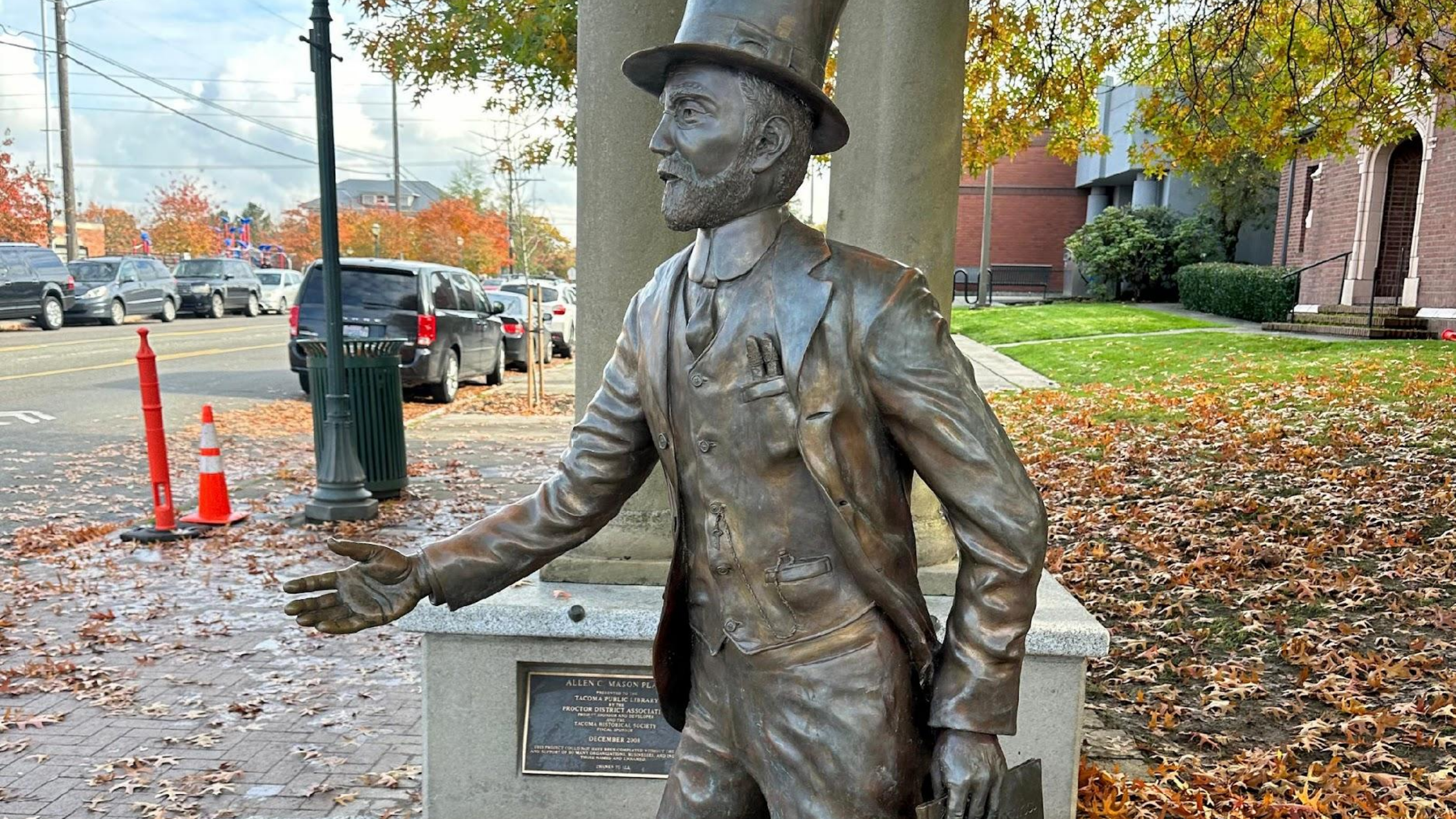


Those Who Gave The Most

A look at the philanthropy of early Tacoma







ALLEN C. MASON PLAZA
PRESENTED TO THE
TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY
BY THE
PROCTOR DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
PROCTOR AVENUE AND DEVELOPER
AND THE
TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL SPONSOR
DECEMBER 2001
THIS PROJECT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITHOUT THE
AND SUPPORT OF SO MANY ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES, AND INDIVIDUALS
WHOSE NAMES AND CHARITIES
THANK YOU ALL

RAILROAD
SOUND SLEEP
RAISING
RAILROAD
ESTATE
MEANS
CITY
COLLEGES
ATION
A
LDS
S
Z
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD
LARGEST AREA LEVEL LAND FOR MILESTONES
ON THE PATH OF OTHER MILESTONES
DIRECT SERVICE OVER EIGHT MILESTONES
EXCEPTIONAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTER
COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN SECOND LARGEST
GATEWAY TO MT. TACOMA AND
GREAT LARGEST SAWMILL
LEADING THOUSANDS
CHEAPEST PRODUCT
HIGHEST
VER
&
Q



Designed By Allen C. Mason
L. A. Nicholson, Del.

TACOMA DAILY NEWS

[illegible]



MASON MANSION

IN 1892 ALLEN C. MASON BUILT A MAGNIFICENT MANSION AT 4301 NO. STEVENS ST. AT A COST OF \$86,000. IT HAD THIRTY-SIX ROOMS, AND USED LOCAL WOODS AND STONE EXTENSIVELY. HE LOST HIS FORTUNE IN THE PANIC OF 1893 AND SOLD THE MANSION TO WHITWORTH COLLEGE, WHICH USED IT AS ITS MAIN BUILDING FROM 1899 TO 1914. WHEN THE COLLEGE MOVED TO SPOKANE.



JOHN P. WEYERHAEUSER BOUGHT THE MANSION AND DEMOLISHED IT IN 1920 TO BUILD "HADDAWAY HALL" SAVING THE SANDSTONE COLUMNS FROM THE PORTICO. THE NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY, WHICH NOW OCCUPIES THE SITE, DONATED THE SIX HISTORIC COLUMNS, ALL THAT REMAINS OF MASON'S MANSION, FOR THIS PLAZA.



POINT DEFIANCE TACOMA AND EDISON RY. CO.

16









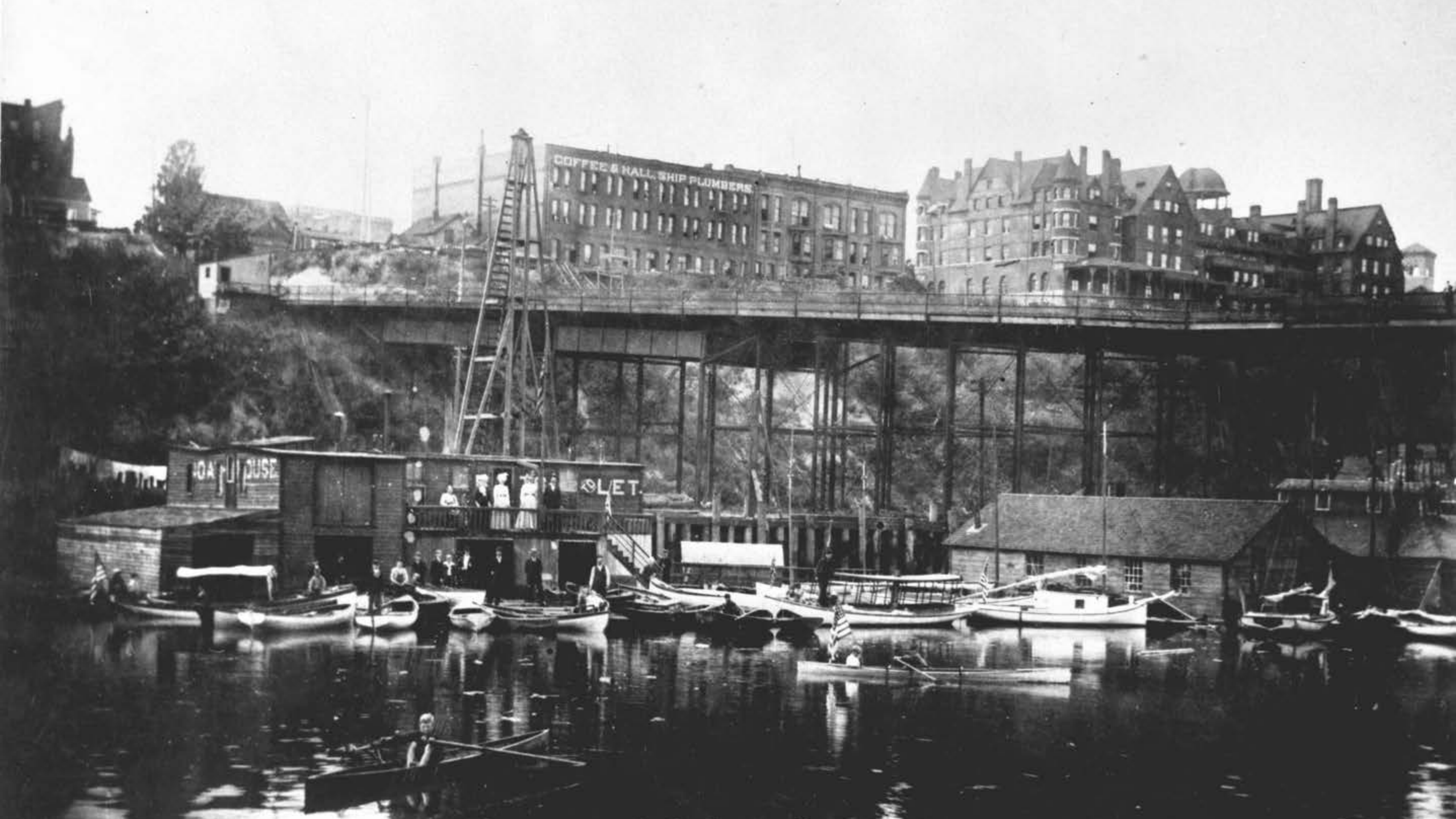


1890.





Because we are unable to use
disinfectants on most
of our artifacts







Mt. Tacoma from Tacoma.













"The Wilsonia - Arch-C. St. Tacoma Wn."





GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The Department Commander of the Department of



Washington Ter., Grand Army of the Republic.

To Comrade W. B. Blackwell Greeting:

Reposing special trust and confidence in your Fidelity and Ability, and in your Zeal for the interests of the Grand Army of the Republic, and devotion to its principles, I do, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested hereby appoint you

Aide to Camp

And I authorize and empower you to enter upon and perform the duties of said office in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic, and for so doing this shall be your Commission.

Given at the Headquarters of the Department of Washington Territory, at North Yakima this Twenty second day of April 1886

J. T. Kiegeby
Department Commander

Chas. M. Holtzer
Adjutant General







W. C. BAKER, LUMBER, 1871

ma Hotel from 1898 to 1905.

Born in Milford, Conn., on Sept. 10, 1837, he was the son of Enoch Blackwell, a carriage maker. The Blackwells were descended from English ancestry, and since Puritan times, the family name was well-known in Connecticut.

William was 10 years old when his family moved to Utica, N.Y., and, after completing his education in the public schools, he became an apprentice carriage maker with his father in 1854.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted and joined the 26th New York Volunteer Infantry as a private. Soon promoted to regimental quartermaster, he participated in engagements during the early part of the war, including the first and second battles of Bull Run, the battles of Cedar Mountain, of Chancellorsville and Antietam. His health gave out and in July 1863 he left the service.

Blackwell and Alice E. Bliven of Bridge-water, N.Y., were married in 1863 and went to Chicago where he entered hotel life and spent seven years as chief clerk in the famous old Sherman House, then the leading hotel in the area.

Again, because of his health, he moved to Ogden, Utah, where he became the agent for the Pullman Car Co. While Blackwell was living in Chicago, he had met and often seen Gen. John W. Sprague who surveyed the greater part of the Northern Pacific Railroad. When Sprague went through Ogden in 1871 on his way to Washington state, he suggested to Blackwell that he seek new fields farther west.

Acting upon this advice, Blackwell moved farther west and went to Kalama where he managed the Kazano House, a Northern Pacific hotel. Murray Morgan in his *Puget's Sound* says this was one of the most difficult of jobs because the "Northern Pacific, which controlled the town, prohibited the sale of liquor. Patrons with a thirst had to go by rowboat to scows anchored beyond the city limits in



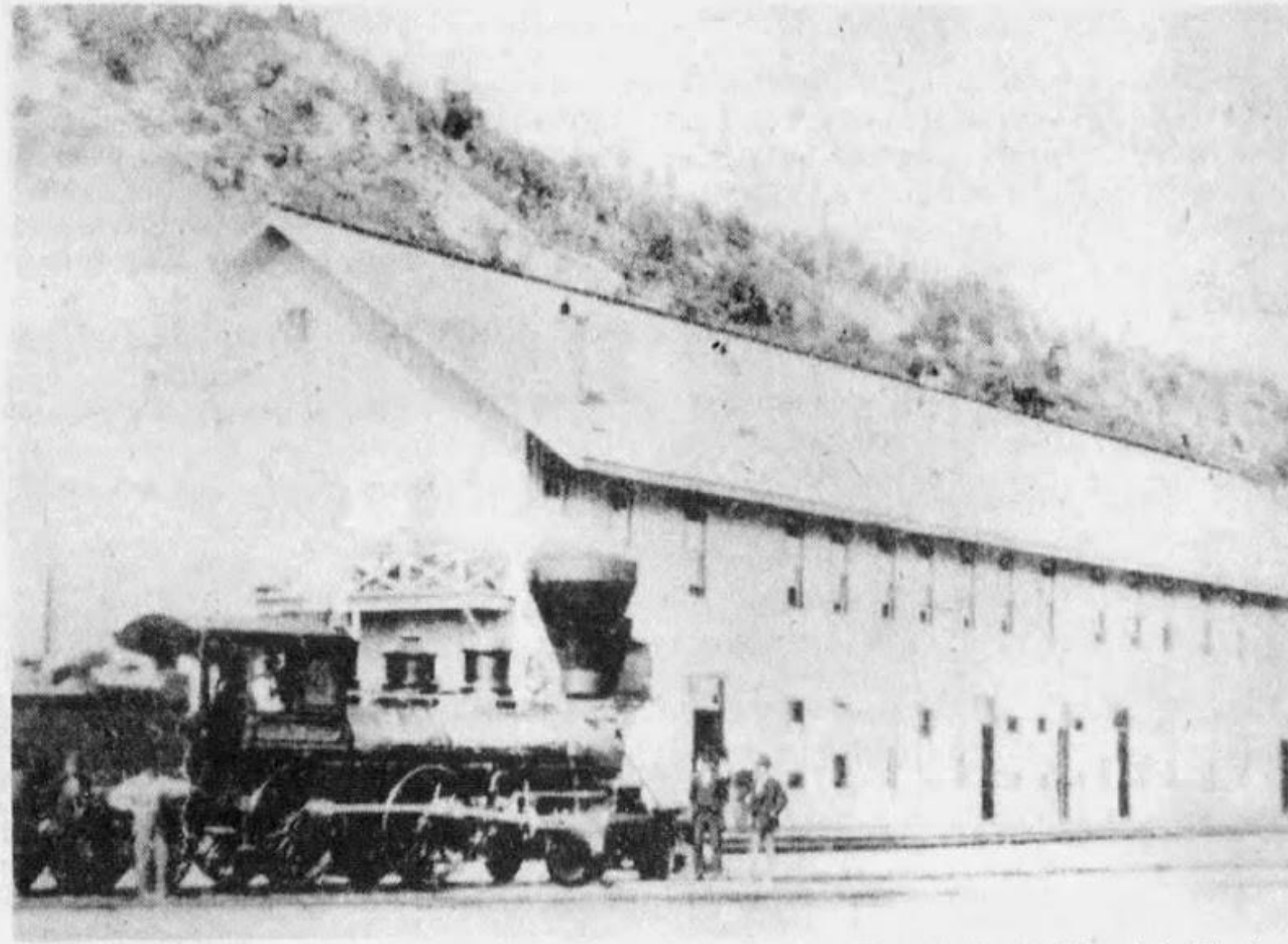
Waterfront wharf where hotel was located



William B. Blackwell

Moon Bay where their hotel was still in an unfinished state. The 200-foot-long building, a frame structure, stood on the only wharf then built.

According to faded notes written in 1880 on the back of the wharf photograph shown here, the "Blackwell Hotel first stood near the water edge where the freight shed now stands but was moved nearer to the bluff to make room for the freight shed."



Blackwell Hotel, 1874

Washington State Historical Society Photos

the Tacoma Hotel and continued in that post until 1905. He retained his financial interest in the business as the secretary of the Tacoma Hotel Co.

The Blackwells bought from the Tacoma Land Co. eight lots on Cliff Avenue (later Stadium Way) for \$25 per lot where they built a home. But before completion of the house, the Tacoma Land Co. bought back the lots as part of the site for the Tourist Hotel (later transformed into Stadium High

in many a deed of philanthropic helpfulness.

When the 1893 crash wiped out his wealth, the Blackwells took in boarders in their elegant mansion and the two nieces, whom they had adopted, baked cookies which they sold to help out the finances. One of these adopted daughters was Ruby C. Blackwell who was brought here from the east when she was 7 years old and lived until 1979 when she died at the age







Ag't New Tacoma.

A. L. STOKES,
Gen'l Fr't & Pass. Ag't.

ND ENGINEERS.

ARRELL,
Superintendent,
of Central Hotel,
NEW TACOMA, W. T.

AN, C. E.,

SURVEYOR.

ma, W. T

STIER,



aler in —.

S, CLOCKS,

ND —

ELRY,

h of the Postoffice

WATCHES, CLOCKS AND
ly repaired and war-
ly

BOOKS

ND —

RIILING

sur. Price, delivered any part of the city,
\$2.65 per M.
ORDERS LEFT at John S. Baker & Co.'s
store, P. O. box 144, or at the mill, will receive
prompt attention. 303dtf

DAVIS & CO.,

PACIFIC AVENUE,
Opposite Model Restaurant,
DEALERS IN

WATCHES, JEWELRY,
Etc., Etc., Etc.

Strict attention to all work.

Repairing a Specialty at Reasonable Terms.

Watches Cleaned and Warranted, \$1.50.

Watches and Jewelry Bought, Sold or
Exchanged.

Highest price paid for old Gold & Silver.
98 y1

HAYWARD'S
HARDWARE

—AND—
House Furnishing Goods Store.

Pacific Ave., south of Central Hotel.

SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE,

CUTLERY, TOOLS,

BUILDERS SUPPLIES

(Opposite the Halstead House.)

Toule & McCaskill, Propr's.

Within this hive, we're all alive,
Give value for your money,
And wish you'd try, as you pass by,
The flavor of our honey.

Choice Brands of Liquors and Cigars

L. H. FEILING & CO.,
All Goods Guaranteed
NEXT TO MANN'S BLOCK,
PACIFIC AVE.,

New Tacoma, W. T 1y1

BLACKWELL'S HOTEL

On the Railroad Wharf,
NEW TACOMA, W. T.

W. B. **BLACKWELL**, Prop.

Northern Pacific R.R.

Farming Lands,
Swamp Lands,
Timber Lands,

For Sale on Easy Terms.

W. P. PRICHARD,

GENERAL
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
PACIFIC AVENUE, NEW TACOMA, W.

City and Country Property Bought and Sold, Loans Ne
of Title Furnished, Conveyances Made, Taxes Paid, Etc.

Particular Attention Paid to Making Investments

CLOSING OUT

Having determined to go out of busi-

—90 DAYS

We offer our entire stock of

Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots

—AT A—

Sweeping Reduction

E. N. OUIMETT

NEW TACOMA, Jan. 11, 1884.

East Side

CHILBERG & MACRE

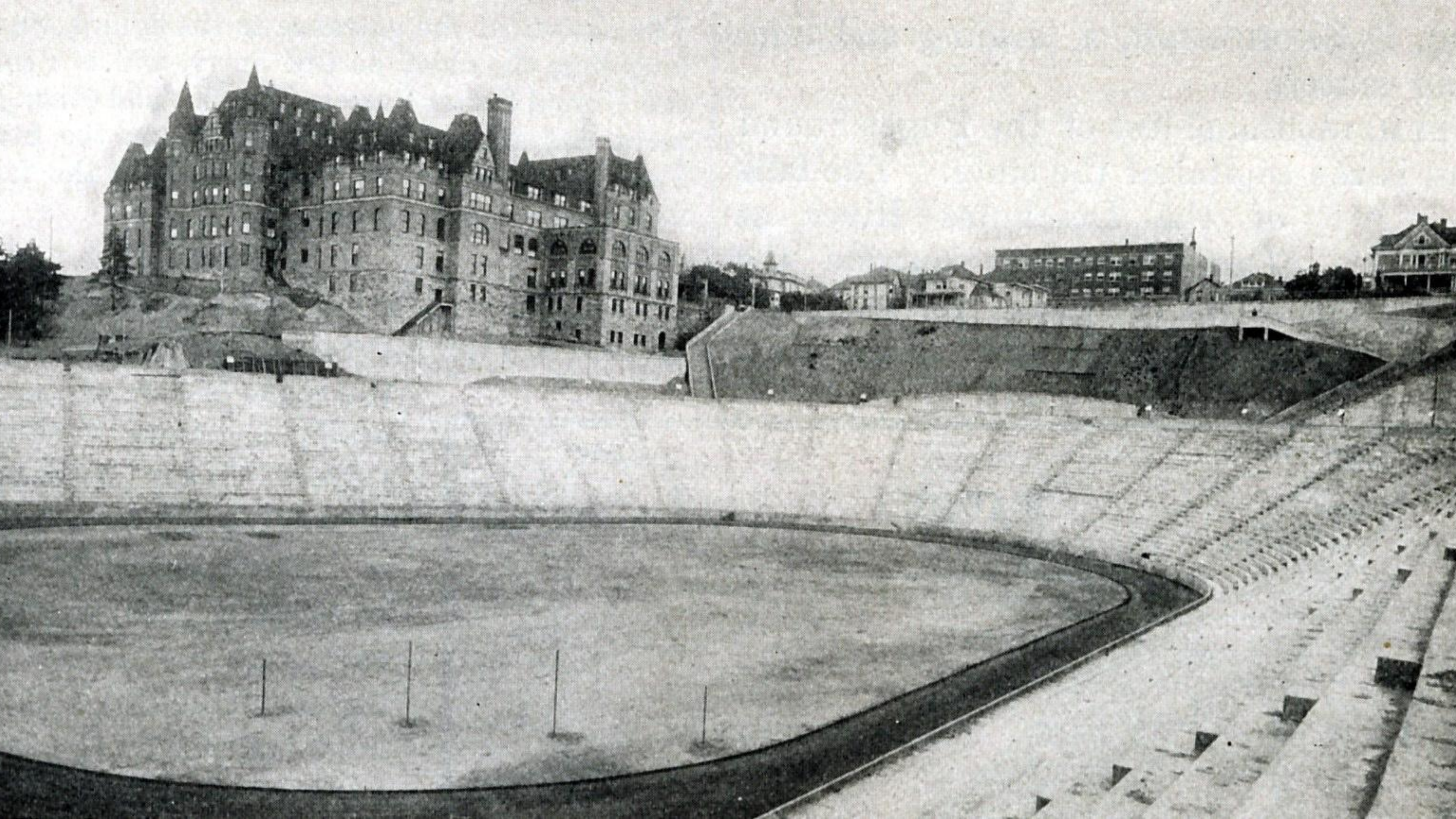
(Successors to J. P. Chilberg.)

—WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN—

SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE,
STEEL, ROPE AND CORDAGE, CAL









es on women pioneers.
Fay Fuller, the first

ITNEY
er

neral . . . was that of a
in the bay. It was not
as. Mrs. Joseph Hough-
asked to furnish some
had the only ones in
e first flower garden,"
am B. Blackwell, who
early days in Tacoma.

first hotels in Tacoma
Alice and William
ere without much mon-
ng a hotel in Kalama
ncial loss.
couple arrived on the

on the ground floor and the hotel
rooms on the second.
The walls of one-inch boards covered
with cloth and paper were so thin that
the slightest noise could be heard
throughout the building.
"A good snorer would be told to shut
up by most of the guests along the
corridor," Mrs. Blackwell later said.
After three years, the building was
moved from downtown 17th street to
land nearer the bank. A dining room,
kitchen, hotel office, extra rooms and a
bar were added.

IN NO TIME, the little hotel was
booming and known to newcomers.

"One day a stranger came up to us
and spoke to my husband of the won-
derful growth of the town and the
boom," Mrs. Blackwell recalled.
"Why," the stranger said, 'the man
who owns this place came here without
a cent, opened a little hotel, he and his
wife did all the work, and look at this.'
"Yes," my husband replied, 'that is so,
only my wife did not do the cooking.'

"My cooking has always been a great
subject for a joke," she said.

Even without the cooking duties,
Mrs. Blackwell's chores were tremen-
dous in the growing railroad and
sawmill town.

In her husband's words, "Mrs.
Blackwell with the aid of one or two
Chinese boys saw that the house was
scrupulously clean. Chinese were the
best help to be had at that time. We
usually had Chinese cooks."

Land fever hit the Blackwells, as it



**Miss Blackwell
as a young woman**

Chapin, a widow, struggling to run a
farm and bring up six children.

The mother agreed that the
Blackwells could take the two youngest
children—Ruby, 7, and Ethel Pearl,
12,—with them to the Washington Ter-
ritory.

"I never forgave mother for giving
us away," Ruby Chapin Blackwell said.
"I knew times were hard, but to give
away two of her daughters. I only saw
her once again, when she was in her
90s."

Ruby Chapin Blackwell, niece of the
Blackwells, was legally adopted by Mr.
Blackwell after Mrs. Blackwell died.

Miss Blackwell was 100 years old
Friday. She resides at Judson Park
Retirement Center in Zenith.

Eager to talk about the past, Miss
Blackwell recalled dates and places
with clarity.

MRS. BLACKWELL WAS described
as "overweight" and Mr. Blackwell was
"a nice man who served in the Union
army as quartermaster of a New York
regiment. He had contracted tubercu-
losis. The couple didn't have children.

The Blackwells contended the 700
Chinese in Tacoma were here legally
and should be allowed to stay.

But the anti-Chinese crowd had the
upper hand and the Chinese were
forced to leave on the rainy morning of
Nov. 3, 1885. They were marched to
Lakeview, where they were put aboard
a Northern Pacific train for Portland.
Chinatown was looted, and then it
"happened" to catch fire.

A RECESSION in 1892—one year
after the Blackwells had moved into
the mansion next door to the present
day YWCA— had a ruinous effect on
Mr. Blackwell.

He lost all the downtown property
which he had bought, and the Tacoma
National Bank, which Mr. Blackwell
had helped organize, closed.

"We would have lost the house too,
except it was quitclaim deeded to Mrs.
Blackwell before the recession.

"Mr. Blackwell went five years with-
out a job, then finally was able to
manage the Tacoma Hotel. My sister
was a housekeeper there for a time,"
Miss Blackwell said.



Ruby Chapin Bl

"We never had enough money
to go to college."

MISS BLACKWELL WAS any
earn her own living and tur
teaching since other jobs then
women paid very little money.

She taught in a country sch
\$45 a month.



MY CATHERINE
IN BLACKWELL





THE WASHINGTON TERRITORY
RUBY CHAPIN BLACKWELL

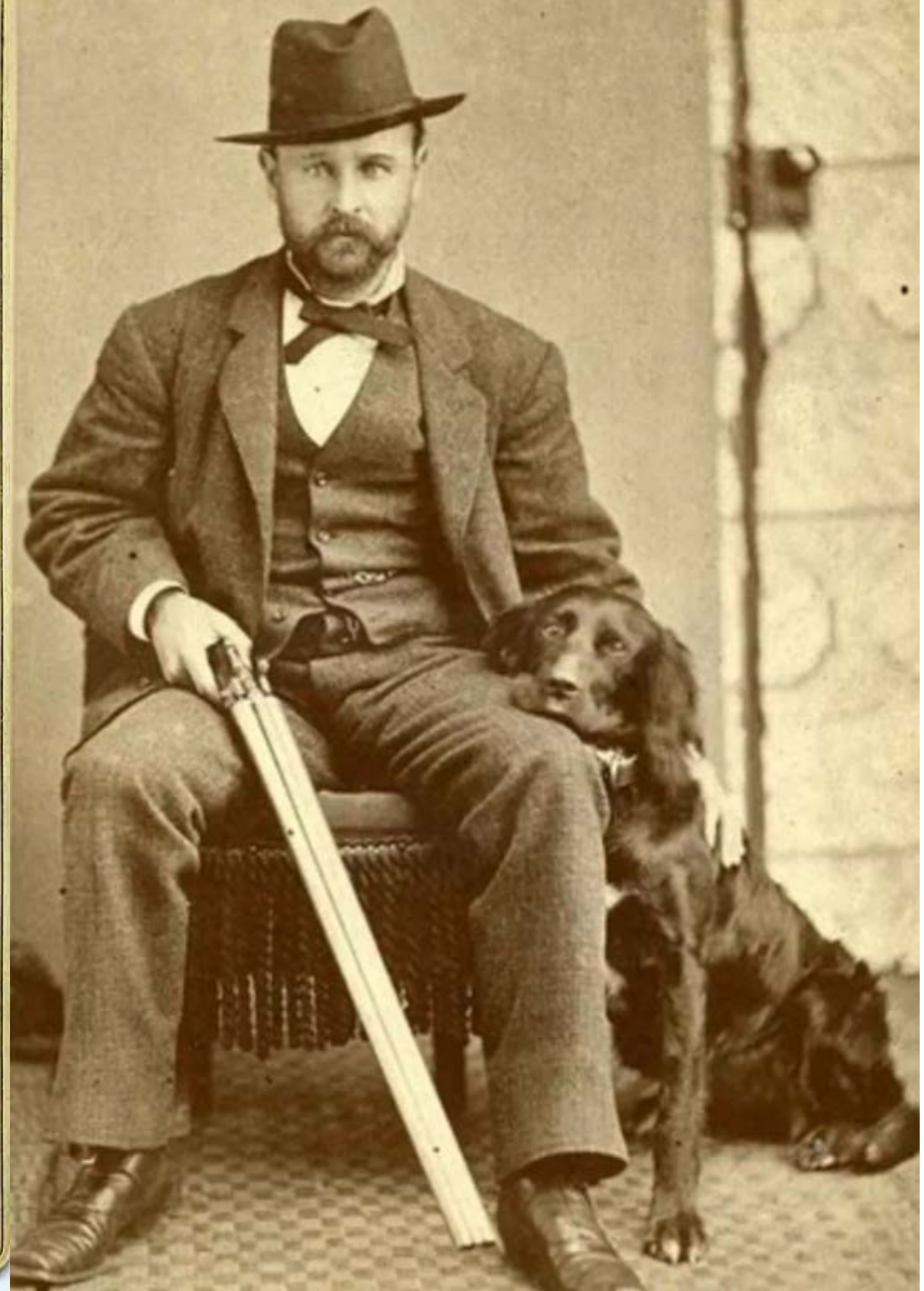




Wm. P. Jackson

Pacific Avenue.
Cor. 11th St.,

TACOMA, W. T.





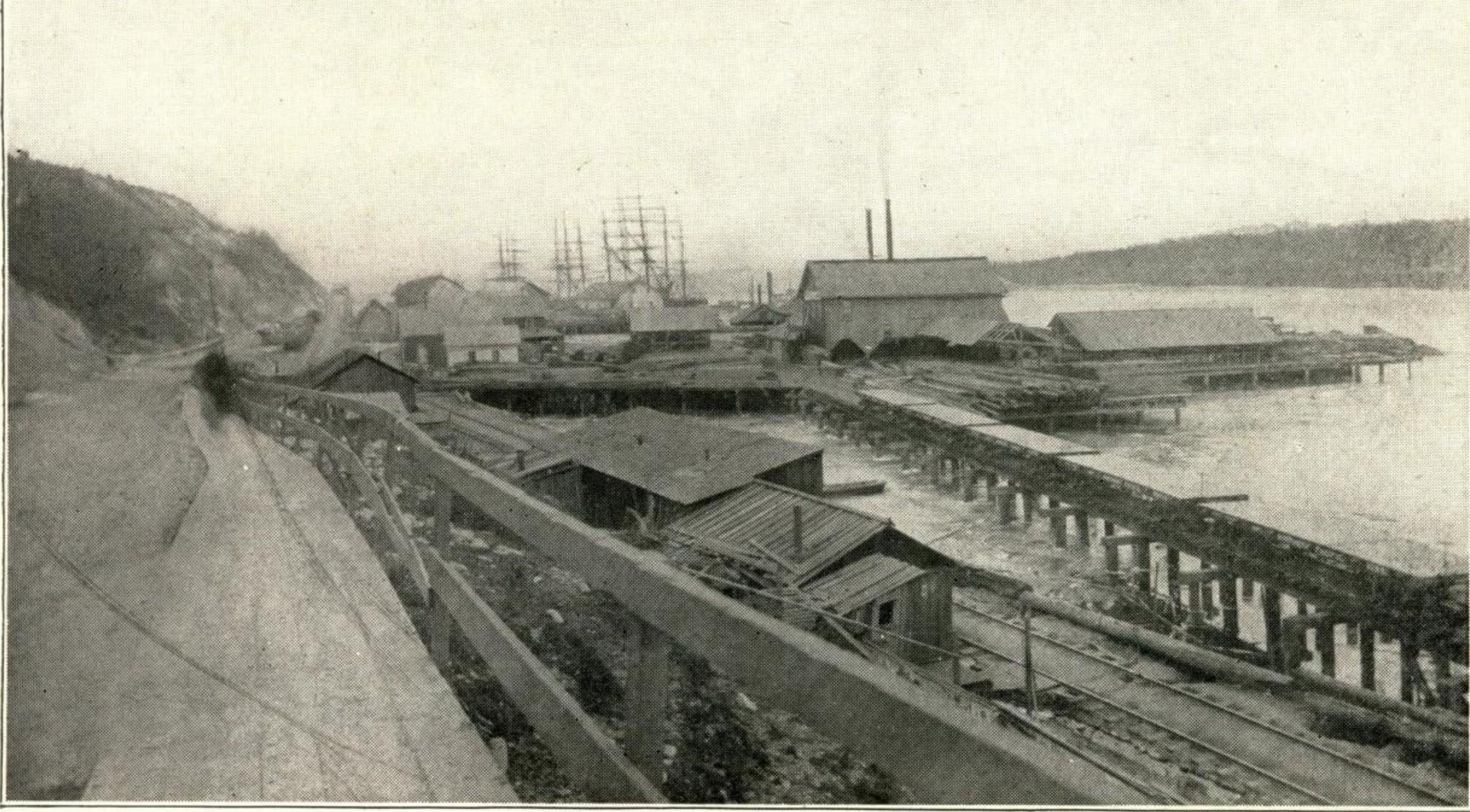












THE HATCH MILL, PACIFIC AVENUE, AS IT USED TO BE
The few Chinese shacks in the foreground were burned in 1885



THE
Chinese Must Go!

Mayor Weisbach

Has called a **MASS MEETING** for
this (Saturday) evening at
7:30 o'clock

AT ALPHA OPERA HOUSE.

To consider the Chinese question.

TURN OUT.



1. C. E. King.
2. Geo. R. Epperson.
3. E. Von Schrader.

8. John Budlong.
9. Jacob Ralph.
10. D. B. Hennek.

15. Geo. D. Lawson.
16. O. J. Anderson.
17. H. A. Stearns.

22. Henry S. Bixler.
23. A. W. Cone.
24. Louis Stearns.



The Old Tacoma Hotel's beer drinking

Back in the rough-and-ready days of Tacoma's boom-town youth, the Tacoma Hotel was a welcome oasis of elegance and comfort. And no wonder.

Located on a bluff overlooking the harbor, the hotel stood a full five stories high, stretched over a city block long, and was adorned with turrets and tudor trim. After its grand opening in 1884, it quickly became the gathering spot for Tacoma's social events, as well as a favorite watering hole for local townsfolk.

Among the regulars who frequented the bar was an 800-pound bear named Jack. He was also a resident of the hotel, his suite being an outdoor pen alongside the veranda.

Having been raised as a mascot by the hotel employees since he was a cub, Jack was so tame he could slip his collar and take an occasional prowl into town without causing undue excitement.

His favorite haunt, however, was the hotel bar, where he'd often charm the bartender out of a few brews. Jack's fondness for beer and his ability to hold a mug in his paws without spilling never ceased to amaze and amuse the locals. So much so, that when out-of-towners were being shown Tacoma's cosmopolitan hotel, they were often invited to wet their whistle while Jack was wetting his.



the un-
in astonish-
bar, down-
relish and
the Tacoma
remark."
a visiting
This
Tacoma
you be
and pi
Tacoma
A
herit
Invo



as a source of wonderment roamed Tacoma streets in 1880s



people were used to Jack, everyone liked him and he gave no trouble.

But one night around midnight when Jack decided to take a walk, he ambled off up Ninth Street and trundled down Pacific Avenue where he barged into a building with hotel rooms on the upper floors. The open door (it was a hot night) led to the hotel office on the second floor, so up he went. Half-way to the second floor, Jack sat down on the step, puffing and grunting and making a great deal of noise which roused the guests who, in turn, called for the landlord, who, in his turn, called for the police.

The policeman who responded knew what to do. He ran to the Tacoma Hotel, woke Riley and brought him back to deal with the bear. "Get a barrel," were Riley's first words to the proprietor.

Meanwhile, Riley tried to induce the bear to go down the stairs, but to no avail. When the proprietor brought a barrel, Jack began to retreat. As Riley shoved the barrel nearer and nearer the bear, however, he dropped the barrel and it bumped down the steps to terrify Jack. His long claws caught in the stair carpet as he turned to lunge down the steps, ripped away the carpet's fastenings and plunged Riley, barrel and bear kerplunk to the sidewalk.

Still more fame and still more newspaper stories were the result.

Riley then put a heavy collar attached to a chain around Jack's neck but the bear, with his usual cunning, found a way to turn the collar around and get out of it. He then resumed his nightly strolls about town.

He never harmed anyone and most people took the sight of a bear walking down the sidewalk as perfectly normal. If trouble ever seemed to loom, it was only necessary to roll a barrel toward him.

But in March 1892, on Jack's night-time stroll he wandered up the street near the hotel and encountered Policeman Kenna. Kenna was a new man on the force and evidently had not heard about the tame bear.

When Kenna saw the huge, 800-pound bruin, he fired twice. One shot hit the bear.

Jack was carted back to the hotel where he refused to let anyone make surgical repairs. The next day, obviously failing, he was put out of his misery.

The fabulous career of the renowned bear was at an end. But a taxidermist stuffed the pelt and, for some years, Jack's lifelike image stood in the lobby of the Tacoma Hotel.

Although all but forgotten now, Jack was undoubtedly the most celebrated bear in this part of the country. His exploits spread the name of the city and its famous hotel far and wide.

pet bear in hotel pen

ax him back to his pen but, if not, a ey was made.
e the bear his meals, usually had no him. But sometimes Jack wandered the sights. These outings did nothing popularity at home and to his fame always good newspaper copy. Tacoma

And, if there had never been a Puget Sound, we still would have felt it was exactly what we wanted.

Even after living in the home for a year, we still thought it was wonderful. Outside of a few changes like removing walls and enlarging windows and topping trees, we didn't have to do a thing. Those were only minor changes, we felt, which might enhance our view!

"Now, the Sunday Morning Bed 7 Days a Week!"







"The Wilsonia - Arch-C. St. Tacoma Wn."

















THE WILLIAM BLACKWELL MANSION

Constructed in 1891 from the design of architect Charles Smith, it was the most expensive residence built in Tacoma in its time, costing nearly \$30,000. The home was occupied by the Blackwells until it was sold to the YWCA in 1923. Used as offices by the Y until 1975, it was purchased by Karen and Dusty Trail. The structure has been restored and renovated as professional offices and will hopefully outlive us all.

Wm. B. Blackwell (1837-1920) was one of Tacoma's most well-known and respected early citizens. Known as a hotel proprietor from coast to coast, he and his wife were the first train passengers into Tacoma in 1873, bringing with them enough furniture to equip Tacoma's first hotel, which they owned and operated. Blackwell was a member of the legislature, founder and president of the Tacoma National Bank and manager of the Tacoma Hotel. He organized the first Chamber of Commerce, the first Board of Trade, and with others, built the Tacoma Theatre. It has frequently been written that "Tacoma is largely a monument to his spirit of enterprise and progress."

ma Hotel from 1898 to 1905.

Born in Milford, Conn., on Sept. 10, 1837, he was the son of Enoch Blackwell, a carriage maker. The Blackwells were descended from English ancestry, and since Puritan times, the family name was well-known in Connecticut.

William was 10 years old when his family moved to Utica, N.Y., and, after completing his education in the public schools, he became an apprentice carriage maker with his father in 1854.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted and joined the 26th New York Volunteer Infantry as a private. Soon promoted to regimental quartermaster, he participated in engagements during the early part of the war, including the first and second battles of Bull Run, the battles of Cedar Mountain, of Chancellorsville and Antietam. His health gave out and in July 1863 he left the service.

Blackwell and Alice E. Bliven of Bridge-water, N.Y., were married in 1863 and went to Chicago where he entered hotel life and spent seven years as chief clerk in the famous old Sherman House, then the leading hotel in the area.

Again, because of his health, he moved to Ogden, Utah, where he became the agent for the Pullman Car Co. While Blackwell was living in Chicago, he had met and often seen Gen. John W. Sprague who surveyed the greater part of the Northern Pacific Railroad. When Sprague went through Ogden in 1871 on his way to Washington state, he suggested to Blackwell that he seek new fields farther west.

Acting upon this advice, Blackwell moved farther west and went to Kalama where he managed the Kazano House, a Northern Pacific hotel. Murray Morgan in his *Puget's Sound* says this was one of the most difficult of jobs because the "Northern Pacific, which controlled the town, prohibited the sale of liquor. Patrons with a thirst had to go by rowboat to scows anchored beyond the city limits in

Time Machine

William Blackwell: a man who established numerous Tacoma firsts

By CAROLINE KELLOGG

It probably was appropriate that William B. Blackwell, one of the Pacific Northwest's most widely known men, had the distinction of arriving with his wife, on the first passenger-carrying train into Tacoma in the autumn of 1873.

Blackwell, whose name was interwoven with a number of Tacoma's enterprises, became active in a variety of endeavors over a period of nearly half a century. He founded the first hotel, participated in establishing the first bank in New Tacoma and was a representative of his district in the territorial legislature of 1883. He took over the active management of the Tacoma Hotel from 1898 to 1905.

Born in Milford, Conn., on Sept. 10, 1837, he was the son of Enoch Blackwell, a carriage maker. The Blackwells were descended from English ancestry, and since Puritan times, the family name was well-known in Connecticut.

William was 10 years old when his family moved to Utica, N.Y., and, after completing his education in the public schools, he became an apprentice carriage maker with his father in 1854.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted and joined the 26th New York Volunteer Infantry as a private. Soon promoted to regimental quartermaster, he participated in engagements during the early part of the war, including the first and second battles of Bull Run, the battles of Cedar Mountain, of Chancellorsville and Antietam. His health gave out and in July 1863 he left the service.

Blackwell and Alice E. Bliven of Bridge-water, N.Y., were married in 1863 and went to Chicago where he entered hotel life and spent seven years as chief clerk in the famous old Sherman House, then the leading hotel in the area.

Again, because of his health, he moved to Ogden, Utah, where he became the agent for the Pullman Car Co. While Blackwell was living in Chicago, he had met and often seen Gen. John W. Sprague who surveyed the greater part of the Northern Pacific Railroad. When Sprague went through Ogden in 1871 on his way to Washington state, he suggested to Blackwell that he seek new fields farther west.

Acting upon this advice, Blackwell moved farther west and went to Kalama where he managed the Kazano House, a Northern Pacific hotel. Murray Morgan in his *Puget's Sound* says this was one of the most difficult of jobs because the "Northern Pacific, which controlled the town, prohibited the sale of liquor. Patrons with a thirst had to go by rowboat to scows anchored beyond the city limits in the Columbia.

In 1873, when the Northern Pacific completed its railroad track between Kalama and Tacoma, Blackwell was hired by the NP to open a hotel in Tacoma. The Blackwells were the only passengers on the train and they brought with them enough furniture to equip New Tacoma's first hotel.

Alice Blackwell described the journey in a paper given before the Mary Ball chapter of the DAR in 1911: "We were two days coming from Kalama to Tacoma, staying overnight at Tenino. There was no telegraph line, and when we had about reached Rigney's Hill, the conductor stopped the train, walked into Tacoma to find if the track was clear, leaving us waiting several hours. . . . This was the first passenger coach over the road. We were the only passengers, the train consisting of the coach, one freight car, with our furniture and a caboose. . . .

The railroad track was laid only as far as where the Tacoma Hotel later stood at Ninth and A Streets, and the Blackwells were rowed to the waterfront wharf at Half



Waterfront wharf where hotel was located



William B. Blackwell



Blackwell Hotel, 1874

Washington State Historical Society Photos

Moon Bay where their hotel was still in an unfinished state. The 200-foot-long building, a frame structure, stood on the only wharf then built.

According to faded notes written in 1880 on the back of the wharf photograph shown here, the "Blackwell Hotel first stood near the water edge where the freight shed now stands but was moved nearer to the bluff to make room for the freight shed. . . .

Blackwell's opened in January 1874 and immediately became popular with travelers who enjoyed the cuisine which offered all sorts of local game, and fish.

In the early days of Tacoma's history, just after the town site had been cleared of trees, all business was conducted at the wharf. There were the railroad and express offices, telegraph, two small stores and also a few families which lived here.

The Blackwell continued to be the leading hotel in Pierce County until the Tacoma Hotel opened in 1884. The latter's central location and popularity led to the closing of the Blackwell wharf hotel, and the Blackwells moved to 11th and A streets where the federal building is now located.

Blackwell became a member of the territorial legislature in 1883 and in that same year was one of the organizers of the Tacoma National Bank. He was elected the bank's vice president and, after the death of Gen. Sprague, became the president.

In 1898, he was hired as the manager of

the Tacoma Hotel and continued in that post until 1905. He retained his financial interest in the business as the secretary of the Tacoma Hotel Co.

The Blackwells bought from the Tacoma Land Co. eight lots on Cliff Avenue (later Stadium Way) for \$25 per lot where they built a home. But before completion of the house, the Tacoma Land Co. bought back the lots as part of the site for the Tourist Hotel (later transformed into Stadium High School).

The Blackwells then built an elegant house overlooking the bay at 401 Broadway. (The house still stands and is now the home of various offices.)

After the 1893 crash, which came soon after the completion of the mansion, Blackwell's bank, the Tacoma National, closed. He felt responsible to pay back his clients for what they had lost and mortgaged his considerable downtown holdings to do so.

Earlier, he had assisted in organizing the first Chamber of Commerce and the first Board of Trade, of which he was the first secretary. When Theodore Hosmer gathered 11 men who each contributed \$10,000 to the building of the Tacoma Theater, Blackwell was one of them. The theater opened on Jan. 13, 1890.

Always thinking of the welfare and progress of the city, Blackwell was an enthusiastic supporter of many enterprises. He served as president of the Washington State Historical Society and was involved

in many a deed of philanthropic helpfulness.

When the 1893 crash wiped out his wealth, the Blackwells took in boarders in their elegant mansion and the two nieces, whom they had adopted, baked cookies which they sold to help out the finances. One of these adopted daughters was Ruby C. Blackwell who was brought here from the east when she was 7 years old and lived until 1979 when she died at the age of 103.

When Blackwell died Oct. 4, 1922, *The News Tribune* said of him, "William Blackwell, hotel man, banker and city builder, died at his home, 401 Broadway, closing the book on an eventful life of service to his family, his country, his home city and the public at large. . . ."

What's happening on weekends? Find out in TGIF every Friday in *The News Tribune*.

DINNER

ROSES

\$5.95

DOZ.

PHONE: 584-1400

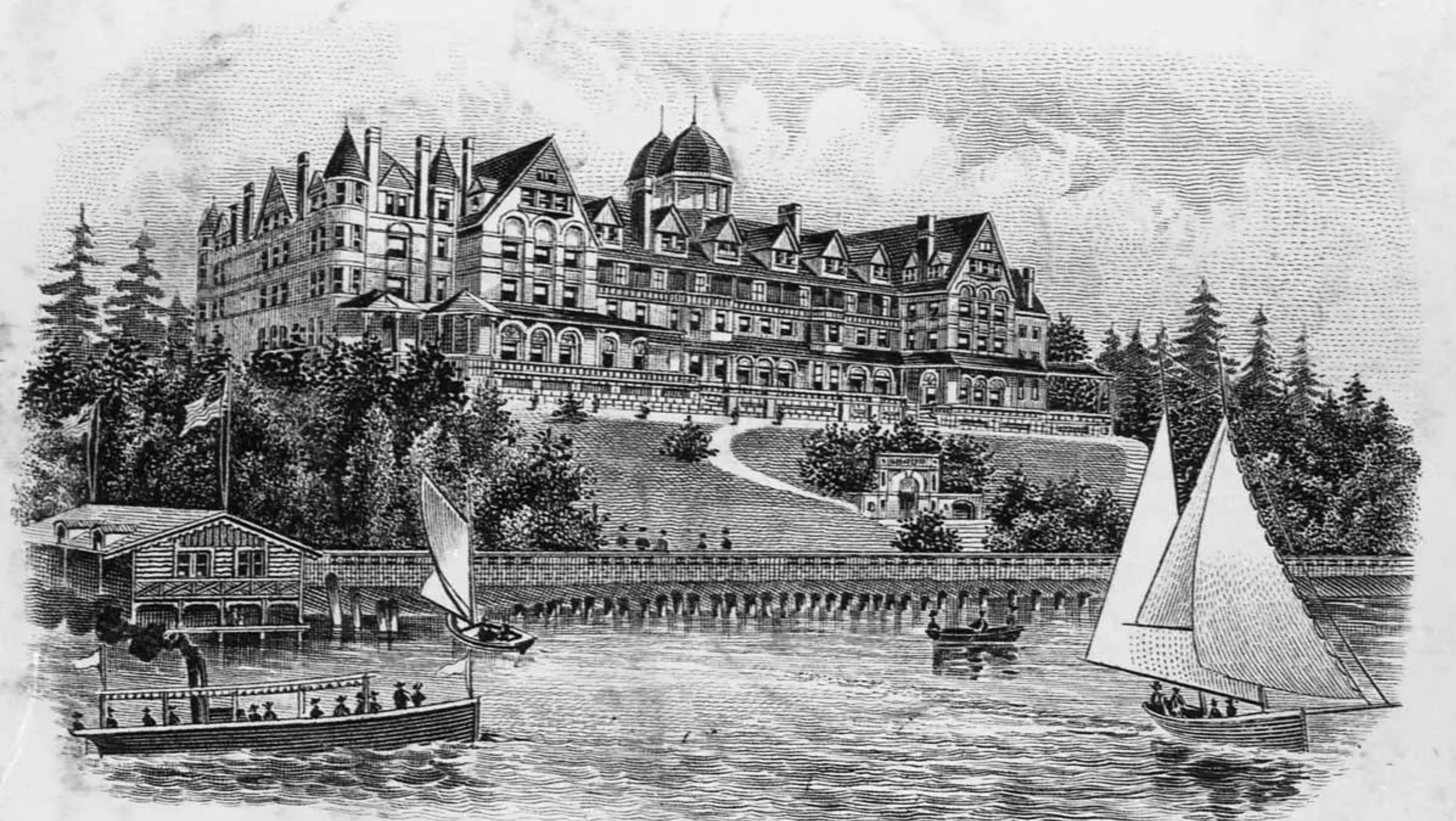
CRANE'S CREATIONS inc.

Thunderbolt Shopping Center

on State Historical Society Photos

a deed of philanthropic helpful-

the 1893 crash wiped out his wealth, the Blackwells took in boarders in their elegant mansion and the two nieces, whom they had adopted, baked cookies which they sold to help out the finances. One of these adopted daughters was Ruby C. Blackwell who was brought here from the east when she was 7 years old and lived until 1979 when she died at the age



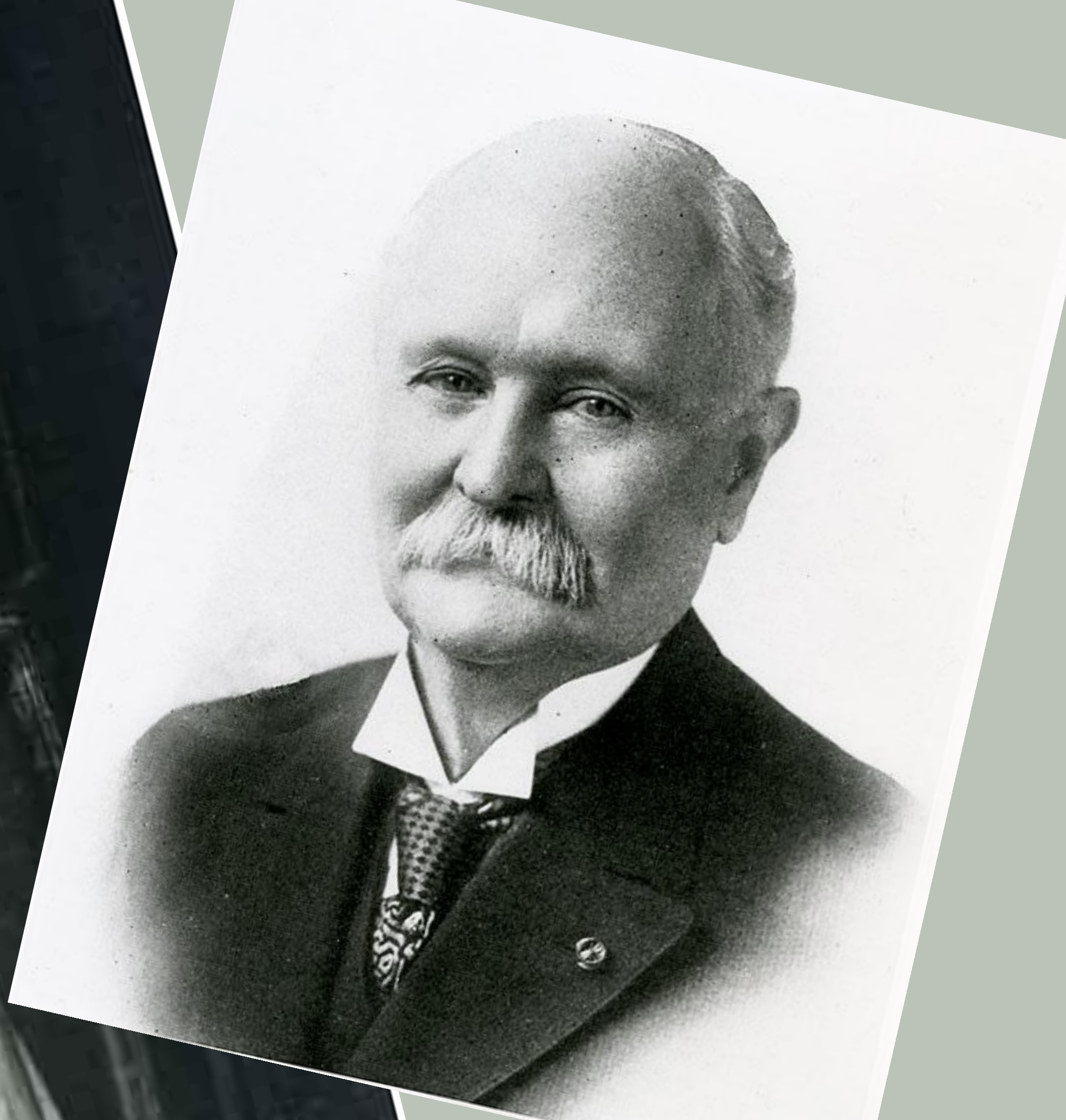


STAIR
No. 29, TACOMA HOTEL, TACOMA, WASHINGTON.











en pioneers.
er, the first

was that of a
y. It was not
oseph Hough-
furnish some
only ones in
wer garden,"
ackwell, who
in Tacoma.

s in Tacoma
nd William
at much mon-
el in Kalama

rived on the
rain to carry
d their hotel
artially com-

rooms on the second.
The walls of one-inch boards covered with cloth and paper were so thin that the slightest noise could be heard throughout the building.

"A good snorer would be told to shut up by most of the guests along the corridor," Mrs. Blackwell later said.

After three years, the building was moved from downtown 17th street to land nearer the bank. A dining room, kitchen, hotel office, extra rooms and a bar were added.

IN NO TIME, the little hotel was booming and known to newcomers.

"One day a stranger came up to us and spoke to my husband of the wonderful growth of the town and the boom," Mrs. Blackwell recalled. "Why," the stranger said, 'the man who owns this place came here without a cent, opened a little hotel, he and his wife did all the work, and look at this.' "Yes," my husband replied, 'that is so, only my wife did not do the cooking.'

"My cooking has always been a great subject for a joke," she said.

Even without the cooking duties, Mrs. Blackwell's chores were tremendous in the growing railroad and sawmill town.

In her husband's words, "Mrs. Blackwell with the aid of one or two Chinese boys saw that the house was scrupulously clean. Chinese were the best help to be had at that time. We usually had Chinese cooks."

Land fever hit the Blackwells, as it did the other Tacoma pioneers.

In April 1874, the Land Company began to sell lots. Mrs. Blackwell bought the Cliff Avenue block for "the



**Miss Blackwell
as a young woman**

Chapin, a widow, struggling to run a farm and bring up six children.

The mother agreed that the Blackwells could take the two youngest children—Ruby, 7, and Ethel Pearl, 12,—with them to the Washington Territory.

"I never forgave mother for giving us away," Ruby Chapin Blackwell said. "I knew times were hard, but to give away two of her daughters. I only saw her once again, when she was in her 90s."

Ruby Chapin Blackwell, niece of the Blackwells, was legally adopted by Mr. Blackwell after Mrs. Blackwell died.

Miss Blackwell was 100 years old Friday. She resides at Judson Park Retirement Center in Zenith.

Eager to talk about the past, Miss Blackwell recalled dates and places with clarity.

MRS. BLACKWELL WAS described as "overweight" and Mr. Blackwell was "a nice man who served in the Union army as quartermaster of a New York regiment. He had contracted tuberculosis. The couple didn't have children.

"But they treated my sister and me as if we were their children."

She recalled going to the Central School and walking directly up the

Chinese in Tacoma were here legally and should be allowed to stay.

But the anti-Chinese crowd had the upper hand and the Chinese were forced to leave on the rainy morning of Nov. 3, 1885. They were marched to Lakeview, where they were put aboard a Northern Pacific train for Portland. Chinatown was looted, and then it "happened" to catch fire.

A RECESSION in 1892—one year after the Blackwells had moved into the mansion next door to the present day YWCA—had a ruinous effect on Mr. Blackwell.

He lost all the downtown property which he had bought, and the Tacoma National Bank, which Mr. Blackwell had helped organize, closed.

"We would have lost the house too, except it was quitclaim deeded to Mrs. Blackwell before the recession.

"Mr. Blackwell went five years without a job, then finally was able to manage the Tacoma Hotel. My sister was a housekeeper there for a time," Miss Blackwell said.



Ruby Chapin Blackwell, now 100

"We never had enough money for me to go to college."

MISS BLACKWELL WAS anxious to earn her own living and turned to teaching since other jobs then open to women paid very little money.

She taught in a country school for \$45 a month.

When Mrs. Blackwell became sick, she managed the house until it was sold to the YWCA in 1923.

Miss Blackwell, who described her-

wheelchair. Since her foot friends visit

Miss Blackwell playing solitaire and printing books.

A picture of her on her bureau, some, dapper hand.

One of the





History recalled:

From Blackwell's hotel to Chinatown



Fourth in a series on women pioneers. Next Sunday: Fay Fuller, the first woman to climb Mt. Rainier

By MARCI WHITNEY
TNT Staff Writer

"The first funeral . . . was that of a sailor drowned in the bay. It was not known who he was. Mrs. Joseph Houghton and I were asked to furnish some flowers, as we had the only ones in town. I had the first flower garden," said Mrs. William B. Blackwell, who was recalling early days in Tacoma.

One of the first hotels in Tacoma was run by Alice and William Blackwell.

They came here without much money, after building a hotel in Kalama that was a financial loss.

In 1873, the couple arrived on the first Northern Pacific train to carry passengers and discovered their hotel on the wharf was only partially completed.

They were greeted by a representative of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and two Chinese, who rowed the couple to the wharf.

"We joked on the way," Mrs. Blackwell recalled in 1911. "Our boat was the first of the long-talked-of Ori-

ental liners to connect (the railroad) with China and Japan."

THEIR HOTEL, called "Blackwells", was opened in 1874. It was a two-story wooden building with railroad offices on the ground floor and the hotel rooms on the second.

The walls of one-inch boards covered with cloth and paper were so thin that the slightest noise could be heard throughout the building.

"A good snorer would be told to shut up by most of the guests along the corridor," Mrs. Blackwell later said.

After three years, the building was moved from downtown 17th street to land nearer the bank. A dining room, kitchen, hotel office, extra rooms and a bar were added.

IN NO TIME, the little hotel was booming and known to newcomers.

"One day a stranger came up to us and spoke to my husband of the wonderful growth of the town and the boom," Mrs. Blackwell recalled. "Why," the stranger said, 'the man who owns this place came here without a cent, opened a little hotel, he and his wife did all the work, and look at this.' "Yes," my husband replied, 'that is so, only my wife did not do the cooking.' "My cooking has always been a great subject for a joke," she said.

Even without the cooking duties, Mrs. Blackwell's chores were tremendous in the growing railroad and sawmill town.

In her husband's words, "Mrs. Blackwell with the aid of one or two Chinese boys saw that the house was scrupulously clean. Chinese were the best help to be had at that time. We usually had Chinese cooks."

Land fever hit the Blackwells, as it did the other Tacoma pioneers.

In April 1874, the Land Company began to sell lots. Mrs. Blackwell bought the Cliff Avenue block for "the magnificent price of \$25 per lot."

THE BLACKWELLS, by then a prosperous couple, visited their nieces and nephews at North Bridgewater, N.Y., in 1883.

There they discovered Mrs. Peter



Miss Blackwell
as a young woman

Chapin, a widow, struggling to run a farm and bring up six children.

The mother agreed that the Blackwells could take the two youngest children—Ruby, 7, and Ethel Pearl, 12,—with them to the Washington Territory.

"I never forgave mother for giving us away," Ruby Chapin Blackwell said. "I knew times were hard, but to give away two of her daughters. I only saw her once again, when she was in her 90s."

Ruby Chapin Blackwell, niece of the Blackwells, was legally adopted by Mr. Blackwell after Mrs. Blackwell died.

Miss Blackwell was 100 years old Friday. She resides at Judson Park Retirement Center in Zenith.

Eager to talk about the past, Miss Blackwell recalled dates and places with clarity.

MRS. BLACKWELL WAS described as "overweight" and Mr. Blackwell was "a nice man who served in the Union army as quartermaster of a New York regiment. He had contracted tuberculosis. The couple didn't have children.

"But they treated my sister and me as if we were their children."

She recalled going to the Central School and walking directly up the 11th Street hill from A to G streets.

One day she made a detour to 13th and D, which landed her in the middle of the red light district. She was appalled by the scantily clad young women leaning out of the windows.

MISS BLACKWELL RECALLED the

Chinese disturbance in 1885 and the fear that their own white, clapboarded house at 1110 A St. would be burned down. The Blackwells were pro-Chinese, even though they didn't employ Chinese help at the time.

The Blackwells contended the 700 Chinese in Tacoma were here legally and should be allowed to stay.

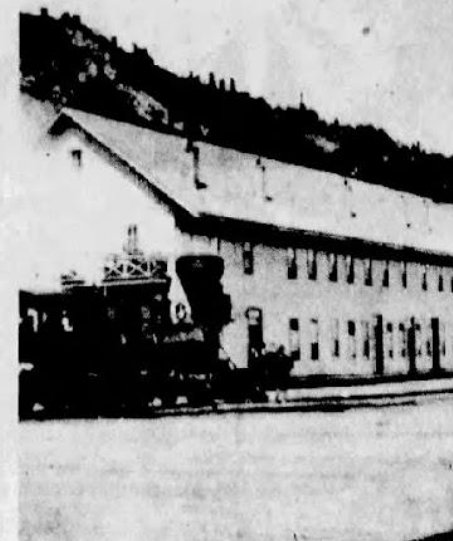
But the anti-Chinese crowd had the upper hand and the Chinese were forced to leave on the rainy morning of Nov. 3, 1885. They were marched to Lakeview, where they were put aboard a Northern Pacific train for Portland. Chinatown was looted, and then it "happened" to catch fire.

A RECESSION in 1892—one year after the Blackwells had moved into the mansion next door to the present day YWCA—had a ruinous effect on Mr. Blackwell.

He lost all the downtown property which he had bought, and the Tacoma National Bank, which Mr. Blackwell had helped organize, closed.

"We would have lost the house too, except it was quitclaim deeded to Mrs. Blackwell before the recession.

"Mr. Blackwell went five years without a job, then finally was able to manage the Tacoma Hotel. My sister was a housekeeper there for a time," Miss Blackwell said.



Blackwell Hotel in 1882



Staff photo by Bruce Larson

Ruby Chapin Blackwell, now 100 years old

"We never had enough money for me to go to college."

MISS BLACKWELL WAS anxious to earn her own living and turned to teaching since other jobs then open to women paid very little money.

She taught in a country school for \$45 a month.

When Mrs. Blackwell became sick, she managed the house until it was sold to the YWCA in 1923.

Miss Blackwell, who described herself as "pretty" when she was young, had dark, engaging eyes and black hair piled high on her head. Her face was perfectly oval with a classic profile and well-defined lips. She never married.

Today, Miss Blackwell is still a handsome woman, although confined to a

wheelchair. She rarely leaves her room since her food is delivered to her and friends visit in her room.

Miss Blackwell's life is devoted to playing solitaire and reading large-print books.

A picture of Mrs. Blackwell sits apart on her bureau, and the picture of handsome, dapper Mr. Blackwell is close at hand.

One of the sources in preparing the Blackwell article was "A Girl in Washington Territory" by Ruby Chapin Blackwell, published by the Washington State Historical Society.









Washington State Historical Society

This old house

The Blackwell mansion now boasts energy-efficiency in addition to its century-old woodwork, seven working fireplaces and friendly ghosts

By Bart Ripp
The News Tribune

Eighteen years ago, Dusty Trail slipped into a trance.

The Tacoma architect was smitten by the Blackwell mansion. Trail became so vexed that he bought the elegant house, renovated it during the late 1970s, then recently renovated again to make the proud old place energy-efficient. He sliced his electricity bill in half. Tacoma City Light's energy conservation division considers the Blackwell mansion a showplace of energy efficiency.

"If you can do a job this solid for a building this old, you can do this for just about any commercial building," said Leif Olsen, energy conservation auditor for City Light.

Trail saw the light in 1974. The Blackwell mansion was called the old Y. It housed Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) offices and dormitories.

"My wife, Karen, came home one day and said they're tearing down the old Y," Trail said.

Trail recalled the Blackwell mansion from his early years as an architect. He apprenticed at an office on Stadium Way, down the hill from the Blackwell mansion at 401 Broadway. He remembered the hexagonal brick chimney soaring over the

Commencement Bay.

"I had walked through the house around 1970," Trail said, "and I thought, 'God almighty, whose house was this?'"

The Victorian confection, built in 1890 for \$30,000, making this whimsical structure the most expensive house in Tacoma, was home to William B. and Alice E. Blackwell. From Utica, N.Y., they ventured west after reading a Harper's Magazine article titled "The Mediterranean of the Pacific," floridly describing the delights of Puget Sound country.

They built the first hotel in Tacoma, a wooden structure called the Blackwell. He was a Union Army quartermaster who served with distinction at the battles of Bull Run, Chancellorsville and Antietam, a banker, legislator and president of the Washington State Historical Society. She was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, for whom she wrote a compelling essay in 1911, detailing their 1873 journey aboard the first passenger train into Tacoma.

The Blackwells were two days coming from Kalama, where they lived while the Northern Pacific Railroad hacked tracks through the woods and over rivers to its new terminus in Tacoma. The Blackwells were the only passengers on the train, consisting of their coach, a freight car hauling their furniture and a caboose.

They spent the first night at Tenino. When



Washington State Historical Society

74th and South Tacoma Way, conductor Thomas Hewitt halted the train and walked into Tacoma to make sure the track was clear. It was, running to a point near what became Ninth and A streets.

At the end of the line, Gen. John W. Sprague, the Northern Pacific's man in Tacoma, arranged for two laborers to row the Blackwells in a skiff down to Half Moon Bay, just below what is 17th Street. There,

that would bear the Blackwell name.

The tide was out, so the Blackwells had to teeter across boards placed on the briny mud. Since there were no beds or food yet in the hotel, the Blackwells spent their first night in Tacoma dining atop a pile driver provided by the wharf's contractor and sleeping on boxes.

A photo of the Blackwells hangs in the

■ Above: Dusty Trail, owner of the Blackwell mansion, works in one of the professional offices he leases in the house he saved from the wrecker's ball.

■ Left: William B. and Alice E. Blackwell, who traveled to Tacoma from Utica, N.Y. in 1873.

■ Top left: The Blackwells host a dinner party in their handsomely appointed dining room.

■ On the cover: Details in wood and glass embellish the striking staircase in the renovated Blackwell mansion.

that would bear the Blackwell name.

The tide was out, so the Blackwells had to teeter across boards placed on the briny mud. Since there were no beds or food yet in the hotel, the Blackwells spent their first night in Tacoma dining atop a pile driver provided by the wharf's contractor and sleeping on boxes.

A photo of the Blackwells hangs in the

Karen Stallwood/The News Tribune

■ Above: Dusty Trail, owner of the Blackwell mansion, works in one of the professional offices he leases in the house he saved from the wrecker's ball.

■ Left: William B. and Alice E. Blackwell, who traveled to Tacoma from Utica, N.Y. in 1873.

■ Top left: The Blackwells host a dinner party in their

This old house

The Blackwell mansion now boasts energy-efficiency in addition to its century-old woodwork, seven working fireplaces and friendly ghosts

By Bart Ripp
The News Tribune

Eighteen years ago, Dusty Trail slipped into a trance.

The Tacoma architect was smitten by the Blackwell mansion. Trail became so vexed that he bought the elegant house renovated it during the late 1970s, then recently

Com
"I
1970
almi
Th
\$30,0
most
to W
Utica



FOR
LEASE
PROFESSIONAL
OFFICE SPACE
APPROXIMATELY
1,000 SQ. FT.
CALL
754-4119

WELL

401







