APA Washington Annual Conference, 2009

Historical Perspectives on the Planning Profession in Washington State: Commemorating the Centennial
The Centennial

- In May 1909, the First National Conference on City Planning was held in Washington, D.C., with 43 attendees.
- APA is celebrating our profession's 100 years of making great communities.
- WA Senior Action Committee celebrates by tracing our state history.
Our Speakers

- Jill Sterrett, FAICP  Moderator
- Pete Marshall, AICP  People
- Brad Collins, FAICP  Landmark Events
- Fred Hurand, FAICP  Context
Planners We Have Known: Who are the most influential planners, and educators of the last half century?

- Pete Marshall, AICP
From the mists of prehistoric times a new era of human activity emerged...

...Or did it, as some say, appear more instantly??
Joshua Vogel and other AIP members, 1952
To Plan, or Not To Plan

... That is the question
Whether ‘tis saner in the end to figure
The ways and means whereby a county profits
In work and health and higher mode of living
Or think it done by wishing? To grow, and fret
No more; and by haphazard growth to end
Starvation, unemployment, filthy slums
And all life’s problems. ‘Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To grow, to dream...
... perchance to drift, aye, that’s the rub
For in that drifting growth what havoc

Poem reprinted in the Jan. 1953 Long Ranger, the PNW Chapter AIP’s periodic newsletter. The poem was originally included in the King County Planning Commission’s Annual Report for 1934–35.
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER NEWS

JAN. 1952

BIG WINTER PROGRAM IN A. I. P.

January Meeting: A regular monthly meeting has been scheduled for January 18th at 12:15 pm at the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Room. Professor Richard G. Tyler will speak about his experiences on his recent trip to the Middle East. Prof. Tyler should have some interesting comments with his long experience in planning and engineering. Postcard reminders will be sent out before this meeting, but save the date now.

February Meeting: Tentative arrangements have been made for a Friday afternoon and evening field trip to Tacoma. Bud Poole is arranging the local details. The date has not been definitely determined but it may be February 15th. The program will probably include a visit to the Planning Commission offices and an evening Chapter meeting. This should be a good trip; when more details are available the membership will be notified.

Spring Field Trip: Later in the spring it is hoped arrangements can be made for a field trip to the "planned city" (Longview, Washington). This would be a good opportunity for Seattle and Portland members to get together again. More on this later.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AT PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

The regular monthly meeting of November was held at the home of Chapter President Floyd Jennings. There was an informal discussion of the National A.I.P. Annual Meeting date and a Chapter statement was agreed upon. A copy of this will be sent to all members. Most of the meeting, however, was devoted to a social hour well lubricated by Floyd's bar products. As predicted, most of the Seattle membership dropped by.

DECEMBER 5th EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (Jennings, Cone, Spaeth, Barnes, Vogel, present)

During the meeting John Spaeth discussed the problem of when to hold the A.I.P.'s Annual National Meeting. Jim Barnes presented his proposed program for the coming months and Josh Vogel discussed proposed changes in the Chapter Constitution. The meeting was held at Blaine's on December 5th.
DUES

A few members of the Chapter have not paid their annual dues (tsk, tsk) Please send them to the Secretary-Treasurer and save the expense of individual postal card notices at the rate of 2¢. The price is but $3.00 a year.

JOBS IN TACOMA

Tacoma has announced Civil Service Examinations for the following positions:

- Principal Planner: 5 yrs min. experience $490-$590 per mo.
- Associate Planner: 2 " " $337-$435 " "
- Assistant Planner: 1 " " $290-$374 " "

Application blanks may be obtained from the Civil Service Commission, Rm 100, City Hall, Tacoma 2 Washington. They must be filed by 4 pm January 30th.
“... Folks living in the area around the City of Seattle... they were in the chicken business, were raising rabbit... pigs... goats... Although they were in the small animal business, nevertheless, they loved their homes and land and did not want to be crowded out again nor did they want slaughterhouses or industrial plants coming into their district...”

Excerpts from Joshua Vogel’s presentation to the American Planning and Civic Association’s National Conference on Planning, San Francisco, Calif. July 8–11, 1940, pp. 257 ff of the conference proceedings
King County Planning and Zoning Issues, c. 1940
“... From 1935 to 1937 the Commission was very busy trying to obtain... basic information, mapping land use, population, location of flood plains, the publicly-owned lands, the highway system, etc. ... We asked for help of committees from the real estate board, engineers and others...”

Excerpts from Joshua Vogel’s presentation to the American Planning and Civic Association’s National Conference on Planning, San Francisco, Calif. July 8–11, 1940, pp. 257 ff of the conference proceedings
King County Planning and Zoning Issues, c. 1940

“The mistakes made by the City of Seattle have thrust the people out into the county for better living conditions... under [county] regulations which give a population density of 4 people per acre... Seattle shows 50.5 people per acre in the... family dwelling district... apartment house districts were built up to 141.0 people per acre. Although Seattle has still one-half of its area vacant, the areas that are used are overcrowded...”

Excerpts from Joshua Vogel’s presentation to the American Planning and Civic Association’s National Conference on Planning, San Francisco, Calif. July 8–11, 1940, pp. 257 ff of the conference proceedings
Thursday, December 10, 2009
Hedman & Bair, And on the eighth day
Do You Honestly Believe We Really Have Enough Information to Justify a Decision?

Hedman & Bair, And on the eighth day

Thursday, December 10, 2009
The Evolution of the Planning Profession in Washington: Legislation & Education

- Brad Collins, FAICP

Thursday, December 10, 2009
The History of the Planning Profession in the State of Washington

- Identifiable historical landmarks in planning practice
- Practice followed legislation and public funding
- Correlation between academia and practitioners
- Major planning paradigm shifts per 20 years or so
Legislative Landmarks

Zoning/Design ‘30s-40s
Housing/Highways ‘50s-60s
Environ/CDBG ‘70s-80s
GMA/Resource ‘90s-00s
Milestones in Planning Legislation

1935
- **WA Planning Commissions Act**
  - Enabled zoning & Planning Commissions

1954
- **Housing Act of 1954**
  - Section 701 provided funds local planning

1956
- **National System of Interstate & Defense Highways**
  - Created Federal highway system

1959
- **WA Planning Enabling Act**
  - Defined how County’s create Comprehensive Plans
Milestones in Planning Legislation

1966
• **Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act**
• Established Model Cities program

1971
• **WA SEPA and SMA legislations adopted**

1974
• **Housing Act of 1974**
  • Created Community Development Block Grant Program

1990
• **WA Growth Management Act**
  • Established planning for growth, resource lands & critical areas
Public Funding

- local property taxes
- federal 701 highway
- impact fees block grant
- permit fees incentives
### Academic Correlation

#### Planning Tools

- ‘30–40 – Zoning Plans and city infrastructure
- ‘50–60 – Comprehensive Land Use Plans
- ‘70–80 – Project reviews & Neighborhood Plans
- ‘90–00 – GMA Comprehensive Plans

#### Academic Focus

- Architectural design & social engineering
- Urban design & transportation planning
- Environmental & community planning
- Growth management & sustainable development

Thursday, December 10, 2009
### The Impact of Planning Requirements on the Planning Profession

#### Requirements & Legislation
- ‘30–40 – Planning Commissioners Act
- ‘50–60 – Federal 701 Planning & Highway Acts
- ‘70–80 – SEPA & block grant
- ‘90–00 – GMA & Critical areas; sustainability, climate change

#### Planners & their Roles
- Mostly architects involved in planning
- Growing # of local planners and departments formed
- Fully staffed planning departments
- Next generation of planners replacing those of 1970s

---

Thursday, December 10, 2009
The History of the Planning Profession in the State of Washington

- Pre-’40s Pioneer planners
- 1960s Planning departments form
- 1970s Planning = to other states
- 1990s+ WA Planners as U.S. leaders

Thursday, December 10, 2009
The Pacific Northwest Regional Context for the Planning Profession: How the past is shaping the future

Fred Hurand, FAICP, Professor, Eastern Washington University
State, Westside, and Eastside Population 1960 to 2008
Average County Densities in Persons Per Square Mile
Eastside v. Westside Densities
Less Pierce, King, Snohomish, and Clark Counties
Where is Planning Headed?

- Major issues
  - Economic recession
  - Energy security/peak oil
  - Climate change
  - Depletion of resources
  - Social Equity
- Role of planners to integrate these

“The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them”
What’s next for this history effort?

- Planners of Eastern WA
- Planning leaders – 1970 and beyond
- Role of WA planners at national level
- Trends in regulation & incentives
- Resurgence of property rights
- Tribal sovereignty & economic
Discussion

What would you add:
- which planners?
- what events?
- long-term trends?

THANK YOU!

- Jill
  - jill.sterrett@gmail.com
- Pete
  - pmarshall@q.com
- Brad
  - bandjcol@olypen.com
- Fred