

BRAIN FEVER

DISPATCH

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AUG 1900

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BELLTOWN STILL RETAINS ITS CLAIM AS SEATTLE'S GLORY HOUR. ONCE IT WAS FAR OUT IN THE WILDERNESS


HISTORICAL BELLTOWN

THE HISTORY OF BELLTOWN IS THE HISTORY OF SEATTLE'S EARLY DEVELOPMENT. THE TOWN WAS FIRST SETTLED IN 1851 BY A GROUP OF PIONEERS WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A TRADING POST IN THE AREA. THE TOWN WAS AT FIRST KNOWN AS "BELLTOWN" BECAUSE OF THE BELL THAT WAS KEPT IN THE TOWN. THE TOWN WAS AT FIRST A SMALL SETTLEMENT OF ABOUT 200 PEOPLE. THE TOWN WAS AT FIRST KNOWN AS "BELLTOWN" BECAUSE OF THE BELL THAT WAS KEPT IN THE TOWN. THE TOWN WAS AT FIRST A SMALL SETTLEMENT OF ABOUT 200 PEOPLE.

TOWN

AS INTERVIEW WITH THE PEOPLE UNDER THE COUCHES

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THE BELLTOWN BRAIN FEVER DISPATCH.
First issue was a photocopied one-pager.

Belltown Babylon

by Elaine Bonow

Chapter 7

We've been producing the *Belltown Messenger* for the past five months, but people still ask us why there are two Belltown papers. Seattle has a reputation for being a schizophrenic town. Life here in the Emerald City or the Jet City or the Queen City can be like the infamous weather: sunny one second, getting you all excited about seeing Mount Rainier, and then it storms on your ass the next second and keeps storming for months.

The fact is, Seattle has more newspapers than many cities, but compared to gigantic cities like New York or London we are still in the Bush League. A good indicator of the intelligence of a population is its plethora of newspapers. Newspapers give a voice to the diverse opinions of thinking people. This soapbox supports an involved community eager for discussion and opinions.

A quick glance at the listings for newspapers in the Yellow Pages shows the depth of newsprint publications here in the city. Seattle has a good batch of ethnic and minority affairs newspapers: The Asian Weekly, The Chinese Post, The Medium and Seattle Gay News. And of course there are two Belltown papers. There are also two monthly newspapers in the Pike Place Market, one which seems to be subsidized by the PDA and the other throwing a bit of competitiveness into the mix.

We started the *Belltown Messenger* because there seemed to be a need for a niche paper that addresses the concerns of the businesses in Belltown. We looked at all of the dailies, weeklies and monthlies and found that Belltown businesses were not represented as well as they could be.

When you look on the full color tourist map of Seattle, the one that all of the out-of-towners use to get around town, Belltown is just a shrug. When national magazines and newspapers cover the wonders of Seattle, the out-of-towners stumble around trying to find the fabulous places they've read about. Cruise ship patrons, and the crews who land at the Bell Street Pier, and to the Market on Elliot Avenue because it is difficult to cross Western and Bell; and Belltown is avoided.

We envision a paper filled with advertising from all businesses, large and small, in Belltown. We're here to provide news about happenings in Belltown to Seattleites as well as visitors. We want people to get excited about coming to Belltown and wandering our streets. I want the *Belltown Messenger* to add a strong voice to our community. We intend to bring you good things in the future. Please let us know if there is anything of interest that you want to share with your Belltown neighbors.