

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN

Capitol Hill & Avenues Mobile Watch Meeting

When: 18 July 2007, 6:00 p.m.
 Where: STATE CAPITOL IN THE SENATE
 CAFETERIA — LOCATION CHANGE

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- 6:30 Greeting, Chair
- 6:35 Elected Officials
- 6:45 Mayoral Candidate Forum
- 8:00 Police Report, Roger Williams
- 8:05 Mobile Watch Report, Robert King
- 8:10 Traffic Report on Airport TRAX Line, Transportation Dept.
- 8:30 Adjourn

NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

NEXT MEETING
September 19, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.

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	Christine Hobby	328-2684
Historian	Shirley McLaughlan	328-4182

Neighborhood Trustees

Capitol	Carol Wood	355-6475
DeSoto/Cortez	Lorille Miller	363-8191
Ensign Downs	Lynn Rasmussen	231-9984
Kimball	Victoria Collard	595-8575
St. Marks	Nephi Kemmethmueller	359-3936
Swedetown	William Salas	539-0938
Temple	Gene Simmons	364-3830
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	Margaret Berchtold	597-3599
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964
Mobile Watch	Robert King	359-9992
Web Site	Nick Burns	nick@vanburns.com

The Bulletin

Advertising, Mailing List, Service & Community Events:
 Margaret Berchtold chnc_bulletin@msn.com 597-3599
 Featured Neighbor Stephen Sorenson 364-3838

This Old House David & Gertrude Packard House 57 Hillside Avenue By Nelson Knight

While some criticize historic districts as impeding growth, ideally a historic district is intended to manage and channel growth within its boundaries. Most districts (with the rare exception, such as Colonial Williamsburg) provide for change and new construction. From its creation in 1984, the Capitol Hill Historic District was intended to allow a wide range of alterations to existing buildings and to provide for new buildings in appropriate ways. Like the buildings within the district, the administration of its rules has evolved over the 23 years since its creation. One aspect in which it has evolved has been the treatment of “non-contributing” buildings within the district – that is, those buildings that are less than 50 years old (the magic age in historic preservation) or that have been altered so much that they can no longer be considered historic. In 1984, when the city established the district, the Packard house at 57 Hillside Avenue was only 45 years old. Many would not have considered it architecturally significant, nor did it fit with the pioneer/Victorian themes for which the district was considered significant.

Now, we are beginning to benefit from a bit of distance. World War II-era buildings are now becoming fashionable within architectural and preservation circles. Salt Lake City’s Planning Office, through the funding largesse of the City Council and Administration, recently completed an update of the survey of buildings within the Capitol Hill Historic District. Specific attention was given to 65 buildings within the district dating from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s – the “non-contributing” buildings from the original survey. Architectural historian Korral Broschinsky prepared architectural descriptions and the histories of each of these buildings, along with a new history and map of the entire district reflecting the changes that have taken place since 1984.

The Packard house is one of two significant examples of the International style of architecture within the historic district. Given its name by Philip Johnson, the International Style takes its blocky, spare forms from the movement popularized by the Bauhaus school in Germany. Architects at the Bauhaus, such as Walter



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eventually had four children – Lyn, Scott, Ann, and Don). After he returned from the war, J attended Utah State and graduated with a degree in agriculture, excited at the prospect of agricultural photography as a means of providing farmers with more favorable exposure (and, over the course of his career, he has done a good deal of agricultural photography for publications by U.S. Steel and others.)

He had operated a small studio of his own in college and taken pictures for some of the newspapers, and on graduation, was offered a post as a photographer for *The Deseret News* in Salt Lake City. Within a few months J was named chief photographer for the *News*, a post he held for the next twenty years.

J and Fae had moved in 1948 to a home on 8th West in Salt Lake City, about a block from the LDS Church's Welfare Square. In 1964, they wanted to build in the Ensign Downs area and asked a young friend, just graduated from architectural school, to design a home as his first project. They've lived in the same home on Capitol Hill ever since. (The young architect was Frank Ferguson who went on to design Abravanel Hall and many other buildings in the city.)

In 1969 J became editor of the *Deseret News's* Church News, and nine years later, was named managing editor for the newspaper, a position he held until his retirement.

Community-building has been important to J and Fae since they moved to Capitol Hill. In 1971, while serving as president of the LDS stake in the Capitol Hill area, he gave encouragement and support to Hermoine Jex,

Glen Lloyd, and others as they established the organization which eventually became the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council. "He was a part of it at the very beginning," Hermoine recalls. "He cared so much about trying to save the area. I doubt we would have succeeded without him. I just adore the man."

The projects J has initiated and the services he has rendered through the years are probably too numerous even for him to remember, but most recently include serving as a scoutmaster for almost five years after his retirement; re-establishing the Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club; publishing its bulletin as well as a newsletter for the Ensign Downs neighborhood for many years; and serving as president of the Ensign Peak Foundation, the organization responsible for successfully preserving and enhancing Ensign Peak. Glen Saxton, a member of the Foundation's board of trustees, says, "J was really the driving force who held the whole thing together. It wouldn't have happened without him."

J continues to serve with the energy and drive of someone half his age – very frequently, still, with his camera in hand.



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Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, followed the popular mantra of "form follows function," and eschewed the bourgeois ornament of the popular architecture of the time.

By 1938, when David and Gertrude Packer built their house on this lot given to them by her family, the style was gaining a foothold in the U.S., and would become the dominant style among architects after World War II. Given its style and size, it would be safe to assume this house was designed by an architect, but Korral's research did not turn up any names. Building permits show that the builder was Salt Lake contractor Eugene Wagstaff, and the house was valued at \$13,500.00.

Married in 1921, the Packards moved to this house in their late 40s. David was the president of the Utah Wholesale Grocery Company. They lived in the house until Gertrude's death in 1949. In 1950, David remarried and moved from the house, but it remained in the family under the ownership of the Packard Almond Investment Company. It was sold in 1983 to Gordan Gray Rogers, who added the second story greenhouse addition in 1985. In 2003, the house was sold to the current owner, Scott Helperty.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **American Diabetes Association** need s volunteers to assist with the "America's Walk for Diabetes" Saturday September 9th which begins at This is the Place State Park and ends at Hogle Zoo. Volunteers should be 18 years or older (or accompanied by an adult) and 3-4 hour of service are requested. Food and zoo admission will be provided. No training required. Contact Nyna Moore (363-3024) to volunteer to get more information www.diabetes.org.
- **LDS 19th Ward Clothing Exchange** Second Saturday of each month. 9:00 am to Noon, 225 W 500 North.
- **Utah Explorer Search & Rescue (UESAR)** is SEEKING LIFE SAVERS! This is a youth run organization through Boy Scouts of America and the primary goal of an Explorer Post is career education. They achieve this while training in community preparedness, first aid and search & rescue with other professional and non-profit agencies and organizations. UESAR members, once trained in specific areas are often called upon to assist in several areas when extra man power and personnel are need to assist in several areas of a response situation or crisis. UESAR is seeking youth 14-20 who want to explore a career in public safety or just want to be involved, as well as adult leaders to oversee the operation of the post. Contact Michael Clark (661-4914) www.avertdisasters.org
- **Utah Food Bank** needs individuals and groups of up to 60 people to sort food. Volunteers inspect and sort food into 24 categories in preparation for shipment to over 260 programs and agencies statewide. Children under 12 are welcome on Monday evenings for "Family Night". Hours per weeks; varies. Training required: 30 minutes. Contact Taylor Beckstead (887-1229)
- **Utah Jump\$tart Coalition** sponsors the free service "Financial Education Speaker Bureau" to help teachers, parents and administrators bring professional financial education experience into the classroom. They need presenters for the following topics: credit, credit cards. Credit reports, credit scoring, investing, savings, financial planning, banking, insurance and taxes. Hours per week: vary. Training required: 1 hour. Contact Preston Cochrane (483-0999 ext 356) www.utjumpstart.org

