

Uplake - The Past 100 Years

Written in 1995 by Priscilla Droge

For the Uplake Women's Club

Abundant timber lured the first settlers to Kenmore at the turn of the century and development began. Until this time, hills at the north end of Lake Washington were a dense forest owned by investors in Washington timber lands. Kenmore served as a port at that time and was the terminus of a logging railroad that ran to Silver Lake.

Puget Mill (Pope & Talbot), owners of the Uplake hill, removed the 400-500 year old growth trees with trunks eight feet in diameter and two hundred feet tall, leaving a barren landscape. Pope & Talbot archives indicate lumber from the Pacific Northwest (and presumably Uplake) played a major role in rebuilding San Francisco following the disastrous fire-earthquake in 1906.

Prior to World War II, Pope & Talbot put a price of \$8,000 on the area now known as Uplake, but there were no takers. In the 1950s, they developed the land for "Residential Lots." A forest of second-growth timber logged off in 1951 left dozens of huge old growth fir stumps and snags that were dynamited or cut down. Lots in Uplake Terrace, priced at \$3,200 to \$4,200, were put on the market in the fall of 1953. The land above Uplake known as Lakemore Terrace was owned by Horrigan Land Company and developed about 1958.

In 1956, the first dozen or so residents organized the Uplake Community Club, now known as the Uplake Neighborhood Association, to coordinate neighborhood improvements, solve community problems, inform and obtain the view of residents on various concerns such as sewers, underground wiring, and now¹ the question of annexation or incorporation.

Past accomplishments include:

Beautification of the entrance on Bothell Way began in 1958 with the help of the Uplake Garden Club, now the Uplake Women's Club. Entrance plans included shrubbery, plants and fencing that was maintained and improved throughout the years with the addition of water, power, and a sprinkler system. Fencing was installed along the 181st entrance to Uplake. This year's project¹ of the Women's Club is to improve this entrance.

Installation of a traffic signal and left turn at 61st Avenue NE and Bothell Way was successfully urged for the community. **Divided left turn lane on Bothell Way** for cars entering Uplake was instigated.

181st extended from 60th Place NE to 61st Avenue NE (known at that time as the "Silk Hat Road" and the "Cat's Whisker Road"). Because of the efforts of the Community Club this road was cut through in 1962.

25 MPH speed limit signs were posted as a means of slowing traffic on our streets.

The Community Club distributed information for filling ditches along the sides of our

roads that would improve the appearance of the area.

Uplake voted to become a sewer district, in preparation for hookup with Metro, before Metro was actually formed.

Underground wiring and street lights were promoted to remove the existing overhead lines and poles.

New, attractive mailbox stands were subsidized with profits from the Uplake Women's Club Garage Sale in 1992. Residents were given the opportunity to replace their old, and in some cases unsightly, mailboxes and stands. A rebate was paid to those participating.

"Visible House Numbers" was the 1994 Uplake Women's Club project, with a rebate of fifty percent to those ordering.

Thus, the Uplake hill has grown from a dozen or so families in 1956 to 210 in 1995. The surrounding area has evolved from a sleepy, rural area into a busy suburban community.

There are three organizations for neighbors in the area:

1. **The Uplake Terrace Community Club**, open to all lot owners, was organized in 1956. Shortly after the name was changed to Uplake Community Club. In 1990, after discovering incorporation had lapsed, name was changed to Uplake Neighborhood Association. The change from community club to neighborhood association made it more representative of the purpose as a group and removed the "club" image. An Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Dinner and election of officers are held in March at the Aqua Club. Open Board Meetings are held through the year. \$20.00 annual dues are used for the expenses of water, power and plantings at the entrance and newsletters to keep the residents informed of current issues. Your participation is welcome!

2. **The Uplake Garden Club**, later **Uplake Women's Club**, was organized in 1957 to promote fellowship for Women in the community and to improve and beautify Uplake. All women in Uplake are invited to attend monthly meetings in members' homes.

3. **The Aqua Club** opened in July, 1959 as a clubhouse and swim club. This private membership organization resulted from a joint effort of residents of Uplake and Lake Forest Park. If interested, call 486-5758.

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1: As of 1995.