

This is the second edition of the 50th Anniversary Friends Newsletter series. Ten more follow.

50th Anniversary Committees (Art Tours, Events, Website Renewals) are keeping just about all the Board of Directors busy this month and several months to follow. The schedule, though not final, is shaping up. There are solid dates set for the Inaugural Breakfast on April 30 in the top of the Economy Building; A Market History lecture with John Turnbull and Paul Dunn in the History Cafe at MOHAI on June 19th; and a full lecture/forum in the Microsoft Auditorium of the Central Seattle Public Library on September 30th. The summer Market Tours will be on a reservation basis this year, again managed by John Ogliore.

Urgent call for volunteer public relations person. FoM has a lot going on this year with the board just about fully engaged. Though we are engaging professional design skills to the graphics, posters, handbills, programs, etc, we do not have regular, skilled press and public relations person to send out and gain some of the "free ink" for the events and programs we are mounting. *Please call Joan Singler at 325 6137 or Paul Dunn at 587 5767 for more information.*

Newsletter Correction Department. Last month new board member Christine Vaughan's name was run in this newsletter and other documents with only one 'a'. That will not happen again.

The State of the Market

The strength of the Market depends in great part on the prosperity and success of its nearby commercial and residential neighbors. Let's take a walk down First Avenue and see what's happening just outside our Market.

At Union Street, SAM projects its two massive video screens of evocative Northwest images, inside it brightens our gloomy late winter with an exhibition of the Spanish Surrealist Miro (February 13, to March 25). Across First Avenue the Four Seasons is bustling and still has some residences available for sale. Opposite at 98 Union yet another new restaurateur has opened Aragona with high hopes. The Northeast corner holds the offices of the lovely old Kroll Building, the Traver Gallery, a coffee shop and on the corner Japonessa, featuring sushi cuisine on the corner.

I know you all will want to know about Lusty Lady: it remains unsold and empty.

Up Union on Second Avenue, Russell Investments may be up for sale by its majority stockholder, Northwestern Mutual. The *Seattle Times* reported that a Russell statement "confirmed rumors that surfaced this month" to that effect. Northwestern has already profited from Russell, buying its building for \$115 million and selling it three years later for \$480 million. We should care, as Russell has over 900 employees who eat lunch and shop in the Market.

North to Pike and 2nd where Greg Smith, CEO of Urban Ventures, is working to dress up the "the center of the bull's-eye of Seattle." He has a permit for a 30-story office, residential, and retail structure for the parking lot now filled at lunchtime with food trucks. No firm date for construction is set. Smith continues in discussions with the owner of the landmarked and earthquake-damaged Eitel Building on the Northwest corner. At mid-block, opposite the 38-story condominium tower, 1521 Second, Smith has painted and is refitting the old Columbia Building, home of Amazon from 1994 to 1998, and renamed it the Chromer, (a nick-name for a silver steelhead – very Northwest). The noc-noc café (now gone) will be replaced with enlarged premises by an Elysian Brewery pub and entertainment venue. Smith is also working to revitalize the whole retail strip from Fourth Avenue to the Market by working through the Downtown Seattle Association's Pike-Pine Renaissance Task Force, which he gives high marks for a positive impact.

Walking to 2nd and Pine we find a settled intersection. The 2nd & Pine Apartments opposite the Doyle Building will continue active and alive for decades since each is managed by caring owners. The anchor Broadacres Building on the Northwest corner still has the three lower levels vacant. A premature announcement of occupancy a realtor of a Korean supermarket has not materialized. The half block facing 2nd Avenue between Pine and Stewart has a new MUP sign announcing a five-level, 144-car underground parking garage as an "accessory to 204 Pine Street". There is no new signage for that "accessory building." (Passages will visit Seattle's Department of Planning and Development and report later on this site, which up until last year was touted as a proposed mixed use retail, hotel, and residential structure.)

Three quarters of the 2nd and Stewart intersection is complete, with Café d'Art Coffee, the Plymouth on Stewart Apartments (formerly the St. RegisHotel) and the new Viktoria apartments facing the venerable Josephinum. Similarly, the surface parking lot at First and Stewart leaves that Market entrance there appearing unfinished. At 101 Stewart, a big, red brick

office tower fits into the corner with Inn at the Market and the Fairmount apartments. Last year a plan was proposed for the undeveloped parking lot on the Northeast corner for a boutique hotel and residences on the site. The project has become a Touchstone property and no further plans have been made public.

So the state of the Market's neighborhood is healthy and growing, but never finished. Passages will fill some of the unknowns in this interim report in future months.

Friends of the Market turns 50

Fifty years ago, in 1964 the City of Seattle was preparing to submit an application for federal urban renewal funds to raze and transform the Pike Place Market. In *Soul of the City*, Alice Shorett's history of the Market she writes: *Wing Luke, the city councilman most sympathetic to the Market, urged that opponents organize to bring pressure for Market preservation. Later that summer, Luke's friend, Robert Ashley, an attorney, helped arrange a champagne breakfast for some sixty sympathizers on the balcony of Lowell's.*

In a note to the group, Fred Bassetti described the Market then as "an honest place in a phony time."

Shorett went on: *Out of the get-together...grew the organization known as Friends of the Market. Victor Steinbrueck and Robert Ashley served as co-chairmen.*

Friends of the Market is beginning a year-long celebration of 50 years of advocacy and service to the Market, beginning with a recreation of the founding champagne breakfast in late April. Remaining veterans of that day will be the principal invited guests. Watch for other 50th anniversary public events, including Market art tours, talks and forums over the course of this year.

The Hanks Report Tom Hanks replied on January 24th, to the Market News December Passages which had featured his earlier letter. His note card was typed, of course, with each stroke dark and clear. *Paul, Thanks for the Pike Market shout out. I am ashamed of that faded ribbon, though. I will keep an eye out for the perfect typeface from now on. Lesson learned! All good things, (signed), Tom Hanks*

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