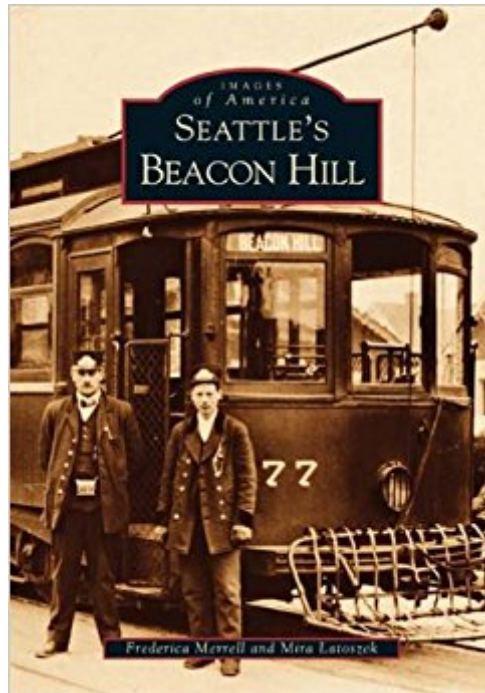




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Seattle's Beacon Hill (Images Of America: Washington)



Synopsis

Ride the trolley up the ridge of Beacon Hill and discover one of South Seattle's most interesting districts. Unique among Seattle neighborhoods, Beacon Hill is a community where immigrants from all over the globe have settled side by side for over 100 years. This new book tells the story of the people and businesses of Beacon Hill in vintage photographs, the majority of which date before World War II. Readers will learn about the immigrants who worked on farms, opened shops, and labored in shipyards, the building of Jefferson Park, as well as the activism and political struggles that shaped the Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Authors Frederica Merrell and Mira Latoszek are both actively involved in the North Beacon Hill Council and the Jefferson Park Alliance. They have gathered images for this book from sources as diverse as the neighborhood itself, with photographs drawn from the Museum of History and Industry, the Puget Sound Archives, Seattle Public Schools, the Wing Luke Asian Museum, the University of Washington Library Special Collections, the City of Seattle Archives, El Centro de la Raza Photo Archives, the DENSHO Project, the Seattle Times and Post-Intelligencer, the Museum of Flight, and the neighbors of Beacon Hill.

Dad grew up on Beacon Hill. He has enjoyed reading this book immensely. Great pictures.

As a baby boomer born in 1949, I was very excited to read this book, and expected a lot of pictures

that would remind me of my youth growing up in South Beacon Hill not far from the old Maple School, as well as Asa Mercer Jr High and Cleveland High schools in the 1950's-1960's. Unfortunately the book was very disappointing to say the least, choosing to overly focus on pre-World War II era, with a seeming fixation on photographs from the year 1937. Then it jumps to the 1970's and 1990's and in the end devotes an entire chapter dotting on the attributes of El Centro de la Raza in a politically biased account. I did find much of the early history of Beacon Hill was truly insightful and informative--particularly the beginnings, the settlement by the Japanese & Chinese, the internment during WW II--but alas, even the "Timeline" in the front of the book just seems to skip over the period 1950-1970, which turned out to be a bad omen for my expectations on the book's content. For example, the photos of the Beacon Hill/15th Ave junction were so old, I hardly recognized the places that were so familiar in my youth--where were pictures of the theater in the 1950's, Asa Mercer School in the 60's, the corner grocery stores, gas stations, the Veteran's Hospital, the water reservoir, etc. from that era too? What about all the businesses at the corner of Beacon Ave So and Columbian Way? I remember the Big Bear grocery store at the corner, Hall O'Leary's Pharmacy, the Jolo Tavern and other landmarks. The Graham Street cemetery, the Lucille Street Bridge, the Rainier Brewery were all but missing in this account. The coverage of the Jefferson Park Golf Course--which I vividly remember from walking along the driving range boundary (looking for golf balls to turn into the clubhouse for a nickel), the cafe, the lawn bowlers, the putting green, etc --seemed lacking. And finally, just really nothing insightful about Cleveland High School in the 1950's-1960's. Nice coverage of the Yee family and their great tennis tradition, but no mention that Gordon Yee was the number one singles tennis champ in the entire city while he attended Cleveland in the mid-1960's--what no photo? This book is not recommended for baby boomers, who might be looking for their history on Beacon Hill.

Paging through the book was like reliving the glorious hope of the 60's. I would love the book even if my photo from the Seattle Public Schools archives wasn't in it.

Having just started book found it interesting however facts are not accurate as I see it, deleting some of the depth of the history has changed the picture of some of the history. Holly Park Housing is one item I picked up on so far, will be reading rest of book in the next few weeks.

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