



COURTESY OF THE FAMILY OF DORRETTA (REYNOLDS) LANDON

THEN: Facing First Avenue North, north of Howe Street in 1889-90, these pioneer homes did not survive the wave of Seattle's booming growth through the 1890s. They were soon replaced with the "better homes and gardens" that are still familiar on top of Queen Anne Hill.

Kings, and other pioneers, of the hill

THROUGH 40 years now of looking at old photos of where we live, this is surely one of the best finds — except that I did not find it. Rather, Margo Ritter sent me a copy, thinking that I might be interested. And how!

Still, I will compliment my intuitions. Margo advised me that this subject was somewhere on top of Queen Anne Hill, and on studying the photo I soon imagined that the topography worked best when looking northeast from near Queen Anne Avenue and Howe Street.


With sleuthing help from Kim Turner of the Queen Anne Historical Society, and historians Ron Edge and Greg Lange, that, as it developed, is where we posed Margo with her two sisters for the repeat. Margo is on the right, Rhonde Rouleau, in the middle and Dorretta Prussing, on the left.

The sisters' 4- or 5-year-old grandmother is pictured in the "then," though she's not easy to see. Wearing the speck of a brilliant white skirt, right of center, is great-grandmother Julia Zauner, and sitting on the fence beside her in a white pinafore is her daughter, Dorretta Reynolds. Dorretta's stepfather, Sebastian Zauner, a sashmaker by trade, is with them, in black.

Following Albert and Ed King



JEAN SHERRARD

(who are tiny specs, left of center, in the photo), the Zauners were pathfinders to the top of the hill. The grouping of these same homes can be found in the 1891 bird's-eye of Seattle. There, like here, they are all alone at the end of the road to the summit of the hill. This surely is the excitement of this photograph. Here a mere 110 years ago is the first residential development near what would become the commercial heart of the unique "village" on top of the hill. 

NOW: Dorretta Reynolds' descendants pose at the northeast corner of Queen Anne Avenue and Howe Street with a fire hydrant, which one of the sisters explained is "the brother we never had." Both views look to the northeast.

Check out Paul Dorpat and Jean Sherrard's blog at www.pauldorpat.com.