



Wedgwood Echo

VOLUME 27, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2012

Defining the Future of the Wedgwood Business District— the Implementation of the Wedgwood Vision Plan

In 2010, the Wedgwood Community Council (WCC) completed the Wedgwood Vision Project, intended to define the community’s shared priorities and goals for the community looking 20 years into the future. The project was funded through a Neighborhood Matching Fund Small & Simple Grant and involved several public meetings, a public survey, and regular steering committee meetings. The project culminated with the completion of the Wedgwood Vision Plan, a formal document describing the community’s shared vision for the neighborhood.

One of the more important things to come from the Vision Plan is the Wedgwood Vision Statement. Out of the community-led process, Wedgwood was identified to be: *a woodsy, small town within the city where single-family homes, park areas, and gardens surround a vibrant and human-scale commercial/multifamily district, serving residents’ day-to-day needs and including open space for community gatherings, and a safe and pedestrian-friendly community that welcomes diversity and where a commitment to sustainability is everywhere apparent.*

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From the President

As I reflect on 2011 and dream about 2012, “partnership” seems to be a recurring word. Partnership with area schools in particular with the Wedgwood Elementary to procure sidewalks around the school. We did it: the sidewalks project was approved and SDOT will be installing sidewalks. Thornton Creek school partnered with us as they hosted our 9th Summer Cinema. Wow, nine years of summer outdoor movies, which is made possible by the great partnership of area businesses like HomeStreet Bank, Café Van Gogh, and Metropolitan Market.

The Wedgwood Art Festival was only possible because of the partnership and hard work of area artists and businesses orchestrated by Nancy Reed and Alex Strazzanti. This event went from a one-day event to a two-day event with thousands of people enjoying the art and music at the Hunter Gathering Place.

The biggest sense of living in partnership comes to my mind as I reflect on the transformation of the Hunter Tree Farm property to a community gathering place. With great thanks and admiration to the Hunter family for their openness to partner with the Wedgwood Community Council and the Pomegranate Center

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The *Wedgwood Echo* is published by the Wedgwood Community Council every other month, starting in January. Articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the trustees.

The Wedgwood Community Council holds general meetings, announced in this newsletter, on our website (www.wedgwoodcc.org) and on sandwich boards along 35th. Trustees meet every month. All are welcome to both meetings, which are held at the Wedgwood Presbyterian Church located at 35th NE and NE 80th.

If you wish to be on the agenda or have guest speaker ideas, contact WCC President, Brian Turnbull. If you need transportation, call one of the trustees.

Contact information for trustees and other volunteers is listed on the back page.

For more on what the WCC does, meetings, events, membership (which includes a subscription to the *Echo!*) and advertising, visit: www.wedgwoodcc.org

Submit Wedgwood-worthy news or rants and raves to the editor, Katie Traverse, at wedgwoodechoeditor@gmail.com.

Vision Plan

(Continued from page 1)

Since the Vision Plan was completed, the WCC has been working on implementing the components of the plan. The WCC has formed a parks committee which is working with the Seattle Parks Department to acquire a former Seattle City Light substation along 35th Ave NE for a future park. The WCC has successfully applied for City funds to plan and design new pedestrian safety improvements around Wedgwood Elementary. The WCC has successfully coordinated with other NE Seattle groups to bring community together and improve the Hunter Tree Farms site for greater public use. Additionally, the WCC has formed a land use committee that is, amongst other things, pursuing the first two recommendations in the Vision Plan: 1) Develop a Neighborhood Plan and 2) Develop Neighborhood-Specific Design Guidelines.

Over the past year, the WCC's land use committee has been reaching out to City staff and council members, planning commission members, and neighboring community associations on how to create the conditions that would support the shared vision described in the Vision Plan. While the Vision Plan lays a wonderful framework from which to build on, it doesn't provide enough specifics on what the community wants from its business district to convert to policy. **On January 11th, the WCC's land use committee will be hosting a general meeting to discuss the likely components of a neighborhood planning process and listen to the community. Everyone is welcome: 7 PM, Wedgwood Presbyterian Church, 8008 – 35th Ave NE.** This will be the first step in a long journey of listening and learning from each other about what the community wants from the Wedgwood business district.

- Per Johnson, Land Use Committee Chair





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President

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to create a gathering place. Another story of partnership is the hundreds of hours you WCC members, neighbors and supporters of the project gave to make this dream a reality. Without your partnership this would only be a dream. What a gift it is to have the Gathering Place at Hunter's in our neighborhood.

I look forward to 2012 as the theme of partnership continues to develop. Together we will continue to grow and learn about being a Emergency Hub for northeast Seattle. In partnership with the Ravenna-Bryant Community Council and Wedgwood Chamber of Commerce, we can dream and work to develop a thriving business core that supports our desires for walkability. In partnership with the Seattle Parks Department, we will see a new park come to the neighborhood. Together we can continue to partner to make the Wedgwood neighborhood a great place to live, work and play.

Please continue as a member of the Wedgwood Community Council. Renew your membership if you are a current member or join with us to become a new member if you have not done so. You can do this now online now at our webpage, www.wedgwoodcc.org. Why become a member? The benefits of membership is the partnership to help Wedgwood become a great place to live, work and play.

- Brian Turnbull, WCC President

City Officials Walk 35th Ave NE with Neighborhood Leaders

On December 6, several leaders and members of the Wedgwood and Ravenna-Bryant community associations had a walk-and-talk meeting on 35th Ave NE with city officials. The purpose was to discuss neighborhood planning and design guidelines, two goals of the Wedgwood Vision Plan.

Representing the city were councilmembers Richard Conlin and Sally Clark, Conlin legislative aide Elaine Ko, Karen Ko from the Department of Neighborhoods, Jim Curtin from Transportation, and Chip Nevins from Parks.

The walk gave participants a chance to visit the Wedgwood Apartments under construction, the City Light substation slated for park acquisition, and the Hunter Tree Farm site, location of the new gathering place and Wedgwood Emergency Hub. Along the way, participants also discussed traffic and pedestrian safety issues, as well as current zoning and potential design guidelines for 35th Ave NE development.



The group makes a stop at the Hunters Tree Farm site.

The Wedgwood Land Use Committee is exploring whether some of the same kinds of city planning tools and resources that are made available for designated Urban Villages can support Wedgwood's planning process. The walk was a good opportunity to reinforce for city officials the strides our community has already made and opportunities for partnership in the next phase.

We invite you to learn more and share your thoughts at the WCC general meeting on January 11!

The House that Flew to Wedgwood

In the summer of 1959 a group of Wedgwood neighborhood children clustered on the sidewalk to watch a house being moved, maneuvered and set into place. The house went onto a sloping lot at the corner of NE 90th Street with the front of the house facing 25th PI NE. The back was positioned for access to the basement garage from 25th Ave NE. The house was given the address 8921 – 25th PI NE. Like Dorothy's house which flew from Kansas to Oz, the 8921 house seemed to have come from another world. The house's age, composition & design were completely different from the post-war houses around it in Wedgwood.



The house that "flew" to 8921 - 25th PI NE was very different from those around it.

The 8921 house began its life in 1929 as 5816 – 5th Ave NE. Even then, on 5th Ave NE at the edge of the Wallingford/Roosevelt Districts, the house was unlike its neighboring houses. It was the only house on the east side of 5th Ave NE in that block. Across the street were four "ordinary" houses of simple frame construction, occupied by people with working-class jobs such as painters and salesmen. The 5816 house had a brick veneer, hardwood floors and mahogany finishes. It cost \$5000 to build, a tidy sum in the 1929 economy. The inclusion of a garage indicated that the house was designed for a homeowner who could afford a car. The house was built "on spec," meaning that it was not commissioned by a client; the builder intended to offer the house for sale when finished.

The 5816 house builder & owner, Hector Robson, was a contractor who worked with architects to build high-quality homes. The architectural plans for 5816 were by Alban Shay, known for classic English Tudor-cottage brick or stucco houses in upscale Seattle neighborhoods such as Broadmoor, Mt. Baker and Seward Park. In addition to the signature work of Shay, the construction & fine finishes of 5816 were supervised by Earl W. Morrison, an architect who worked directly with builders.

Hector Robson listed the 5816 house for sale in March 1930, but it didn't sell. The stock market

crash of October 1929 had set off a national economic crisis called the Great Depression, and higher-priced houses had no takers. Eventually Robson offered the 5816 house for rent.

Out in Crawford County in the southeastern corner of Kansas, Meade & Julia Hargiss were getting tired of their small town, tired of farming and tired of the Depression. They'd had their eye on Seattle for some years, hearing reports of Seattle's vigorous economy and varied job opportunities. Meade & Julia were in their mid-thirties with two young sons, and they didn't want to stay in Kansas and let life pass them by. They were ready to leave all they had known and start a new life in Seattle in 1931.

In Seattle the Hargiss family found plenty of rentals available, and they moved into the spacious new house at 5816 - 5th Ave NE. Meade tried a variety of jobs and also took classes at the UW. Because he'd had some teaching experience, in 1933 Meade was able to get a job as education director with the local Civilian Conservation Corps, part of the New Deal jobs program put in place by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Great Depression dragged on and it was common for people to move frequently in search of lower rent. The Hargiss family moved to a

cheaper house while their sons attended Roosevelt High School, and the 5816 house saw a turnover of renters every couple of years. It was not until after World War Two that the house became owner-occupied. A young married couple moved into 5816 in 1954 and hoped to stay there the rest of their lives. They did stay in the house, but only by moving it out of the path of the freeway which was to be constructed in 1959.

A great deal of house-moving took place in the years following World War Two. An article in the *Seattle Daily Times* of June 16, 1946, stated that the extreme housing shortage following the war was causing houses to be valued instead of wasted/torn down. Moving companies would buy unwanted houses, take them away and sell them to others. Another cause of house-moving was the expansion & widening of city streets and the creation of the freeway. It was most common for houses to be moved only a couple of blocks, but the 5816 house traveled more than three miles in order to find the right lot placement for it.

In the 1940's Meade Hargiss became a building contractor and helped construct houses all over North Seattle. He made his home in Hawthorne Hills and he was acquainted with Albert Balch, the developer of Wedgwood. The two men worked together as officers in the Master Builders Association. But Meade Hargiss never knew that his first home upon arrival in Seattle, the 5816 house, had flown away to Wedgwood.

- Valarie Bunn
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“Donut Hole” Adopted by Ravenna-Bryant Community Association

Seattle is a city of neighborhoods, and the boundaries have historically been porous. However, for the purposes of neighborhood councils, these boundaries must be defined. An area affectionately known as the “Donut Hole” is one such example. The Donut Hole is a geographic area that did not “officially” belong in any neighborhood council, until recently. The Donut Hole was bounded by 35th Ave NE on the west, 40th Ave NE on the east, NE 75th on the north and NE 65th on the south. These approximately 18 blocks were surrounded by the other neighborhood councils of Ravenna-Bryant, Wedgwood, and View Ridge.



The inconsistencies of the boundaries might have gone unnoticed for an untold number of years more were it not for the fact that the commercial core of 35th is in need of an update. So, The Ravenna-Bryant Community Association (RBCA) held discussions about the opportunities and challenges bringing these unaffiliated blocks into its association would create. It chose to move toward incorporating these 18 blocks via a multi-step bylaw change that was publicly voted on, and overwhelmingly approved, at the October 4 RBCA General Meeting.

Some of the questions that came up about the impact of the annexation were:

- 1) If the donut hole is affiliated with RBCA, can I still get the WCC Echo, attend WCC meetings, and go to WCC sponsored events?
The answer to this is an emphatic YES!
- 2) What does it mean, really, to be associated with one neighborhood council instead of another?

Neighborhood councils' bylaws are set up so that only folks who live inside the boundaries set up in the bylaws can vote and thereby take a truly active role in their community association. However, that doesn't preclude someone from being involved with any community association to which they feel an affinity.*

Now that both sides of 35th Ave NE south of NE 75th street are represented by the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association, the RBCA can now begin working with its Wedgwood neighbors to the north on a new plan for the 35th Ave NE corridor. RBCA is looking for residents that live in the “Donut Hole,” or near the 35th Ave NE corridor, that are interested in getting started on a planning process. If you're interested, please contact Sarah Swanberg at rbcasarah@gmail.com.

- Sarah Swanberg, Ravenna-Bryant Community Association President

* Ed. note: Article III, sec. 4 of the Wedgwood Community Council bylaws allows the trustees to approve full membership regardless of place of residence.

Meet Your Wedgwood Businesses—Salon Divine

If you asked me one piece of advice for when you're planning to open your own business, it would be to not go into business with a friend or relative. Time has shown us how when friends go into business together and money is at stake, things usually get tense and often they end up no longer being friends, or – at the very least – not someone they still want to hang out with outside of work anymore. That's why I was very pleased to hear that the six women who own and run Salon Divine, the popular hair salon at 7341 35th Ave NE, are the exception to this rule. Anna Wagner, Loann Pham, Kim Henry, Tiffany Waldrop, Lorie Hansen and Karlie Herring jointly own the business, and not only were they friends before they started up their business, they are friends while they're at work, and even like to hang out together when they're off work. Their friendly and warm vibe is easy to see, and is part of the reason patrons like coming back.



The salon is housed in a space that has been a hair salon since the early 60s. The building itself was constructed in 1950 by the father of Richard Halfman, who manages it today. It was originally an appliance store called Howell Decorators which sold washers, dryers and newfangled electric dishwashers to the wave of post-war baby boomers flooding into the area. In 1961 a young hair stylist came along named Don Case who opened up a salon to cater to the ladies of Wedgwood, View Ridge and Bryant, and he and his staff cultivated a long-time loyal clientele for over forty years of ladies who liked their hair well-coiffed, and the music on the salon radio played softly. When Mr. Case retired, another salon took over for several years, but it just wasn't the same. Around this time six co-workers who styled hair together at the Gene Jaurez Salon at Northgate kept saying how much fun it would be to open their own shop. In 2008 that opportunity came about as the old Don Case space became available. Anna, Kim, Loann, Tiffany, Lorie and Karlie all had ties to the area (Anna used to get her own hair done

by Don Case himself when she was a little girl) so it seemed like the perfect fit.

For the first few months after they opened, the gang worked hard to show the neighborhood that it was time to bring the salon into the 21st Century. This resulted in some long-time customers moving to the more traditional salons in the area that were more like they were used to. But the end result was their success in building a younger customer base that might frequent the salon for, say, the next forty years or so (sounds familiar!).

I sat down with Anna to talk about the hair business

and ask her how things are going. She said their six chairs are very busy, and business is good. Anna tells me how the ladies also consult with each other as they cut and style their customers. Often one of the gang will ask one of the others their opinion on a particularly difficult 'cut.' So in a way it's like you're getting your hair styled by six women instead of one! She says the six of them run their business more like a co-op than a traditional business, and their friendship has only gotten stronger. She loves having the shop in Wedgwood, and says the local residents and the neighboring businesses are the most friendly she's ever dealt with, and her landlord Dick Halfman is a "sweetie." She does worry about the lack of easy parking, which is a problem for many of her customers (they should just do what I do when I'm in the area – park in the Safeway parking lot and pretend I'm shopping there – oops, did I just say that out loud?).

So the next time you're thinking of getting your hair done, check out Anna and her friends at Salon Divine. You might just find that you're getting your hair done from six stylists for the price of one!

- Brian Swanson
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The Real Estate Advisor: 5 Tips for Staying Safe When Selling Your Home

Real estate professionals are not always the only ones at risk when showing a property; sellers can be vulnerable as well. When you list your home for sale, you're opening your doors to a multitude of strangers to wander through your home. So here are five tips to help you remain safe and secure during the selling process:

1. Never let anyone into your home unless their agent is present and has obtained the key through the lock box installed at your home. (The lock box logs the agent's name, date and time they obtained the key).
2. If you should receive a phone call or knock on the door by someone claiming to be a potential buyer or agent inquiring about your home, do not divulge any information about you, your home, its security, your work schedule, etc. but refer them directly to your listing agent.
3. Eliminate the temptation to steal or give someone a reason to come back later by hiding or removing any items of value (cash, credit cards, checkbooks, jewelry, collectibles, personal treasures, etc.). Medications, prescription drugs and alcohol should also be removed or put under lock and key. And never leave mail or keys lying around either.
4. Upon returning home after a showing or open house has taken place, immediately verify that all your doors and windows are locked and any possible points of entry are secure. If there is an issue, contact your listing agent immediately.
5. Ensure you have good, ongoing communication with your listing agent. The more information you have and your agent has, the better equipped you are to immediately and safely handle any unexpected situations that may arise.

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NE Branch Library News

The New Year is here, so come to the Northeast Branch for ideas for New Year's resolutions. Make sure you check out our collection of the latest books, music and movies for adults, teens and children.

Looking for some after-school activities to keep your kids reading through the winter? The Northeast Branch has two book groups for kids. Our Young Readers' Book Group is for kids ages 5-8 and meets the first Wednesday of each month. Our Kids' Book Group is for ages 9-12 and meets the second Tuesday of each month. So if your young reader wants to talk about books, you can pick up a schedule and the book selections at the Northeast Branch!

The Northeast Branch's Teen Advisory Group provides opportunities for teens ages 14-19 to earn service learning credit hours by participating in monthly meetings, writing blog posts and helping with events. The group meets the first Monday of each month and you can pick up an application at the branch.

The Northeast Branch will be providing a series of free basic computer instruction and library skills classes for adults, including a Word 2007 class from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5 and a Facebook class from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22. Pick up a brochure at the branch for a complete schedule of classes.

Need help filing your tax return? The Seattle Public Library and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) are collaborating to offer free tax preparation service at the Northeast Branch on Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. starting Feb. 2. Trained volunteers will be available to answer questions and help prepare personal tax returns. The service is free and provided on a first-come first-served basis.

And make sure you come by and visit the branch during the month of February for our annual neighborhood history exhibit, in honor of the City's Neighbor Appreciation Day. You'll find displays of photos, maps, and articles about the history and development of Wedgwood, View Ridge, Laurelhurst, Meadowbrook, and Ravenna. Ongoing programs include our monthly computer classes and book groups for both adults and seniors.

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Becoming Wedgwood

In a 1956 interview for the *Wedgwood Echo* neighborhood newspaper, developer Albert Balch told that his wife Edith didn't like the name "View Ridge" which Balch and his business partner had thought up for their 1930s housing development. Balch let Edith choose the name of the next project. Edith chose "Wedgwood" because she admired the work of that manufacturer of fine china, and as a reference to the wooded nature of the new housing area. Balch filed the Wedgwood plat in July 1941 and at first "Wedgwood" meant only that plat from 80th to 85th Streets, 30th to 35th Avenues NE. By the end of the 1940's Balch had added many more sections of Wedgwood houses and Wedgwood had become the neighborhood's name.

Balch and his real estate partner, Ralph Jones, built houses for their own families in View Ridge. They had a business office at the corner of NE 68th Street & 48th Ave NE. Both men lived in that block of View Ridge, on the 50th Ave NE side. As work got going in the new Wedgwood development, in 1943 Balch listed his Wedgwood Corporation in the phone book for the first time. The office was at the 68th & 48th address, with phone number VERmont 5555.

By the mid-1940s the name Wedgwood began to catch on and spread out from Balch's first group of houses in the neighborhood. The first business other than Balch's which named itself "Wedgwood" was the Wedgwood Tavern (8515 35th Ave NE) in 1945. The tavern had previously been known as Hansen's, and today it is called the Wedgwood Ale House.

By 1946 several small shops at NE 85th Street were using the name Wedgwood: Wedgwood Radio & Appliance at 8501 35th Ave NE, Wedgwood Market & Deli at 8503, and Wedgwood Tavern at 8515. The exception to the naming in that block was McVicar's Hardware at 8507, a father-

and-son operation. Also listed in the phone book for the year 1946 was Balch's Wedgwood Rock real estate sales office at 7200 28th Ave NE, where the Wedgwood Rock can still be found.

In 1948 another Wedgwood-named business was Wedgwood Gardens (plant nursery) at 7744 35th Ave NE, present site of the Hunter's Tree Farm Christmas tree sales. Also in 1948, Morning-side Presbyterian Church changed its name to Wedgwood when it moved from what is now the Northeast Veterinary office at 9505 35th Ave NE to the church's present site, 8008 35th Ave NE.

Along with residential development in Wedgwood, Balch built the office complex on 35th Ave NE in the 8000 block between Wedgwood Presbyterian Church and Seattle Audubon. The Seattle Audubon building at 8050 35th Ave NE was built in 1948 as the real estate sales office for Balch's Wedgwood work. Needing even more space, in 1951 Balch moved his personal office and the construction office of his Wedgwood Corporation to 8044 (present site of Maid in the Northwest.) The Wedgwood Corporation's original sign is still at the sidewalk in front of 8044 35th Ave NE and is used by the current businesses.

The use of the Wedgwood name continued to spread in following decades. Today there are Wedgwood-named apartments, businesses, churches, the elementary school, fire station and post office within the Wedgwood area as defined from 75th to 95th Streets, 25th to 45th Avenues NE, and 85th to 95th Streets over to Lake City Way.

- Valarie Bunn, valariebunn@msn.com

From February 1 to 29 the Northeast Branch Library will feature exhibits created by Valarie Bunn on the history of the Wedgwood & Meadowbrook neighborhoods. The library is located at 6801 - 35th Ave NE.



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Frank Vickers Cook

Like other American cities which had major fires during the 1800s, Seattle received a publicity boost from its Great Fire of June 6, 1889. Telegrams went out to other cities' newspapers telling of the heroic efforts to save property and that no lives were lost in Seattle's fire. Afterwards city leaders quickly organized to rebuild Seattle's downtown core on a better street grid and with improved utilities. The city population jumped, swelled by people from all over the USA who came hoping to get jobs in Seattle's rebuilding program.

Out in Barnes County, North Dakota, a young man named Frank Vickers Cook heard about the Seattle Fire and thought of the opportunities that might be available to him. He had just one more thing he had to do before going to Seattle: complete his North Dakota homestead claim and then arrange to sell the land.

Frank Vickers Cook's parents were English immigrants who farmed in New York State, where Frank was born in 1861. In the 1880's Cook went out on his own to North Dakota and filed a land claim, but perhaps he got tired of the backbreaking farm work. When he heard of the Seattle Fire he knew that the city would rebuild and that jobs would be available. Cook arrived in Seattle in 1891 and his first job was as a butcher in a meat market at 2nd & Cherry Streets, in the heart of downtown.

F.V. Cook soon advanced himself by becoming an agent representing Swift & Co. pork packers & shippers, with offices at 2nd & Jackson Streets. Along with Armour, Cudahy, and Frye-Bruhn, Swift & Co. was a major meat packer & wholesaler in Seattle in the 1890s. Seattle's population growth after the Fire created a brisk business in meat. In those days more meat was consumed per capita than today, and animal fat (lard) was the only available cooking oil.

Cook's work as a representative of Swift & Co. helped him become familiar with Seattle and the surrounding areas as he visited meat markets & restaurants. His travels gave him a good overview of Seattle's growth and helped him launch his next career: real estate. Cook made this career change in 1902 at age 40 and he spent the next twenty years working in downtown real estate offices.

In 1920 F.V. Cook made his next major life change: he moved from downtown to (the future) Wedgwood. On December 15, 1891 Cook had bought land in what would become Wedgwood, and he held the property all those years without developing it. We can

speculate on why Cook

bought land so far outside of what was then the city limit of Seattle. We know that land which was farther from downtown was less expensive than close-in areas such as Queen Anne or Capitol Hill. Land in Wedgwood was also less expensive than areas close to natural resources such as Lake Washington.

When Cook bought the Wedgwood property in 1891, the University of Washington had not yet moved to its present site, but there was a railroad line which went through the future campus. The train continued eastward to the mill town of Yesler (Laurelhurst) and then north along the shore of Lake Washington. Today's Burke-Gilman Trail follows the line of this railroad. In addition to the railroad, by 1890 streetcar lines had been extended to the "suburbs" of Fremont, Green Lake, and Woodland Park. As a land speculator F.V. Cook might have anticipated that either a railroad or streetcar line would eventually extend out to the property he had purchased and cause it to increase in value. Cook was willing to hold the property and wait, but he waited in vain for streetcars to arrive; the closest they ever got was Ravenna. Even from the 1920s Wedgwood became more and more of an automo-



Home of Frank Vickers Cook of 3412 NE 75th St. The house was moved, May 1948, to 7544 - 32nd Ave NE. Photo courtesy of the Puget and Regional Archives, Bellevue, WA.

bile neighborhood due to the lack of other transportation.

Finally in 1920 Mr. Cook built a house for himself at 3412 NE 75th Street. From the 1920s Cook's business listings in the city directory show that he worked out of this house as a local real estate agent.

By the 1920s the Wedgwood area was not densely populated but it was growing, and there was some commercial development along 35th Ave NE. In the 8500 block, present site of All that Dance, there was a small store and a gas station. In 1934 after Prohibition ended a beer parlor opened on the present site of the Wedgwood Ale House. At about the same time the Fiddler's Inn was founded at its present location, 9219 – 35th Ave NE.

In the 1920s at 7500 – 35th Ave NE, the northeast corner of the intersection, a two-story building contained an upstairs apartment and a street-level dry goods store where customers gave their list to a clerk who filled orders. (This was how shopping was done prior to the development of self-service groceries with aisles.) After Prohibition, the store became a beer parlor called Ida's Inn. But on the northwest corner of the intersection of 75th & 35th which Mr. Cook owned, there was only his house which faced NE 75th Street. Beginning in the 1920s Mr. Cook sold lots for houses along the 34th Ave NE side of the block, but on the corner of 75th & 35th he continued to hold his property without development.

Mr. Cook continued to work as a Wedgwood real estate agent until he was well into his 80's, and he was involved in building & developing the neighborhood. One of Mr. Cook's activities in the 1940s was to help bring Wedgwood into the City of Seattle. Ravenna had become part of Seattle in 1907 and Laurelhurst in 1910. After that, it wasn't until the 1940s that other northeast Seattle neighbor-

hoods began to apply to be annexed. This process, called annexation, required petitions signed by 20% of the registered voters to bring the issue to ballot, and Mr. Cook took charge of circulating the petitions in Wedgwood.

Annexation was a "piecemeal" process by voter precincts. In April of 1945 a portion of the Wedgwood area, but only as far north as NE 85th Street, officially came into the City of Seattle. At that time the postal service made the decision that houses north of 85th Street had to have rural-style curbside mailboxes, a system which Wedgwood's north-of-85th homes still have today. All of the geographical area of the Wedgwood neighborhood (75th to 95th) was included when the city limits were moved again in 1953, but Mr. Cook did not live to see it. Finally in 1954 the Seattle City limit was extended all the way out to NE 145th Street, which included neighborhoods such as Lake City.

When Mr. Cook turned 85 he began to scale back into retirement mode. On November 13, 1946, Mr. Cook sold his property at the northwest corner of 75th & 35th to a developer, Marinus Halffman, who built 7501 – 35th Ave NE. Today the businesses at 7501 – 35th Ave NE are Blossoming Buds Cottage child care, Wedgwood Barber, and the Seattle Coin Shop.

Not wanting to give up his house when he sold the property at the corner of 75th & 35th, Mr. Cook had the house moved. Though it has been remodeled, Mr. Cook's house still stands today at 7544 – 32nd Ave NE. Mr. Cook died there in 1951 at the age of 90. From his arrival in young Seattle in 1891 through his contributions to the development of Wedgwood in the years 1920 to 1951, Frank Vickers Cook was part of Seattle's pioneer history and was an early Wedgwood booster.

- Valarie Bunn
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Coming up...

WCC General Meeting
January 11 (Wed), 7 pm

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Topic: Land Use Planning
 (see article p. 1)



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Yes! We/I would like to join (or renew our membership in) the WCC. Date: _____

Name(s) or business/organization: _____

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Basic household membership is **\$20/yr**; give more or less as you are able.

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