



Enger, Junice
 Marvin's Garden
 4 Columns / City Hall
 Dedicated in honor of Marvin Sjoberg
 Mayor of Ballard / Apr. 4, 1975
 City Hall Site, Ballard Wn. 1899-1907
 (Drinking Fountains in an old cornerstone)

226

- Two-level sloping roofs (plastic)
- Wooden platform
- Sitting posts + benches
- Brick + concrete paving / circle design thru intersection
- Trees
- Flag mast
- Plaque on bulletin board
- 0.2 Acre
- Purch. 1975 ↑

BERGEN PLACE

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In 1975 BERGEN PLACE was the third mini-park to be named for a "Sister City" of Seattle, a program that began with the growth of trade relations with foreign ports. The "Sister City" concept was promoted by Mayor Gordon Clinton and the program formalized in 1957 with the port city of Kobe, Japan, and extended to Tashkent, USSR, in 1961. In addition to trading the program includes exchange of visits by school children, businessmen and government officials; an endeavor that has won national recognition.

BERGEN (Bär'-gan) is today the second largest city in Norway, its name derived from an old Norse word - bjørgvin, meaning "fodder-meadow". Archaeological excavations have revealed a history going back into ancient times. However the city credits its formal founding to King Olav Kyrre in 1070 when he established the royal residence there where it remained until 1300 when Oslo became the capital. The name of "old" Bergen is "Gamle". Bergen has been devastated by at least eight fires, from 1198 to 1955. Being in the heart of Norway's glorious fjord country and on the west coast, it has an excellent harbor and quickly became a major trade center throughout the Middle Ages, developing into a manufacturing center with connections by sea, air and rail for products ranging from shipbuilding to silverware and for people-oriented activities ranging from Bergen University, theatre, dance, symphony (dating from 1765). Bergen was the home of composer Edvard Grieg, virtuoso violinist Ole Bull and dramatist Ludvig Holberg. It is the birthplace of modern meteorology and a center for oceanography and marine biology. As part of the cultural exchange program was the 1969 appearance at the annual international festival of a repertory theatre company from Seattle and the gift of a total pole in 1971.

In 1825 large-scale Norwegian immigration to the New World began. They responded to the call of "Westward Ho!" when the Congress in 1850 created the Oregon Territory and offered Donation Land Claims of 320 acres to every white person who would "clear, cultivate and occupy said Claim for four consecutive years." All the waters of the Inland Sea (Puget Sound) attracted some of these seafarers and fishermen from the fjords who found Salmon Bay to their liking. One of these, William R. Ballard, was born in Ohio and came overland to Seattle and became a mate on his brother's sternwheeler. After 6 years aboard ship, Capt. Ballard bought into real estate, platting a townsite-farm center named "Farmdale", later changed to "Gilman Park Addition". But a Northern Pacific RR agent chose the name of "Ballard" for the station. The town incorporated in 1889 as "Little Sweden" but in a town meeting in 1890 the name Ballard became official. Ballard was annexed to Seattle in 1907. Lumber, fishing and shipbuilding were the life-blood of Ballard.

The site chosen for this mini-park was related to the business district Redevelopment Plan, its low acquisition cost (a parking lot and film development office) and to the adjacent triangle across 22nd N.W. developed by the Engineering Department on the site of the old Ballard City Hall (demolished in 1965 after extensive damage by an earthquake. The cornerstone, columns and bell remain on the site). Leary Avenue honors the memory of John Leary who came to Seattle in 1869 and made a fortune in various enterprises. In 1892 he married the daughter of Gov. Elisha Ferry and they were building a stone mansion on Capitol Hill when he died in 1905; the mansion became the Diocesan House at Saint Mark's Cathedral in 1948.

The Redevelopment Plan called for the repaving with bricks of streets in a "circle" around Bergen Place; removing the asphalt, workmen found old brick paving underneath, but these were removed also, being too expensive to restore.

In celebration of 150 years of Norwegian immigration to the New World, King Olav V of Norway toured U.S. cities in 1975 and while in Seattle dedicated Bergen Place.

9/26/75 DS