

Council Crest History - Michael Munk January 2016 (final draft)

Naming and Settling Council Crest

Author's note:

The 68-year tenure of the Munk family in the oldest house on Council Crest is coming to an end. In view of that I set out to briefly explore history of our house and its previous occupants but, my curiosity engaged and encouraged by Jim Breithaupt and the SW Hills Residential League, I reoriented my project toward the early history of the neighborhood. One thing led to another...and now we have "Naming and Settling Council Crest."

The Munk family-- my parents, younger sister and I--fled Europe and first came to Portland in 1939. After spending WW II in Berkeley, California and Washington, D.C., we returned to Portland in 1947 when I was 12 and moved into what I did not know until writing this article is the earliest surviving house on Council Crest. I spent most of my adult life in the East, and my sister moved away to college and marriage, but our parents continued to live in the house for the rest of their long lives. I took over in 2000--after my retirement and my parents' deaths.

The Friends of Marquam Nature Park--founded in 1968 in my mother's dining room--placed two memorial benches facing Mt Hood in Council Crest Park to honor my parents' role in protecting the mainly wild area from a 600-unit apartment house. - MM



Mt Hood from Frank Munk (1901-99) and Nadia Munk (1902-2000) memorial benches at the terminus of the Marquam Nature Park Trail in Council Crest Park.

Earliest White Settlers on Council Crest

Although often described as the highest point of the Tualatin Mountains (Portland's West Hills), Council Crest at about 1,073 ft. is challenged by Healy Heights,¹ a nearby crest of the same hill, which claims to be 19 feet higher.

Nevertheless, from the mid 19th century the summit of the Tualatin Mountains known today as Council Crest has been regarded as Portland's highest prominence. Its earliest non-native residents were John Beal Talbot (1798-1874) and Sarah Plumb Talbot (1819-1900)² whose name is carried today by SW Talbot Road. Their 1851 Donation Land Claim included the crest in their 640 acres.³ Just west of the Talbots was John Donner's DLC (SW DonnerWay and SW Donner Way Court) at today's SW Fairmount Blvd. and south toward Healey Heights. Neither first settler's family tenure survived the 19th century.

The Talbots lived and farmed not far below the summit in an area a once called "Talbot Heights" on what some called "Talbot's Mountain." Their first cabin is shown on a 1852 survey (p. 6) and was replaced by a larger permanent residence in 1856, which itself was moved in 1908 to clear the area for the first residential subdivision.



Former Talbot homestead below Council Crest in 1906.

But after John's death in 1874, his widow Sarah and their daughter Ella (1853-1919, the "first white child born in the Portland hills" were evidently unable to sustain themselves though the farm so, beginning in 1875, they were forced to survive by borrowing on their land. Then, unable to pay back their mortgages and other debts, they lost most of their property through foreclosures and sheriff's sales despite hiring attorneys to unsuccessfully defend their property claims. Subsequent 19th century owners of the original Talbot land

¹ Today's Healy Heights was originally promoted by Joseph Healy, who originally proposed to build a "New Switzerland" on it. For many years a large illuminated sign advertising "Richfield" oil faced the city.

² In her obituary, Sarah was referred to as "a woman of light physique and of small weight" who traveled the Oregon trail with her husband. They arrived on the east side of the Willamette river in November, 1849 when the population of Portland, according to *The Oregonian*, comprised "30 white people and 300 Multnomah Indians" (March 27, 1900).

³ For the controversial international legal basis of these DLCs, see addendum, p. 29-30.

included C.A Beal, James Steel, and Graham Glass,⁴ followed by several families who eventually jointly sold the land to early 20th century speculators.

The Talbot family's dogged legal struggle to retain at least a small foothold on Council Crest did not end until 1909 when the Oregon Supreme Court upheld Theodore Bernheim's claim against Ella Talbot's challenge.⁵ By then, Bernheim and other speculators had bought portions of the first residential subdivision on the crest and indeed, Paul B. Powers and Mildred S. Powers (his wife?) had already bought lots from Bernheim, built a house and were living in it. It was the first house in the new Council Crest neighborhood, and the same one the Munk family would occupy almost 40 years later.



Talbot House (1856) being "forced moved" from original site in 1908

Since he was unmarried, John Donner's⁶ adjacent DLC comprised only half of the 640 acres granted to the Talbot couple. His tenure on Council Crest/Healey Heights was brief; he sold his claim for \$2,500 to Philip A. Marquam (SW Marquam Road, Marquam Hill, Marquam Gulch/Creek) in 1857. Marquam to become the "largest landowner in Multnomah county" and was first elected county judge in 1862, but in 1907, he was described as having

⁴ Lewis A. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names* (6th edition, 1992), p.210.

⁵ 54 OR.30 (1909). See p. 18.

⁶ Donner was a brother of George, leader of the ill-fated Donner party.

defrauded Multnomah County by taxes on his property at a fraction of their value⁷. He sold a portion to John (Healy Heights) Healy in 1910.

The 1852 Surveyor General's map⁸ by Butler Ives established the boundaries of early DLCs in the Portland area, including Council Crest. In a survey conducted on April Fool's Day, 1852, Ives depicted a residence near the crest of Talbot's claim, misnaming the settler both on the map and in his field notes.⁹ He locates "Mr. Tolbert's house," about 180 feet west of a "path to Portland," possibly a old Indian path. On the southerly side of the path, he showed a house on John Donner's neighboring DLC.¹⁰ The boundary between the two claims today is the east line of the lots in Block 5 of the 1906 subdivision Council Crest Park, which suggests his original house may have been in the vicinity of the intersection of SW Council Crest Drive and Chehalem Avenue.

A later surveyor's field notes in 1855¹¹ describe a structure on the western portion of Donner's claim as "Donners house" about 320 feet north of and 246 feet east from the southern boundary of the Talbot and Donners DLCs, which appears to be near today's SW Fairmount Blvd below the eastern portion of Healy Heights. Donner's barn is located about 300 feet east of his house.

The source of a narrow (1 1/2 feet wide) stream running down eastward from what Metro's interactive map identifies as today's CC Park¹² about 1000 feet northwest of Talbot's house. As it flowed down the hill, it was joined by several others to form Marquam Creek flowing through Marquam Gulch and, according to the 1852 map, eventually emptying into the Willamette just south of the Portland plats between a "steam saw mill" and a "slaughterhouse." Marquam Gulch was later filled in for Duniway Park.

That "path to Portland" may have been used by the Talbot and Donner farms -as well as Albert Kelly's below the west side of the crest-- as a narrow one-mule route, but it's probable that, like many later roads in the city, it followed earlier Indian paths that criss-crossed the area.¹³ The path began at what would later become Macadam Avenue,¹⁴ from

⁷ *The Oregonian*, citing the 1907 *Oregon Journal*, October 25, 2015.

⁸ Survey contract dated October 25, 1851. Survey conducted in March and April, 1852 and approved by the Territorial Surveyor General on May 20, 1852. Published as Township 1, South, Range 1 East http://library.uoregon.edu/map/GIS/Data/Oregon/GLO/Quadrant_4.htm#1s accessed April 27, 2015.

⁹ C. Albert White, *A Casebook of Oregon Donation Land Claims*, p. 150 (Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon, 2001), p. 150

¹¹ White, *op cit.*, p. 152.

¹² <http://drcmetro.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingSwipe/?appid=7cea8958740b4986905f5debf93e0c77#>

¹³ White, *op cit.*, p. 150. Later called Marquam road? An 1871 survey calls it "Marcam Road" *ibid*, p. 152.

¹⁴ The lower terminus of the path may have been the one described by Jon Wood on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PortlandHistoryandMemories/> "According to a self-published history of the South Portland neighborhood, *two Native American trails* that joined at the west end of the Ross Island Bridge. One of those trails followed some or all of Powell Blvd - *the other followed Macadam I believe.*" (emphasis added). Macadam was later a toll road known as the White House Road. It was privately owned by the Macadam Road Co. which sold its rights to Multnomah County "years" before 1887. *Oregonian*. It was freshly paved in 1919.

the Finice Caruthers (SW Caruthers Street) and his mother Elizabeth Thomas Caruthers's¹⁵ claims on the west bank of the Willamette, and ran up and over the crest of the hill between the Talbot and Donner houses. If Native Americans visited and/or passed over the crest, it's likely that this was the route they used, and -if indeed it predated their arrival at their claims--would explain that Talbot and Donner took advantage of the access by building their homes on either side of it.

From Council Crest, the path descends southwest down to Albert and Nira C.B. Kelly's farm (Albert Kelly Park) below the crest to end in the Tualatin Valley. A separate path runs from the Kelly farm to join the more substantial "Milwaukie to Tualatin Plains Road." The celebrated "Portland and Valley Plank Road"¹⁶ begun in 1850 (later Canyon Creek Road, Tanner Creek Road, and today, Canyon Road and Rt 26) runs north of Talbot's land.

As an employee of a government tasked to promote growth and empire, Mr. Ives, the surveyor, offered a service to new settlers by describing some of the more easily exploitable natural resources of the area. He noted that the southern reaches of the Tualatin Mountains were "hilly and broken with deep ravines and ridges," and judged its resources to be "soil good and 2nd rate stoney in places," its timber as "Fir, Cedar, Maple and dogwood" but cautioned there was "considerable dead and fallen."

¹⁵ Elizabeth Caruthers "rejected" her married name Thomas. A 1868 US Supreme Court decision over the Caruthers property long after her death in 1857 held that under the DLC act, women, married or not, had the same right to property as men. Elizabeth Caruthers Park (2009) in today's new South Waterfront neighborhood carries her name. <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks> *op cit*.

¹⁶ Originally much narrower and deeper than today, the "Great Plank Road," the first on the Pacific coast, was begun in 1851, but not finished until 1856 and never fully planked. As noted below, it was difficult to travel even 40 years later. Tanner Creek was covered over early in the 20th century.

persistence, the "Indian Councils" version has been questioned by many sources including Ella Talbot, who denied that any Indians ever met on Council Crest.¹⁷

Thus the established account traces the name of Council Crest to a well-documented visit to the top of the hill by delegates to the 10th Triennial National Council of the Congregational Church when it met in Portland in 1898. The main issue in dispute in that account is between two published versions of what George H. Himes told those visitors when he escorted them to the site on July 12, 1898.

Himes (1844-1940, SW Himes Street, George Himes Park) was a printer by trade and sort of an informal Portland "civic greeter." At the time he escorted the church delegates to Council Crest, he was secretary of the Oregon Pioneer Association and shortly after the visit (1899) became secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, serving as its longtime curator from 1916 to 1939.¹⁸

His version of the naming of the site, probably written by or at least based on Himes' own reporting, was published in the *Oregonian* on the day after the visit.¹⁹ The other was published in an *Oregonian* interview many years later with Congregationist leader William Barton, an original participant in the 1898 event, when he visited Portland again in 1921. Barton claimed that, in his previous visit, "I conferred the name of Council Crest," and that his credibility is attested to by a report "published in the Portland papers the next day."²⁰

That first report of the naming-- headed "Named 'Council Crest': Notable Excursion of Congregationalists to Old Fairmount " -- detailed the July 12 visit by "six carriage loads" of 25 delegates who "left their church at the end of their afternoon session at 5:30 and went by way of Canyon Road *to the point known as Fairmount*, (emphasis added) arriving at 7:30."

¹⁷ *Oregon Journal*, March 15, 1914.

¹⁸ As a child, Himes (1844-1940) traveled the Oregon Trail in 1853. He moved from Washington state to Portland in 1864 as a printer at the *Oregonian*, where he claimed to have set in type the first editorial by Harvey Scott. Later he opened his own print shop "Himes, The Printer" and among other jobs, printed the City Directories.

¹⁹ *Oregonian*, July 13, 1898. p. 8

²⁰ *Oregonian*, August 2, 1921.



Canyon/Tanner Creek Road in 1896

After being "astonished" by the view of "five snow mountains and 100 miles of the Columbia," the delegates held a ceremony including brief remarks, a prayer and the singing of "America." Then, "as the sun was disappearing behind the lofty coast range, it was suggested by "Portland friends"²¹ that the place had no *fitting* name (emphasis added)," it was "voted after discussion to call it 'Council Crest.'" But the newspaper report makes clear that before the vote, Himes told the visitors that "*during the Indian days of the country it was a signal peak of the red men and a place where their councils were held.*" (emphasis added) and that therefore the choice of "Council Crest" also had a "basis" in the Indian legend. In this context, Himes' use of "no fitting name" would seem to mean that "Old Fairmount" had no formal or agreed name at the time.

Perhaps the most authoritative account of Himes' role in the naming came from a personal statement written on the 4th anniversary of the church delegates visit.²² Himes says he was "called upon" to speak. He appealed to the delegates to use the opportunity to give "this

²¹ In addition to Himes, Portlanders on the trip included William D. Scott, Robert A. Reid and A.W. Gunnison. Himes document, "Council Crest" July 12, 1902, copy in author's collection.

²² Himes document, *op. cit.*

lofty eminence..."a fitting name," reciting two reasons to do so: (1) because "representatives came to the city at our feet for mutual council from widely separated parts of our union" and (2) "This was a traditional council ground of the Indians of this valley, and a place where signal fires were lighted to inform the aboriginal tribes of this vicinity of impending danger." After several suggestions were rejected, Himes writes that "Council Crest"--proposed by Rev Leavitt H. Hallock of Oakland (formerly of Portland, Maine)--was considered "suggestive and fitting" and "upon my motion was unanimously adopted."

Himes closes his testimony with an example of the no holds barred descriptive enthusiasm typical of civic boosters of that era. "In the company were those who had traveled widely over the face of the earth," he wrote, "and they were greatly touched by the magnificent and indescribable grandeur and beauty of the sublime surroundings. " And after the hymns had been sung, the prayers and benedictions offered, Himes rhapsodizes over the wagon ride back downtown. "The electric lights over the whole city were revealed, suggesting the idea that a patch of starlight had been taken from the heavens and turned upside down. With one accord the entire company were enthusiastic over the wonderful scenic surroundings of the city, claiming it could not be matched in all its striking diversity anywhere upon this earth of ours."

Finally, Himes remembers his first visit to Council Crest was on September 6, 1865 and that since then he returned "not less than 2,000 times, and never alone." He notes that he's come at all hours in every month has "always found something new." He predicts, rather accurately from today's vantage, that "When the people of Portland come to know it as I do, they will not permit a stranger from abroad to come to the city without suggesting they visit Council Crest. No city in the world has a point so near it from which so much can be seen."

Barton's Version

When Barton returned to Portland 23 years later, it was as leader of the Congregational Church in the US. In 1898, he had been chosen by the council delegates as the event's moderator.

He began his 1921 newspaper interview with a reference to the Native American version. "The majority of the citizens of Portland," he observed, "take it for granted that Council Crest received its name from the fact that Indians used it to hold councils there." But Barton authoritatively dismissed it: "The Indians may or may not held councils there," he allowed, "but that was decidedly not this that gave its name to that height."

Barton asserted his personal role in the naming. He told his interviewer that when he had asked about their destination, Himes said it "*had no name*" (emphasis added) but that from it, they would have a "fine view" of Portland.

As the carriages rode up Canyon Road through a "deep ravine and around the hill, approaching the view from the back," Barton said the delegates had already determined to link the "nameless" hill to their visit there, and offered suggestions such as "Council Hill" or "Council Heights." And when delegate Rev. Levitt Hallock of Oakland (but formerly from

Portland, Maine), proposed the happily alliterative "Council Crest" it was "so felicitous" that the company immediately voted for it with enthusiasm.

Barton said that the delegates arrived at the hilltop where the only "human sign was a farmhouse (probably Talbot's 1856 house) not far below (see p. 4)

He confirmed the earlier newspaper account of the formal naming ceremony and then proudly declared to the interviewer that, "I conferred the name of Council Crest, which was published in the Portland papers the next day and which has continued to be the name from that day until now."



William Barton in 1921: "I conferred the name of Council Crest."

A few days later Barton's account was challenged in a letter to the *Oregonian*. Col. Henry Dosch, 80-year old member of a prominent local family, (SW Dosch Road) wrote to differ with Barton's key assertion that the hill had "no name" in 1898. Dosch noted that Talbot had called his hill "Fairmount" (as had the headline over the 1898 article). Dosch added that, for him, "Fairmount" was still the preferred name.²³

There the matter stood until 1927, when journalist Paul R. Kelty decided to put some literary zing into what he considered a rather pedestrian recitation of the Council Crest story in the *Oregonian*. His response added new details and injected some color into the 1898 story. Kelty wondered rhetorically whether the target of his criticism didn't lack "the more picturesque essentials,"²⁴ and proceeded to innumerate some of them in his expressive style.

Kelty also used the opportunity to take a shot at "Dreamland," the popular amusement park that by then had dominated the crest for 20 years (see p. 10). Harkening back to "the days when the Crest was a place of natural beauty unsurpassed and when wild flowers and wild strawberries flourished profusely," he lamented that it is "now dedicated to ballyhoo and tinsel." But his subject was primarily a reminiscence of George Himes before commercial "development" had spoiled a pristine Council Crest.

His was a sunny appreciation of Himes "with his old white horse and buggy," who liked to "take a friend or a visitor to the city and drive to the crest to show off the splendors of the

²³ Letter to *The Oregonian*, Aug 6, 1921

²⁴ Letter, July 29, 1927.

earth." It was not an easy drive, Kelty wrote, "The way was long and circuitous. In summer the road [now "Canyon Road"] was deep with dust and in winter rutted and muddy, but whoever made the trip became thrilled and uplifted unless the blood in his veins was as dust." As Himes had made the escorted trip his avocation in life, Kelty continued, he "knew every outstanding tree, every rill, ravine, landmark and viewpoint along the way and had something of interest to tell about each. And from the crest he could point and name every peak, whether snow-clad or verdant, every city, town or hamlet and every watercourse in the cyclodrama of wonder."²⁵



George H. Himes, 1925

Kelty then presented a critically different account of what Himes told visitors of that allegedly "nameless" hill in 1898 than Barton had, one closer to the contemporaneous newspaper article and Himes' own testimony.

Referring to the period *before 1898*, Kelty wrote that "the eminence was called by some 'Fairmount' and by others 'Council Crest,'" for the councils held there by the Indian tribes of the region. "The reason they did so," Kelty wrote, repeating a version of the popular but disputed explanation of that persistent legend, "was that the crest affords the highest vantage point for the beacon fires that would summon the chiefs and braves to council."

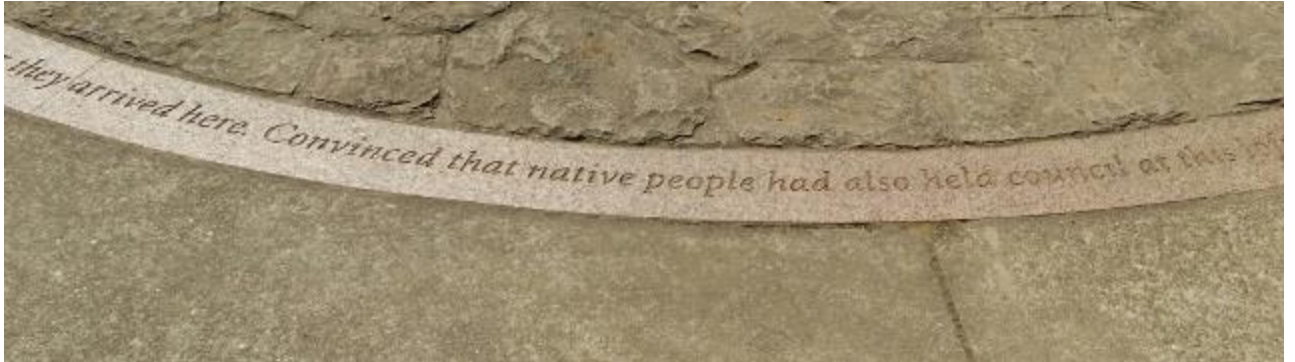
Kelty then followed Barton's account of the invitation to visit, but noted that, after Himes "expatiated in wonted vein on the glories of the place, there was inquiry as to what it was called, *and Mr. Himes told the visitors of the two names and about the Indian councils formerly held there*" (emphasis added). Kelty concluded with: "*The church council thereupon voted with enthusiasm its own confirmation of the title of the Indian tradition,*" (emphasis added) and Mr. Himes subsequently did the rest."

And "So," Kelty sought to settle the matter, "we have Council Crest."²⁶

Thus all versions agree that Council Crest was formally named on July 12, 1898 by church *council* members invited by Himes to visit the top of the highest hill in the Portland area. But the preponderance of evidence indicates that their choice consciously reflected an

²⁶ A letter from an anonymous "Congregationalist" insisted on Barton's 1921 account in response to Kelty, relying on hearsay, "as told to me by one who was present." *Oregonian*, August 5, 1927.

existing popular legend about Indian *councils* while at the same time also commemorating their own happy visit to an uniquely Portland site.



The historical explanation of the naming in today's park links the church council visitors of 1898 to their endorsement of the Indian councils legend.

After 1898, the now formally named Council Crest area remained outside the city limits of Portland until a male-only election annexed it to the city in May, 1906 by a vote of 466-74. The city limits were extended to the western portion of Fairmount Blvd, as the still existing marker stone attests. Across from 3194 SW Fairmount Blvd,²⁷ the stone bears the inscription "Portland" on one side and "City Boundary" on the other. Today, the Council Crest neighborhood is informally described as the area above Fairmount Blvd, which circles both crests of the hill and thus also includes Healy Heights.

²⁷ Fairmount Blvd resident Sabine Hilding pointed this out to me.



City boundary marker on SW Fairmount Blvd, 2015

The Fabulous Council Crest Streetcar Line (1906-1949)



Between the 1905 **Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair** and 1910, Portland's population grew to about 110,000 people. Many speculators profited from betting on housing and transportation growth, but the Expo experience seems to have now inspired new investment in public entertainment. One consequence for Portland as well as for other cities, was the building of "trolley parks"--amusement parks served by streetcars otherwise idle on weekends.²⁸ First in Portland was The Oaks in 1905, which survives, and when the Portland Railway Light & Power Co. extended its Portland Heights line to Council Crest in September 1906, it anticipated serving the second "trolley park" and profiting from resulting real estate and commercial development.

At the time, "speculator" was a respectable title evoking imaginative risk taking that promised both progress and profit, but it has been since replaced in the media by the evidently more politically correct "developer" or "investor." Indeed, Portland Railway, which eventually became today's private electricity monopoly, Portland General Electric, invested to reap profits generated by the creation of a new upper income neighborhood in a pristine area above its previous terminus at "The Fountain." That is how locals still refer to the complex intersection of SW Vista Avenue, SW Patton Road, SW Talbot Rd, SW Georgian Ct. and the upper end of SW Broadway Drive.

Portland Railway's new narrow-gauge Council Crest line cars were intended for hill work and the company pitched the ride to visitors as one of the most scenic in the country. On clear days, the cars would solicit riders by mounting a sign, "Mountains in View." On very

²⁸ *The Oregonian*, May 31, 2015.

snowy days, they attached a wire snow scrapper and, when conditions forced them to avoid going up to the crest, the sign warned "Patton Road Only."

The reputation of the views from the crest was built on real or imagined testimonials, such as the one from the sometime Oregon poet and writer Joaquin Miller. He reportedly visited the site in 1896 and was so impressed by the view--named later as "Miller's View Point"--he could not speak for 30 minutes.²⁹ The trolley was even celebrated in popular verse by "T. McK. N.," another poet but evidently shy about revealing his full name. He began his 1908 paean "To Portland"³⁰ with

*If thou wouldst see earth's grandest sights
And nature at her best,
Go take a ride 'round Portland Heights,
Clear up to Council Crest.*



View from Council Crest Park, 1917

In 1910, Portland Railroad built a 1,400 sq ft cottage for the trolley's brakeman and his family. After its first 70 years, the press reported it had gone into "decline." But in 2006 "The Brakeman's Cottage" grew to a house of more than 3,500 sq ft after sprouting new wings on each side of the original cottage.³¹ It stands today below CC Drive at 2817 SW

²⁹ Miller's view of Mt. Hood may have been from near today's intersection of SW Council Crest Drive and SW Bernard Dr, which is actually on Healy Heights. *Oregonian*, Sept. 27, 1908

³⁰ *Oregonian*, April 20, 1908

³¹ *Oregonian*, Feb. 11, 2010

Hillsboro Street, which is connected to CC Drive by quaint, Berkeley hills-like, public steps (see p. 18).



Just before reaching its Council Crest Park station, the Mt Zion stop served the area known by that name since 1860, which lay below the west side of CC at the intersection of Patton Rd. and Garden Home Rd (now SW Dosch Rd) and the crossroads of Talbot and Humphrey's Blvd³².

³² According to a descendant, Mt. Zion was named by Albert Kelly in 1860-61 because the small school-- that stood where the Hilltop gas station at Green Hills is today --served as a local meeting house and reminded Kelly of a Mt Zion meeting house in his native Kentucky. According to the 1852 survey, Kelly farmed on his DLC southwest of CC, and his house was on the same old Indian path next to which Talbot and Donner settled (p.5). The Congregational Zion Church stood at the site of today's Thomas Moore school parking lot. After the school closed, the Zion grocery store was established in its place by the Morris family with a single gas pump. It did not survive competition with Stroheckers' grocery, established further down Patton Rd in 1902. When Strohecker's announced it would close in January, 2016, the early photo used by *The Oregonian* (Jan 1, 2016) showed the grocery named "Zion Grocery G Strohecker, prop."

The community of Mt Zion was sometimes mistakenly called "Ziontown," a separate neighborhood in today's Sylvan. McArthur, *op cit*, p.

Preceding the Mt Zion stop on the CC streetcar, there was the "Hewitt stop" on the ascending loop about half way between the bridge over Talbot Rd and the Mt Zion station, where a path would take passengers down to Talbot Rd. below. The stop was named for Henry Hewitt, a pioneer insurance man (SW Hewitt Blvd) who named his 80 acres in the area as "Green Hills" in 1913.

Until the 1940s, when many Heights homes had maids and servants, the CC line was known for servicing the most diverse class and racial group of passengers of any line in Portland.³³



CC car #504 descending into its wooded right of way (now SW Greenway Ave.) from SW Council Crest Drive. The invitation above its beat-up cow catchers urges people to "See Portland from Council Crest"

The decline of the CC line began in 1937, when all-night "Owl" service was cancelled by the Portland Traction Co., which had become the owner of Portland streetcars the year before, creating a gap between 1:30 and 5:30 AM. Portland Traction abandoned the entire CC loop on August 9, 1949, followed by the rest of its Portland Heights line six months later. Its right of way through the woods around the park became public streets (SW Greenway Avenue and SW Talbot Terrace) and walking paths leading up to today's municipal Council Crest Park.

³³ In 2015, the #50 bus Line in Birmingham survives on black maids' business. See <http://projects.aljazeera.com/2015/05/birmingham-bus/> accessed May 31, 2015.

Since 1949, public transportation to Council Crest has been by bus on city streets and today is limited to TriMet's very rare daylight weekday-only service on its #51 Vista line.

The Disreputable "Dreamland" on Council Crest (1907-1929)

A major incentive for Portland Railway to extend its Portland Heights line was the \$80,000 subsidy it demanded from the promoters of a 38-acre "Council Crest, Dreamland of the Northwest" amusement park. Anticipating it would be some time before the CC residential population would grow sufficiently to return a profit, the company owners coordinated its construction with a syndicate of amusement park investors fronted by Van Anderson and L.L. Little for a secret group of subscribers. They announced their park would be "Portland's answer to San Francisco's Mt Tamalpais" and their business plan included the sale of residential lots "of sufficient elevation to rise above the dust and smoke of a large city." Residential Council Crest Park was platted in 1906 (see p. 18), about the same time the trolley line began operations. The amusement park opened eight months later on Memorial Day 1907.

The early history of "Dreamland" was marked by frequent controversy. It quickly generated opposition from Portland Heights residents and "municipal reformers." In an August, 1908 letter backing mayor (1905-09) Harry Lane's intention to "exterminate disorderly women" (prostitutes) from the city, the Municipal Association observed that the dance pavilion at the new CC amusement park had already become a "kindergarten of the bawdy houses." Calling it a "breeding place for vice...regularly frequented by scores of minors without proper escort," the group demanded the dance hall be put under "thorough police supervision."³⁴

That first reform crusade against the park was unsuccessful, but two years later when the "most prominent citizens of Portland Heights" appeared before the City Council and "with one accord" declared it "unfit to run," the council responded by revoking the dance hall's permit. John Annand, the only Heights resident on the Council, agreed with the opponents that the entire park should be shut down, pointing out it was not a local business but "financed by a large and wealthy company of Eastern capitalists." The owner of the land on which the leased amusement park stood, Mrs. Preston Smith, was its sole defender that day in 1910. She blamed downtown saloons for enabling visitors to bring liquor to the park.

Interviewed more than 70 years later, Jane Armentrout, who lived close enough to the park to hear "screams on the roller coaster from my bedroom window" recalled her parents considered the park "a decadent place" and wouldn't let her go there.

³⁴ A similar development occurred in San Francisco during the same time, see Randy Shaw *The Tenderloin: Sex, Crime and Resistance in the Heart of San Francisco*. San Francisco: Urban Reality Press, 2015. For a review, see <http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/30596-san-francisco-the-highlife-of-the-lowlifes>, accessed May 9, 2015.

Despite the urging of the park's opponents, in 1912 Portland voters turned down a proposal to buy the property for a public park. At its peak, it was known for its grand union-sponsored Labor Day and patriotic July 4 celebrations, but the new leisure time choices made possible by new roads and affordable cars, together with the 1929 economic crisis eroded its profitability and it was closed on Labor Day that year. Its owners allowed their structures to decay and, despite being posted "No Trespassing" during the Depression, some of the land was appropriated by hungry citizens for "vegetable gardening." In 1937 the Ukase Investment Co, then owners of the land, traded it and what was left of its structures to the city in exchange for a surplus fire station downtown at SW Fourth Avenue and Yamhill (and a demand for payment of delinquent taxes). The city designated its newly acquired property a municipal park which remains today as popular Council Crest Park.



The notorious Crest Pavilion, "kindergarten of the bawdy houses," on the midway



Mayor Joe "Bloody Shirt" Carson trading for CC Park March 17, 1937

Early Residential Development on Council Crest

As eagerly anticipated by Portland Railway and the city's real estate industry, Council Crest was opened to real estate speculators and syndicates by streetcar access in 1906. As in other Portland "streetcar suburbs" during the early decades of the 20th century, the new neighborhood followed an established pattern. Private streetcar companies working with land speculators and supported by elected politicians grateful for support from the entrepreneurs opened new suburban areas for mutually beneficial "growth." Similar alliances continue to account for "growth" today, despite public planning efforts to control and direct urban development. For example, during a test run of Portland's new light rail system to Milwaukie (The Orange Line), an *Oregonian* reporter observed that, along the route, "for-sale signs suggest owners might soon cash in on what has become prime real estate."³⁵

Council Crest was no exception to this pattern. Already in 1905 a "Council Crest Park" subdivision was privately surveyed by A.H. Richmond but not filed with Multnomah county. Interested parties then presented a petition in May, 1906 to annex the area to the city, a act confirmed by Portland voters in June. By July, the *Oregonian's* business section noted that an unnamed "syndicate which has tied up the best land on the crest has had many

³⁵ August 5, 2015.

advances on its holdings, but has so far refused to sell."³⁶ And on October 15, 1906, a month after the streetcar line began operating, the withheld subdivision was filed with the county.

As announced by the real estate firm H. W. Lemcke Co, the subdivision mapped approximately 11 public streets and five "alleys"³⁷ centered on CC Drive and bounded by Fairmount Blvd. It laid out 26 blocks, each containing from seven to 25 lots of varying sizes and proportions. Portland Railway never exercised its right to extend the streetcar line down CC Drive. The lots were priced from \$300 up.³⁸

By 1910, under the headline "Homes Dot Crest: A Few Years Ago a Wilderness" *The Oregonian* reported that "No part of the city has advanced more rapidly in house building in the past three years than has Council Crest."³⁹ But that sunny estimate may have better reflected the newspaper's business interest in "growth" rather than accurate reporting: at that time only six surviving houses had been built in the four years since the lots were put on sale.

As already noted, the Talbot family lost its last portion of its original homestead in 1909 (*Bernheim v. Talbot*).⁴⁰ Ella, the Talbot's daughter, despite losing several court tests of mortgage foreclosures, was still claiming ownership of four lots (Blk 5, lot 1 and Blk 4, lots 1-4) on Mt Adams Drive and Gale Street at the northeast corner of the original Talbot DLC and announced she would or had cut trees on them. By then, they had been purchased by Theodore Bernheim, who won his legal effort to clear title.⁴¹

The evidence indicates that my home is evidently the earliest house in the neighborhood and the oldest surviving house on Council Crest. The **1907** Block book gives its tax lot description as *Council Crest Park, Block 5, lots 13, 14 and part of 12*, a block which formed part of the boundary of the Talbot claim to the east and faced Mt Adams Drive and Gale Street to the west. On the date the subdivision was filed, the several owners of the land divided the lots between themselves, with the Henricks family receiving the northeast blocks including Block 5, and parts of Blocks 4, 6, 17 and 18 from the Yerkes, Curry and Keep families. It's likely that a syndicate of real estate speculators who included Theodore Bernheim⁴² bought Blocks 4 and 5 lots from the Hendricks, since he is listed as the seller to Powers in Block 5, Baker in Block 6, and Haley in Block 17.

In the 1931 renumbering of Portland streets, there were 49 residential addresses listed in the neighborhood, 17 on Council Crest Drive, 10 on Mt Adams Drive, six on Hillsdale, six on

³⁶ "No Lull in the Realty Market", July 1, 1906.

³⁷ The "alleys" were intended as stairs leading in mid-block from street to street, only one of which is in use today (see p. 13)

³⁸ *Map of Council Crest Park: Portland's Choicest Residential District*, H.W. Lemcke Co, 1906. In author's possession. Lemcke was soon involved in lengthy litigation that ended with a member of the firm, City Councilman John P. Sharkey taking over its CC lots and contracts from the Lemcke, Burkhardt and Curry families. The new firm became the John P. Sharkey Co. *Oregonian*, Oct 25, 1907.

³⁹ *Oregonian* Jan 30, 1910.

⁴⁰ 54 OR.30, (1909).

⁴¹ C. Albert White, *op. cit.*, p. 157.

⁴² Title for lots 6 and 7, Block 24, Security Abstract and Tile Co, p. 81. 1907. In author's collection.

Hillsboro, four on Chehalem, four on Beaverton and two on Gale. There were additional homes on other streets on CC in the 1931 list but a quick search did not reveal others built before 1920. Most of them, (44 of the 49) survive, and 18 are the *early* homes which I consider for this purpose as built before 1920. As listed below, none are later than 1913.⁴³

3808 Mt Adams (1908) Powers ("new" with no water and septic in 1907)
 3804 Council Crest (1908) Butterworth & Stephenson Co, (called "new" in 1911)
 2817 Hillsboro (1910) "Brakeman's cottage"
 3795 Chehalem (1910) Halley ("Private water" and septic in '08. City water 5/09)
 3533 Mt Adams,--now Blackstone (1910) reconstructed in 2015
 3607 Mt Adams (1910) Baker (septic, city water 11/09)
 3841 Mt Adams (1911) Young
 3732 CC (1911)--(orig. Mt Adams Dr?)
 3738 CC (1911)
 3725 Mt Adams (1912) Tony Anderson (water 9/11, sewer 12/11)
 3580 CC (1912) J.J. Armstrong
 3701 Beaverton (1912) R. L. Donald
 3929 CC, formerly Hillsdale (1912) --
 3537 CC (1913) Josey Anderson
 3877 Hillsdale (1913) --
 3900 Hillsdale (1913) A. Peterson
 3927 Hillsdale (1913) R.J. Snow
 4003 Hillsdale (1913) R.J. Snow

3500 Gale (1912) was reconstructed in 1999.

⁴³ Building dates from Portland Maps website, names as available from "historic permits" option.

October 31, a final plumbing permit was issued to owner "Mrs. Powers" for what was now a "new 1 1/2 story house" on an unnamed ⁴⁵dirt street lacking curbs, sewers, having no water service permit with sewage intended to be directed into a septic tank. However, the inspector noted on the back of his report card that the septic tank had not "not built" and there was "No. water." The inspector's later notes indicate that "connection to septic tank put in" had been finally made by November 22 but does not indicate the house's source of water.

REPORT OF INSPECTION			
Street and No.		Portland Heights Council Crest ✓	
Owner	Mrs. Powers	Address	
Plumber	A. G. Buchanan	Address	353 Burnside St.
No. Stories and kind of Building <u>New 1 1/2 story frame</u>			
What used for <u>Dwelling</u>			
No. Water Closets	<u>1</u>	No. Basins	<u>1</u> No. Rain Con'd _____ (sewer or curb)
No. Bath Tubs	<u>1</u>	No. Laundry Tubs	<u>1</u> No. Floor Drains _____
No. Sinks	<u>1</u>	No. Urinals	_____ No. and Size of Stacks <u>1 - 4"</u>
No. Stop Sinks	_____	(Connected to <u>septic tank</u> Sewer or Cesspool)	
Kind of Vents	<u>Galv</u>	Kind of Drains	<u>4" x 1 1/2" C T</u>
Other Plumbing Fixtures _____			
			Total No. Fixtures <u>5</u>
Water Permits _____			
Date of First Inspection	<u>10/16</u>	190 <u>7</u>	Date of Final Inspection <u>10/29</u> 190 <u>7</u>
Inspector <u>HEY</u>		Inspector <u>HEY</u>	
Date of First Certificate	<u>Oct 22</u>	190 <u>7</u>	Date of Final Certificate <u>Oct 31</u> 190 <u>7</u>
SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS			

In March 1909, a second plumbing permit attests that "Mrs Powers" added an additional toilet to what was now already an "old two story frame dwelling" now supplied with "spring water," but there were still no sewers or curbs on Mt Adams Drive. The Portland tax assessor records the house as built in 1908. ⁴⁶

have sold to C.A. Holsington also in 1912. Never seen so many sales. That whole area is thick with tons of sales."

⁴⁵ The plumbing inspector identified its street location as "Portland Heights, Council Crest," perhaps unaware that the subdivision had named the street "Mt Adams Drive."

⁴⁶ All city records from Portland Maps.



Original 1911 curb street inscription survives in 2015

The Powers-Munk house is the only one on Mt Adams Drive standing below street grade,⁴⁷ and I recall asking my parents why. They said long time neighborhood residents explained that as the first and only house in the area it was built before the road was regraded to a higher level. Today, the locations of street drains at the intersection in front of the property, connected to the sewer line leading down the property to SW Fairmont indicates it remains the lowest point on the street. It's likely, then, that the house was built on the low point of a dirt road without curbs, sewers and water service and stood as the road's only structure for about two years. When other houses were planned for the road in 1909, the road may have been raised to reduce its slope⁴⁸, requiring the still existing stone retaining wall between the house and the now elevated Mt Adams Drive.

Water service became available on the street by May, 1909 but there were still no sewers until December, 1911. Local sidewalks and curbs on the street --many with original horse rings-- still bear the inscription "Warren Construction Company-1911." It was not until the Warren company paved the entire length of Mt Adams Drive from Fairmont Blvd. to Tualatin Ave. in 1912, that the street assumed its present configuration.

⁴⁷ Two houses on SW CC Drive are also below grade, 3732 (1911, which have originally may have faced Mt Adams Dr) 3929 (1912) which faces Hillsdale Ave. but changed its address to CC Drive.

⁴⁸ Suggested by an engineer, October, 2015.



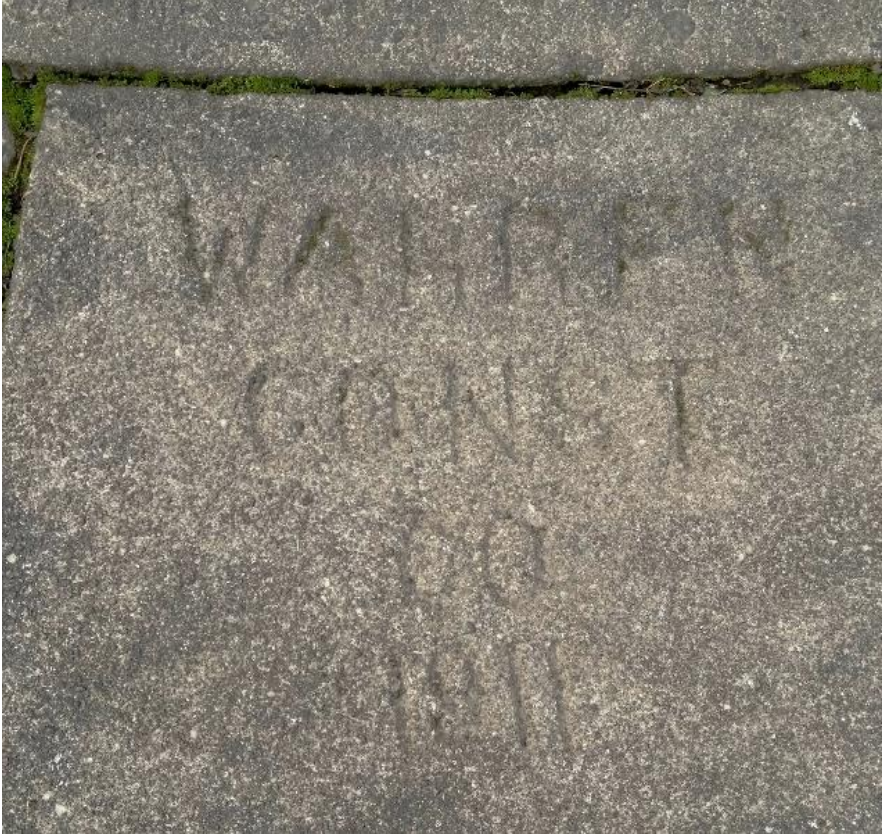
Powers-Munk House from Mt Adams Drive, 1947.



Powers-Munk House (1947) looking east from SW Mt Hood Ln.



1911 horse ring on Mt Adams Drive, 2015



"Warren Construction Co 1911" sidewalk marker, 3607 SW Mt Adams Drive, 2015

October 14, 1910: Highway Robbery on Council Crest!

According to press accounts, Mt Adams Drive house owner Paul Powers was already "well known around town" when he was convicted of committing the only recorded street holdup on CC. In the early hours of October 14, 1910, attorney Daniel E. Powers (no relation) got off the trolley at its CC Drive stop and was walking to his home two blocks away when he was accosted at gunpoint by two masked men who, having hidden behind some trees, robbed him of his office keys and about \$4 in change. On October 25 in municipal court, Paul Powers and his friend L.B. Reed (wrongly described as "young attorneys") pleaded guilty to "pointing a revolver at another" and were assessed hefty (at the time) \$200 fines.

The victim said he not only knew the holdup men but also that they had gone "broke" from gambling and were being divorced by their wives. The two claimed they staged the holdup as a "joke" to scare their friend Powers because he had boasted how brave he would be if confronted by robbers. Charges of highway robbery were dropped when Powers and his friend copped the plea.

But press reports of the scandal struggled for accuracy. Powers was not an attorney in 1906, and the victim had to correct his robber's name as "Paul B. Powers, not 'A. Powers' or 'B. Powers' as he has given out." The Oregonian couldn't decide whether Paul Powers had a home (true) on Mt Adams Drive or was living in Daniel Powers' house (false) in the CC neighborhood. But indeed, City Directories for those years are not consistent for Paul's

tenure in his house on Mt Adams Drive. The 1905 edition has him living at the University Club. In 1907-8, he is living on Mt Adams Drive--before it had street numbers. The next year shows him living there together with stenographer Mildred S. Powers without otherwise identifying her but listing their real estate business downtown as "Powers & Powers." She must be the Mildred S. Powers the Block Book showed as the first owner of the property in 1908 and the "Mrs. Powers" the plumbing inspectors listed as "owner" in 1907 and 1909.

1909 is the last year the Directory places Paul on Mt Adams Drive. In the year of the robbery scandal, 1910, Mildred is still there but alone (was the robbery victim correct that Paul's wife was divorcing him?). In 1911, the Block Books shows she sold it to Title Trust & Co in 1911, who then sold it to J.O. Roundtree and finally to C.A. Hoisington, both in 1912. From 1911 until 1914 when Paul is living downtown and Mildred is no longer listed in the City Directory, Paul, despite his criminal record, is working as a "court reporter" in town-- an occupation he held until retirement in 1966.

After moving from Mt Adams Drive, Paul married Edith Dufur, who played the piano, in 1916. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1966 with their seven children and 19 grandchildren. It's probable but undocumented that Mildred was his first wife rather than another relation.

Paul finally became a real lawyer when he graduated from the Northwest College of Law in 1921 and passed the Oregon Bar in 1922, but continued to work as a Multnomah county court reporter until retirement. He successfully demanded \$600 for a transcript of the celebrated 1934 trial of Communist leader Dirk DeJonge (whose conviction was reversed by the US Supreme Court in an appeal aided by future Federal Judge Gus Solomon.)⁴⁹ and won a full pension in court after being denied it on retirement.



Paul B. Powers wins Multco courthouse golf tournament in 1935!

While the highway robbery may have been earliest reported crime in residential CC, it was not the only crime reported in the early years. On June 24, 1911, authorities were deciding whether to charge two young men for disorderly conduct because they failed to completely extinguish a fire that later threatened some nearby residences on CC. They had built the fire in the woods on which to toast marshmallows in the company of two young women. In the summer of 1917, two dead bodies were found separately in the area. Both were presumed to have been unrelated suicides. In 1921, a WW1 vet upset about losing all his money to a confidence man, broke into the "Brakeman's cottage" at 735 Hillsboro Street-- now 2817 SW Hillsboro (see p. 5)--and was shot to death by police who tracked him by his footprints

⁴⁹ *Portland Red Guide*, 2nd edition, p. 76.

in the snow. In 1930, four people were arrested and a still was confiscated in a raid by "dry" law enforcers on a home at 993 Council Crest Drive. (Today: 3733 SW CCD)

Later Owners of the Powers-Munk House

As noted above, the Block book shows the owner in 1912 as **Elbert A. Hoisington** who the Realty Atlas records in 1914, had recently married and was living there with his wife **Martha**. The 1915 City Directory shows them living there when it was first assigned a street number-- 962 Mt. Adams Drive. Elbert, who had previously worked in the real estate business, was then a salesman for the Columbia River Land Company. In 1916, the couple had moved down the hill to Vista Avenue.

By 1917, the house had its third (but first longtime) owners--**Robert Coleman Mish** (- 1945) and his wife **Lottie** (-1938)-- who were living there with their daughter **Charlotte Roberta Mish** (--1974). The Mishs would stay a while. Robert Mish was then a deputy manager at Macky Company, and had lived with his family for the previous two years around the corner at 1006 Council Crest Drive (3804). City Directories show the parents living in the Mt Adams Drive house through 1933, but Charlotte, already a "writer and artist" was downtown, and the Directory shows no Mishs were left on Mt Adams Drive by 1934. Press accounts, however, have Charlotte living in the house with her crusading animal rights cousin Graziella Boucher (1894-1984) until 1935.

Portland renumbered and zoned its street addresses in 1931, and the house has since borne its present address: 3808 SW Mt Adams Drive.

Charlotte and Graziella were living down the hill after 1935. Charlotte had studied with Portland artist Sydney Bell and with Frank Vincent DuMond at the NY Art Students League. Best known for her Portland ship and port scenes, her paintings were bought by President Franklin Roosevelt's family and by Henry Kaiser. She created work for the WPA, including murals in Portland City Hall, the Oregon State Library, the United Seamens Recreation Center in 1944-- when she worked at Albina Engine and Machine Works shipyards-- the former Congress Hotel (1947), the Oyster Loaf restaurant (1949) and an "Aesop's Fables" mural in 1950 in Fox's bar at SE Milwaukie and Bybee. She was also a poet and member of the Oregon WPA's Writers Project. In her later years, she and Graziella were often in the press as a pair of militant animal rights activists. One of her Portland dockside paintings is in the house.

During World War II, from 1941 to 1944, the house was occupied by new owners, **Francis Edward**, a British-born retired CPA (1862-1951) and **Nellie Errington**, (-1965) and their two daughters. The couple had evidently moved up the hill from SW Cactus Drive in the Kings Hill neighborhood of Portland Heights where they were living in 1939. *The Oregonian* called one of their daughters, Mills College graduate Isabel, "the best actress KGW ever had." She had been recruited to the radio station by James Beard and became locally famous for her "distinctive scream" on the station's "Homicide Squad" show before she married and moved east. She edited Beard's writings and was an editor at Gourmet

magazine in New York when she died there in 1971. By 1944, the Erringtons were living around the corner on Council Crest Drive in the home where Francis died in 1951.

Hubert and Louisa P. Bebb bought the house from the Erringtons after the war in 1946. Hubert was an architect associated with the office of Pietro Belluschi (who in 1936 built his own home in the CC neighborhood at 3728 SW Beaverton Avenue) and drew up extensive plans for the house, built the detached garage and remodeled the kitchen, in which he painted a still life mural over the sink, and installed a downstairs bath. But before he could complete the work, the Bebb left for his new position in Chicago.

A March 22, 1947 ad in the *Oregonian* RE section read:



PANORAMIC VIEW of rivers and mountains and warm, homely hospitality features this interesting alder home of Mt. Adams dr. 2 lovely bedrooms and bath up. 1 large bedroom or party rm and bath on lower level, new streamlined kitchen, oil heat, 4 fireplaces. Architect owner just completing extensive remodeling has been called east. A real find for the lover of the artistic and unusual Call MRS. SENGSTAKE, EA 6770.

The ad evidently spoke to one potential buyer who had recently returned to Portland with his family after the war and was renting in the Woodstock neighborhood. So in the fall of 1947, Reed College (and later PSU) professor **Frank Munk** (1901-1999) and his wife **Nadia Munk** (1902-2000) made it their home for the rest of their long lives.



It's a long jump from the view of St. Barbara's cathedral in Kutna Hora, his birthplace, to the vista of Mt. Adams from his Portland home, but the Munks are completely sold on their present surroundings. He even likes the rain.

6 M—SUNDAY JOURNAL MAGAZINE, JULY 23, 1950

"Man With Something on his Mind", *Oregon Journal*, July 23, 1950

In 1958-9, when the Munks were in Europe on his sabbatical, they rented the house to James McGarrell, Reed's artist-in-residence and later a prominent New York painter. While they lived on Mt Adams Drive, James' wife Ann, a writer and translator, contributed to the controversy over Louis Bunce's 1958 airport mural (which remains at PDX) with "Barbecued Bunce?" a hilarious satirical letter to *The Oregonian*⁵⁰ skewering critics of what was then called "modern" art. McGarrell left the Munks an etching which remains in the house.

Frank and Nadia Munk lived in the house for 53 years--longer than any other owner--until Nadia's death in 2000 at age 97. It then passed to their children **Michael Munk** and **Ljuba Suzanne Ragen**. Suzanne sold her share to Michael who moved in later that year, extending the tenure of the Munk family on SW Mt Adams Drive to almost 69 years until he sold it in November. He will move to Rose Villa in January, 2016.

Other early Homes on Mt Adams Drive

At least 18 Council Crest houses have survived over 100 years, as listed on p. 9. They represent the early building boomlet between 1907-1913 following the streetcar line's extension, that was followed by a hiatus until after World War 1. The quality of early residential housing on the eastern side of Council Crest received a boost in 1910 when two homes by the prominent architect Emil Schacht⁵¹ were completed: the **Roy Hadley House** (3795 SW Chehalem Ave at Mt Adams Drive, orig 650)), cost \$7500⁵². and the **Ethyl C. Baker House** at the north crest of Mt Adams (3607 SW Mt Adams Dr, originally 943); cost \$9,500. *The Oregonian*⁵³ described them as "large and resplendent residences on the prominences which command a view of the city," contrasted with some "small, neat bungalows in the lower parts of the vales" on Council Crest. Did that refer to the earlier Powers-Munk house built below street level for a relatively modest \$1800?

⁵⁰ *Oregonian*, May 11, 1959.

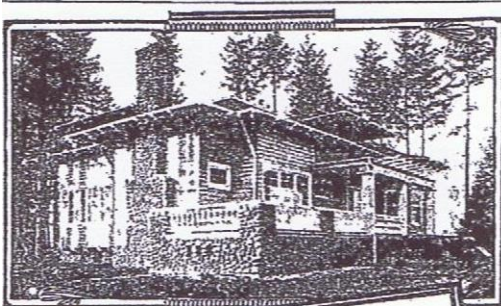
⁵¹ According to the *Oregonian* (Nov. 28,2015) "only four Emil Schacht-designed residences [remain] in Portland Heights."

⁵² The 1908 original plumbing permit shows a "Mrs Learsly?" as owner and the 1913 owner is "Dr. DeWitt Corryell.

⁵³ *ibid*.



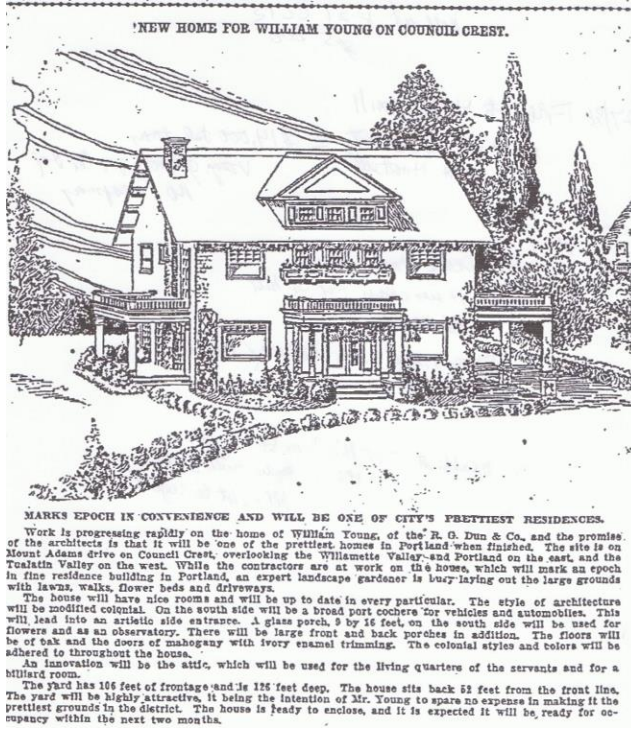
Roy Hadley House (1910) 3750 SW Chehalem at Mt Adams Dr, Emil Schacht, architect. Current owner: family of novelist Dr. David Farris.



Ethel C. Baker House, (1910) Schacht Architect 3607 SW Mt Adams Dr. Current owner: the Newman-Rumaners.

Ethel bought her lot from Bernheim's syndicate in 1909, while the Hadley (?) lot was sold a year or so earlier. She died in 1935 as the wife of William J. Baker, a commercial artist and cartoonist for the Detroit News before coming to Portland in 1912. When he died in 1957, *The Oregonian* noted he was "A long time resident of the CC community," and that his widow was Frances.

In 1911, the **William Young House** (now 3841 SW Mt Adams Dr, originally 981) was built as "one of the prettiest homes in Portland" with servants' quarters and a billiard room in the attic. Later owners included Portland jeweler Carl Greve. Current owners: the McCarrons.



Oregonian, August 6, 1911

The 1912 house at 3725 SW Mt Adams (originally 957) was occupied from 1945-1951 by General Walsh, commander of the regional Army Corps of Engineers, and his family. His daughter Sally recalls that she was a young girl after the war when Henry Kaiser built a house for his sister across the street, his sister transported surplus materials to the site from his shipyards on the CC streetcar!⁵⁴ The Kaiser house is still there at 3640 SW Mt Adams Drive, now owned by Millard and Marylou McClung. The Walsh's house is now owned by TV weatherman Matt Zaffino and his wife Robyn.

The 1910 house in the interior of today's 3533 SW Blackstone Lane (originally 933 Mt Adams Dr) was just reconstructed.



3533 SW Blackstone Lane before reconstruction

⁵⁴ Interview with Sally Walsh Johnson of Healy Heights, September 2, 2015.



Raised one story and reconstructed in 2015

Early structures on Council Crest Drive include the Josey Anderson House at 3537 (1913-orig. 959), J.J. Armstrong House at 3580 (1912-orig. 978), the neighboring houses at 3730 (1911-orig. 990) and 3738 (1911- orig. 992), the house owned by Butterworth & Stephenson Co (speculators?) at 3804 (1908, orig 1006), and the house at 3929 (1912, orig listed on Hillsdale). A later notable house was Robert Millard's conservatory at 3908 (1922, formerly 1014).⁵⁵

On SW Hillsdale Ave, there is 3877 (1913), the A. Peterson House at 3900 and two 1913 houses owned by R.J. Snow at 3927 and 4003.

The R.L. Donald House at 3701 SW Beaverton Ave.(1912) and the previously mentioned "Brakeman's Cottage" (2817 SW Hillsboro) complete the list of "early" CC houses I have been able to identify.

The condition of some structures after the original boom ended in 1913 is suggested by a building permit granted to J.E. Mahon three years later to repair a frame "shack" at 949 CCD for \$50. Today's 3509 original number was 947-949.

In May 2015, 3955 SW Mt Adams Dr became the first house on the street that sold for more than \$1M (\$1.450).

⁵⁵ Millard was principal flute with the Milwaukie, Minneapolis and Portland Symphonies.

The Council Crest Neighborhood after 1920.

Residential construction resumed on Council Crest after World War I and continued until the Depression. The post World War II period saw the neighborhood fill in so completely that in recent years large and some architecturally distinctive homes have been built on lots that required the demolition of modest mid century houses and in several cases were constructed on the footprints of historic residences.

Council Crest Park remains a popular attraction for local residents and visitors, with access to cars via SW Greenway Avenue from "The Fountain" as well as to hardy bicyclists from downtown and hikers via the Marquam Nature Park trail. The paucity of public transportation via the increasingly rare #51 Vista TriMet bus reflects the change that a century has wrought since the streetcar enabled residential occupation of Council Crest. Nearby Healy Heights Park seems to attract more local families and children and offers access to probably what is still the celebrated "Miller's View Point" of the city to the east and the Cascade mountain range from Mt Rainier (north) to (rarely) Mt Jefferson to the south.

There are evidently sufficient controversial amusements still available to now public Council Crest Park visitors that concern has been revived among local residents similar to what their predecessors expressed about the original commercial enterprise over 100 years ago. A neighborhood newspaper recently asked readers to contribute to building a "seasonal partial barrier at SW Council Crest Drive and Greenway Avenue. They hope to cut down on night-time partying and vandalism after closing hours in CC Park."⁵⁶

ADDENDUM

How is it that recent arrivals came to legally own land previously inhabited for centuries by other people? The Portland Parks department (probably over) estimates that, "Prior to European contact, over 50,000 Native Americans lived in the Portland area and hundreds of thousands of Indians came to trade along the river."⁵⁷ During the time of early land agreements and negotiations with local tribes, today's South Waterfront area became a relocation ["concentration"?] camp for Native Americans who were removed from other parts of the city. [The Elizabeth Caruthers park] is one of many greenspaces within our park system that are sacred and important sites to our Native communities."⁵⁸

⁵⁶ *SW News*, August, 2015, p.9.

⁵⁷ Other estimates are more modest. The *Portland Red Guide* (2nd edition, p. xxix) put the number between 4-5,000 and "nearly 10,000 during the spring salmon run." The village of Neerchokikoo with about 200 residents stood near today's PDX.

⁵⁸ <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?&propertyid=1385&action=ViewPark>, accessed May 4, 2015.

Remarkably, those new arrivals called "Pioneers" got to own the land they claimed under a series of 15th century declarations by the Roman Catholic Popes Innocent VIII and Alexander VI⁵⁹ that came to be known as the "Doctrine of Discovery." The Papal Bulls awarded ownership of land *not already occupied by subjects of "European Christian monarchs" to subjects of those monarchs who traveled to and occupied those lands.* Thus we have accounts of that European "explorers" planting flags and declaring their claims on "unoccupied" lands on behalf of their "European Christian Monarchs."

This "Doctrine of Discovery," which appears so stunningly imperial and racist in the 21st century, was applied to the United States portion of the North American continent by the US Supreme Court in *Johnson v. McIntosh* (1823). Citing a Papal Bull of 1493, John Marshall expounded that as their successor, the federal government owned all lands originally claimed by the representatives of the "European Christian monarchies" designated by the Pope. The court cited John Cabot's exploration charters as evidence that British monarchs applied the "Doctrine of Discovery" and therefore found that Native American tribes which had occupied the land had no property rights, *from the moment of discovery*, although it conceded they had a frail right of "extinguishable" occupancy. So, the *Johnson v. McIntosh* "Discovery" decision "gave [the federal government] an exclusive right to extinguish the Indian title of occupancy, either by purchase or by conquest." Ever since, the doctrine has been used to justify invalidating or ignoring Native American possession of land in favor of the new arrivals governments.

More specifically, the Doctrine was applied to the Oregon Territory through the Donation Land Claim act of 1850, which gave white settlers and "half breed Indians"⁶⁰ up to a square mile of Indian land in return for living and working on it for four years. Oregon territorial delegate Samuel Thurston⁶¹ led the proponents of the act, noting it would extinguish any Indian claims on the most favorable land.

In connection with the 2015 visit of Pope Francis to Latin America and the US, a campaign was launched to ask him to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and related Papal Bulls. The campaign, at <http://www.romeroinstitute.org/projects/petition> and

⁵⁹ Papal Bull *Inter Caetera* of 1493

⁶⁰ Presumably to accommodate white male settlers who married Native American women. Married settlers received the full 640 acres, equally divided between the spouses. Singles got 320 acres.

⁶¹ Thurston also urged the Oregon Legislature in 1850 to prohibit free African-Americans from the Oregon Territory. He ranted that *[It] is a question of life or death to us in Oregon. The negroes associate with the Indians and intermarry, and, if their free ingress is encouraged or allowed, there would a relationship spring up between them and the different tribes, and a mixed race would ensure inimical to the whites; and the Indians being led on by the negro who is better acquainted with the customs, language, and manners of the whites, than the Indian, these savages would become much more formidable than they otherwise would and long bloody wars would be the fruits of the comingling of the races. It is the principle of self preservation that justifies the actions of the Oregon legislature.*

<http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipcright-relationship/>, cites the Doctrine as "authorizing the European subjugation of non Christian heathen in North and South America."

