Conchilla, a Sicilian fruit peddler, died from thirtyfour stiletto thrusts in his body and evidence pointed to Picani as the knife wielder. A trial was held, Picani was convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

So many Tacomans wished to watch the affair that Sheriff J.W. Price was forced to have invitations printed. They were on purple paper printed in gilt with a picture of Picani in the upper right corner.

Finding that appeals to the state court system were of not value Picani's son went to the Rev. P.F. Hylebos. Father Hylebos, convinced that Picani's trial was unfair, helped organize a Commercial Club Committee to save the condemned man.

A bill was drawn up and rushed through the legislature stopping the execution on a technicality. Governor McGraw vetoed the bill but Commercial Club representatives noted that the Governor took eleven days instead of the constitutional limit of ten and on this additional technicality Picani was saved.

In Tacoma, Sheriff Price withdrew the invitations and ordered the newly constructed gallows dismantled and put away the rope which

had been purchased four years before for another prisoner who had also escaped the noose.

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The collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge was a disaster for anyone interested in the development of Tacoma. Quick and easy transporation to the peninsula was replaced by the more romantic but slower ferry boat.

Plans for immediate reconstruction of the fallen span were announced but with the coming of World War Two these were abandoned. Steel and other building materials were needed for building ships and other weapons of war.

It was not until the war was won that time and energy could be expended on constructing a new, safer and more stable structure.

In the meantime Tacoma boosters, undaunted by the loss of one of their greatest points of pride found in the wreckage of the bridge a means to sell Tacoma.

Publicity literature published in Tacoma in 1945 listed points of interest in the city. The Narrows Bridge was included as follows: "Ruins of world's third longest suspension span are unique and a spectacular sight."

Thus it was to remain in the minds of the publicists until the 1950s when the new bridge was opened.

During the Summer of 1915 the Tacoma Railway and Power Company, operator of the city's street car lines, began a campaign to win back customers lost to the new autobuses.

Following a series of advertisments explaining the problems of keeping the lines open without passengers the rail company took half a page in the Tacoma weekly, "What's Doing," to express the following sentiments:

"Thursday morning it was raining and I was late and took a chance and poured myself into one of those four-wheeled vanity bags called jitneys; then more people piled in and when there wasn't any more room inside the pesky thing they piled on the running board and everywhere else that grabbing was good and finally an old man afflicted with rheumatism and whiskers got onto the port side and stuck his head inside of the top and the rain dripped off his whiskers into my lap.

"Just then the bounce wagon stopped rather suddenly and the framework of the top nearly pulled his dome off. We started again and the little jitney swerved up to the curb to stop for gasoline and a telephone pole nearly raken the old man off the running board.

"He asked me if I would take hold of his coat sleeve so he wouldn't fall off as his arm was getting numb. I did so and when I got off at South 13th Street he got off too, and kept me standing in the rain while he roasted the street car company."

This was the last advertisement of the rail company in the weekly, but less than a month later the Puget Cound Electric Railway was using the same space to tell of joint runs with the autobus company.

Aimed at reducing the number of small fires that plagued Tacoma during the summer of 1890 the city council issued an order prohibiting the construction of wooden sidewalks. Officials claimed that the fire appartus was called out too often to extinguish fires under the sidewalks. Cigar smokers and others were blamed for throwing burning material through the cracks in the planking.

Health officials applauded the action of the city fathers pointing out that the space under the walks were a breeding place for mice and other vermin.

Repairs were at best sporatic and in some places the planks were dangerously weakened through many years of use.

A real crises came one morning when a section of sidewalk collapsed under Casper Witt, a rather portly retired fisherman. A crowd gathered watching with fasination as Witt attempted to right himself. A doctor was summonded to examine Witt whose right leg looked smashed beyond repairs. The crowd saw no blood on the smashed leg for it, too, was wooden. Although Tacoma had a number of vigilante episodes in the early years it was not until 1900 that the first legal hanging took place under the authority of local officials.

In 1886 a twenty-four foot hemp rope was purchased in anticipation of the hanging of William Martin. Martin managed to escape and the rope was carefully soaped and laid away. It was brought out again in 1890 when the courts ordered the hanging of Salvador Picani for murder. Picani escaped the noose through the efforts of a committee of the Tacoma Commercial Club and the rope was once again put in storage.

Finally on April 6,1900 John Michod, convicted of killing his ex-wife danced at the end of the rope purchased so many years before.

Beginning in 1890 and continuing for a quarter of a century the residents of Tacoma carried on a campaign to officially change the name of Mount Rainier to Mount Tacoma. Of course no Tacoman would even unofficially refer to the mountain by any name other than Tacoma but there was the rest of the country to consider.

Indians and early settlers were interviewed and all agreed that such a change was both necessary and proper since Mr. Rainier's only connection with the area was his friendship with Captain George Vancouver who named the Peak. Rainier, as an officer in the Royal Navy, had fought against the Colonies during the American Revolution and this was considered reason enough to ban his name.

Linguistic experts, historians, and others all agreed that the Indian or original name was as close to the name Tacoma as possible. A Save the Mountain Committee was organized and it looked like public pressure would force a change. Everyone agreed except the residents of other northwest cities like Olympia, Seattle and Yakima who all felt a certain claim to the mountain since they too viewed it as their own and a good neutral name like Rainier was most acceptable. More importantly, however, was the obstinance of the United States Board of Geographic Names. This body saw no need for a change and after several years of pressure from Tacoma interests the Board grew even more obstinant.

One Tacoman presented his case to Edmond S. Meany of the University of Washington who is reported to have said, "Yes, I agree that the name of the mountain should be changed to Tacoma. The evidence is abundant and clear. It should be Tacoma but both you and I know that it isn't."

The collection of taxes to run the territorial government during its first years was difficult at best. Those counties which had been organized by the territory of Oregon were more or less used to submitting their assessments on or about the deadlines, but the new counties knew no such urgency when it came to sending money to Olympia.

Urban E. Hicks, territorial auditor for 1858, reported of one county that he "...should be happy to say something in favor of this county if I had any data to go upon; but as it is, I only known that such a county is said to exist somewhere..."

Territorial expenses were considered quite high. While Pierce County's total for that year in taxes was \$781.000 it took \$887.92 to hang Leschi, War chief of the Nisqually tribe, for his alleged activities in the Indian War of 1855-56.

Because Leschi's death warrent was issued to the sheriff of Pierce County and that gentleman himself was in jail, the deputy sheriff of Thurston county had to be summoned at a total cost of \$501.25 for his expenses and those of the actual hanging.

Few taxes could be collected in Eastern Washington for Governor Isaac I Steven's embargo against settlers going there because of the expense of protecting them from the Indians made Spokane and Walla Walla unproductive for territorial revenue.

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Plans for the redevelopment of Tacoma's civic center have intrigued planners and architects since 1873 when Frederick L. Olmstead's plan of parks and boulevards built along the natural contours of the land was rejected by the Tacoma Land Company as being too impractical and too expensive.

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During World War II a prominent Tacoma architectural firm added their proposals to the growing collections of designs by suggesting an all-in-one-place development for the city's public buildings.

An auditorium, public utilities building, library, city hall, art museum and federal building were planned for the area bounded by Market Street, South 10th Street, South G Street and South 15th Street.

A series of overpasses, tunnels and turnabouts connected with underground parking garages were planned to eliminate traffic conjestion in the new central area while broad expanses of grass and plantings of trees, shrubs, and flowers were meant for beautification.

When the costs were analyzed and target dates made for possible bond issue elections, the city fathers realized a project of the size and scope demanded was too much for the economy and the plan was filed away with that of Mr. Olmstead.

Although George Vancouver named the tallest mountain in the Puget Sound country for his friend, Peter Rainier, in 1792 it was not until August Kautz arrived in 1857 that a serious attempt was made to conquer the peak.

Kautz, an army officer assigned to build permanent buildings at Fort Steilacoom, led a group of seven men in July of that year. They traveled on horseback for four days and continued on foot up the Nisqually River valley to its source at the Nisqually glacier.

A snow storm greeted their arrival at the 7,000 foot level.

The party was forced to camp in the snow with few supplies and little protection from the winds and cold.

In the morning more snow and cold weather slowed their assent and upon reaching the approximate 12,000 foot level the party was forced to turn back. With supplies reduced to a pound of meat and three crackers per man Kautz was forced to accept defeat and ordered the party to turn around.

The party gratefully returned to the warmer lower slopes of the mountain convinved that it could be conquered by a properly outfitted expedition. It was not until 1870, however, that enough interest was generated to attempt such an expedition. To this group, headed by Hazard Stevens, goes the honor and glory given to those who arrive first.

Early businessmen of the Puget Sound country changed their business arrangements as often as they changed their socks, and sometimes more often. Men would often make plans, announce elaborate schemes to do this or that, have a fight and cancel the whole business.

Charles Prosch was persuaded to come to Steilacoom from California to publish a newspaper. He went into partnership with G.W. Lee and together they founded the Puget Sound Herald.

Soon after the first issue which appeared March 12,1858, Prosch caught Lee pocketing funds which Prosch considered belonging to the firm. The partnership blew up in a series of charges and counter charges. Lee left town immediately but with his departure there disappeared an important part of the printing press.

Prosch followed Lee's trail to a secluded point on the bay when Lee had dumped the machinery. Hauled out of the water and cleaned, the press was restored to its rightful place and for several years it cranked out edition after edition of the newspaper to an appreciative Pierce County audience. Because the docks of early New Tacoma were located on the shores of Commencement Bay and the rest of the city on the bluffs above, it was necessary to arrange some sort of communication between the two places.

One solution was to construct wooden stairs from the A Street level to the docks below and this was done.

It was said that if a newcomer was unable to climb the long stairs he was too weak-willed to be of any value to the city and was invited to leave on the boat that brought him.

Night time ascents were especially hazardous since there were some places where there were gaps in the sections of the stairs and care had to be taken to avoid tree stumps, roots and mud puddles.

One enterprising Tacoman collected large numbers of bottles and carefully knocked out their bottoms. Candles were stuck in the necks of the bottles from the lower end and lit. A traveler holding this lamp by the neck with the open end of the bottle upward was provided with enough illumination to make the journey up the hill.

All the saloons and hotels had these lantern bottles and they filled a distinct need in the community for many years until a more effective methods of lighting the way up the hill was found. Tipplers especially patriotic in providing the empties from which the lanterns were made felt they were making a real contribution to their community.

Tacoma's first large business concern, Hanson, Ackerson and Company, had trouble meeting its payroll because of a scarcity of coin to pay the mill workers wages.

The problem was overcome when the company blacksmith was ordered to hammer out tokens of brass and iron in the denominations of one dollar, forty-five cents, and forty cents. The one dollar piece was made of brass and was oval in shape while the others were made of iron and were round.

Although intended only for use in the company store they soon obtain a wider circulation. William Hanson of the mill credited the honesty of the people and the absence of a second blacksmith

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in the community with making the use of the tokens possible.

When the park board of Tacoma accepted Charles B. Wright's donation of more than twenty-seven acres for a down-town park, it was agreed that \$1,000 should be spent on its improvement each year. Since there is a big difference between the words "should" and "will" it was several years before the tangle of underbrush was touched.

Landscaper E.O. Schwagerl planned the clearing and regrading whil Park Board President George Browne gathered trees, shrubs and other plants.

As shipments arrived greenhousing was considered vital for winter was approaching. Schwagerl had been unable to complete the greenhouse and for this and other reasons was fired.

Eben R. Roberts who was developing Wapato Park stepped into the vacancy but was unable to get the greenhouse finished in time for the winter.

Roberts suggested that since much of the criticism heaped on Schwagerl came from the amateur gardeners in the community it was their duty to care for the plants until the park was ready to receive them.

Public spirited citizens gladly accepted the plant-sitting duties and by Spring when the park was ready to receive its plants enough cuttings had been taken by the amateur gardeners to give Tacoma gardens rare nursery stock "just like at the park."

Job Carr, the pioneer of Old Tacoma, retired from active public service after the old and new portions of the city were combined in 1883.

Having been divorced for many many years, Carr felt the need for female companionship and secured a bridge through a correspondence bureau.

Miss Addie Emery responded to his proposal and arrived from New York. Although approaching seve<sub>n</sub>ty years of age Mr. Carr traveled to Olympia with his bride to be married by the Reverend Daniel Bagley.

The marriage occured September 25,1884 and for the next three years until his death Job enjoyed marital bliss with his mail order bride.

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Frequent fires plagued towns like Tacoma which, in the early years, were built entirely out of lumber and had little in the way of fire protection. The Halstead House, one of Tacoma's finest hotels, burned during the summer of 1878 and was replaced in the fall by a larger and finer structure three stories high with thirtyfour rooms.

Visitors came from Seattle, Olympia, and Portland to enjoy the festivities attending the rededication of the structure. Hotel owners spared nothing in giving their guests the finest of everything.

The night of the second of September is memorable. While dancing and drinking continued through the night on the lower floors a poker game upstairs went on for more than forty-eight hours. It is said that \$30,000 changed hands and as Herbert Hunt reports in his history of Tacoma, "...no doubt the stake has grown over the years, but it certainly was a poker game for a small but ambitious town to be proud of."

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In the late 1860s men were attracted to Pierce County who were not interested in raising crops or cattle, lumbering or any of the other peaceful pursuits followed by most of the county residents. These men, slick traders and gamblers, were more interested in making money than in homes and farms.

Two such men, named McDaniel and Gibson, were soon notorious for their quick guns and tempers and after they jumped the Wren claim many local residents felt that nothing could remain safe.

Finally in January 1870 a number of men knowing that the law was unable to touch these smooth operators formed a vigilante group to bring the two to frontier justice.

Waiting in ambush on the trail that led between Lake Steilacoom and Gravelly Lake, the vigilantes shot at Gibson and McDaniel as the rode toward Steilacoom. Gibson, hit by the discharge of bullets, fell from his horse and McDaniel laced towards Steilacoom with a number of vigilantes in pursuit.

A wagon was procured to haul Gibson to town, but not having been disarmed when he was placed in the wagon Gibson unloaded his weapon in the general direction of the vigilantes who remained. His aim was poor and he was killed.

McDaniel arrived in Steilacoom before the vigilantes and entered one of the saloons that lined the streets. He was soon found and unarmed except for a knife he fac ed his pursuers. Part of the vigilantes reached the jail and locked the sheriff in so that no help could come from that direction.

Shots rang out and McDaniel fell mortally wounded. He died in two hours and was buried at the Fort Steilacoom cemetery where his friends raised over his grave a tombstone which read, "Died by the hands of violence."

The town returned to normal and both McDaniel and Gibson were forgotten except for mocking stone in the Fort Steilacoom cemetery. The several saloons located on the west side of Pacific Avenue south of Seventh Street was known collectively as Whiskey Row in Tacoma during the late 1870s.

Loggers, railroad hands and anyone else who had the time, money and thirst spent their leisure hours trying to help the area live up to its name and reputation.

A free lunch was provided in many of the establishments so customers would not stray too far from the flowing bowl for more solid nourishment.

An equally important adjunct to saloon life was the possibility of free entertainment breaking out at any time. Political, social, and economic differences of opinion were solved only by force. Depending on a person's mood and physical condition one could either join in the fun or retreat behind the bar to watch tables, chairs and occasional arms and jaws broken in the fray.

A story is told of one burly saloon keeper who managed to get two loggers through his front door before the fist fighting broke out in earnest. The two gradually worked their way into the street and became so mired that they were in danger of suffocating for at the time Pacific Avenue had a reputation for mud second to none in the whole Northwest.

After friends rescued the two, they cleaned themselves up and since they were banished from the saloon where the fight started, they went arm in arm to tap a keg inside the next open door.

The small crowd that gathered on the south side of Ninth Street near the old city stables one evening in early 1892 where there to witness one of the strangest election bet payoffs in the history of Tacoma.

As usual for Tacoma the contest was hotly contested between the two candidates for mayor, H.S. Huson, the Republican and Alexander Parker, the Democrat. Two of their most vocal supporters, D.U.Savvey and Harvey Harrison in a heated exchange agreed that the man whose candidate was defeated would permit the other to pelt him with rotten eggs.

Parker lost the election so Savvey, dressed in overalls, a large overcoat and a broad-brimmed hat went to meet the winner. Harrison had gathered an abundant supply of eggs and began to pelt his adversary.

Fifteen minutes passed and Harrison gave up leaving Savvey so dirty and weak that he was tossed a long rope and slowly pulled along to a waiting bath tub. His clothes were buried.

Being far from the sources of national and international news Tacoma's first editor, Francis Cook, found it difficult at times to fill the columns of his newspaper, the Herald.

During 1878 he resorted to reprinting items from newspapers of other areas but discovered a general lack on interest on the part of his readership for events in other places. He also endeavored to serve his clientele by leading crusades for or against certain activities in early Tacoma. Typical of this kind of activity was an article written in response to complaints lodge against a downtown pig farm run by a Mr. Graham.

"Mr. Graham," wrote the editor, "will do the public a great favor and himself credit by hereafter keeping in a proper enclosure those othersome pigs which he is rearing at the expense and annoyance of the public.

"It is bad enough to keep the animals within hearing and smelling distance, but when they are eternally sticking their noses into every open door in the vicinity and chasing after every man, woman or child who carries a basket or bucket near their habitation--at the same time squealing in a deafening chorus for something to eat---it is high time the public should ask him to abate his nuisance.

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"Otherwise we shall have the favor of a <sub>law</sub> which was passed at a late session of the territorial legislature entitled: "An Act to prevent owners of hogs from running at large.""

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One of the first problems confronting the city council elected under the charter of 1885 was to find enough money to keep the city of Tacoma operating. Since it was impossible under territorial law for cities to issue improvement bonds, councilmen had to carefully scrutinize each expenditure hoping to find cheaper ways of providing city services.

One councilman noticing the deplorable condition of some of the city streets and the potential labor market housed in the city jail suggested that prisoners could earn their keep by working as road gangs.

City Marshal E.O. Fulmer acknowledged that the job could be done, but said that he had too few men to guard and supervise. The city council sought to solve this problem by ordering leg irons and balls and chains which, when attached to prisoners legs, would give them enough freedom to work but not enough to run.

For years these road gangs could be seen working fitfully on the streets of the city, not accomplishing much but drawing crowds of onlookers. It is said that many a Tacoma parent over the years used the possibility of such degradation as a threat to unruly children thus providing a needed object lesson.

Arranging for the adequate education of its youth was a serious problem for early Tacomans. Facilities were often inadequate and texts and properly qualified instructors almost nonexistant.

By 1872 there were twelve school houses in the whole of Pierce County. Of the young people between eight and sixteen years of age in the area only twenty per cent were regular school attenders.

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Others stayed away to help on farms and in stores, some lived too far away from the schools and others managed to convince their parents that book-learning was enough of a nuisance to be ignored.

One teacher, John Hipkins, was not considered an ornament to his profession by his peers. It was rumored that on more than one occasion he visited the local saloon on his way to school to fortify himself for his day's labors.

Hipkins was not popular with his student body and when the school building suddenly burned it was hoped that school would be dismissed. Unfortunately for the free spirits other quarters were found and learning continued.

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The big social event for Tacoma in the fall of 1882 was the grand "Bal Masque" of the Tacoma social club.

Bunting and evergreens were used in profusion to decorate the walls of the dance hall while the dancers, clothed in rich and varied costumes, glided around the room. Strauss waltzs were no longer considered wicked by the "right people" so everyone was able to enjoy what was called "...an evening of elegance and spendor."

Reporters dealt courteously in describing the costumes of the ladies present, but when it came to the men the kid gloves were removed. The public was regaled with colorful descriptions of the gentlemen's attire such as:

"Messr. Galt and Baker were Helen's Babies, but as they both are in the habit of carrying bottles, but of a different kind, their disguises were not altogether complete.

"B.C. Sweet would have made an excellent Othello had he not worn long dress pants and used the britches of his costume for a turban.

"Thomas Hayward attempted the part of a gentleman, but it required such an effort to sustain this character that he gave it up."

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The first real panic to hit Tacoma occured in October of 1881 when two adults and one child died of a disease later diagnosed as small-pox.

The city was immediately cut off from its neighbors as trains ran through with windows closed and residents of Puyallup and Steilacoom stood watch with loaded guns to prevent Tacoma residents from leaving town.

Barricades were built across the roads and behind them were armed men. Weeks passed with no money in circulation. The grocery stores in many cases would set their deliveries on stumps near stricken homes. Several stores, churches and schools were closed and all assemblages forbidden.

It is not known how many cases of small-pox there were. Estimates reached as high as one hundred fifty and possibly as many as fifty died.

At the town's several doctors worked day and night to stem the epidemic, druggist William P. Bonney sought to regain public confidence by selling tin boxes filled with carbolic crystals, to be carried about in the pocket as a guard against contagion. Later at his drugstore Bonney cut a hole in the door of a tiny rear room where for twenty-five cents the town's inhabitants could be fumigated.

The steamer Alida was lated used as a pesthouse as those stricken with the disease were transferred from the center of the city. Public confidence returned, the barriers were removed and Tacoma, with a sigh of relief, returned to more normal pursuits.

Tacoma's first commercial organization, the New Tacoma Board of Trade, was organized in the summer of 1881. R.F. Radebaugh, editor of the newly established Tacoma Ledger, called twenty community leaders to a meeting at the Bostwick and Davis Drugstore on July 16th. There he exhorted them to help Tacoma grow by becoming involved in community activity.

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Officers were elected and a general call was made for citizens to attend meetings. In order to get crowds to attend meetings Radebaugh walked from store to store asking the proprietors to joint the ranks of the organization. Membership grew but interest soon lagged when a small number of men interrupted business with considerable amounts of oratory.

When even Radebaugh realized that the organization of the board was premature, a plot was hatched among members to elect the most verbal of the orators president and then never hold another meeting of the organization.

John E. Burns was duly elected president and being so pleased with himself he invited the entire membership to the Halstead House for an oyster supper. When Burns called the board to its next meeting he was surprised to find himself presiding over an empty house and was quite inscensed when he discovered that he had been "had."

Horse feed, or the lack of it, nearly shut down the Tacoma Fire Department during the summer of 1896. The firemen had not been

paid for some time and were grumbling, but when the oat and hay bins at the fire halls became empty they marched on city hall.

Mayor A.V.Fawcett explained that there was no money in the city coffers and he had none of his own to take up the slack so all had the opportunity of "muddling through."

The firemen said their patience had been exhausted by previously unfilfilled promises and besides the departments' thirtythree horses were getting hungry. To draw public attention to their plight the firemen announced they would all quit if they were not paid and set a deadline.

Since the city could do nothing, a committee composed of representatives of the major business concerns of the city got together to see what could be done. Peoples store started with a donation of three hundred dollars and other organizations contributed lesser amounts.

A thousand dollars was raised in this manner but it was not enough to pay both the men and feed the horses. Another committee was organized and this group went the rounds, visiting the smaller businesses raising about two thousand dollars.

The committee met with the firemen and told them that the total raised by the two groups was all they were going to get and the firemen had to be satisfied.

The firemen took the money, bought feed for the horses and divided the rest. Thus the fire horses were fed and the city was once more under the complete protection of the fire department.

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When attacks against Street Commissioner E.G. Bacon got too violent in 1883 R.F.Radebaugh, editor of the Tacoma Daily Ledger, rushed to Bacon's defense. City residents and some of his brother City officials had called Bacon an "old fogy" for not being more spirited in his activities in getting the city streets finished.

One bone of contention was the grading of Tacoma Avenue which was going very slowly. Bacon was forced to have stumps blown out and the downed timber removed. All this took time and Bacon was attacked.

Radebaugh's defense included this bit of philosophy:

The street department is doing good work while having regard to the resources of the public treasury. E.G. Bacon, street commissioner is a bit old fogyish but his fogyism is of a sort which offers a robust opposition to that custom of modern times which is not safisfied with spending the money we have but reaches into the future, overloads the municipality with burdens of debt and through all manner of irregularity and fraud, scatters the proceeds in all directions to the fattening of political bummers and the corruption of the electors."

Radebaugh's enemies in reading this defense said that he was angry because he was unable to get the contract to haul off the town timber, a lucrative business in the early days.

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Partisan politics were never more apparent than in the Tacoma election of 1888. For one or two elections the Democrats and the Republicans were forced to work closely together to defeat labor candidates but when this need passed the two major parties squared off for a battle royal.

When the dust was all settled the Democrats had elected Henry Drum mayor and Thomas Carroll city attorney. The council, however, was divided with four Democrats and four Republicans.

Since this body had to agree in the selection of appointed officials the first confrontation came with the appointhment of the City Clerk William J. Meade. Meade, the incumbent, was a Democrat and had served three administrations ably. He was renominated by the Democrats, but a tie vote, four for and four against held up his confirmation.

Someone counted the number of ballots cast and finally on the 340th one Republican gave in and voted for Meade. Immediately another Republican stood up and announced, " I desire to present my resignation as a member of this council. I cannot sit in a body with alleged Republicans who would betray their party by voting for a Democrat." With this, the resignation was written and the councilman walked out.

While some council members jumped at the chance to change the balance of power, Mayor Drum decided to let everyone sleep on the councilman's decision. Later the Republican was induced to withdraw his resignation and Tacoma was once again blessed with a deadlocked council.

Herbert Hunt, author of the monumental three volume history of Tacoma, enjoyed collecting the stories and gossip that circulated in the early city. By the time his history was published in 1916 he had gathered and included a number of historic "firsts" in his manuscript.

His description of the first wedding in Tacoma is an excellent example of his reporting technique.

"The first wedding on the new townsite probably caused as much curiosity as any that has been celebrated since. The Reverend Mr. Judy...let it be known at the Tom Hewitt home that a wedding was about to take place. He would not give names.

"He allowed this vague information to scatter and brew for a few days, until the women of the community were almost ready to lynch him for his secretiveness. At length he agreed to take into the secret all the women living within the block bounded by Pacific and A street and Seventh and Ninth streets.

" By this time the domestic status and marital prospects of every unmarried person in the village and suburbs had been granulated again and again over the teacups and back fences. One evening the minister slipped down to Twelfth Street and Pacific Avenue, and there remarried a divorced couple named Barr. The women never quite forgave Mr. Judy for that." Ownership of the potentially valuable Tacoma tideflats was vested in the state during the early days. Tacoma boosters and others saw the great value of the submerged lands and the fight for their possession was especially bitter.

One man purchased a number of fresh oysters still in their shells and seeded a portion of the tide flats . He then filed a claim to the area as "oyster lands."

Another group decided that fencing the desired areas could be classed as "improvement" and hired pile drivers to stake out the choice areas.

One syndicate found their lone pile-driver completely surrounded by piles put in one night by rivals. Armed men soon patrolled the various areas claimed by each group.

For several years the tideflat ownership was in doubt while the state attempt to arbitrate betw(en all claimants. Eventually the tideflats were diked and drained and the foundations of the port of Tacoma as we know it today was made.

Public drunkeness, common in most boom towns, created a special problem for Tacoma in January of 1913. That month more than half of all arrests made were for drunkeness and its brother crime, vagrancy. The city jail was so full of prisoners that the three jailors, Steven Murphy, E.J. Calkins, and C.A. Rivard reported they were unable to do more than bandage the torn ears, cut lips and gashed scalps of the men.

James Shiel who had the contract for feeding the prisoners was happier with the increased jail population. He was paid eight cents a meal for a menu of boil ed beans, pork, bread, and coffee often served to prisoners in one dish per man.

Public Safety Commissioner A.U.Mills finally directed policemen to make no unnecessary arrests. Instead policemen were ordered to escort the drunks home. The editor of the Tacoma Municipal Bulletin in presenting to the public the background for such an order wrote:

"The order referred to lugubrious individuals who had dallied with the flowing bowl to an extent that just their sense of distance and propriety had become warped. And because of these orders many is the man who would have seen the cold cement walls of the jail and stayed in the foul air over night in former administrations who has been helped homeward by a blue-coat."

Although socially prominent Tacomans were proud of their city and worked hard to build it, it was common in the early days for them to have a little place in the country where one could get away from it all. The building of the street railways helped to create a fairly reliable transportion system to the suburban areas.

Tacoma didn't become really "civilized" until in the 1880s when its own spa was built at Steilacoom. Reported to be only forty-five minutes from city center on the electric line of the Tacoma Railway and Power Company, the Iron Springs and Sea-water Sanitarium provided a spa-like atmosphere with club houses, pools and promanades.

Tacomans and others were told that "...water of the springs together with the hot sea water baths quickly tones up the system, creates new physical and mental energy and will relieve the distress of any who suffer."

People flocked to the new resort to partake of all that was offered at the rate of one dollar per day per person.

The common folk didn't seem to suffer from the same ills as the wealthy or perhaps they lacked the necessary dollar and they were conspicuous by their absense. For a number of years the elite could be seen traveling to and from Steilacoom To take the waters.

Tacoma merchants were more than apprehensive during the summer of 1889 when reports of destructive fires in Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver and Ellensburgh reached the city. Rumors that fire bugs had been hired to burn the Northwest did little to calm the leaders of the only large Washington city to escape burning.

As a feeling of near panic spread to all sections of the city, armed men were hired to protect property. Orders to shoot on sight were given as watchmen and detectives patrolled the streets.

In an attempt to calm the population and demonstrate the effectiveness of Tacoma's fire department public tests of fire equipment were held. The four recently purchased Silsby fire engines were put through their paces as fires in the boilers were lighted. In just over five minutes steam was available and a stream of water could be directed anywhere. The firemen even threw a stream more than fifty feet high than the nearby Tacoma hotel.

Public confidence and trust seemed to be restored by these and other demonstrations, but it was not until the fall rains that Tacoma went off its emergency standing.

The absence of banks in early Pierce County was especially hard on businessmen who had to provide their own places for safekeeping their receipts. John Lock, a tight-fisted Steilacoom brewery owned, was faced with an even greated problem for he trusted no one. He was forced to hide his coin and paper whereever he could on his own premises.

This habit soon became known and one night someone made off with his tea-kettle which contained six hundred dollars in gold and silver. Later Lock revealed that he had also hidden two hundred dollars in paper under a floor board of his house where mildew had destroyed it.

While others were taking their money to the newly established banks in "New Town" Lock announced that banks couldn't be trusted. Twice more he was robbed.

When Lock died in 1885 he left no heirs and none of his money caches were ever found. His house was thoroughly searched but after being robbed so many times, Lock had learned to hide his money well. It may still be where he put it, if the mildew hasn't gotten it.

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With the coming of World War One and the building of what was to become Fort Lewis, Tacoma was faced with the problem of providing suitable entertainment on a large scale for soldiers coming to the city.

After considerable study and some difficulty three dance halls, the Lewenna, the Liberty and the American were licensed.

No admission was charged but a flat fee of ten cents a dance was made. Rules regarding deportment were strict. Female dancers were ordered "....to dress in a more uniform and simple manner and to use less paint."

After a short time, Public Safety Department clerk Max H. Garretson reported that an additional regulation by the city council was probably in order.

Since the price of ten cents a dance was legislated but not the length of each dance, soldiers complained that individual dances grew shorter and shorter and on some occasions it took as much as four dollars to dance one hour.

Garretson also reported that the growing number of onlookers was getting out of hand. Since one could watch for free, many were doing just that. It was recommended that "...the large number of unprofitable onlookers should be reduced or a tax put on their curiosity." Jack, the Tacoma Hotel's pet bear was known throughout the Western States for his docile behavior and amiability. Captured while a cub and given to the hotel as a mascot, Jack was taught to step up to the hotel bar and drink beer from a mug. The trick was not allowed very often for little was known about the handling of an eight hundred pound drunk bear.

Local folk were eager to bring friends to the hotel and especially to its bar to watch the bear perform. It is said that more than one person went "on the wagon" after seeing Jack take a drink in his usual manner while other patrons refused to admit his existence.

Jack's career was cut short when he met with an accident while taking an unauthorized rample up A Street very late one night.

When a policeman, not conversant with Jack's amiability, saw the eight hundred pounds of bear flesh loom out of the shadows toward him, he fired, wounding the bear.

Jack had to be killed for he would allow no one to repair the damage done by the bullet. His friends were shocked when a roudy group made him the main feature at a barbecue.

His skin was mounted and for many years Jack stood in the halls of the hotel visited by many who wanted to see Tacoma's beer bear.

In the early days the city of Tacoma was fortunate to have colorful people govern its affairs. Meetings of officials often erupt into struggles of personality where the public was somehow both entertained and governed.

In the 1880s a monumental struggle went on between Mayor John W. Sprague and Councilman J.E. Burns. Burns desired a committee appointment and when Mayor Sprague refused to appoint him the mayor was accused of "wilfull discourtesy." The Mayor announced that Burns was not fit to serve on the committee and the fight was on.

In the squabble that followed Burns denounced Sprague as the "autocrat" of Tacoma, but the oppositon was utterly annihilated when one council member accused another of having a tape worm.

One of Tacoma's first organized celebrations occured in 1883 when the residents of the Puget Sound region were invited to join in the Fourth of July festivities to be held in the new terminal city.

Since all public entertainment was billed as being free, the city bulged with out of town visitors. A fund of \$3,000 was raised to entertain those who came to see the parades, pageants and athletic events.

The big event of the day was a three hundred yard foot race for a special purse of one thousand dollars. Local partisans backed Raymond Hope of Tacoma while the visitors laid their money on Everett Martin of Portland. The near riot that followed the big victory of the out-of-towner was fortunately stopped when the organizers diverted attention by passing out free food and drink.

The only real disappointment of the day was the absense of a fifty gun salute which was to be fired. Weapons were borrowed from the armory but before they could be fired they were hurried across the mountains to be used as a show of force to squelch a rumored Indian scare.

The closing, therefore, went saluteless but Tacomans reaped a golden hoard from the side benefits of their "free" entertainment. Between its establishment in 1849 and abandonment in 1869 Fort Steilacoom served as the headquarters for United States military activity in the lower Puget Sound area.

Although it was not surrounded with watch towers on all sides and great walls the fort offered security to Pierce County's early settlers during the occassional periods of Indian unrest.

Hundreds of officers and soldiers served at the fort, some of whom became famous during the Civil War. While most of the men assigned to the Fort during its existence conducted themselves in a proper and soldierly manner, a few caused the military and nearby settlers some trouble.

During the 1850s a number of the men assigned to the Fort were encouraged by reports of gold findings on the Frazer River in nearby British Columbia. They left the fort to pursue the yellow metal without, of course, receiving leave time.

When the gold bubble burst and most of the would-be miners returned to their regular activities the three or four deserters returned to Fort Steilacoom to face their superiors.

Since the men had deserted during a period of unrest, military justice was somewhat harsh. Each was given forty-nine lashes on a bare back, each had his head shaved and all were drummed out of the army.

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Organizers of the Northwest Peace Jubilee held in Tacoma just over fifty years ago left little doubt in the minds of those who dwelt elsewhere were paradise on earth was located.

C.E.Stevens took a full page in the Jubilee program to describe the wonders of living in this area:

> "When from out of chaos nature formed and shaped the earth she had in vision two wondrous creations: One, the Garden of Eden--Paradise Lost; the Other, Puget Sound, the Garden of the Gods--

Paradise Regained.

"In keeping with the majesty of the Garden, Nature here chose and fashioned a site for a might city... "Behold! Then Tacoma! Favored of the Gods; as yet but in her swaddling clothes, an infant!

"Tacoma, daughter of the sea, Tacoma, favored of the land Give now thy future years to me. I'll build for thee as God hath planned."

With a change of administration in Tacoma near the turn of the century new demands were made on the city treasury. Deputy City Marshal George Cavanaugh had requested funds for the purchase of handcuffs and was called before the city council to explain why the time honored use of rope was no longer sufficient to hold prisoners.

Deputy Cavanaugh explained that his request was a direct result of a neighborhood squabble held in Old Woman's Gulch, site of the present Tacoma Stadium.

A new resident of the area protested wien the flock of chickens owned by one of the old women for whom the gulch was named roosted on his back porch. The owner of the chickens told the new resident to go jump in the bay or words to that effect and when he came back with an ultimatum suggesting where the old woman could go the police were called.

Cavanaugh reported that after a rough and tumble fight the new resident was subdued, tied with a piece of rope and dragged off to jail. In appealing for the handcuffs Cavanaugh pointed out the difficulties of getting a rope on the hands of a man who didn't want to be tied and cited the case of the fight in the gulch. The city council seemed convinved and ordered that money be appropriated for the purchase.

Two young swains and their lady loves were spending a leisurely Sunday afternoon picnicing at American Lake at the turn of the century when it was decided that a boat ride would be just the thing after lunch.

Since the only available boat would hold but three persons, one of the young gentlemen volunteered to guard the picnic supplies while his friend rowed the ladies around the lake.

Very soon the members of the boating party were alarmed by frantic shouts and they saw the young man running back and forth on the shore. Immediately the boating party rowed for the shore and when they arrived they were told that he had been awakened by a cougar and had escaped a horrible death only by a hair's breadth. This incident, of course, ended the picnic.

The next day, the two young men reinforced by two friends and axes and shotguns returned to American Lake to look for the cougar. For hours they tramped about the woods, guns cocked, but not a trace of the cougar was found.

Then when they cut down the snag from which our young man said the beast attempted to leap on him, they found a few chicken feathers in the home of a racoon.

The hunters sneaked home the back way, but friends awaiting the return of the group caught them to look in awe at their great trophies.

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One of the first conventions to be held in the City of Destiny was that of the Territorial Sunday School Union in the Spring of 1882. Delegates gathered from all over Washington at the newly constructed Methodist Church on the corner of South 7th and G Streets.

A prominent organizer of the affair was the Reverend John F. DeVore, the pioneer Protestant minister north of the Columbia River. Since there were few hotels or boarding houses available, Mr. DeVore canvassed the city and obtained housing for the guests in the homes of prominent citizens.

Since few Churches during the territorial period could be called wealthy most of them were grateful to the Reverend Mr. DeVore who promised that the citizens of Tacoma would be honored to feed and house their delegates without charge.

Dr. D.G. LeSourd from Olympia was assigned to the home of a more tight fisted Tacoman. When the convention was finished his host presented a bill of an amount that would be charged by a first class hotel. The bill was paid and the LeSourds left the city.

News of the bill got around. Mr. DeVore marched to the home of the recent host and raised such a row that the money was returned.

Apparently Dr. LeSourd was a forgiving individual, for later he had such good feelings about Tacoma that he became one of the guiding spirits in the founding of what was to become the University of Puget Sound.

Anyone who went out to the theater in the 1890s was aware of the great nuisance the wearing of large hats was making. Possibly excepting other women of fashion, everyone was annoyed at paying the price of admission only to be forced to look at the proceedings through a mass of feathers, ribbon, felt, or some other material.

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In July 1897 the Tacoma city council finally decided that enough was enough and ordered a series of fines from five to ten dollars to be levied for wearing a hat in a theater or other place of public entertainment.

The ladies, of course, were furious. They said that the theaters provided no place to put their hats if they did take them off and besides, fashion was fashion. The council was adamant and the law stuck.

Someone advocated extending the law to include barring hats at church services. The council decided that it would be unwise to mix into such a non-secular area and refused to take action.

One wag suggested that perhaps the councilmen may have wanted the big hats retained for they did provide a convenient shield for those of the male sex who drowsed during a long sermon.

Campaigns against smoking currently conducted can hold no candle to one organized by the Tacoma Ledger the year Washington became a state.

Editorial writers leaped upon the story of a "prominent young man of Ellensburg, a victim of the dread cigaret habit." The young man was apparently having hallucinations and delusions which the family doctor had declared were the first indications of a shattered mind.

The editorial comment included the following remarks:

"Here is a young man who but a short time since was full of the bright hopes and prospects of a useful and promising future. Today his reason is tottering upon its throne. His mind is shattered and filled with all the horrible delusions of a disordered imaginati imagination. The fatal cigaret has claimed another victim. Angelo V. Fawcett, mayor of Tacoma for many years, was a master politican who managed to survive defeat after defeat always bouncing back to serve the community.

Both his friends and enemies agreed that the mayor worked unceasingly to perform the best he knew how and most everyone admired him for his perseverence.

The mayor was known as "Turkey" Fawcett because of the several hundred holiday turkey dinners he provided for the city's poor during a particularly bleak winter.

The election of 1926 proved to be a disaster for the mayor. He was swept out of office by M.G.Tennent who received a majority of about 6,000 votes. It was Fawcett's worst defeat.

Although bitterly disappointed because so many of his friends deserted him, Fawcett accepted his defeat like a good sport. On the day that city affairs were turned over to the new administration, Fawcett introduced Mayor Tennent and said to the crowd that was gathered, " I believe Mr. Tennent is going to make a good mayor. If he does, stand by him; if he doesn't, give him hell."

With that, the former Mayor walked out of the council room to return to private life after a political career of thirtytwo years.

The Delin sawmill on Comencement Bay was the first to advertise any of the wares produced in what was to become Tacoma. Since the closest newspaper was in Olympia, the sawmill owner Nicholas Delin was forced to advertise there.

The following was published in the January 21,1854 issued of the Washington Pioneer:

Saw Logs! Saw Logs! The undersigned will let a contract for furnishing his mill with saw logs on the following terms: he will allow \$6.00 per log to be paid in

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lumber at \$20.00 per thousand. Application is to be made immediately at his mill on Puyallup Bay. N.Delin.

One thing that Mr. Delin did not see fit to include in this first advertisement was that for quite some time his lumber could be easily recognized when compared with the output of other mills in the Puget Sound Region. Delin never mastered the art of exact measurments and his lumber was usually thicker at one end than at the other.

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While most of the citizens of early Tacoma welcomed the growth of the town into an important settlement there were others who felt hemmed in by too many peopl $\epsilon$  and too much activity.

The Carsner family was one such group. Papa Carsner owned a yoke of oxen and was hired to carry wood for the community. As more people arrived and greater demands were made for his time and the time of his five sons, Carsner abandoned his small shack, loaded his goods, five sons and wife into the family wagon and headed for Kalama. He said that too much civilization was coming to Tacoma to make life agreeable.

Little did he realize that Kalama would soon be too civilized for him as well. The town was soon bustling with activity as the railroad passed through to connect it with his former home, Tacoma destined to become a nationally known city with thousands of residents.

Tacoma's first settlers, the Indians, watched with fascination as the area's first white settler, Nicholas Delin and his workmen constructed a sawmill near the present corner of Dock Street and Puyallup avenue in April of 1852.

Building a ten foot dam to impound the waters of two

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creeks flowing from what is now known as Galliher's gulch, Delin used the power to turn a wooden turbine of his own design.

Indians gathered in groups often sitting for hours to watch the whirling turbine and its transmission of power to the circular saw. Sometimes they crowded so numerously around the machinery that they had to be pushed out of the place, all apparently hypnotized by the white man's curious machine.

Tacomans, long accustomed to spreading out the welcome mat for visiting dignitaries, can be a little chagrined when they learn of the treatment given by their predecessors, the Puyallup Indians to Tacomas first visitor Captain George Vancouver.

Of course, at the time neither Tacoma nor Washington existed for in 1792 there were no white settlements in the Puget Sound region. Vancouver, assigned by the British government to survey the Western coast of North American stopped at either Brown's or Dash Points. There he had lunch and was joined by about a dozen early Tacomans who helped Vancouver east their bread and fish.

When the meat course was served the Indians threw the venison offered them in the dirt and made what Vancouver later recalled gestures of "great aversion and displeasure."

It was not until Vancouver's men showed the Indians that the meat had been cut from a deer that they consented once more to return to the rude table knowing that they were not dining with cannibals.

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Cultural advantages were often lacking in frontier settlements like early Tacoma. Since most of the town's residents were forced to spend their time earning a living and carving homes and farms out of the wilderness, little time was left for the "finer" things.

A new Tacoman, Bisbee by name, sought to rectify this deficiency by organizing a brass band. He purchased instruments from Portland and finding four like minded individuals set out to spread culture in Tacoma of the 1870s.

Since everyone worked from dawn to dusk, the group found time only after dark to practice. After building its repertoire to five numbers the band often marched around the town serenading its citizens far into the night.

It was said that Mr. Bisbee and his group compensated with enthusiasm what they lacked in musical training. It is not hard to suppose that when the instruments of the band were seized by the Portland firm for non-payment, a sigh of relief was heard in the once more quiet steets of night time Tacoma.

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James Tait, an early Tacoma resident considered himself a gentleman and as such he felt it his duty to bathe often, at least weekly. In summer it was possible for him to use the waters of the Puyallup River but when fall came and things got colder Tait was forced to either to join the ranks of the unwashed or find other facilities.

With other like-minded individuals Tait proposed that a public bath house be constructed. The building was to be an elaborate affair with a pool sixty-six feet by forty-five feet in size. Interest fell off when the cost of the enterprise was ascertained. The majority of Tacomans continued to rinse themselves with teakettle water until the Hamman baths were opened by Fritz Keeble and his wife. This establishment included tubs, pools, and facilities for a Turkish bath.

Other bathing establishments were soon provided and by the

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time Washington became a state Tacoma was keeping reasonably clean.

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Tacoma's early promoters were often visionary men who saw a great city on the shores of Commencement Bay rather than the scattered shanty-town lumber-mill establishment that was Tacoma in the 1870s.

Schemes of many kinds were often announced with great publicity. Each one, the promoters assured the public, would bring fame and glory to the city and wealth to all backers.

One project receiving much encouragement but little capital from the inhabitants of the town's saloons was a scheme to build a gravity tramway from Mount Rainier to the city. Its function would be to haul ice from the glaciers to cool warm drinks and parched throats.

Most responsible citizens saw the need of a constant supply of ice to keep things cold. The project failed, however, when the promoter noticed that it was not down hill all the way from the mountain to Tacoma. Getting the ice across the flat places would be so expensive, the project was abandoned.

Tacoma, at the turn of the century, was one of the most bicycle minded cities in the country. Across Lincoln gulch was the "highest, longest, and only exclusive bicycle bridge in the world." A system of bicycle paths extended across town to Point Defiance Park and southward over the prairie to Lakewood.

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While the faint-at-heart used the trolleys to these recreation areas, the stout hearted could be seen puffing away over the paths that led from the city. Tacoma's "finest" were organized into a bicycle patrol that was used to stop speeding automobiles and other conveyences and to transport policemen to the scence of a crime quickly.

It was possible for those early "speed cops" to mount their "wheels" and as E.T. Short, the veteran Tacoma newspaperman put it "...be out of sight in a cloud of dust by the time a two-cylinder engine machine could be cranked into action."

When the boundaries between Pierce and King counties were drawn in the 1850s it was mutually agreed that the Puyallup River would be the most natural boundary line. Tacoma residents paid little attention to this arrangement until business and industry began moving onto the tide-flats north of the river and taxes from their operations went to Seattle.

In 1899 the British ship Andelana sank in Tacoma harbor and local residents were outraged to discover that the King county wreck-master had jurisdiction over whatever salvage could be made.

Finding a state law that permitted those who lived in an area to vote on boundary changes, Tacoma boosters demanded an election. They rounded up ten residents of the tide-flats who voted unanimously for the change.

Seattle officials challenged every vote. Election officers, however, accepted the ballots of six Indians and three white men. They threw out only the ballot of one man who was not a United States citizen.

Thus it became possible for Pierce County and Tacoma to preside over the industrial development of the whole tide-flats area.

Suburban dwellers at the turn of the century were probably better connected with down-town than they are today because of a system of trolley lines that branched out from Tacoma to Spanaway, the Lakes district and Puyallup. In those days speed didn't seem as important and the hour's ride on the trolley to or from Steilacoom was looked upon as a time to enjoy the scenery, catch up on the news, or if the clacketyclack of the rails was not too bad, even sleep.

The residents of the Dash Pont area were not as fortunate, for in the early days there were too few of them to make a trolley line for their area profitable. Those interest in promoting Dash Point arranged for a boat to convey them from downtown, across Commencement bay to the dock at Dash Point.

One early visitor has left this memorable account of his vist to the suburb at the turn of the centry:

> "Embarking on this side wasn't too bad, but at Dash Point the piles and few planks dignified by the name "Wharf" loomed up out of the water and looked about 20 feet high.

"While the boat bobbed around, boosted from below and with a pull from above, we finally landed.

"When it came time to go home other experiences made the trip memorable. The boat was lae and we waited on the "wharf" nearly two hours. Part of the time it was raining and when it wasn't the mosquitoes came out and made up for lost time."

Not until roads connecting Northeast Tacoma with the main part of the city were built did the problem of just getting there seem solved and Dash Point became a true part of the city. Tacoma of the early 1870s occupied three widely separated spots on the shores of Commencement Bay; at Old Town, at the present site of downtown and at the mouth of Galliher's gulch near present South 24th and Pacific avenue.

Since streets were almost impassible after the frequent rains and the trails between the three settlements were difficult at best other methods of transporation had to be found.

For a number of years John B. Wren made four trips daily in a row boat carrying passengers and freight between two of the major settlements.

John Ralston carried the public interest forward when he lined up a large group of Chinese and forced them to work out their poll tax on the streets.

Ralston's perseverance was rewarded with the completion of several passable streets between old and new town. He issued seven hundred fifty receipts to the Chinese for their labors which seemed strange and was looked upon with a certain amount of awe since there were probably no more than three hundred Chinese in the county at the time and none of them were ever allowed to vote.

Tacoma's first church, St. Peters, still standing in old town had in the early days a number of colorful communicants. One of them, George Edwin Atkinson, helped found the church in 1873 and was one of the strongest supporters but was known in the community as the "swearing deacon."

Insisting on proper decorum during Church services Atkinson often kept order with threat filled with profanity which subdued offenders but often interrupted services.

Sometimes when attendance was low and the collection plate embarrassingly empty, the swearing deacon would walk down the uneven streets of old town stopping at one saloon after another shouting that we wanted everyone to go to church and put at least fifty cents in the collection plate.

He would usually be followed back to the church by a goodly

Everyone knew that Tacoma's 1896 election for mayor was going to be hotly contested. The city seemed to be almost evenly divided between partisans of the Republican incumbant Edward S. Orr and the Democratic-Populist contender A.V. Fawcett.

The city's thirty-one precincts were watched over by election officials, representatives of the political parties and special Tacoma Ledger correspondents hired by Editor R.F. Radebaugh.

In a special edition hitting the streets a little before eleven p.m. on election day Radebaugh announced the election of Fawcett by two votes. Mayor demanded a recount but had no choice but to allow Fawcett to take office.

All Republicans on the payroll of the city were immediately dismissed and city hall was filled with an assortment of Democrats and Populists.

On appeal, the votes were recounted and ex-Mayor Orr returned to office on a plurality of fifteen votes. Part of the impounded ballots were stolen from the city hall vault so Fawcett appealed to the state supreme court.

The higher court reseated Fawcett who returned to city hall in triumph. He fired all the Republicans who had been put back on the payroll during Mayor Orr's short term replacing them with his Democrats and Populist followers.

Fawcett then began in earnest a political career that would both entertain and infuriate Tacomans for he was to serve as Tacoma's mayor at intervals until the late 1920s. Threats of retaliation for non-cooperation are fairly common in any legislative body, but the near success of one threat in the 1905 Washington legislature rocked the state and nearly made Tacoma its capital.

Thurston County legislators infuriated their collegues by refusing to "play ball" with **railroad** interests. State Senator George Stevenson was especially angry and sought to punish Thurston County by introducing a bill to move the capital from Olympia to Tacoma.

The bill which began as an object lesson quickly passed both housed and was submitted to Governor Meade for his signature.

A delegation from Tacoma raced to assure the Governor of Tacoma's cooperation. Wright Park was offered as a capitol site as the Tacoma delegation header by Mavor George P. Wright outlined the great advantages Tacoma had to offer.

Governor Mead listened courteously and promised to give the matter deep consideration. On Monday, Tacomans were shocked to hear of the Governor's veto of the bill. Insiders know of the capitulation of the Thurston County legislators and felt that the governor saw no further need to continue the object lesson.

Dedicated to the men who were "over there" during World War One, the Northwest Peace Jubilee opened in Tacoma just over fifty years ago. Jubilee organizers provided eight days of parades, military expositions and festivities for the thousands who flocked to the city.

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A contest for the title of Miss Columbia was held with Dorothy Mahler, sponsored by the Rialto Theatre winning. Her maids of honor represented six of the victorious allied powers and Bertha Rich of Sumner was given the honor of portraying Martha Washington. Although one of the principal goals of the jubilee was to raise money for a memorial thirteen free attractions were provided. These included a balloon ascension, a high diver, clowns and the Rawlings Bears.

Billed to do everything but talk the bears were able to roller skate and dance. It was announced that one bear could pick up any flag that a person in the crowd would designate, except one, and that if a flag of a certain defeated power were shown to the bear he would sit on it.

In the Fall of 1917 a Tacoma banker wrote a letter to the administrators of the local high school warning that his bank was having difficulty finding people to "...concentrate exclusively on whatever work they may be doing."

He said that too many mistakes were being made in accounts and he was forced to fire what he called "careless people."

He proposed that the school needed to do a better job in teaching its students to concentrate.

His solution was to have a course in Greek taught at the school. He said that "...no one can learn Greek without doing steady, hard work."

In order to promote registration for the class he desired, the banker offered five and ten dollar prizes for the two highest achievers should such a class be held. There were no takers.

A popular Lincol High School B.M.O.C. (Big Man on Campus) was having difficulties with his lady love in the Spring of 1918. She seemed to prefer gentlemen in uniform and was seen on several occasions attending the local movie houses with men in kakki. Finally a severence came and our swain was again a free man. In announcing his unemcumbrance, a page was taken in the high school monthly magazine.

"Owing to repeated enquiries into my private affairs, I find it necessary to give out intelligence that at present I am unemcumbered;

"I have voluntarily broken from former bonds of interest, and contrary to reports otherwise, am in no way tied."

The editor then announced that our swain was open for engagements with young ladies "...possessing face of no ordinary beauty."

One of the most ambitious undertakings every to be proposed for the City of Destiny was announced by Henry Hewitt, Jr. and his associates in February, 1908.

A twenty-four story office building, with subways, a roof garden, and direct connections with the harbor was planned for Stadium Way near the old City Hall. Huge grain elevators, flour mills and shipping facilities were to be constructed near the mouth of Chamber's Creek in Steilacoom.

The promoters wanted to be able to handle all commerce either by rail or by sail on both sides of the city.

Since capital in the Northwest was limited, agents for what was to be called the Imperial Scheme were sent to New York for eastern money. A magazine called the <u>Sound</u> was purchased and renamed the <u>Imperial Sound</u>. Its pages month after month recounted the plans and activities of the promoters.

The arrival of the Imperial agents in New York coincided with the financial crisis of 1909 and little could be done to provide money in large enough quantities to make the project worthwhile.

Local leaders under the guidance of Mr. Hewitt tried to complete the project but the job could not be done. Tacoma, therefore had to contend with not having the largest office building in the world and Chamber's Creek was left to more simple activity.

Convinced that every man should pay for his own drinks and for no more, the Tacoma City Council in 1911 adopted an ordinance prohibiting "treating" in the public drinking houses of the city.

The act was referred to the people who in March agreed 8,881 to 5,984 that it was a good idea. No longer was it legal for a salesman to take a prospective customer into a saloon, soften him up with a few drinks and make a big sale, or for a mill hand on the way home from work on payday to buy a round for the boys with next week's grocery money.

One of the requirements of the law was that a no treating sign be placed in each bar. Most establishments complied with this ruling by printing the signs in tall type so thin they became invisible to the ordinary eye at ten feet. In this the letter of the law was obeyed. The police made few attempts at enforcement but since no one cooperated, it was difficult to prove illegal activity.

Finally even the anti-saloon forces saw that such "freak" legislation was heaping ridicule on the city and the law was allowed to pass into limbo.

It was briefly but unsuccessfully resurrected during a recall campaign against Mayor A.V. Fawcett as evidence of his mismanagement of city affairs.

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"Potato" Brooks, one of the tin-horn gamblers who arrived with the railroad in the 1870s, got out of his class one night at the Levin saloon. Used to cheating mill hands and railroad workers in simple shell games, he moved himself up the ladder to a game of poker at the gentlemen's end of the establishment.

When "Potato's" techniques failed to impress the others at the poker table and one man drew a gun Potato dived under a nearby pool table. The bullet struck the table at one corner and shot diagonally across cutting the green cloth all the way.

A man who was playing pool smashed the swinging lamp above the table with a swing of hus cue and in the darkness Potato crawled out and ' fled.

When light was restored playing resumed amid general mourning, not for the dishonesty of Potato Brooks but for the damaged pool table, one of the few in the community.

"General" Marcellus Spot, leader of the Democrats on the Puyallup Indian Reservation, was jubilant when his fellow party member, Grover Cleveland, was elected President in 1884. Edwin Eells who had been Indian Agent since 1871 was told by Spot that his days as agent were numbered.

Another Tacoman, desirous of replacing Eells, ran a butcher shop in the city. He informed the "General" that he would trade twenty-five cents worth of meat for every signature on a petition asking for his appointment as the new agent. Spot spread the news and the incoming petition signers nearly bankrupted the butcher.

When Cleveland renominated Eells everyone, including Eells was suprised. Spot's humiliation was made doubly severe by the fact that he had informed everyone of his power with the "Great White Father" in Washington and the certainty of Eell's replacement. George Hazzard, a crippled Civil War veteran, was one of the characters-about-town in Tacoma in the 1880s. A subscription agent for the Tacoma Ledger, Hazzard could be seen hobbling from one place to another dispensing news of arrivals and departures. He was also known to partake of the free lunch at several of the drinking establishments scattered throughout the downtown area.

Hazzard had let it be known that he was friends with Civil War General William T. Sherman. When that famous officer arrived in the city to visit his old friend John W. Sprague, Hazzard was

to arrange an interview with the usually terse War hero.

When Hazzard and Ledger City editor Walter J. Ball learned of Sherman's arrival they hired the town hack and drove in impressive style to the Blackwell Hotel. They arrived just as the General was entering the building so Ball and Hazzard lept from the carriage and hurried over to the General.

Hazzard said, "Hello, General, my name is George Hazzard." Sherman looked over his soulder as he walked up the stairs and seeing the newspaper man coldly said, "Go to Hell!" and entered the building.

Editor Ball, the first to recover said, "Well George, I see that the General knows our ultimate destination, but I thought he was a friend of yours."

To this Hazzard muttered something about the short memories of famous men as he too hobbled up the stairs, not to visit Sprague but to check out the free lunch at the Hotel.

The law and order forces under the direction of a young lawyer, L.D. Campbell, scored what they thought was a major victory in 1889 when they forced the police to raid a "gentlemans club" set up in a Pacific Avenue building near South 10th Street. The manager of the club was arrested for operating a gambling establishment and was hailed into court. He was convicted, paid a small fine and was let off.

Campbell decided that if he destroyed the gambling apparatus the club couldn't be reopened. So with axe in hand he broke down the door of the now closed club and made kindling wood of the fixtures.

The operators threatened a damage suit but Campbell just smiled and told them to go ahead. He said that since he owned the building no court in the country would convict him of destroying his own property.

George Francis Train, a transplated Bostonian, took Tacoma to his heart when he arrived here in the late 1880s. A writer of some note, Train composed such literary gems as " Seattle, Seattle, Death Rattle, Death Rattle," for his appreciative Tacoma audience.

His major effort, however, was his round-the-world trip of sixty-seven days, thirteen hours, two minutes and fifty-five seconds which began March 18,1890. Train and Tacoma Ledger editor R.F. Radebaugh noted appreciatively the publicity connected with Phineas Fogg's fictional trip of eighty days and the shorter actual trip of newspaper woman Nellie Bly.

Radebaugh and Train raised over four thousand dollars and with appropriate ceremony Train accompanied by newsman Sam Wall left for the orient.

Speed records were broken around the world until the pair reached New York City. There, no one had hear of Train or his trip and a distinct lack of interest was apparent on the part of everyone but the travellers.

Radebaugh was immobilized with a broken leg in Tacoma and could offer little help. Finally the New York Sun came to the rescue and hurried the globe trotters westward.

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After several delays Train and his companion reached their goal and a great celebration was held as Tacoma's most famous and successful publicist was welcomed home.

Even though many considered the fight between Seattle and Tacoma for supremacy in the Puget Sound region mortal, few were surprised when Tacoma rushed to the aid of her sister city during and after the disasterous fire of 1889. Tacomans saw where help was needed and sent the same.

Within thirty minutes of the first alarm, request for help reached Tacoma. Almost immediately a Northern Pacific special was made up to carry Tacoma's fire equipment north. Later Hose Company Two was called upon and except for a few members of the Alert volunteer company all Tacoma's firefighters were in Seattle.

Allen C. Mason, a prominent Tacoma booster, hired every baker in the city to bake bread for Seattle. Men worked all night baking and loading the Steamer Henry Bailey, chartered by Mason, to carry the breat and other provisions.

A Tacoma relief station was set up and when a request for money was made Tacomans contributed \$4,000 in the first hour. It is said that every truck and dray was pressed into service as stocks of food and other supplies were hurried to the fire scene.

E.T. Short commenting on the whole proceeding said, "Tacomas actions during this time were a fine display of the golden rule."

A Tacoma physician of the 1890s was particularly proud of his robust health and often "bent-the-ears" of his collegues in describing his athletic prowess. Three friends, knowing of a law recently passed in Olympia forbidding bicycle speeds in excess of six miles an hour, suggested that a bicycle race from

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Tacoma to the capital would be a good test of speed and endurance.

The doctor, allowing his friends a twenty minute head start, began wheeling southward not knowing the friends were aboard the Olympia train instead of huffing and puffing ahead of him.

Two friends alighted from the train at Maxfield, partway between Tacoma and Olympia, while the third went on to set things up.

When the doctor arrived at Maxfield, his two waiting friends urged him forward telling him that he would surely win if he would hurry. The good doctor raced onward and as he passed the Olympia city limits sign, Chief of Police Northup was there to greet him.

Hailed before Municipal Judge McReynolds, the doctor pleaded innocence by reason of his ignorance of the new law. The judge said that this was no excuse and gave a lecture on the evils of excessive speed. He then said that since the doctor was a visitor and since it was a first offense the sentence would be light.

The doctor brightened up at this but when the sentence was pronounced the doctor realized he had been "taken" for the court ordered him to buy a round of drinks for everyone present.

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Tacomans have always been proud of every aspect of what makes their city a great place to live. Visitors, whether they feel inclined to do so or not, are show our own totem pole, one of the best natural harbors in the world, the oldest building in the state and any one of the other places, things and events that make Tacomans really proud of their city.

Near the turn of the century visitors would more than likely be conducted to the City Barn where several interesting enterprises including the municipal broom factory were housed.

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The storekeeper at the city barn, G.B. Monty, boasted that his factory was able to produce all the brooms that sweep the streets, from the largest horse roll broom to the smallest twelve inch hand broom. When interviewed Mr. Monty reported that his activities were all money-savers for the taxpayers.

He said that his crew was able to make hand brooms at the cost of fifty cents including materials and labor while commercially purchased brooms cost no less than seventy-five cents each.

Although his total produced for a year was only seven hundred hand brooms and fifty-five roll models, Mr. Monty announced that the "... municipal-made broom will last two and one half times as long as the broom bought formerly from the private factory."

This in itself was enough to make Tacomans proud of their city.

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In the early days rural and metropolitan Tacoma were so terribly mixed that few people knew where the city left off and the country began. Some misguided folk tried to retain a countrylike atmosphere downtown even after office and other buildings lined most of the major thoroughfares.

When the First Presbyterian Church was built on the corner of 11th and Broadway, its communicants expected a certain amount of elegance to be attached to their new ediface.

Everything was acceptable in winter, but when the warm weather arrived and windows had to be opened worshipers were often annoyed at the barnyard sounds eminating from the lot directly across Broadway.

The owner of the lot felt it was his legal right to keep pigs and cattle where he so desired and would have maintained such an attitude until one Sunday when he was forced to sit through a long sermon at the Church. He managed to ignore the oinks of the pigs and the mooing of the cows, but when a light wind blew the barnyard smells up and down the pews of the church, the city farmer knew he had to fincd new quarters for his flocks and herds.

Tacoma boosters were agog at the opportunities of showing off the City of Destiny to President William Howard Taft when he arrived in the fall of 1911. National publicity would certainly follow the movements of the President of the United States and the accompanying references to the area could do nothing but to glorify it.

An attempt was made to show the President Paradise Valley at Mount Rainier National Park. The journey proved to be less than successful, however, as the caravan became mired in the rainy northwest's most well known product, mud.

Later the President stepped to the edge of a precipice to enjoy the view. He slipped and while visions of his great bulk bouncing down the canyon walls crossed the minds of all present he was unceremoniously pulled to safety.

Two days later, after a great banquet at the Tacoma Hotel, he was driven about the city. He showed great interest in the Tacoma Stadium but refused to stand on the edge of the row of seats for it was still raining and the President had no desire to repeat his performance at the mountain.

Peshnekai, a Klickitat Indian who lived in early Pierce County, called his white neighbors to his death-bed and pleased with them to bury him in their cemetery. When the day of burial came, a place of honor was found in the small graveyard on the Isaac Wollery property.

Some time afterwards John Welch was employed to survey and fence the cemetery. His lines led him to the necessity of either

building a fence directly across the grave of the Indian or move his bones.

Welch built the fence but was warned by some of Peshnekai's friends that the Indian would haunt Welch until the fence was removed.

One evening Welch was returning home and had just passed the graveyard when he heard a noise as if something was following him. He struck viciously behind and his cane seemed to fall upon a bag of bones. He seemed to hear the noise in front of him as well and as he thrashed around with his cane each blow seemed to strike a skeleton.

He finally ran, all the while fighting with his cane. He dropped the cane at the door of his home and fell on the porch breathless.

His landlord warily crept from the house and found nothing more than Welch's can fastened to the remnants of a rattling pasteboard box. The landlord decided to say nothing and removed the box.

The next morning Welch was up bright and early removing the fence that bothered the grave of Peshnekai.

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