

Notes: CRISTA History Walk

Part One: Firland, 1911 to 1948.

Tuberculosis: Leading cause of death in early 1900s. Highly contagious, bacterial disease. Immune to earliest antibiotics. Most commonly attacks lungs. Without correct treatment, more than 80% wasted away - coughing up blood while ravaged by disease - until they died.

Firland: In 1908, Seattle record of fighting tuberculosis - worst in the country. In 1909, the Anti-Tuberculosis League president Horace Henry donated of 34 acres of land and \$25,000. Seattle voters passed \$10,000 bond issue. In 1911 construction began - for 80-100 patients (ultimate capacity to be 250). By 1911 first two patients admitted, in open-air cottage. First 4 permanent buildings completed in 1913-4. (3 are still being used.) Three more hospital buildings added by 1925. (2 still being used.)

Treatment: Rest, good food, fresh air, and cleanliness. Some treated by injecting air into space surrounding each lung or by removing ribs to collapse lung. In "The Plague and I" author **Betty McDonald** recounts her nine months in 1938-39: 1) All patients began in **Bedrest Hospital**, fully reclined 24 hours a day. No reading, writing, or talking. 2) Minutes or hours of "**up-time**" allowed. 3) **Ambulant** hospitals allowed meals in dining room and occupational therapy. 4) Most patients took one or more years to recover. Recreational (including mini golf course), social and volunteer activities and vocational training options.

The Move: In 1948 the 1500-bed, bunker-like, Navy hospital closed offering room for all on waiting list too. **By 1954, Streptomycin** and other new antibiotics had been introduced and **soon** the time in the sanitarium had been cut in half and mortality rates had plummeted from 31 percent in 1948 to 6 percent.

Last words: In 1910, no road to site. Materials and supplies were brought up by wheelbarrow from Interurban at 185th. By 1913, brick-paved, North Trunk Road completed.

Part Two: CRISTA, 1949-to present

Stop 1: CRISTA Media and Water Tanks

Mike Martin started KGDN in 1954. CRISTA now operates two radio stations reaching combined 250,000 listeners. Radio tower provides space for wireless carriers, emergency services, and other. CRISTA creates podcasts and other media.

Media Sales Office (22) and **Media Studios (24)**

Pump House (63) in back: Firland had own well in this area.

Water Tanks: Tanks belong to Seattle Public Utilities. First in 1953 (1 million gal.) Second in 1958 and (2 million gal.) Supplies water west of I-5.

Stop 2: At Entrance - CRISTA 56-acre campus. 7 buildings from 1913 to 1929 still being used.

Mike Martin and a Home for Teens: In 1948, looking for site for home for teenagers from broken homes. Found the 44-acre, abandoned Firland Tuberculosis site. More than he needed, but soon had vision to use everything. Named it King's Garden. But not for sale. Commissioner reluctant to grant him a lease. Did get permission to start cleaning up site.

Starting King's Garden: Mike, charismatic fundraiser. Soon had funds and army of volunteers (75 families) to prepare some of buildings for occupancy. Families received room and board and stipend. Next year, got lease - \$1.00 a year for 5 years on condition we would open old folks home too AND he must pay cost of improvements, but they would not belong to him.

By end of year Kings Garden opened home for youth and a rest home for 80 older residents. By 1950, school with 63 high school and 63 grade school students.

King's Garden has continued to grow in size and scope. Renamed **CRISTA** in 1979 and is celebrating 75 years. Now a 56-acre campus with 7 buildings from 1913 to 1929 still being used.

Buildings Along Kings Garden Way - Senior Housing and another view of the Water Tanks.

CRISTA Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center(32): Built in 1974; closed during COVID. Now houses Community Home School Co-op (independent, 85 K-12 students) and **Welcome Center**. Rest being remodeled for dormitory for high school foreign students.

The Courtyard of Cristwood (7): Assisted -living apartments.

Chestnut Court: Memory care wing of the Courtyard since 1998

Security Services (23)

Royal Apartments (25): 1969 - 24 units - independent living - Rent \$1,885- \$2550

Stop 3: Martin Center (1): Second building completed in 1913. Named for Walter H. Henry who donated the land. Later renamed Martin Center for founder of CRISTA. **CRISTA Ministries:** 1) **Media**, 2) **Senior Living**, 3) **World Concern**, and 4) **King's Schools**.

Circling around the Administration Building:

Privot House (26): King's Schools Registration and Alumni

King's Annex (27): Old fire house - built in 1919, now Spanish Classroom

World Concern Addition. Started in 1955 with Medicine for Missions sending surplus medication to clinics and hospitals overseas. Renamed World Concern in 1976 after starting disaster relief programs. Operates in 23 countries - clean water and sanitation, nutrition, farming practices, etc. Funded by donations from individuals and foundations and by government grants.

King's Elementary view (41) Former Hillwood Elementary School, built in 1955. It was sold to CRISTA in 1982. New buildings were added in 2000.

King's Garden Gymnasium view (8): For Junior High physical education classes and basketball and volleyball teams practice and games.

Tunnel: Firland buildings were connected by tunnels for utilities and to move patients, meals and supplies between buildings.

Kings Schools - in 2024

Preschool -104 students

Elementary (K-6) - 558 students

Junior High (7-8) - 212 students

High School (9-12) - 410 students

Total - 1284 students

Full tuition from \$14,280 a year for preschool to \$23,400 for high school, but sliding scale based on income and sibling discount could drop tuition to about one half

Buildings Along the Way: School Buildings

King's High School (5): Built in 1913. Original hospital and first permanent building. Called Detweiler Building. In 1949, remodeled to be a home for teenagers and a school. Now King's High school classroom building. King's students win awards in academics, music, art, and sports. Cheer leader team recently won first place in national competition.

Silvan Hall (????): Formerly Firland's Pasteur Ward. Now 3 high school classrooms.

Vernon Martin Arbor Deli: (59) Built in 1995. Closed to public since COVID.

Burdant Ness STEM Center (64): Completed 2013 has 6 science, 6 math, and 6 technology classrooms and state of the art labs. Also offers digital arts. Grades 6-12

King's Music Hall (3):

Ella K. Ness Hall (4): Built 1925. Formerly Josef House children's hospital. Then King's Elementary School. Now the King's Junior High School.

Schirmer Auditorium (6)

King's Preschool (9) New playground in 2024

Power House (11): 1913 building. Resembles castle. Note Knight on roof - King's mascot. Original 1st floor- boiler room, machine shop, and storage-battery room; 2nd floor - engines, generators, switchboard; 3rd floor- laundry; 4th floor-housing for interns. Furnished electricity to Firland until 1931. Steam generated here was used for cooking, sterilizing, and heating.

Woolsey Stadium (30): Named for groundskeeper from 1950-1967. He required P.E. classes to pick up rocks to help clear the area to plant grass. In 2007, a synthetic surface.

Cristwood Out-patient Therapy

Stop 4: Rose Garden: Firland had beautiful landscaping and gardens - peaceful, healing. CRISTA does too.

Crest Apartments (15): Built in 1964 with 24 apartments, all but 2 single bedroom, for independent seniors. Recreation room in the basement. Rent: \$1,795-\$2,830.

Ambassador Apartments (16): Formerly 1920 Nightingale Building for nurses and ambulant patients. Was original Kings' Garden "rest home." In 1975 renovated into 30 studio apartments and renamed Ambassador Building. Rent: \$1,200-\$1,600.

Radio Tower: 420 ft (42 story) tall. Built in 1990, replacing older tower. Used for own radio stations and leases space to wireless companies, ham radio operators, and others.

Stop 5: Cristwood Park

Cristwood Park Activity Center (38): Built 1988. (I think it has been recently remodeled.)

Cristwood Park (35): A senior community opened in 1984 with 199 independent living apartments. Has indoor swimming pool.

Note: CRISTA Senior Living now serves nearly 512 residents, including the 1992 **Crista Shores** in Silverdale, WA. (There are roughly 117 assisted living and 395 independent residents. CRISTA also the 130 acre Miracle Ranch summer camp in Port Orchard, WA.

Stop 6: Mike Martin Gym

Note: This lower area was a farm during the Firland era and earlier days of Kings Garden. Had pigs, cows and horses, chickens, and a large vegetable garden and fruit trees.

Mike Martin Gym (39): Built in 1968. High School PE classes and volleyball and basketball team practice and games. Walls covered with 52 state championships and 11 Scholastic Cup banners.

Forest: Has network of walking trails, serve as a practice course for cross country team.

Note: In anticipation of future expansion, CRISTA has been buying houses in the neighborhood and renting them out in the meantime.