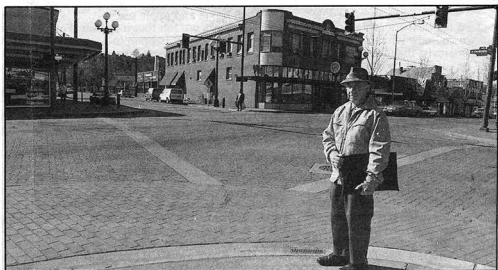


NOW AND THEN



COURTESY OF CAREY SUMMERS

Columbia City was founded in 1891. In this view, eight years later, its primary street, Rainier Avenue, is being paved with planks.



PAUL DORPAT

Now in its centennial year, Columbia City has long since been annexed by Seattle.

Columbia City

The town celebrates its centennial

WRITTEN BY PAUL DORPAT

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO this month, townsite developer J.K. Edminston pitched his tent at this intersection and began selling lots to Columbia City's first residents.

With money earned as a conductor on the Great Northern Railroad, Fremont Scott Parker purchased an expensive panorama camera. When he moved his family to Columbia City in the late 1890s, Parker focused his new camera on his new community.

This view, which looks northwest across the intersection of Rainier Avenue and Ferdinand Street, and the rest of Parker's panoramas resurfaced when Parker's son, John, shared them with Carey Summers. The two met in high school after the 13-year-old Summers

moved to Columbia City in 1923. Sixty-eight years later Summers, the official historian for the Pioneers of Columbia City and Vicinity, poses in the foreground of our "now" view.

Historian Summers dates Parker's panorama to 1899 and identifies the three larger structures across Rainier Avenue as Fraternity Hall on the left; Hepler Grocery, center; and the ornate Knights of Pythias Hall on the right. Only the first floor of the Pythias hall survives, although thoroughly remodeled. The bell tower at the rear of Hepler's store is not attached to it, but to Columbia School. The Heplers lived above the grocery. Their balcony, which looks down on Ferdinand Street, was a popular roost for concerts by local musicians.

PAUL DORPAT SPECIALIZES IN HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL BOOKS ON EARLY SEATTLE.

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