

# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS™

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## Architect John Harrison Rudolph

# Meet 'The Umbrella Man'

By VERDA AVERILL  
Library News Editor

John Harrison Rudolph was a man of many talents and interests.

Today he is remembered as a Renaissance man. An architect, of course, but also an amateur astronomer, archaeologist, and musician.

He founded the Scotch Broom Festivals of the late 20th century. Designed many Bainbridge Island parks. And served as the enthusiastic fourth trombone player in the Intensely Vigorous Revolutionary Volunteer Dixieland Band during the Island's traditional Fourth of July celebrations.

But for a brief time – very brief – he was known around the Island as The Umbrella Man.

A little research in *Bainbridge Review* files of the 1960s era uncovered comments by the late Walt Woodward (Review editor in the 1950s and early '60s) that Rudolph's preliminary sketches for the proposed new library roof looked like a bunch of umbrellas. So for a week or two Rudolph was known, at least around the Review office, as The Umbrella Man.

While the editor chuckled, the architect took the hint.

Soon the preliminary plans included the soaring roof which gave the building much of its character, and continues to do so today, after two expansions.

The Umbrella Man columns vanished. For good.

### The visible architect

The architect, however, became more visible.

He attended every planning meeting of the library board, unlike other architects who seemed less interested, and when the board finally chose an architect for the new library building, Rudolph was the winner.

"He gave them a good deal," reported Barbara Winther in the Spring 2003 issue of the Library News, "agreeing to deliver the plans for a reduced fee and to contribute inspection and consulting time."

In the year 2000 the Bainbridge

Chamber of Commerce named Rudolph Business Person of the Year.

Winther noted: "This meant he would lead the Fourth of July Parade as the grand marshal. What about the band? No problem. When Rudolph (as grand marshal) reached the finish line, he dashed back to the starting line in time to play the trombone (in the band)."

"Some people must have thought they were seeing double," Rudolph said with a laugh.

### Born in New Jersey

John Rudolph died of cancer in September 2003. He was 77.

Born in Essex Falls, New Jersey, he graduated from Caldwell High School in time to volunteer for service in the Navy at the close of World War II, serving in the Philippine Islands.

After two years in the Navy he received his architecture degree from Princeton University (in 1951) and stayed on for his master's. He worked briefly in Boston, then headed west to Bainbridge Island.

The Princeton Alumni Weekly shortly after his death reported on his academic achievements (magna cum laude) and then cited his fourth trombone role in the Fourth of July parade for 36 years. He also was credited with starting the Scotch Broom Festival, which ended with a tiddlywinks contest in the street between Kiwanis and Rotary. (Rudolph was a longtime member of Kiwanis.)

He established the first architectural firm on Bainbridge Island, John Rudolph and Associates, in 1954, and finished his last job in the spring of 2003.

### Astronomy and archaeoastronomy

Though he was well-known for his libraries – he designed a new Poulsbo Library which opened a few years before the Bainbridge Library of 1962 – he was also very proud of his role in the creation of Battle Point Park's Edwin E. Ritchie Astronomical Observatory, helping mobilize scores of volunteers to build that facility.



He enjoyed astronomy and archeoastronomy, and had visited ancient rock carvings throughout the world. (His interest in archaeology was mainly confined to petroglyphs as they related to astronomy.)

"Archaeoastronomy is a fairly new and growing field," he observed in 2003, "in the process of becoming a formal discipline."

John Rudolph also contributed to the design of many Bainbridge Island parks, including – in addition to Battle Point – Strawberry Hill Park, Manzanita Park, Eagledale

Park, and John Nelson Park – as well as several baseball and Little League fields.

Along with his membership in Kiwanis, he was a founding member of the Bainbridge Youth Services Job Board.

### The architect at work: An editor's close-up view

John Rudolph was an architect who really cared – not just about the design, but about its function, cost, and – perhaps above all – the building's relation to the environment.

I know.

The late Dave Averill and I had just moved to Kitsap County after John had designed (and supervised construction of) the small Poulsbo Library. We were not yet living on Bainbridge Island and had no thoughts of buying the *Bainbridge Review* from Walt and Milly Woodward. (That transaction would occur later, after the Bainbridge Library was built.)

We were, in fact, living in a 1914 farmhouse just up the hill from Poulsbo's Front Street and overlooking a ball field to be, where youngsters would someday play. We had just bought the *Kitsap County Herald* in Poulsbo and were so busy learning to be publishers we scarcely had time to notice the surroundings or go for a boat ride on Liberty Bay.

But we did notice the attractive and very functional new Poulsbo Library and dreamed someday of finding an architect who could design for us a home that would house not only a couple of publishers with a young, growing family but also the 4,000 books we had inherited from family members.

So, it was with great interest that we crossed the Agate Pass Bridge to Bainbridge Island and watched the Bainbridge Public Library under construction.

Months passed, and the Bainbridge Library seemed even more charming than the new Poulsbo Library. Meanwhile, Walt and Milly

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# Elizabeth Black

## *She chaired the 1962 Bainbridge Library Board*

By BARBARA WINTHER

I first talked to Elizabeth Black in 1999 when I was writing *They Like Noble Causes – How a Community Built a Library*.

Her love of books and Bainbridge Island and her vigor in tying the two together to help start an Island library in Winslow impressed me, as did the stories her husband, Lyman, told about his family and his business.

Three years later I wrote an article in the *Bainbridge Library News* about the Black family's historical connection to the library. Then in 2004, as chair of the Oral History Committee at the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, I asked Greg Geehan to tape an interview with the Black family, which he did.

Thus we have three sources from which to

quote comments about the founders of our beloved library.

### **From *They Like Noble Causes***

Elizabeth Black, or Liz as she was called by her friends, was a civic leader with superb organizational abilities and a knack for handling difficult problems.

Her husband, Lyman, owned Black Manufacturing Company, maker of work clothes such as overalls.

It was Liz who suggested that Dorothy Black, Lyman's cousin and the matriarch of the family, should be on the board of directors. Since Dorothy Black knew most of the wealthy people living on Bainbridge, she would be essential in raising funds for the new library. The two women served on the board until the structure was built and played important roles in the future remodels.

Then there was Charlie Elicker – a go-getter, a character and a half. He looked like Teddy Roosevelt, his hero, and he dressed as flamboyantly as a quetzal bird. Although he had a law degree, he never practiced that profession. The day Charlie first arrived on the Island, Jake Jacobi was in the Chamber of Commerce talking to office manager Mary Lou Sweeney.

“Charlie charged in and asked if we knew of a business for sale,” she said. “I mentioned the shoe store up the street, although he didn't look like a man who would sell shoes. A few hours later Charlie came back and announced he'd bought a nursing home in Lynwood. Boom – just like that. Then, boom, he joined Rotary. Soon he became a part of everything that happened on the Island.”

### **From an article in the *Bainbridge Library News*, Fall 2002**

“In the late 1950s. . . a number of us kept meeting and talking about a new library,” Elizabeth stated recently . . .

“There was *Bainbridge Review* reporter Jake Jacobi, St. Barnabas priest Vincent Gowen, go-getter Charlie Elicker (he later became a state

senator) and Chamber of Commerce president Jack Gordon – those were a few of the early people.

“We thought it would be easier to raise money for a library than any other kind of project. But what would happen if we got started and didn't succeed? We worried about that. We needed more input; so, we decided to bounce it off the community.”

On a cold Monday night in January 1960, 27 citizens trudged into the Winslow Town Hall to listen to a plan for a library. The assemblage agreed to champion the idea and immediately formed Bainbridge Public Library, Inc.

After adopting a set of bylaws, the group elected a seven-member board of directors: Elizabeth Black, Dorothy Black, Marion Coleman, Paul Sakai, Stan Egaas, How Ryan, and a man who became the financial lifeline for the library – Dr. James F. Hodges.

Eventually 63 people signed the articles of incorporation. . .

### **From the oral history of Lyman and Elizabeth Black, Oct. 29, 2004:**

Liz: They were all very active and very helpful in getting the ball started. And we sold the library to the community and they went ahead and built it. . . We had to raise the money first. . . It took about a year.

Lyman: John Rudolph designed that special roof structure that gives the library kind of a character from the outside.

The library was opened in 1962, about two years after it was started, Liz recalled.

Lyman: The library was owned by the community . . . but it has a contract with the Kitsap County (Regional) Library. . . which provides the books and operating funds for the Bainbridge Library.

(Note: *The Bainbridge Island Public Library opened its doors on March 17, 1962. It was built by and is cared for by the people of Bainbridge Island but Kitsap Regional Library provides the books and materials – including computers – and pays the salaries of the staff. – Barbara Winther*)



*Winslow buildings looked like this in the 1960s*

# Wayne (Jake) M. Jacobi

## *Review reporter was a strong advocate for the library*

By BARBARA WINTHER

While I was working on the manuscript about the creation of the Bainbridge Library, *They Like Noble Causes*, my editor, Verda Averill, said to me, "Talk with Jake Jacobi. He knows a lot about what went on then."

So, I looked him up.

Not only did Jake and I have great conversations about the 1950s on the Island, but he took my manuscript drafts home and wrote detailed comments about them, filling in information, correcting a number of my misconceptions, and giving me interesting tidbits about himself and the Bainbridge people he knew.

Although most of his information applied to my manuscript, now and then Jake would write about other things. I filed away two of his historically interesting letters, and when Jerry Elfendahl told me the sad news that Jake had recently died, I reread them.

I'd like to share some of what Jake wrote to me in 1999.

### **About Ed Stafford and the Library property:**

I never knew the whole story about the ownership of the property he "donated". . . By that time, he was simply an entrepreneur, having built Martini's (the Martinique's predecessor), the Tillicum Apartments across the street, and subdivided the property along the Winslow waterfront naming the streets Brian, Shannon, and Bjune after his two sons and daughter.

When I first knew him, he had just built The Village, the shopping center (greatly expanded) where Safeway, Rite Aid et al now hold forth. It was a sore point with old-time Islanders. They were accustomed to calling Winslow "The Village."

### **About Islanders and the Island in the 1950s:**

Just an aside to give you a little feel for the sort of folks this Island had in those days:

•Phil Okano owned Bainbridge Cleaners on Madison Avenue S. On St. Patrick's Day, Phil

used to run an ad in The Review, signing it Phil O'Kano.

•John Nakata, one of the founders of Town & Country Market, owned the Eagle Harbor Market on Winslow Way, later a Laundromat, even later an antique shop, and now to be something else but I forget just what.

•Eddie Rollins was working for the Port Blakely Post Office in the 1950s. He also was selling real estate for Helen Perlatti. (I bought my home from Eddie in 1956.) Helen's office was next door in Lynwood Center (note one "n"). He knew absolutely everyone on the Island and what they were up to. When the Port Blakely Post Office was closed, Eddie went to work for Bob Shroeder in the Winslow Post Office, succeeding him as postmaster.

•When Eddie retired from the Postal Service, Bess Alpaugh hired him as a public relations man for the bank, which is what he'd been all his life anyway. He, Fred Tyszko, and others not mentioned here came to the Island in the Army in World War II when there was an anti-aircraft battery near Yeomalt Point. They married Island girls and settled here after the war.

•Woody told me John and Natalie Rudolph spent their first winter here living in a tent at Fay Bainbridge State Park.

### **About Wayne (Jake) Jacobi's life:**

Just so you'll understand it, here's a brief summary of my lightening moves between 1950 and 1955 when I landed on this island. . .

I was a journalism major at the UW in the late 1940s and early '50s. Lloyd Woodbourne, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, used to refer to it as "my little trade school over in Lewis Hall." In those days, it had a separate curriculum for advertising and editorial sequences. I was an ad major, since I had worked in the retail and national advertising departments of The Times in 1950-51. Then I went through much of the editorial sequence on my own. . .

During the 1953 session of the legislature, I was news director of radio station KGY in Olympia. . .



After the session, I went to the retail ad department of the Bremerton Sun. . . Shortly thereafter, I attended a UW journalism school reunion where an old friend, managing his brother-in-law's radio station in Stockton, Calif., offered me a job as a time salesman. I was so ticked at the Sun's business manager that I said "Hell, yes". . . So in the spring of 1954 we moved to Stockton. . . It quickly became apparent the station was a dog. Four of us went to work at the station on the same day. . . and within four months none of us was still there. . .

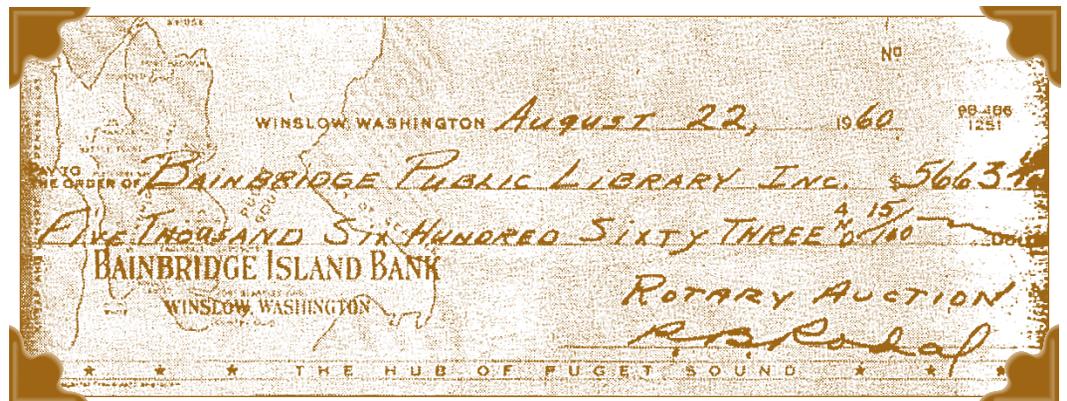
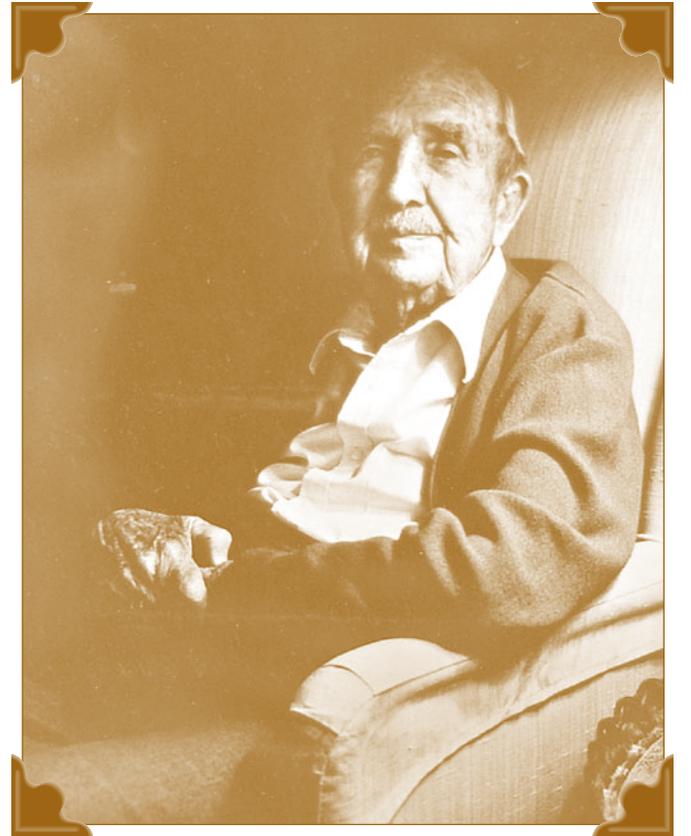
We came home to the Puget Sound area in 1955 and I went to work for Woody (Walt Woodward) at the Review.

*(Editor's note: The rest, as they say, is history. For more about Island residents in the mid-20th century, visit the Bainbridge Island Historical Society in Winslow.)*



*Bainbridge High School and Winslow Way in the 1960s (Library file photos)*

# A few of the people who helped create the 1962 Bainbridge Public Library



# Memories of early library days

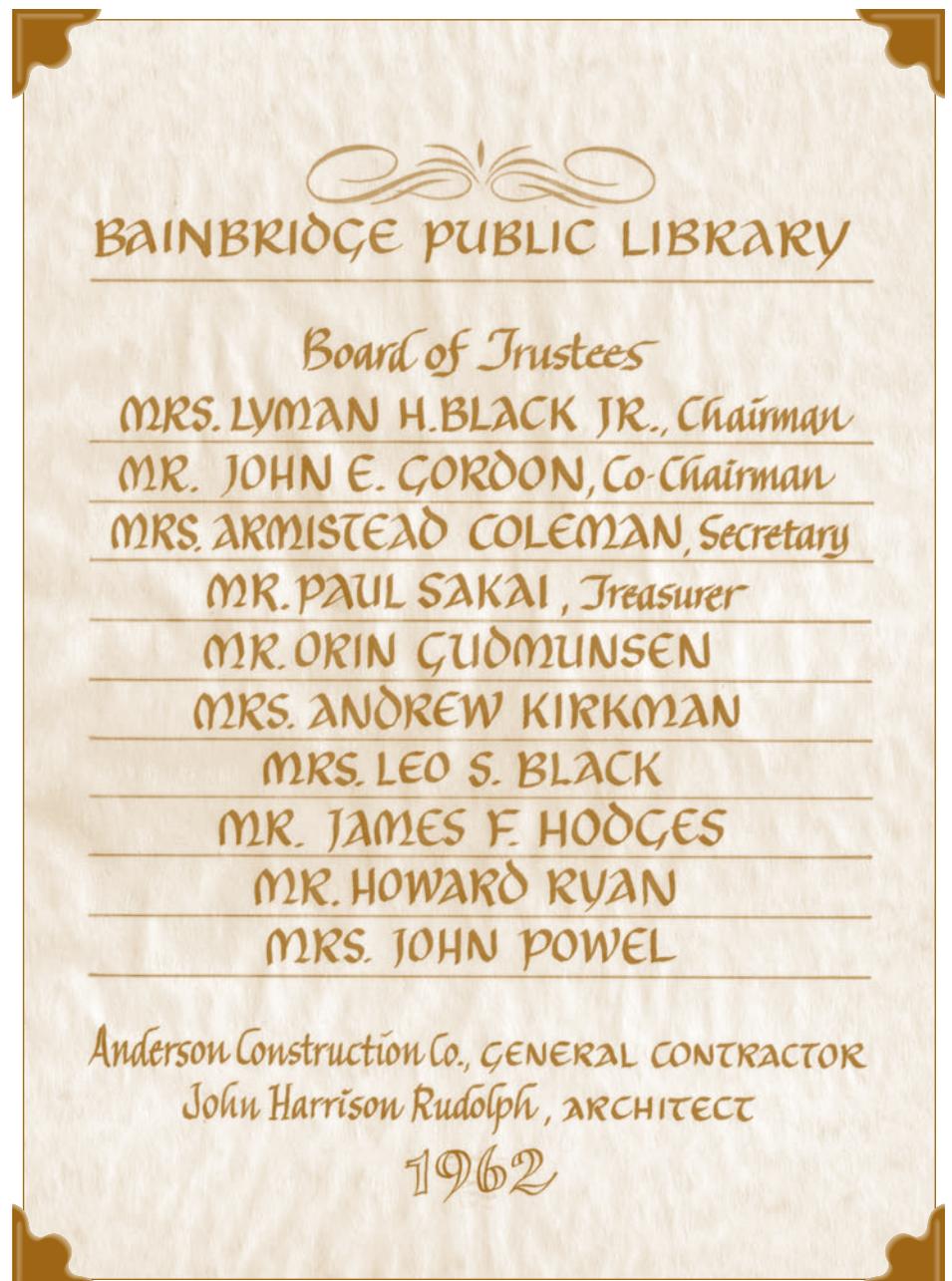


– Photo reproductions courtesy of library volunteer Charles Browne

Library files today include photos of many Bainbridge Islanders who helped plan, build, and care for the first central Island library back in the early 1960s. Many of these photos are included in the book *They Like Noble Causes* by Barbara Winther, which may be read at the Bainbridge Public Library and the Bainbridge Historical Museum.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Jim Hodges (photo by Suzanne Downing), Ray Williamson and his wife Louise, the Rotary check which launched the library fundraising efforts, Jack Gordon, and Caroline and Andrew Kirkman.

This page, from top: Bainbridge Rotarians in the early 1960s; certificate naming the first Bainbridge Public Library Board of Trustees, architect and contractor; and librarian Virginia Mudge enjoying a good laugh with custodian Carl Nord.



# Virginia Mudge

## *Memories of the first librarian*

By MARTHA BAYLEY

“What are you reading?”

That’s certainly a simple question, but nevertheless one that changed my life forever.

The year was 1967, and the query came from Virginia Mudge, librarian at the Bainbridge branch of the Kitsap Regional Library.

I was a bookish 16-year-old, playing piano for a summer stock theater group on the Island, the Potlatch Playhouse. Virginia was the grand dame and mother hen of the Potlatch Players. She also was, nearly singlehandedly, running the recently opened library at the corner of Madison Ave. and High School Road.

“How would you like to be my page, the person who puts the library books that have just been returned back on the shelves?” Virginia asked.

Of course, I didn’t hesitate to accept – what could be more perfect than a job that I could walk to after school?

I would be Virginia’s page and bask in her sunny presence until I went to the University of Washington. By that time I had truly been bitten

by the library bug and proceeded to work my way through college with wonderful jobs at both the Seattle Public Library and the University of Washington Undergraduate Library.

The library at the corner of Madison and High School Road remained central to my life, even as I took time off for motherhood in the 1980s – but stayed active as a member of the Bainbridge Public Library Board.

In the mid-1990s I found my way back to the University of Washington to pursue a Master’s degree in Library and Information Sciences.

Virginia’s simple question had indeed made an impression. I even remember the book I was reading that day at the theater in 1967: *Exodus*, by Leon Uris.

Thank you, Virginia, for noticing the bookworm in the corner, who was able to take a love of reading and make it a life.

*(Editor’s note: Martha Bayley recently retired from Kitsap Regional Library after 13 years of helping to purchase and promote the library’s book collection.)*



*Librarian Virginia Mudge*

# Ann Powel recalls special library memories

Ann Powel has been a Bainbridge Island community volunteer for many years.

A few weeks ago, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust honored her with the Phyllis Young award for shoreline restoration.

Today other volunteers are recognizing her long service to the Bainbridge Public Library.

With her husband, the late John Powel, she

moved from Rhode Island to Washington State in 1947. They settled first in Seattle, then in 1954 moved to a 1930s home on Port Madison Bay.

Ann Powel is one of the few early library board members still active in the community.

She recalls the 1960s days of fund-raising for the new library, and was an early donor but says “back then that type of thing was done anonymously.”

She has fond memories of the bookmobile that would come to Seabold Hall, where she would take her daughter and three sons to check out books. (They’ve always been a book-reading family, and stacks of books are today visible throughout the family home.)

Another special memory is joining her good friend Liz Black in the search for children’s furniture for the young people’s library, and she has especially enjoyed weekend speakers’ programs at the library.

Today, as she looks back on her active years with the library, she says she really likes “beginning things” – starting new programs or committees, for example.

Now in her 90th year, she says she doesn’t drive as much as she once did. So her visits to the library are somewhat limited. But she always enjoys attending the annual donor thank-you parties given by the library staff and volunteers.

*(– Library volunteers Caryl Grosch and Marlene LeMire interviewed Ann Powel for this story. Photo courtesy of Bainbridge Review.)*



*Ann Powel*

*(Bainbridge Review photo)*

## *It’s This Way*

**by Terry Schick**  
Editor, The North Kitsap News

**MANY THINGS** are happening on Bainbridge Island and the North Kitsap Peninsula which I suppose ought to be called progress. At least these events give some indication of the growth which the NK-Island area is experiencing.

On the Island, for instance, one of the best things I’ve seen there for quite some spell was the construction and opening of the new Bainbridge Island Library.

Even with its top-piece, the fish bowl (this is supposed to represent the blend of Japanese and American cultures on the Island), the library stands as a mark of Islanders’ desire to advance the cause of learning.

*– The view from across the Agate Pass Bridge, 1962*

# Books about Bainbridge in the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum

*80 Candles: a Collection of Stories*, Phoebe Smith.

*Bainbridge History on the Move; a Self Guided Driving Tour: Answer Notebook*, Bainbridge Island Historical Society.

*Bainbridge Island*, Richard C. Anderson.

*Bainbridge Island Coloring Book, The*, Shirley and Ted Briggs-Comstock.

*Bainbridge Island in Battened Buildings and Dipper Days*, Zoe M. Beal.

*Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial*, National Park Service.

*Bainbridge Island Multiple Choices*, Gerald Elfendahl.

*Bainbridge Landings*, Allen Beach.

*Bainbridge Thru Bifocals*, Elsie Frankland Marriott.

*Bird's Eye View of Bainbridge Island, A*, Lee Laurence.

*Chief Seattle Land—Part Two: a Nostalgic Look at Bainbridge Island*, Walter P. Clausen.

*Company Town: Port Madison, Washington: 1854-1897*, Peggy Drew.

*Executive Order 9066: Fifty Years Before and Fifty Years After*, David Takami.

*First Bainbridge Boom, The*, Toby Smith.

*Fox Cove: a History*, Barbara Winther.

*Glimpses of Bainbridge: a Collection of Life Stories*, Phoebe Smith.

*Growing Up in Winslow*, Jo Ann Wallace Millican.

*Hall Brothers Shipbuilders*, Gary M. White.

*History and Description of the Bainbridge Island Filipino American Community Hall*, Rudy Rimando and Gerald Elfendahl.

*History of Bainbridge Island*, Katy Warner.

*Home Town Recipes of Winslow*, Winslow Women's Civic Club.

*In Defense of Our Neighbors: the Walt and Milly Woodward Story*, Mary Woodward.

*In Praise of Island Stewards*, Joel Sackett.

*Indians of Puget Sound*, Herman Haeberlin and Erna Gunther.

*Island Grown: the Life of a Filipino Immigrant*, Angela Berry.

*Island in Time, An*, Joel Sackett and Candace Jagel.

*It Was the Right Thing to Do: Walt and Milly Woodward*, Publishers of the Bainbridge Review, Paul Otaki.

*James Cutler*, James Cutler.

*Kitsap County History: a Story of Kitsap County and Its Pioneers*, Kitsap County Historical Society Book Committee.

*Know Your City*, The City of Bainbridge Island.

*Let It Go Louie: Croatian Immigrants on Puget Sound*, Gary Loveridge and Barbara Winther.

*Minnie Rose Lovgreen: Lovgreen's Recipe for Raising Chickens*, Nancy Rekow.

*Out Here*, Andrew Ward.

*Picture Bainbridge*, Bainbridge Island Historical Society.

*Port Blakely Cemetery: A-L*, Suyeon Noritake and Andrew Price.

*Port Blakely Cemetery: M-Y*, Suyeon Noritake and Andrew Price.

*Port Madison W.T.*, W. B.

Bowden.

*Port Madison—Washington Territory 1854-1889*, Fredi Perry.

*Recipe for Raising Chickens*, Minnie Rose Lovgreen.

*Story of Restoration Point and the Country Club, The*, T.M. Pelly and G.C. Nickum.

*Story of the Little Fort at Bean Point, The*, Ivan W. Lee, Jr.

*Streamliner Diner Cookbook, The*, Irene Clark, Liz Matteson, Alexandra Rush and Judith Weinstock.

*Streams of Bainbridge Island: Names, History, Folklore and Culture*, Gerald Elfendahl.

*They Cast a Long Shadow: a History of the Non-white Races on Bainbridge Island*, Brian Roberts, editor, Bainbridge Island School District.

*They Like Noble Causes: How a Community Built a Library*, Barbara Winther.

*True and Lasting Legacy, A* (Port Blakely Mill Company). Rose Banham.

*Year in a Country School, A.*, Ruth Gazzam.

(The Bainbridge Island volumes are available for enjoying in the museum, but not for checkout.)

Continued from Page 1

## John Rudolph

thought it was time to retire – their daughters were growing up – and sell The Review to a younger couple.

Dave and I thought it would be great to have two community newspapers – after all, there were two of us – so we bought the Review and then began wrestling with the really big decision: where to live while raising two small newspapers along with a growing family, hamsters, Freckles the dog, assorted chickens – and oh, yes, those 4,000 books.

The only answers seemed to be: Build a house. Find an architect who loves books. Find a lot near both newspapers.

It took five years to find the lot – an area near Manzanita Bay was just opening up – but we had no doubt about the architect. We knew it would have to be John Rudolph.

We did all the wrong things.

We found the lot – great view, water nearby but not too close for toddlers – and put down earnest money.

Then we interviewed Rudolph, discovered he was not building any new libraries then, and would be delighted to help us create a home for children, dogs, tropical fish, and three

chickens. As well as those books.

I was selected to take John over to the lot.

We tromped around in the woods, up and down the hill – its height created the great view – and John said nothing for maybe five minutes. He just wandered around, admiring the cedar and fir trees, the salal, the wild flowers and birds. Then, when we had climbed to the top of the hill, John smiled and looked me straight in the eye. He said:

“Verda, it’s a 45-degree slope

going south and another 45-degree slope going west to the water. Maybe they’ll give you your money back and you can find a flat piece of ground?”

My reply:

“But we LIKE this property. . . We want to build here.”

More moments of silence.

Then the architect replied, hesitantly:

“Well, I guess we could give it a try. . . Maybe I can come up with something. . .”

What he came up with was a

remarkable design which hugged the hillside in three directions, more windows than I could count (for the view), and room for all those books, including my father’s complete collections of Encyclopaedias Britannica and the Harvard Classics. When the Bainbridge Library was too crowded for young people to study, my youngsters just brought home neighbors and set up a sort of informal library.

Like the library board, we stuck to a strict budget. (Small-town newspaper publishers do not make a lot of money.)

Today, the home John Rudolph created for us more than 40 years ago remains not only extremely livable but an integral part of the landscape that surrounds it.

And my fondest memory of John is a mental picture of the architect hugging two little six-foot cedars while the first subcontractor cleared the space for the front porch. He cared about those trees, and today they tower 50 feet above our driveway.

That same connection with the land is evident in our 50-year-old Bainbridge Public Library.

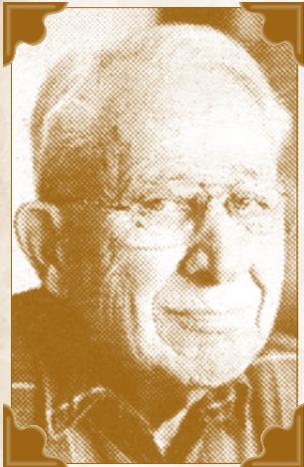


John Rudolph, his wife Natalie, and children in the early 1960s

# Let us now celebrate the first 50 years of our Bainbridge Public Library *...built by & for the people of Bainbridge Island*

When the doors opened on the new Bainbridge Public Library in March 1962, Bainbridge Review staffers were among the most enthusiastic celebrants.

Publishers Walt and Milly Woodward, reporter/ad salesman Jake Jacobi, Woodward daughters Mij and Mary, and the rest of the Review staff were all involved as the building took shape. Even the first librarian, Virginia Mudge, was a part-time Review staffer. Progress on the much-anticipated central library was reported almost weekly in the Reviews of the early 1960s. And if the editorial columns



Walt Woodward

sounded at times a bit paternal, that was only natural. The Bainbridge Review was nearly 40 years old then. Next year the paper will be 90!

Early Review records are incomplete. In its younger days the Bainbridge Review newspaper office and printing plant were destroyed by fire – twice.

## Early Records

A timeline in today's Review office notes that the paper was launched in 1923 featuring "High School Highlights".

The owners, H. W. and Frances Niemeyer, soon began more widespread coverage.

The early Bainbridge Review, like the libraries that followed, was dedicated to lifelong education.

In the early days, Island life was rural. Most roads were unpaved, few cars existed, and there was no bridge over Agate Passage.

Islanders gathered not only in the small town of Winslow, but also in scattered neighborhoods: Lynwood and Pleasant Beach, Rolling Bay and Seabold. Ferries to and from Seattle were small and infrequent. The historic "mosquito fleets" plied the waters of Puget Sound, connecting Bainbridge Island with communities throughout Kitsap County.

Books were circulated widely, between friends and at small neighborhood libraries.

Among the books read in the 1920s were such classics as: T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, *Ulysses* by James Joyce, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Albert Einstein's *Theory of Relativity*.

As World War II approached, the Niemeysers sold the Review to Walt and Milly Woodward. He was a doctor's son from Seattle, she a young school teacher, both educated at the University of Washington. They were dedicated to good journalism.

The Woodwards settled into Island life and raised three daughters while publishing the Review.

During the 1940s, the Review office at Pleasant Beach was destroyed by fire, and all of the newspaper's records were lost. (A few papers published before that fire surfaced from time to time, thanks to readers who had saved them.)

## World War II

The big news on Bainbridge during World War II was the evacuation of Bainbridge Island Japanese-Americans from their homes to internment camps far away.

The Review publishers, in an editorial by Walt Woodward, spoke out strongly against removal of the Island's Japanese community to the internment camp at Manzanar, California. Islanders sobbed as their Japanese-American neighbors were removed from Bainbridge, but the Woodwards vowed to keep in touch with their displaced friends.

They did that, reporting news of the distant Japanese community on a regular basis.

Other Review stories covered schools and government, local men and women in the service, births and deaths, and chats with long-time residents. In 1943, for example, a front-page interview with William Grow describes his 62 years on the Island – including the days when 11 logging camps were in operation.

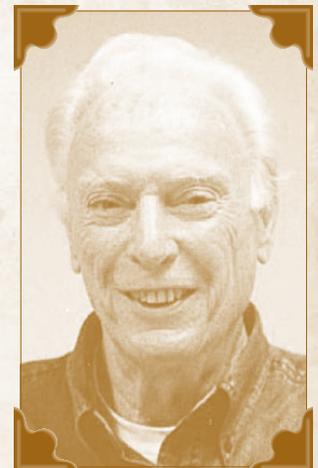
During 1944-45, the Review also reported the growth of the Chamber of Commerce and Fay Bainbridge State Park; Footsteps to Freedom (a column about Islanders in the armed forces); and school transportation challenges. A nursery for working mothers was announced, and a stray bear was reported ambling around the Island.

## The War Ends

On December 22, 1944, a front-page Bainbridge Review story highlights the announced lifting of the Japanese West Coast ban and quotes Sachiko Koura, Review staff correspondent for the Island's 123 evacuees in Idaho, as saying they were excited by the decision, but delaying their own decisions to return until learning more.

As the country settled into post-war growth and development, the Bainbridge Review welcomed home members of the Japanese community and greeted newcomers warmly. Homes and schools and autos were built and, beginning in the early 1950s, the Island was less isolated and more connected to both Seattle and the Kitsap Peninsula.

The Agate Pass Bridge made travel to Poulsbo a 15-minute trip, and larger ferries on regular schedules made the trip to Seattle quick and convenient. Newcomers commuted to jobs in Seattle. The Bainbridge Review was there, reporting every week on the changing community.



Jake Jacobi

It was just a matter of time before Bainbridge Island residents turned their attention from war bonds and soldiers to the need for a central library which would provide books and educational materials not only for children, but for lifelong education.

Today that first central Bainbridge Island Library is 50 years old. All of us at the Bainbridge Island Review are grateful for the efforts our friends and neighbors have made to create and care for that building.

We look forward to the next 50 years in the life of the library built here by and for the people of Bainbridge Island.

—The Staff of the Bainbridge Review

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND  
**REVIEW**

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