



Town of Hunts Point Newsletter

Christmas 2007

At this time of the year, I try to come up with some sort of a Christmas story. I have a great deal of respect for my 84 year old father. He will be home with us this year for Christmas. Below is a letter he wrote to his business customers in 1972. It still has a special meaning to our family. Very few World War II heroes are left among us; on Hunts Point, Dale Madden, and Donald McAusland; and we thank you for your service to this country some 65 years ago.



December 1972

As the time of Christmas nears each year, we write our business associates and friends a note thanking them for business of the past year and to wish them a Happy Holiday Season.

This year I would like to share something a little different with you. Some people, I'm sure, will enjoy it while to others, it will mean little or nothing.

Twenty nine years ago on Christmas Eve of 1943 an American Navy Bomber was on a take off run with a full load of bombs from the atoll of Tarawa to bomb the Island of Ebeye. The bomb load was heavy — the plane didn't make it. It stalled and tore the bottom of the hull out on a coral reef. There it sank in the shallow waters of the lagoon. The flight crew — unhurt — scrambled out of the plane onto the wing. There they sat watching the gun-fire on the beach as the U.S. Marines fought a terrible battle to take the Island of Tarawa.

A blond-headed eighteen year old kid with a crew cut went down in the radio compartment and turned on the powerful radio, tuning in San Francisco. In a matter of seconds the clear voice of Bing Crosby came in, "Folks, I'd like to introduce a new song written by Irving Berlin." The words came out, "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas." The melody floated out of the wrecked plane and onto the wing.

The flight crew looked at each other — not a word was spoken. Their eyes filled with tears and rolled down their cheeks. A White Christmas couldn't have seemed any farther away when you are sitting on a wrecked airplane in the middle of a war listening to Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas."

Many Christmas Eves have gone by since that one. Each Christmas Eve as I sit by the fireplace with my family and friends, you can bet we listen to Bing Crosby sing White Christmas. There is a Santa Claus — he brought all ten kids in that flight crew home safely. The hull of the old bomber has long since disintegrated with time, but the Spirit of Christmas lives on forever.

I think you've guessed the answer as to who the eighteen year old was who turned on the radio and who cried the hardest — it is the same middle-aged man who has told you this story.

1972 has been a good year. As the last of the tail lights go out these doors for this year, we wish to thank all of you for your patronage of the South Seattle Auto Auction. We will look forward to serving you in 1973.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight.

Bob McConkey and
The South Seattle Auto Auction Crew

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Local News

Message From Your Mayor...

Dear Residents:

Once again, we would like to sincerely thank the Finnely's and the Williams' for decorating the traffic circle with Christmas lights again this year. Without permission, reimbursement, or a permit, they have given this gift to the Town for the past several years. It is neighbors like this that make Hunts Point such a special place to live.

I'd also like to thank The Town Staff, Jack McKenzie, Sue Israel, Sue Ann Spens, and Linda Longmire for an excellent job this past year. They deliver service with a smile to me and all of our residents. With this staff, it is an honor to serve this community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fred McConkey
Mayor



TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday night, December 22, 2007, 5-7PM the Schweickert's are hosting a Christmas Light and Decoration display at their property, 3638 Hunts Point Road. Many of you visited the Schweickert's on Halloween night this year and saw their amazing displays. This promises to be another special evening for the neighborhood families. Please bring along a can of food that will be donated to a local food bank.

HUNTS POINT ROAD

The Hunts Point Road project had been paid for by the town, is complete, and the LID has been finalized. Each resident is now to maintain the landscaped right of way between the road and their property. These grass strips may need to be re-seeded again in the spring. In this wet weather, some areas may need to be flagged off to protect the grass until it grows a better root system. The road looks great, and we appreciate everyone maintaining their sections.

MILFOIL AND DREDGING

The seven residents of Haug Channel (the waterway just east of Fairweather Place) are forming an LID to dredge the canal in July 2008.

Fairweather Place was originally a ferry dock landing in the early 1900's. In 1955, Fairweather Basin and Haug Channel were dredged to create waterfront lots from the marshland. The soil is soft and the old ferry dock pilings are popping up through the pavement as the road slowly sinks. To stabilize Fairweather Place, the Town will be driving sheet piles along the northeast end of Fairweather Place this Spring. This is to prevent the bulkhead and the road from failing during the dredging of Haug Channel.

There will be construction and some noise on Fairweather Place this spring to fix these issues.

The Town is contracting with a Milfoil Contractor for two milfoil chemical applications, one early summer, and one mid-summer. This should improve our water conditions.



SR520 UPDATE

Proposition 1, the Roads and Transit Proposal, failed at the polls in November. The SR520 project is now about \$1.5 Billion short of its \$4.4 Billion budget. Current thinking is that the difference will be made up with tolls. There is discussion of tolling SR520 and I-90, soon, in order to build up funding to replace the SR520 bridge. The State Legislature can pass regional tolls without a public vote, but that is not likely to happen in the upcoming election year. In the meantime, Seattle is working toward a mediated solution for Montlake, and different options are being re-discussed for the viaduct. The Governor is pushing hard for both projects as they are at serious risk in the event of a major earthquake.

At the Tully's Town Meeting in April, we will discuss the improvements, mitigation, and lids that are planned for SR520 on the eastside, and for the 84th Ave. on/off ramp.

MEDINA POLICE CONTRACT

We are very proud of the Medina Police and their excellent service to our Town. As should have been expected, these upgrades of police officers, supervisors, and new equipment has been more expensive. The City of Medina has proposed a 41% cost increase for our police services for 2008. This unexpected \$75,000 increase will cause our operating budget to go upside down by about \$50,000 in 2008. The Town has about \$600,000 in operating reserves, but it is not wise to run a deficit budget for long.

The Council has put the police contract out to bid and is evaluating these options:

1. Reduce Police services with Medina
2. Change to Kirkland Police
3. Change to King County Sheriff
4. Eventually place a referendum on the Hunts Point ballot to raise property taxes by about an average of \$500 per home; in order to retain the Medina Police, or to get our own full time police officer from the King County Sheriff's Department.

The Council is considering all options. For about the same price as Medina's 2008 contract, we can have our own full time King County Sheriff, in a Hunts Point uniform and in a Hunts Point Police car. This full time officer would be ours for 40 hours per week, and on our schedule. The balance of the time we would get four police patrols per day.

This action would get us one step closer to a "Gated Community" without the gate, with a Hunts Point police officer stationed at the traffic circle. Our main concern is response time, and to continue the low crime rate we have recently achieved with the Medina Police. Emergency responses are covered under the Police Mutual Aid Agreements, so be it the King County Sheriff, Medina Police, Clyde Hill Police, Kirkland, Bellevue or the State Patrol, some officer will always get to Hunts Point in five to seven minutes.

The Council will be discussing these matters at the January 7, and February 4, 2008 Council Meetings, 7PM Town Hall. All residents are welcome to attend and to participate in these open meetings.

TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

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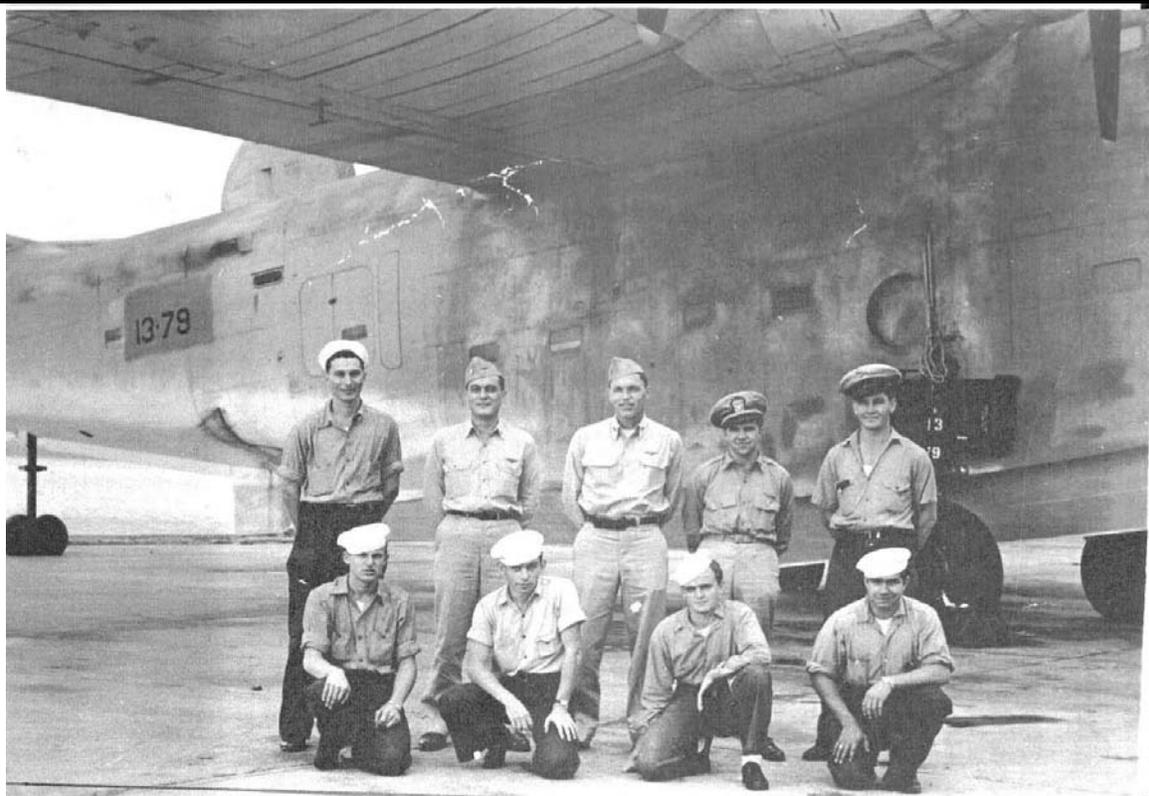
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Hunts Point Resident

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KANEOHE BAY NAVAL AIR STATION—BOMBER PATROL VP-13, APRIL 1942



First Row (left to right) Robert W. McConkey—AMM 3rd Cl, Harvey DeVior—AMM 2nd Cl. Plane Captain, Peter Gunn—A Radioman 3rd Cl., Fijoria—AMC 3rd Cl. Second Row: Moffil—Bombardier, Hersh Cummins—Lt. Jg., Roger Wolf—Lt., Black—Ensign, McCaully—Chief Ord. Petty Officer