COWEN PARK & RAVENNA BLVD. originally were a deep ravine like RAVENNA PARK, being cut by drainage from the post-ice age "Lake Russell" (formed by melt-off from the Vashon Glacial Ice Sheet) 50,000 years ago. The glacial basin remaining is "Green Lake" which continued to drain through this ravine until about 1911 when millions of tons of earth and first fill in Boulevard, most recent fill of Cowen Park in 1961 with dirt from Seattle Freeway. Stream is now mostly spring-fed (some artesian). Drains into Union Bay; shoreline (until 1917) is indicated by big curves of railroad.

COWEN PARK: (west of 15th Ave.) as inscribed on stone Gate Posts, is named in memory of Charles Cowen, (of Haynes-Cowen Co., real estate & insurance) who, in 1906, gave this park to the City of Seattle: "Man does not live by bread alone."

The present 15th Ave. Bridge built (1938), replacing wooden street car trestle; a spur track went along Service Drive 'til 1941.

RAVENNA PARK: named c.1889 by the original owner and developer: W. W. Beck, because ravine reminded him of Ravenna, Italy, famed for its pine trees. Ravenna, Italy, was a Roman naval base, seaport and capital of Italy under Byzantine Empire (some of battle of 1052). Other names used by Beck were "Beck Park," "Ravenna Springs," "Twin Maple Lane." After purchase, by Tree Pl. ("Ravenna Springs," "Twin Maple Lane." After purchase, the name was changed in 1915 to honor Teddy Roosevelt who had died that January. However a popular petition in 1937 restored the name Ravenna.

The map shows the area with a label "COWEN/RAVENNA PK. RAVENNA BLVD. sheet 3 (BECK PL.) ENG. 041668."