



## SEOLA PARK - History

The "pioneer" settlers in this (White Center) area were loggers, cattlemen and farmers. A settler recalled that the beaches were favorite campsites of the Indians because of the abundance of calm beds and natural foods. The forest in the area produced timber of exceptional quality, just what the shipyards needed for masts; the most famous yard was the Skinner & Eddy Corp. at (Pier 39/Connecticut St.) (ref: David Rodgers Park). The loggers developed two skid roads and a wall for the oxen used to skid the logs: one road began on the hill (20th and Roxbury), down past the cranberry bog that was the headwater of Longfellow Creek, then down the ravine to (Seola) the beach, from which they were floated to various mills and yards. The second skid road went to a sawmill holding pond (Hick's Lake). The oxen and skid road were soon replaced with a logging railroad which eventually became a dirt road. Research by Jim Moorman of the Engineering Department revealed that the road was first named for Charles Arey who petitioned for its establishment; in 1914 Carl O. Qualheim platted an unrecorded subdivision and named it "Qualheim Road"; upon annexation to Seattle in 1956 it was renamed "Seola Beach Road".

Moorman contacted a Magnolia resident, Mrs. George C. Furber, who had married into the family of one of the original settlers on the beach. She recalled the following events: in 1893, a family named Kakeldy built the first home on the beach; some time later they were joined by homes built by Pritchard, Maynard and Furber. Before long, children in the vicinity school referred to residents of Kakeldy Beach as the "Cackilty Chickens". So, Mrs. Furber relates, in 1910 the Beach residents sponsored a renaming contest which was won by Mel Miller, friend of the school's teacher of Spanish, Agnes Quigley; his suggestion: "Se-ola = to know-the wave." (This beach surely does "know" the waves that are blown up by the southwest winds.) They placed a sign on the beach establishing the new name: SEOLA BEACH.

Bonnie  
Gallagher

Meanwhile the old logging camp had become a townsite for farmers and cattlemen and merchants - and became a station on the trolley car line to Lake Burien from the 1910<sup>+</sup> Spokane Street trestle and Seattle. Then the town really grew and in 1918 was named White Center.

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