

- Tradition: The MLK Area has always been a place of ethnic and cultural diversity
- Community: There is a strong history of community advocacy and action in the neighborhood
- Social Life: The Hilltop has been a key place in the social life of many communities

Community Spotlights



1968
"The Originals"



1969 Ed Taylor Barber & Beauty Salon

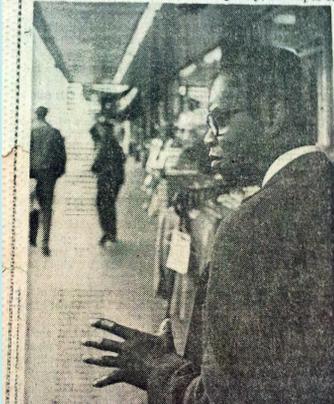
T. Hilltop Area Ujamaa Center Gives Hilltop Youth Cultural Experiences

By OWENS SALTERWHITE
The Ujamaa Culture and Recreation Center is no place to "play," says Ellis Cain, director. Assistant director Roy Giles adds, "We changed the name from Recreation and Culture to Culture and Recreation to make it known that the emphasis is on culture."
Founded by the Tacoma Model Cities program and located at 18th and Fawcett, the center and its staff are dedicated to providing a deeper cultural and recreational experience for model neighborhood youth.
The center offers a whole range of cultural and recreational activity but the work of the center goes deeper than that. Cain says the center recognizes its responsibility to do more than keep kids off the street.
The center, he says, wants to make the youngsters aware of their potential and knowledgeable of the implications of their part and present and future culture.
"We are trying to create an atmosphere of awareness and dignity," Cain says. To help create that atmosphere, the staff and young volunteer workers are remodeling the center using materials donated by Model Lumber Co.
It is fitting that the remodeling of the center be ongoing, for many things about the center are based on annual action.
"The Swedish word — *Ujamaa* — means unity. The shop with classrooms. Others were usually agreed but were turned off when funding problems kept the workshops from materializing on time.
For a long time, it seemed the youth would not accept the center as theirs. But the staff kept on planning, organizing, planning, playing, field trips and other new and different cultural experiences for those who would accept them.
A staff member summed up those days when she said, "The kids came a back because we showed them that there was more to life than drugs and parties."
A LEARNING YEAR
Cain calls the first action year a "learning experience" and adds that the best is yet to come.
The young people are beginning to show increased interest in all of the workshops. They come to the center now because they know it to be a place designed with them in mind, Cain said.
The staff is composed of Director Cain, assistant director Giles, Joseph Madsen, technical assistant; Dale Hanson, secretary; and John Vanuyn, custodian. They have a year behind them now and are eager to meet any challenge offered by the new year.
In 1972 the center hopes to expand its services to after-dinner workshops especially for senior citizens. Cain says senior citizens have responded an interest in the center's activity and he hopes to team with the Model House

1972
Responding to community need in the 1970s, many community organizations sprung up to provide cultural and educational opportunities for the residents of Hilltop, including the Ujamaa Center.

Activities included painting and drawing, sculpture, karate, African and jazz dance, music workshops in voice and guitar, and sewing and knitting.

THE PHONE RANG just as I started to write. Just as I started to tell a little something about the black community of Summer 1971 and some friends of mine and their scars of humiliation and their smiles of victory, of how they've come such a long way in the past few years. And how today they find themselves in a "whole new ball game," much of it being good, a real breakthrough, a cause for optimism—and a lot of it being not so pretty, a damper on



Harold Moss on K Street

spirits, a reason for new frustration and doubt. I'd met with them on South K Street, main artery of the Hilltop, and we'd sat and talked, walked and talked, rode and talked — and one of them, Harold Moss, confirmed that he will run this election year to keep his seat on the City Council . . . And one of them

1971
Harold Moss, pictured here in the early years of his political career on MLK Way, would go on to become Tacoma's first African-American City Council Member and Mayor, and the first African-American elected to the Pierce County Council.



1968
"The Exclusives"

African-American



1940 Japanese-American parade float in Tacoma



1927 Japanese-American owned produce stand located downtown. Produce stands and grocery stores were common businesses for the community



1941 Japanese-American students raise money for a new student union building.



1942 A family leaves Tacoma for the internment camps from Union Station. Over 110,000 people of Japanese descent, including citizens, were detained for the duration of WWII.



1945 A Japanese-American Church in Tacoma, pillaged during the community's absence

Japanese-American



One of the many choirs to perform at Normanna Hall



CAPT. G. F. LINDQUIST
The lodge's involved ceremonies gradually were eliminated. In 1939 the group abandoned Swedish as its official language.

Valhalla Hall is another venue with historic significance on Hilltop. It was built in 1906 by a fraternal organization founded in 1884

Valhalla Lodge Named For Heroes

On Dec. 5, 1884, a group of young Tacoma Swedes, headed by Capt. G. F. Lindquist, a Civil War soldier of distinction, formed a social and benevolent group, known for a few months as Freya Lodge, honoring the Nordic goddess of love and beauty.
The more masculine name of "Valhalla," the "hall of dead heroes" in northern mythology, later was adopted.
Valhalla is the oldest men's fraternal organization in the state of Washington, and very likely this distinction applies to the entire Pacific Coast.
The founders chose to remain apart from political and religious affiliations, and to this day the order has continued independent of other organizations. Members currently are of two types—social and beneficial—with sick and death benefits available.
In 1905, with 149 members and \$2,500 in the treasury, the lodge took an option on two lots between 12th and 13th on South K Street, which was then "wet upstons." Ten-dollar bonds were issued to raise the needed \$8,000 to build a temple on the site. Seven hundred persons attended the dedication on Nov. 10, 1906.
In keeping with changing times and the drop in Scandinavian immigrants, Swedish was abandoned as the official language in 1938, and much of the earlier complex ritual was abandoned.

Mayfest to Feature Swiss Yodeling Songs



MISS AGNES MOSER
In Costume For Her Specialty Numbers

When the Sons and Sisters of Herman hold their annual German Mayfest next Saturday, a singer of Swiss yodels will be one of the featured entertainers.
Miss Agnes Moser, American born but of Swiss parentage, will sing a group of yodeling songs, appearing in authentic Swiss costume.
The festival will be given in Normanna Hall, South 15th and K Streets where, beginning at 8

1964
Normanna Hall, built in 1923, has also been a venue for many cultural groups outside of the Scandinavian community in Hilltop. This photo is for a Swiss yodeling performance that was part of the German Mayfest in 1964.

Valhalla Hall, another venue built originally for the Scandinavian community, also frequently hosted members of other cultural communities on the Hilltop, such as the Italian Americans below (1941)



Scandinavian-American

