

Next Meeting

Saturday,
October 15, 2005

12:45 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Meeting

Featured Speaker:

Doug Jackson
*President, Friends of
Seattle's Olmsted Parks*

Family History Speaker:

Jeff Christensen
*Great-great-grandson of
Pioneer John P. Doyle*

Pioneer Hall
1642 43rd Ave East
Seattle (Madison Park)

Coming:
New Member Potluck
Saturday, November 15
(see back cover for details)

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How one firm's vision changed Seattle's landscape **Of parks and playgrounds: The Olmsted Brothers and Seattle's park plan**

The Pioneer Association of the State of Washington is pleased to welcome Doug Jackson as the speaker at the October 15 general meeting of its membership on Saturday, October 15, at Pioneer Hall. Mr. Jackson is a local landscape architect, as well as president of Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP), an organization: "*dedicated to preserving Seattle's unique Olmsted landscape heritage and raising awareness of the Olmsted philosophy of providing open space for all people.*"

In 1902, the newly established Seattle Board of Park Commissioners decided that it wanted a more elaborate park system for the up-and-coming city of Seattle. It approached reknown landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted - designer of New York City's Central Park and the campus of the University of California at Berkeley, amongst other projects - with the idea that he might design a series of parks for the burgeoning city. The senior Olmsted, in poor health, ended up sending to Seattle his stepson, John Charles Olmsted (1852-1920), whose master plan for a series of parks ultimately helped shape the cultural and natural landscape of Seattle. The city's 1903 decision to adopt Olmsted's plan led to a long and productive relationship between Seattle and the landscape architect whose vision endures to the current day.

Along the way, Olmsted and his ambitious plan were responsible for some of Seattle's most famous geographical landmarks, including: West Seattle's Colman and Lincoln Parks, Capitol Hill's Volunteer Park, the Greenlake area's Woodland and Greenlake Parks and some of the most picturesque boulevards found in any American city.

Olmsted and his firm also designed the grounds for the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, held on what is now the current site of the University of Washington.

A key aspect of the Olmsted Plan was the inclusion of playgrounds. Olmsted believed that playgrounds - and the activities associated with them - were a child's training ground for later life, and his goal was a ensure that there was a park or playground within a half mile of every home.

Doug Jackson's presentation will be preceded by a family history by Jeff Christensen, detailing his pioneer family's early days in shipping on Puget Sound and their settlement in the San Juan Islands.



1642 43rd Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112

206-325-0888 Telephone
www.wapioneers.org

Pioneer Hall Hours

From October through March
Open Houses are held
on the second Sunday
of each month.
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Officers

President	Carol Hawkins
1st vice president	Jeff Christensen
2nd vice president	Marilyn McLauchlan
3rd vice president	Bob Teague
Secretary	Peggy Parietti
Treasurer	Bob Teague
Historian	Gary Zimmerman

Trustees

Carl Nordstrom, Kirk Gerrard,
Betty Kinsman, Chris Raaum
(term to June 2006)

David Brazier, Bette Palo,
Catherine Spedden, Claire Raaum
(term to June 2007)

Helen Langer Smith, Junius Rochester,
Shirley Wright, Lawrence Puffert
(term to June 2008)

Pioneer Presences

Jeff Christensen, Editor
Barbara Krohn, Editor Emeritus

Contributors this issue:
Jeff Christensen, Peggy Parietti
Gary Zimmerman

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President's comments

Hello, Pioneer Members near and far. As memories of the hustle and travel of summer vacations merge with the restful, lazy moments in between, your Board Members have met to start plans for the events of the coming year. We hope many of you can join us in some of these activities

As I look forward to my first term as your President, I hope to add something to the long legacy and recent accomplishments of those who have worked for the Pioneer Association of Washington. It is a humbling position. My visions for our organization are three-fold: 1) how to better serve our members; 2) how to better reach the Madison Park and Seattle community; and 3) how to start to reach out across the state of Washington to share with other historical societies and museums, since we are a state organization.

Locally, we will be inviting newly-joined members to a potluck at the Hall on November 12 (see Page 8). This year we want to encourage any members who wish to join us. Simply RSVP, then come with a salad, hot dish or dessert AND fun "stories" about your ancestors to share.

There will be our three regular meetings of the membership this year, as well as perhaps one more special event in the Spring. We also hope you will consider helping at one of our Sunday afternoon Open Houses, held the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 1—4 pm. We want to continue to be open twice a month. We have materials for the reference of those on duty, and we are happy to help you become familiar with procedures. Contact a Board Member or leave a message at Pioneer Hall to volunteers your time.

Catherine Spedden, who has added so many interesting exhibits on the main floor, would very much like to train some members to be Docents who could help with group tours and students who could then come for field trips or research projects with their teachers. The Board Members have also talked about working with the Madison Park Community to develop a self-guided walking tour of the many historic buildings and landmarks in the area.

Finally, at the state level, I envision development of traveling exhibits which could be posted in various locations. (I know we have loaned some large paintings to add to other museum's exhibits and this would be an extension of that idea.) In conjunction with that, "Cross Visits" with other historical societies/museums could be started, where several of us would visit another group's meeting and then invite their members to one of ours, or vice versa. I would hope this would expand our membership and we could share information, which would help both groups.

All these visions will not be completed in one year, but with your help and involvement, I believe we could make the Pioneer Association of Washington into a growing organization that shares our important legacy with many who do not know how our ancestors contributed to the strength and importance of Washington State in today's world. Come, join us!



Carol Hawkins

Carol Hawkins
President

Board Meeting highlights

Selected highlights from the September 17, 2005, meeting of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington's Board of Officers

Meeting was called to order by Carol Hawkins at 9:35 a.m. Board members introduced themselves, each giving a short bit of ancestral background information.

Gary Zimmerman distributed his report along with a thank you to the Board for the 13 years he served as Treasurer. He requested that a transfer be made of money from the Building Fund in the amount of \$7,171.12 into the Operating Fund. This amount had been used for building repairs of electrical improvements, fire escape repairs and the new safety door through the kitchen.

Gary informed us that a member, C. Keith Birkenfeld, had left \$25,000 to the Association to be applied solely to the Association's Building Fund.

Signators on the various money accounts was discussed. Helen Smith made a motion - which was passed - that the Officers to be listed as signators be: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian. Those newly elected to these offices will need to appear at the bank in person to give their signature. A motion made by Shirley Wright asked that the signatures of at least two of those officers be required on anything above \$5000. The motion was passed.

The safe deposit box contains many priceless historical items. Discussion about these prompted Gary to bring them to the next meeting. Some members thought it would make a good topic for one of our membership meetings - a history of the Hall.

Gary continued with report on the Daughters books - all are unpacked and are being sorted and catalogued. File cases donated have been most helpful in storing the pamphlets. Discussion was held on just whose books are whose in the main floor library. Those are mostly Daughters, but also some Pioneers. They can be checked out. Shirley, Bettie K., Carol and Gary will set a policy for using these books. David will be putting all cataloged books on line so that all will know what is available and where else they might possibly be accessed.

Aside, Helen Smith suggested taping membership meetings, as was done for awhile in the past. Catherine showed some very good Time-Life historical books that can be purchased at the used book stores for \$4 or \$5. They contain very good photos that can be reproduced.

Carol requested volunteers for various committees and was fortunate to get some volunteers from among the Board. Jeff will head the Program Committee; Bettie Kinsman, Refreshments; Peggy the Correspondence; Shirley the Library; Catherine the Docents; Kirk the Maintenance with Gary and David. Still needed is an Open House chair. Carol had recommended that we continue the two Sundays a month Open House.

Carol gave us her vision for the year: twice a month Open Houses; 4 issues of *Presences*; annual new member potluck and perhaps a spring event such as a potluck with ParkShore; community involvement with Madison Park such as hosting a historical walk (perhaps Joan Thomas, author of Madison Park history, could help); traveling exhibits of our Hall items to be viewed in banks, stores, etc. and meetings with other historical museums as part of an attempt to expand into a state connection. Discussion was held on some of these.

Meeting adjourned 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Peggy Parietti

Future Pioneer Events

The Pioneer Association of the State of Washington recently announced its planned schedule of events for the coming business year.

Please take a moment to make the appropriate notes on your calendar for the following:

General Meetings of the Membership

(1:00 p.m.)
October 15
March 11
June 25*

Fall Gathering of New Members

(12:00 noon)
November 12

Meetings of the Board of Officers

(10:00 a.m.)
December 3
February 11
March 11

Meetings of the Steering Committee

(10:00 a.m.)
October 1
January 21
February 11**
April 15

* *Annual Meeting begins
at 10:00 a.m.*

** *February 11 Steering Committee
meeting begins at 1:00 p.m.*

One city's living legacy: a brief history of Seattle's parks and parkways,

The Olmsted Brothers firm, heralded designers of such landscapes as New York City's Central Park and the campus at The University of California at Berkeley, have historically been credited with having created the concept of parks in Seattle. In truth, by the time the esteemed firm was contacted by an already established Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, there were as many as five parks within the city's borders.

Seattle created its first city park in 1884, when it converted the town's cemetery into a five-acre park and named it Seattle Park. Now named Denny Park, after David and Louisa Denny, who originally donated the land on what was then the very outer edges of Seattle, the park survives to this day as the city's oldest.

In 1887, Queen Anne resident and early Seattle pioneer George Kinnear donated a 14-acre tract of land at the base of Queen Anne Hill to the city of Seattle. Not long after, the city itself set aside 40 acres on the crest of another of the its famed hills, Capitol Hill, and christened the park Lake View - which later became known as City Park before eventually coming to be known as it is today, as Volunteer Park.

The city's park development moved smoothly, if not quickly - at least 1900, when it purchased 100 acres of mostly cleared land from the estate of pioneering landowner Guy Phinney. The city's plan in buying the land was to create what would become known as Woodland Park. Many early Seattle residents became outraged by the purchase, both at the substantial expense of the property (\$100,000) and because the park land was considered too removed from the city and was basically barren land.

As part of the fallout from the Phinney purchase, the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners decided a formal plan for parks was in order.

In 1903, the Board of Park Commissioners, contracted with The Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, Massachusetts, to conduct a formal survey of the city and make recommendations about the area's park possibilities - then submit a comprehensive plan that could be used to guide future work. This move was largely brought on by the furor created during the city's own attempts at creating a system of parks, and by local politicians desires to prepare Seattle for the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

The city originally chose the Olmsted Brothers firm because of the accomplishments and reputation of its founder, Frederick Law Olmsted. Frederick Olmsted,

designer of New York's Central Park, had a reputation that reached all the way to the Pacific Northwest but was, unfortunately, too ill to personally consider the project or the long journey it would entail. Instead, he sent his stepson, John Charles Olmsted - a choice born of necessity that ultimately proved a boon to Seattle.

As it turned out, the younger Olmsted - well-trained by his stepfather and passionate about his work - was probably the country's best landscape architect at that time. J.C. Olmsted and his assistant, Percy Jones, spent the month of May in 1903 studying the topography of Seattle and its existing parks. They returned back East in early June. By July, Olmsted submitted a complex and comprehensive series of parks, playgrounds and boulevards to the Seattle Park Commission. After some serious debate and deliberation, Olmsted's plan was accepted by Seattle's City Council on October 19, 1903.

Olmsted suggested that the city move fast on the plans, grabbing up desired lands while they were available and affordable. He recognized the speed at which urban development would occur, and wanted to assure that his holistic plan would be realized in as close to its entirety as possible.

During the first ten years after its submission, most of the primary elements of the plan would, through purchase, gift, condemnation, or bonded indebtedness, be incorporated into the city's structure.

Olmsted's plan included a very personal design element, which was to locate a park or a playground within one half mile of every home in Seattle. Olmsted was a steadfast believer in the role parks - and the activities that occurred in them - played in the complex social development of children. Parks were to be enjoyed by everyone, young or old, according to Olmsted's way of thinking.

The emphasis on playgrounds in the Olmsted Brothers plan was a rarity in its day. The importance of public recreation was only just becoming understood and appreciated after having been introduced with success in the East. Olmsted's parks included buildings devoted to recreation (field houses) and facilities like ball fields, tennis courts, and playground apparatus which had unique maintenance requirements relative to park facilities. Hence, from quite early on, the Parks Division and the Recreation Division of the Department each had their own maintenance personnel.

Another key feature of his plan was a 20-mile

from pioneer parks to the Olmsted Brothers grand plan and beyond

landscaped boulevard linking most of the existing and planned parks and greenbelts within the city limits. Roadways and bridges were to be designed in such a way to integrate with their surroundings.

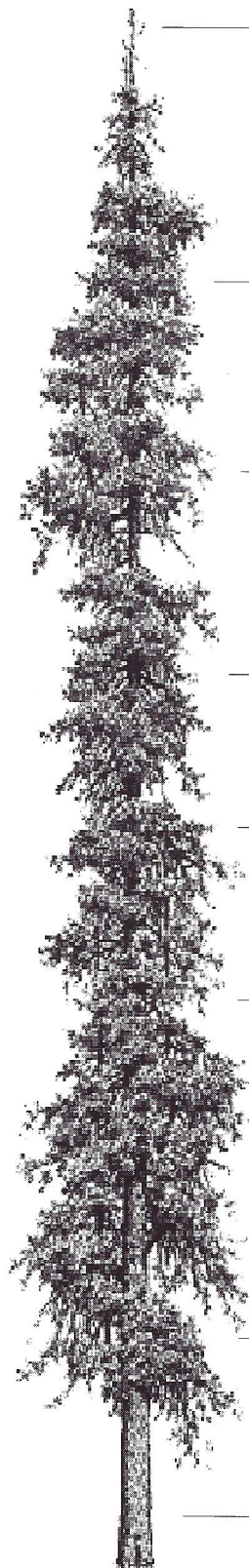
Seattle soon became a city filled with picturesque boulevards which provided unexpected and scenic views at various twists and turns. These boulevards and roads were the connecting links between a growing series of parks and natural public spaces, and recognition and admiration for Seattle's park system - from across the country - grew rapidly.

The Olmsted Brothers continued to work in Seattle, for both private and public clients, until 1936, when J. C. Olmsted made his last visit to the city to plan the Washington Park Arboretum. Over that 33-year period the firm would see more of its designs realized in the region: the campus of the University of Washington, the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (which would dictate the future of the U.W. campus), and the State Capitol plan.

To Learn more about the Olmsted's parks:

The water tower in Volunteer Park is a good place to begin for those interested in learning more about the Olmsted legacy. In 1997, the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks created a multi-faceted, interpretive exhibit that details the city's association with the Olmsted Brothers. It includes photographs, maps, text and historical postcards that address the creation of Volunteer Park, provide details about what the Olmsted's designed in Seattle and offer a history of the Olmsted's family work.

Sources for this article included the Seattle Parks and Recreation web site (www.cityofseattle.net/parks) and material collected by the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP).



1903

John Charles Olmsted and Percy Jones come to Seattle, spend a month surveying and return back East to create "A Comprehensive System of Parks and Parkways". The City of Seattle soon adopts the plan.

1902

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners contacts Frederick Law Olmsted with the idea of designing a master city park plan.

1900

City buys land for Washington Park, as well as over 100-acres of land from the Guy Phinney Estate that would later become Woodland Park.

1892

Edward Otto Schwagerl hired to prepare first comprehensive plan of city parks - a plan never implemented.

1890

John McGilvra establishes Madison Park, which includes a 500-seat pavillion, ball park and horse track.

1887

Reverend William Black and his wife purchase wooded ravine north of Lake Union and name it Ravenna Park, charging .25 cents admission.

1884

George Kinnear gives 14 acres for a park on Queen Anne Hill.

1876

City purchases 40 acres on top of what becomes Capitol Hill for a cemetery.

1851

Schooner Exact lands at Alki Point, considered founding of Seattle.

Pioneer Milestones: Recent deaths of some longtime Pioneer members and the addition of several new members

Gary Zimmerman, Historian

Among the deaths reported to the Association over the summer, were several long-time members, including:

Mary Ann (Campbell) Bigelow, of Olympia, passed away on April 9th, 2005, just a few weeks after her 92nd birthday. She had been a life-long resident of Thurston County. She was descended from pioneer Rev. James H Campbell and his son, Laverne R. Campbell, who came to the Territory in 1880.

Three and a half months later, her widower husband, **Daniel Sylvester Bigelow**, also died in Olympia, on July 26th of this year. His grandfather, Daniel R Bigelow came west with the Denny party in 1851, but he chose to settle in Olympia, where he played multiple roles in the newly formed Washington Territory. When the pioneer Bigelow married A.E. White in 1854, they built a house that was still occupied by Daniel and Mary Ann Bigelow, up until his death this year. Daniel Sylvester Bigelow has a long career as an attorney with the Washington State Employment Security program. Mr. and Mrs. Bigelow joined the Association in 1972.

Telford Grant Maple, of Bellevue, passed away in March, 2005. His great-grandfather, Jacob Maple, was the first settler in the present area of King County, arriving on the lower Duwamish River in the summer of 1851. Telford, who joined a distinguished group of Maple relatives who belonged to the Association, became a member in 1996. He already had completed his "Genealogical History of the Maple/Mapel Family in America, which was published by the Penobscot Press in 1993.

Leah E Davidson, died on March 21st of this year in Seattle, at the age of 99. She had been a member of the Association for 34 years. She was descended from pioneer Emma Kegley Wilks.

Polly Ann Weston passed away on May 19th while residing at the Columbia Lutheran Home in Seattle. She was 93 and had been a member of the Association for 41 years. She is survived by her husband, Robert P Weston, who continues as an associate member of the Association. Polly was a descendant of Amos Burgert.

As is the cycle of life, while the membership bid farewell to several longtime members, it also welcomed several new members to the organization since summer and our June Annual Meeting. Among them:

James C Green, of Bothell, and **Robert Roy Green**, of Kenmore, each received gift Life memberships from their mother, Helen B Green, who has been a member for the past 30 years. The two new members continue lineage from pioneer James Burcham, who came to Seattle in August, 1889, to help rebuild Seattle after the fire of June 6th.

Lauren Lee McCloskey, of Auburn, joined the Association in late August, describing her lineage back to Joshua P.T. McCloskey and Mary Minerva Gallaher McCloskey, who came to Steptoe, Washington Territory in May, 1879.

Jeffrey S. Spencer, of Omaha, Nebraska, is a new member, citing his pioneer ancestors, great-grandparents John and Sarah Spencer, who came to Snohomish County in 1885. John and Sarah were both natives of England.

Jon S. Faulkner, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, joins the Association with prior connections to this organization. His great-grandmother, Nena May Parkhurst, joined in 1923. Nena and her mother, Harriett Emaline Parkhurst came to Seattle in 1876, when Nena was about six years old.

Caroline Claire (Allyn) Stone, of Redmond, joins with a family history based on her descent from Holden Allen Judson and Phoebe Newton (Goodell) Judson, who came across the Overland Trail in 1853 to Grand Mound, Thurston County and later moved to Whatcom County to found the town of Lynden. Carolyn's husband, **John Dana Stone**, also has pioneer forebears. John joins with his line from John Merchant Pease and his wife, Anna M Stevens, who came to the Kittitas Valley in 1878, from Santa Barbara, California, in a covered wagon with their six children.

*June 2005 Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake:***Old friends and traditions as Pioneers gather for Annual Meeting**

This past June, members of the Pioneer Association gathered at Pioneer Hall to hold the organization's 134th Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake and to listen to longtime Pioneer and Board member Junius Rochester speak about the history of Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Lewis and Clark in our area, and the speech by respected author and local historian Rochester provided interesting background about their mission and anecdotes about the time they spent exploring and mapping the Pacific Northwest.

This year, the "picnic" portion of the event returned to the confines of Pioneer Hall, just as in the days of yore. Gathered around tables scattered throughout the main floor of the Hall, members shared stories of their Pioneer ancestors and discussed the presentation by Rochester, as well as the lively and spirited family history presentation by Bunny Gowen, great-granddaughter of Seattle Pioneer (and former Association president) Joshua Green.

Mrs. Gowen read personal letters which demonstrated Mr. Green's commitment to the city of Seattle and his affection for family, as well as shed insight on the bonds between Seattle settlers and the local native peoples.

As usual, there was much business to be conducted at this Annual Meeting of the membership. An election of officers was held and a new slate of candidates was presented and voted upon during the course of the meeting. Elected into office were: Carol Hawkins (President), Jeff Christensen (1st Vice President), Marilyn McLaughlan (2nd Vice President), Bob Teague (3rd Vice President and Treasurer), Peggy Parietti (Secretary) and Gary Zimmerman (Historian). Several members were also added as Trustees within the organization - a complete list of those individuals appears within the sidebar on Page 2 of this newsletter.

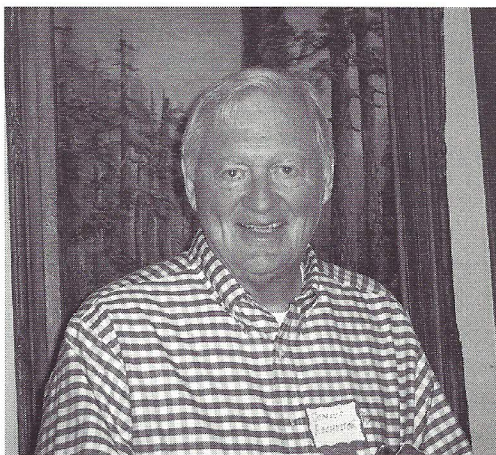
A full report on the state of the Association's finances was given by former president Bob Teague on behalf of Treasurer Gary Zimmerman. Overall, the financial condition of the organization is sound, although we did come out slightly in the red, due to maintenance and improvements to Pioneer Hall during the previous year. Improvements included the addition of electric service to the south side of the Hall's main floor, as well as a new back door and various other general repairs.

Secretary Jeff Christensen read a list of recent deaths within the Association as compiled by Gary Zimmerman, who provided the list as part of his role as the group's Historian. That somber report was tempered only slightly by the reading of a list of new members to the group who will continue the fine legacy left by those who have passed before them.

The afternoon concluded with comments from outgoing President Shirley Wright, whose commitment to the Pioneers and its sister association, The Daughters of the Pioneers, has been well established. Thanking everyone for their support, Shirley introduced Carol Hawkins as the newly elected President and wished Carol and the entire organization great success in the coming year, before adjourning the meeting.



Outgoing president, Shirley Wright



Junius Rochester, noted author and local historian, spoke to the assembled crowd about Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

**Pioneer Association
of the State of Washington**
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Seattle WA 98112
http://www.wapioneers.org

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Next meeting of the Pioneers: Saturday, October 15 1:00 p.m.

New member welcome potluck to be held November 12

A special new member "welcome potluck" will be held at Pioneer Hall beginning at 12:00 noon on Saturday, November 12. The potluck is the organization's way of welcoming those members new to the Pioneer Association since our last "Ingathering" event in October of last year.

All Pioneer members and their guests are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Pioneer Hall (206-325-0888) no later than Tuesday, November 8. All "non-new" members are requested to register to bring a food dish to be served as part of the potluck: salads, hot dishes, breads and desserts are all welcome.

Attendees are also encouraged to bring a personal item or story about their own pioneer ancestors to share with the group. A good time is always had by all at this fun fall event, so mark your calendars and call in your reservations.

For more questions, please feel free to either leave a message at Pioneer Hall or contact Program Chair Jeff Christensen at 206-390-6810.

Membership notices

After many delays, membership dues notices were finally mailed this past month to all Annual and Junior members of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. The patience and understanding shown by the membership during our delayed billing this year has been greatly appreciated.

We also greatly value your membership, and want to be sure that we have you on the books as a member in good and current standing. If you have questions about your membership, please feel free to direct them to Jeff Christensen either via telephone (206-390-6810) or email (jdcseattle@aol.com).