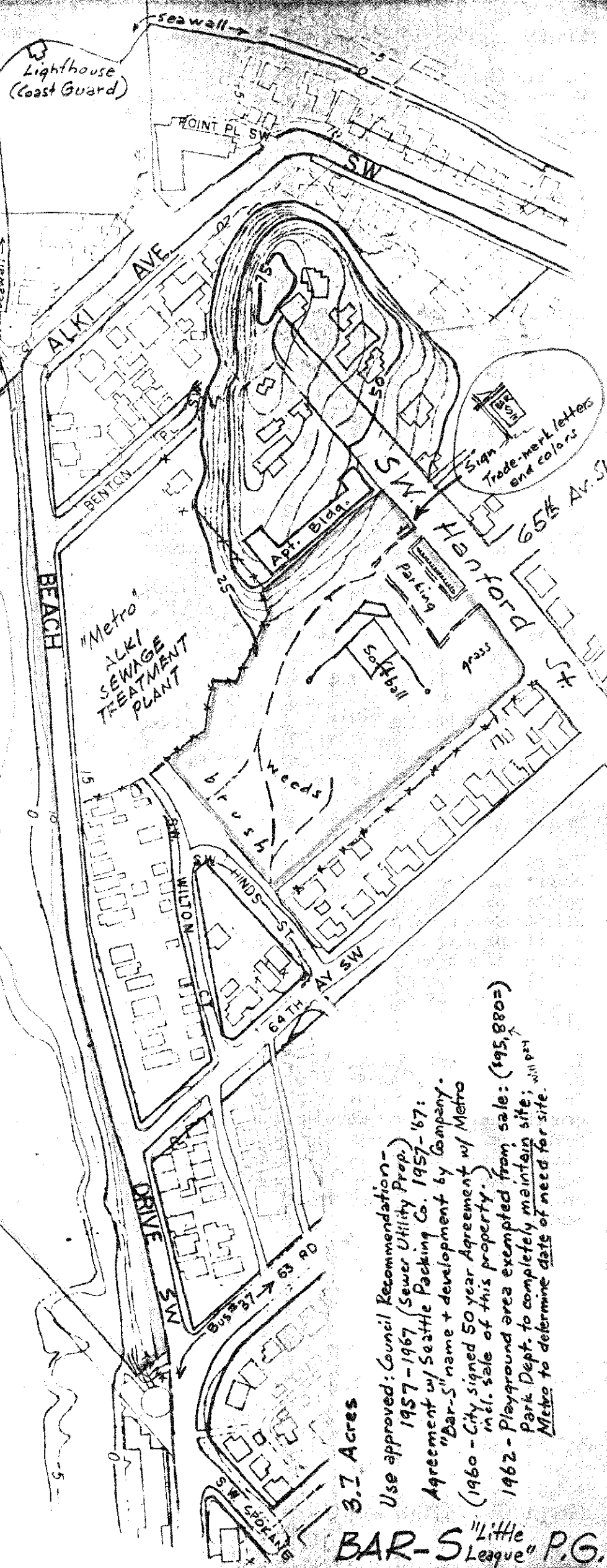


ALKI POINT

Known to Indians as "Me-kwah-mooks" it was named in 1841 by Lt. Chas. Wilkes to honor the gunners mate of his expedition: Roberts Point. In 1858 it was known as Battery Point. The Lighthouse was built in 1880 thru efforts of Edw. Hanson, who became first tender of the kerosene lantern: electrified in 1913.



PUGET SOUND

Rocky beach

L.I.D. 1926-'31 = 54307 =

ALKI-
 154.1 Ac. { 10.5 = land
 143.6 = tidelands
 Total shorel. = 2.56 mi.
 Purch. + Deeds since 1910
 '10 BF + '24 BF + '60 BF

3.7 Acres
 Use approved: Council Recommendation -
 1957 - 1967 (Sewer Utility Prop.)
 Agreement w/ Seattle Packing Co. 1957 - '67:
 "Bar-S" name + development by Company.
 (1960 - City signed 50 year Agreement w/ Metro
 incl. sale of this property.)
 1962 - Playground area exempted from sale: (195,880)
 Park Dept. to completely maintain site; will pay
 Metro to determine date of need for site.

BAR-S "Little League" P.G.

WE 5-2520

HISTORY: BAR-S "LITTLE LEAGUE" PLAYGROUND

Seattle Times 1/26/69: For uncounted generations before 1840, an Indian village known as Me-Kwah-Mooks existed on the sandy meadow adjacent to the wooded knoll; low areas of the meadow were salty marshes. A grandnephew of Chief Seattle, Chief Jim Moses, was born in this village before it was moved to the Renton area where Chief Henry Moses, son of Chief Jim, was born in 1901 (died 1969 on a one-acre homesite given him by a Renton pioneer).

Testing Lab: In that early day, the meadow must have been a rather thin layer of sand washed down from the adjacent headland (as were the sands of Alki Beach) and deposited across the bedrock that underlies Alki Point. Even with the filling that has been done, test holes made in 1958 revealed bedrock to be no more than 2 to 5 feet below the surface of the ground; a minus tide on the adjacent beach exposes areas of bedrock.

History: Although the Denny Party landed on Alki Beach in 1851 they soon moved across Elliott Bay to build their new town beside the deep water that would become a great harbor. So Alki and the West Seattle area were slow to develop; annexation was not until 1907. Then the Olmsted Brothers prepared a Supplemental Comprehensive Plan for this and other newly annexed areas. Included in the Plan was the recommendation to acquire this meadow and the wooded knoll adjacent to the beach as a park area. Instead Alki Beach, Alki Playfield and Schmitz Park and Boulevard were acquired and developed. And the wooded knoll was developed as homesites.

Along with the expansion of Alki Beach toward and around Duwamish Head, the adjacent beach area south of the Lighthouse was purchased in 1927 but little more than the placement of several benches and maintenance has been done. (The construction of the sewage pump station at Spokane Street end was altered to include the ramps to the beach.)

In 1952 the West Seattle Sewage Disposal Plant was built to collect and treat sewage that was being dumped into Puget Sound. The site purchased was the meadow adjacent to the knoll. However, the plant as constructed did not occupy all of the site. At that time the Little League program was experiencing a rapid growth in popularity, overtaking the public playground facilities available for Little League play. The Alki community was notably short of playgrounds. So by 1956 the community together with a sponsor of League teams came before the Park Board with the offer to assist the Department with the acquisition and/or development of a new field. The availability of the unoccupied portion of the city-owned disposal plant site determined the location of the new field. The City Council authorized the use of the site for a 10-year period from 1957 and concurred in the identification of the playground as BAR-S LITTLE LEAGUE in return for development by the Seattle Packing Company with preferential use by company sponsored teams.

The control of the contamination in Puget Sound and Lake Washington required a more massive effort than the capabilities of the existing system, so James Ellis organized the Metropolitan Sewer District (METRO) which won voter approval. As a result, the City's sewer utility system was sold to METRO under a 50-year agreement in 1960. The sale included ALL of the West Seattle plant property. Upon METRO's determination that an expansion of this plant was not within the foreseeable future, and, upon petition of the Park Board, the playground portion of the plant site was excluded from the sale, subject to the "sole determination of METRO to use said property for enlarged or expanded treatment facilities" (1962).

In 1968 the West Seattle Little League prepared a "grandiose" plan for the redevelopment of the playground, matching volunteer labor with Department forces, plus funding generated from Forward Thrust projects (matching funds, interest . . .). But the community was greatly upset because work was about to proceed without their consultation; also the Design Commission created by Forward Thrust sought revisions to the Shelter/Concession planned; resulting in lengthy delays. Finally, the West Seattle Little League provided sod stripping and stockpiling, grading and rock removal and fill; and the Department provided two ballfields, gravelled parking area, sprinkler system and landscaping - and Sani-cans - by 1971.