



COURTESY OF SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

**THEN:** In 1930, Harborview Hospital is still being built in this view looking east from the Smith Tower to the part of First Hill called Profanity Hill.

## Raising the Roof

**L**AST SUNDAY'S "now-land-then" looked northwest from the roof of the new Harborview Hospital into the retail section of the business district. That photo was recorded near the time the hospital was dedicated in February 1931.

Now we look back at Harborview when it was still under construction. Here the photographer stands on the observation deck of the Smith Tower on May 30, 1930. Harborview reaches to its fifth and sixth floors, or about halfway to its ultimate height, not counting the three-story cap of its central tower. Another hospital is here, too. The tower and top floors of Providence (now part of Swedish Hospital) straddling James Street on 17th Avenue East are not yet obscured by a full Harborview.

The old King County Courthouse on the right is but seven months and nine days from being dynamited to its foundation. A belfry at the top has already been decapitated from its ponderous tower. Some county prisoners were executed in that building, which by 1930 had become a danger to enter. Yet prisoners were still there, months away from being marched to their new quarters at the top of the King County Courthouse facing City Hall Park.



JEAN SHERRARD

**NOW:** This past fall Jean Sherrard visited the Smith Tower's observation deck and shot in all directions, including here to show the full Harborview Medical Center on Ninth Avenue.

The drying tower for the Fire Department's Engine House No. 3 rises just to the right of Harborview. The station survives, although not its tower.

All the structures in the bottom half of the scene have been long since razed, and Interstate 5 now makes its concrete way between Sixth and Seventh avenues. Bottom-center sits the Pleasanton Hotel with three-story bays, balconies and an arched front door. The Pleasanton faced Elliott Bay on the north side of a Terrace Street so steep that it was climbed only by steps. You can see them to the right of the hotel. 

Check out Paul Dorpat and Jean Sherrard's blog at [www.pauldorpat.com](http://www.pauldorpat.com).