

# THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN

December 2007 • Issue # 80



## NEXT MEETING

January 16, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.

### NOTE LOCATION CHANGE:

Beginning in January we will be moving back to the Capitol cafeteria for our meetings..

**Abandoned Shopping Cart Hotline** 446-7984  
**Graffiti Busters** 972-7885

**Salt Lake City Police Crisis Intervention Team**  
 Detective Roger Williams 799-3314  
 roger.williams@slcgov.com www.slcpcd.com

### Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Polly Hart	355-7203
Vice-Chair	Georg Stutzenberger	510-1603
Vice-Chair	Robert King	359-9992
Secretary/Treasurer	Rosann Greenway	
Historian	Shirley McLaughlan	328-4182

### Neighborhood Trustees

Capitol	Carol Wood	355-6475
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St. Marks	Nephi Kemmethmueller	359-3936
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Temple	Gene Simmons	364-3830
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	...election pending...	
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964
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Web Site	Nick Burns	<a href="mailto:nick@vanburns.com">nick@vanburns.com</a>

### The Bulletin

Advertising	Sylvia Lloyd	<a href="mailto:sylvialloyd@msn.com">sylvialloyd@msn.com</a>
Community Events	Lola Timmins	<a href="mailto:lolatimmins@comcast.net">lolatimmins@comcast.net</a>
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Featured Neighbor	Stephen Sorenson	<a href="mailto:sorensonstephen@yahoo.com">sorensonstephen@yahoo.com</a>
Mailing List	Lola Timmins	<a href="mailto:lolatimmins@comcast.net">lolatimmins@comcast.net</a>

## Comment by Polly Hart, Chair

As the end of the year approaches, it is time for me to reflect back on all of my good fortunes in 2007. I continue to be grateful for the roof over my head, the food in my cupboard, and most of all, all of the wonderful neighbors that surround me. I truly feel that my neighborhood is my family! We live in a unique enclave of the city where so many of us know one another, regardless of faith, culture, or economic situation, simply because we get out and say hello. As I campaigned in Salt Lake's fancier neighborhoods this summer and fall (I'm afraid politics is in my blood), I envied the beautiful old mansions of Federal Heights and Gilmer Park, but each night as I returned to Capitol Hill I knew that I was luckier than all the people I had visited earlier in the evening! I wish to thank, once again, all of our community council trustees (Minta, Erlinda, Lynn, Nephi, Willie, Vicky, Lorille, Carol, and Gene), officers (Georg, Robert, Shirley, Christine, and Rosann), bulletin and website (Margaret, Steve, Nick, Lola, and Sylvia) and most of all our Mobile Watch members (Robert, Georg, et al) for their hard work and dedication to our safety. They are not just our go-to guys; they are our friends. Thank you for another year of service!

But! Our little slice of heaven does not come without a price. We continue to be impacted by the downtown district that we love and chose to live near. Traffic and higher density residential development on small streets are usually the things that come to mind on the negative side of the chart, which we continue to fight. On the positive side, Howa development broke ground on the Marmalade this summer. We look forward to having a number of local restaurant chains including Barbacoa, Tsunami Sushi, Spotted Dog Creamery (ice cream!), and a local dry cleaner/tailor sometime in the next couple years. The impressive mixed use City Creek development (further down the calendar) will also bring a grocery store to downtown.

I will also give my annual plea to those who are looking to get involved in shaping our community. If you are interested in serving on a city board or commission, please contact me at 355-7203! And I urge you to come to community council, which meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. A vote at the November meeting showed that residents would like to return to meeting at the State Capitol cafeteria, so please check next month's bulletin when I will have a confirmation if we are able to move. In the mean time, please have a safe and happy holiday season! See you in January!

NOTE: In January we will be moving back to the Capitol cafeteria for our meetings.

## This Old House by Nelson Knight Coalter-Parr-Barton House—314 Center Street

This month's house exemplifies the architectural evolution and often murky history of many homes in Capitol Hill. Sources differ on its builder and original owners, though it can be safely said that several owners have left their architectural stamp on the building through a series of additions and remodels.

Early Salt Lake City architect E.L.T. Harrison, who lived around the corner at 10 W. 300 North, originally slated the site of the house for development of a private street and development dubbed "Bellevue" (For those keeping track – all three of you – Harrison's house was the subject of the May 2006 column). The subdivision name is apropos, given the commanding site of this house and the views across the valley toward the Great Salt Lake. Harrison's plan was

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)  
 never fully realized; he sold much of the land to Henry Lawrence in 1878. In September 1880, Lawrence sold this lot to Fergus and Agnes Coalter, residents of the Third Ward in the city.



type adobe house, with the long end facing Center Street. Though little exterior detail of this early house remains, the roof eaves show the simple detailing evident of a house of this type. Between 1898 and 1911 the Bartons added the north and rear wings to the house. These additions show Victorian massing and details, and are integrated with the original wing. A later owner added colonial revival details to the door surrounds

Here is where things start getting murky: 1978

research by the Utah State Historical Society used evidence of ownership and city directories to claim that the Coalters built the house in late 1880, and then sold it in January 1881 to William and Barbara Parr. The late (and greatly missed) Capitol Hill historian Hermoine Jex was convinced otherwise, and thought that the house was built by the Parr's daughter, Agnes Ellen Parr Barton, and her husband Isaac. They acquired the land in 1882 from Barbara, who had become sole owner after her husband William's death in 1881. Given the difficulties one would expect to encounter in building a house from September to January, as the USHS theory would require, Hermoine's opinion seems more plausible. A discrepancy of a year or two in the construction date makes little difference, though it makes for an unwieldy historic name for the house. Architectural historians usually dub a house by its first residents. Since that cannot be fully established here, the "Coalter-Parr-Barton House" will have to

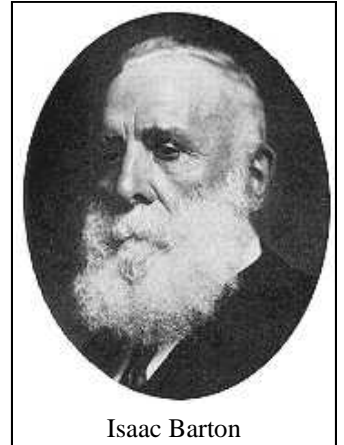
do unless better facts become known.

An Englishman with four brothers who also emigrated with him to the U.S., Isaac Barton arrived in Utah in 1861, settling with his family in Kaysville. Isaac enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1864, and served in a Nevada cavalry battalion. He also spent time in the Utah Territorial Militia during the Black Hawk War. He married Agnes E. Parr on December 26, 1870. The following year they moved to the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward in Capitol Hill, where Agnes' parents also lived. Isaac worked in the mercantile business of Samuel P. Teasdale for eight years before opening his own business, Barton & Co., manufacturing overalls. Isaac served as the bishop of the LDS 19<sup>th</sup> Ward from 1890 to 1909. During this time, the ward completed its distinctive, onion-domed chapel on 500 North that now is home to the Salt Lake Acting Company.

The first iteration of the house is now its south end. This was a small hall-parlor

by the early 1940s when SL County photographed the building for tax records. Later still, another owner added the green shutters to the front windows.

Agnes died in 1910 after being ill for the previous year. Isaac remained in the house after his wife's death, and still worked at his mercantile business. On Monday evening, August 27 1916, Isaac mowed his lawn, sat down to read, and died peacefully in his chair. Heart failure was given as the cause of death.



Isaac Barton

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **English skills Learning Center** needs volunteers to provide one to one or small group English language tutoring for adult refugees and immigrants. No experience or foreign language is necessary. 15-hour training is provided. Six month commitment required to tutor for 1-1 1/2 hours, twice a week. Assignments available throughout Salt Lake County. Flexible schedules. Training offered every 2-3 months. Contact Barbara Fish, 328-5608, [www.eslcenter.org](http://www.eslcenter.org).
- **LDS 19th Ward Clothing Exchange** Second Saturday of each month. 9:00 am to Noon, 225 W 500 North.
- **Salt Lake County Aging Services** has a variety of opportunities for volunteers to serve in the community. To see the full listing, see: <http://www.slcoagingservices.org/volunteerPrograms/voluntee.html> or call 468-2454 for more information.
- **People Helping People** needs interesting gardens for the 4th Annual PHP Garden Tour, June '08. You're proud of your backyard paradise, so show it off! Nominate yourself, or your neighbor, by calling Brenda Pierce at 801-243-8989. PHP teaches low-income women how to achieve their full potential in the workplace. Learn more at <http://www.phputah.org>.
- **Volunteers of America** needs volunteers to assist with variety of projects. Hours per week: 1-1 1/2. Contact Marcus Perry at 363-9414 Ext 108.



Pilgrims in Utah: Hear ye! Hear ye! Navigate a search on line to **Utah Mayflower Descendants**. Click on the official Utah chapter website. Sail through your genealogy, landing on one of the pilgrims. Map your way to membership in the national Mayflower Society. Come on board and feast on genealogy, history and fun.



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Please join us for the Annual Capitol Hill Christmas Eve Community Carol Service, Christmas Eve, 5:00 - 5:45 p.m., Capitol Hill LDS Ward (rock chapel west of State Capitol)  
 Everyone is welcome!

### Memories of Christmastime on Capitol Hill by Harries Lloyd

*(Editors' note: This is a reprint of an article which ran in the Bulletin in December, 2005. Harries Lloyd is a former trustee for our Council from the Ensign Peak neighborhood. We appreciate his sharing of memories of earlier Christmases on Capitol Hill.)*

Ice-skating was something we really liked to do in the winters, but of course, you would never think of going to a commercial rink and paying. There were several other possibilities. Dad and we boys would tamp down the snow in our back yard on DeSoto Street and then fill the area with water – the location was good but the ice was quite rough. My friend, Bill Beesley, and I would clean off the ice on the pond in Memory Grove sometimes; that was a smoother sheet of ice. The best, though, was Decker Lake when it got cold enough to freeze over. I remember big bonfires with piles of old tires at the edge of the ice and playing tag with the other skaters. The only drawback was that you had to be careful of thin ice if you got out into the reeds.

There were four boys and three girls in our family. Those were safer days for trick-or-treaters, and Mom was well-known for homemade doughnuts and caramel apples at Halloween. We lived on DeSoto Street in a house our Grandfather Ashton built.

A more risky winter activity was sledding on the steep streets on Capitol Hill. We used to sleigh-ride down Wall Street and Zane Avenue, crazy as that now sounds. The city road people would cooperate in those days by blocking off some steep roads and not putting ashes on them, which made for good sledding, especially at

night. Lee Capel almost got killed once sledding down Zane Avenue – he stopped under a car. After a big snowfall we would take a big coal shovel, sit on it, and ride it down Wall Street. It's really a wonder no one got seriously hurt. If it was cold enough and the street was good and icy, you could start at the top of Wall Street and get the rust off your runners all the way down to Wasatch Springs at the bottom of the hill. A shorter but equally exciting run was on East Girard to DeSoto.

The north end of the Capitol Grounds, before the State Office Building and upper parking lot were there, had a fine slope where Bill Beesley and I first learned to ski. It was fun, too, to ski off of Little Ensign in the foothills north of DeSoto Street when enough snow accumulated. Standing hidden behind the bushes on the Capitol grounds and pegging snowballs at the cars on Columbus Street was also a favored but hazardous pastime. It's almost a cliché to say that the winters were colder and the snow heavier in those days, but it really seems that way to me.

I have a lot of happy Christmas memories of Capitol Hill, gathering at my grandparents' home on DeSoto Street – lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins with caroling and smells of good cooking and the Christmas tree. When Audrey and I began our own family we took work in California where we lived for the next 30 years. Since retiring we've returned to Capitol Hill and have built up a new set of happy Christmas and winter memories – skiing free at Park City (until they revoked it) but definitely not sledding down Wall Street or Zane Avenue.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### The Madeline Choir School [www.madelinechoirschool.org](http://www.madelinechoirschool.org)

- 20 The Madeline Choir School Fourth Grade Nativity Play  
2:30 PM - Erbin Hall,
- 24 – Jan 2 No Classes – Christmas Break

#### The Cathedral of the Madeleine [www.saltlakecathedral.org](http://www.saltlakecathedral.org)

- Dec. 17 Christmas Carol Service 8:00 PM
- 18 Christmas Carol Service 8:00 PM
- 21 Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* 12:15 PM  
free concert
- 24 Christmas Carol Service 4:00 PM
- 24 Midnight Mass
- 25 The Solemnity of the Nativity 12:00 Noon Mass



- [www.saltlakeactingcompany.org](http://www.saltlakeactingcompany.org)
- [www.downtownrising.com](http://www.downtownrising.com)
- [www.downtownslc.com/events](http://www.downtownslc.com/events)
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