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Lost Seattle



Synopsis

Unearths the buried bones of an invented city that was carved out of hills and bay. Early Seattleites were neither sentimental nor nostalgic, destroying iconic schools, libraries, entire neighborhoods, and high hills. They ripped out the very muscles of industry and the veins of rails and ferries on which the city was created. 68 vignettes of cast-aside Seattle are given new light, including Japantown, the Kalakala, Joseph Mayer's clock factory, interurban railways, Yesler's mill, Capitol Hill's auto row, Denny Hill, Moran Brothers' shipyard, the Carnegie Central Library, Boeing and the SuperSonics. From the 1880s to the present day. This richly illustrated book brings these lost buildings, structures and neighborhoods back to life, to reveal the Seattle that once was.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Seattle is one of many towns of the great Pacific that is in love with itself -- and for good reason. Although not an ancient city, it has a rich and vibrant history. This book brings back to life a number of lost treasures. As this city gets eaten up by the likes of and other technology firms who prefer to destroy these landmarks and build new, hip, giant bubbles, Ketcherside's book chronicles landmarks of the old Seattle-- a Seattle that is all too quickly disappearing. In essence, the city is making history by destroying the history-- but no one is chronicling it. Except Lost Seattle does just that and it does it in a coffee table style which is sure to captivate your holiday guests-- it is a very beautiful, well written book and belongs on everyone's coffee table. It is sure to stir up conversation of the way things used to be. From the old shots of the Kingdome (a monstrosity of concrete) to the

lusty lady, this book will take you on a walk through a time that has passed. The best part of the book might just be the birds eye views of the city in the inlays of the book. Really a great value and worth getting for anyone who loves this grand metropolis that this once was (and still is).

This is a great book, both for history fans and for people (like me) who typically are less captivated by history. The format of the book and Ketcherside's great writing make this a real pleasure to read. Because you can pick it up and absorb it in the 2-page chunks of the Lost Seattle icons, it is an awesome book to share with friends. Having lived most of my adult life in Seattle, much of the material was still new to me. For example, in the pre-WWII era, Seattle put on a summer gala called the "Golden Potlatch" paying homage to both the goldrush and the Native American potlatch. The vignettes and series of losses helps chart the rapid trajectory of the city from a one-mill lumber town to an international city over the course of a century and a half. Ketcherside is a great storyteller and selects well from his material, so you'll end up feeling like you know more about things that--while perhaps physically gone--are still present in the way they shaped Seattle. Really happy that I bought it!

Unlike the bland, impersonal writing style typical of encyclopedias, LOST SEATTLE reeled me in with an engaging series of stories that focused as much on the people who were integral to breathing life into the city as on the buildings themselves. For instance, the demise of the Yesler Mansion, by then the public library downtown, includes a description of the librarian getting a call after midnight that the mansion was on fire, and how he ran in the snow from Beacon Hill, but was unable to save any of the 25,000 books. The sidebar on the same page includes juicy gossip about the Yeslers, "In 1890, Henry was remarried to Minnie Gagle, who was both 60 years younger and his first cousin once removed. The newspapers whipped it into a scandal, and things got out of control after Yesler died in 1892. No will could be found and Minnie was sued by the City of Seattle for supposedly defrauding the public out of money Yesler had promised. After six months of courtroom fireworks, the parties settled and the case was dropped." It's these sorts of concise yet colorful descriptions that give LOST SEATTLE such richness. It is hard to believe this is Ketcherside's first book! I predict a long publishing career ahead of him!

A great look back at the changes in Seattle over the years. After being born in Seattle and living there for over fifty years before moving away the book serves as both a great reminder and a nice glimpse of the past. My only suggestion if a subsequent edition is published, correct the name of the

Supersonic coach from Larry to Lenny (Wilkins). A very entertaining read and a great first work from a dedicated and hard working historian.

When I moved to Seattle with my family for a job change, I became interested in the history of the city and bought this book. It is an excellent look into Seattle's history and I highly recommend it.

Being an amateur history nut, this book hits a home run. My father, now 94, was born in and raised in Seattle until being relocated to one of those "War Relocation Centers" by FDR. The book shows scenes of which no longer exist but that my father's family likely saw each day. Incredibly researched, the author does a very detailed and accurate job of describing the scene and culture at that particular time. If you or your grandparents came from Seattle, this is a wonderful door into their past.

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