



Library podcast

David B. Williams discusses Seattle Walks

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[00:00:38] Good evening everyone thank you for coming to the Central Library tonight. I'm Marion Scichilone one of the managers here in the building at this time I'd like to introduce Karen Maeda Allman from Elliott Bay Book Company who in partnership is hosting tonight's program. Well thank you and thanks for coming tonight.

[00:01:08] And I'd also like to thank the University of Washington Press whose co presenting with us tonight they publish this wonderful book and also David's earlier book too high and too steep. There's some representatives from the Press the publisher and also its editor. So thank you very much for coming tonight. There are also some colleagues from Seattle seven writers and David Williams is also part of that group as well. They do philanthropy readings support and also have writing groups and they're a wonderful organization. So [Seattle seven writers dot org](http://SeattleSevenWriters.org). If you'd like to know more about them so. David Williams geologist educator naturalist writer. Native Seattle light from an esteemed family of historians I would say here in Seattle he's a sometime resident and bookstore owner in Moab but for many of us in Seattle he's been someone who's been teaching us about our city environments our natural history. Fossils in the downtown cityscapes are watershed in the ways in which we have altered our landscape in our city for many many years now. And I think this book has been something that I had kind of hoped and dreamed about for many years. When his book stories in Stone came out a few years ago he did some wonderful walking tours in the downtown to show off some of the fossils and a little bit of that information appears in in his new book.

[00:02:47] And also he's been writing extensively and speaking extensively about the re grades and we all know about the Denny re grade but there were some other ones some other massive ones. And and though he did write about that in too high and too steep he also writes about this and takes us through some of the landscapes in his new book. So his new book is called Seattle walks discovering history and nature in the city and some of you may have like I was very very glad to be able to go on one of the tester walks for this. There are 17 walks in this book and I'm really looking forward to carrying this volume with me and walking the city streets with this friend and wonderful just

incredible source of knowledge about the city. There's so many beautiful maps and photographs and there's actually some photographers that contributed to the book that are here tonight as well.

[00:03:50] Please join me in welcoming David Williams applause.

[00:04:04] Wow. It is such an honor and pleasure to be here tonight. And I would just like to begin by thanking all of you for coming. I'd like to thank Elliott Bay Books and the Seattle Public Library. I think one of the great pleasures of our city is the fact that we have this amazing array of independent bookstores and I think all of them for their support of writers such as myself local writers and their effort to get the word out about this amazing place. And as I think look back at what we're think about what we're facing in the country is happening to our country. I think it is even more critical to support and defend bookstores and libraries as bastions of strong community diversity. Freedom of speech and knowledge. I think we know that when we enter our local library or independent bookstore we have entered a place where the great ideals of this country are practiced preached and promoted. So thank you to the bookstores and libraries of this city. I would also like to second Karen's thanking of the University of Washington press for their amazing support of this book from the very first time when I proposed the idea where it was a little more than an idea of I want to do a book of walks. They were supportive and enthusiastic and I could not have proceeded as I did without their amazing enthusiasm throughout the entire project from design to editing to promotion. It has been incredible and both my publisher are here and my great friend and editor Regan Huff who as I said when I did too high and too steep you rock girl.

[00:05:55] You still do. I also would like to point out that although my name appears on the front cover of this book I could not have written this book without an amazing array of support of people. Not only did I email people call people harass them go to their libraries go to their archives and pick their brains which is what I think I do as a writer. With this book I had to take a second step if you will excuse the sort of pun there and I had to have people test the walks as Karen said.

[00:06:31] It wasn't just enough for me to come up with this idea in my little tiny head and go out and walk and do the walk and write up the walk.

[00:06:42] I know you find this hard to believe with such a nice young man as myself I made some mistakes in the walks and they were the people who said no that was actually a left turn and not a right turn or in the people who said you know that was Harvard and not Belmont Street or the people who said you know that's a great fact but no one cares about it you should get rid of it and probably most importantly and Regan was certainly involved in this too.

[00:07:13] They said Your jokes are really bad they shouldn't be in the book. So if those there are quite a few of you here if you could stand off I would just really want to acknowledge the people who did walks or then also my photographer Aurora who was here as a photographer. Could you please stand. I just want to thank all of you. And before you sit down. I would like

[00:07:41] Everyone to stand. This is a book of walks. We know that with walking you need to stretch. Get up get up get up give them

[00:07:52] If you catch you know do a little stretching. Also please say hello to the person next to you. One of the goals of this book.

[00:08:02] Okay that's enough stop. One of the goals

[00:08:11] For me as a writer was to create to get people out into the community and get to see the community that surround them. And so I think and I will reiterate this is the importance of walking and exploring the city and getting to know the city and getting to know your neighbors whether they are neighbors who live 100 feet from you or three or four miles from you. So what I want to do tonight is do a short reading from the beginning of the book and then describe some of the walks in the book end up with a short reading and then answer a few questions. So although it looks like I'm not reading from the book it's this is big font. So. I went that way. So

[00:08:55] I may be odd but I look forward to Seattle's long winters when the weather is mild in the mountains full of snow for gives me no excuse to not do one of my favorite urban activities exploring Seattle on foot for the past 15 years or so my wife and I have strolled through most of the city sometimes alone often with friends. Our plan is usually simple pick a spot on the map and see what we can discover but we also set goals such as going from one bakery to another.

[00:09:27] Following some old map I have unearthed are seeing how far we can travel on the shoreline at low tide. Rarely have we not had fun. Often ways we did not expect. Each of these adventures has revealed some new facet of the city spectacular and little known viewpoints in Beacon Hill, two-hundred-foot tall Douglas firs in Schmitz Park. An unexpected Civil War Cemetery on Capitol Hill a secret bunker on Pigeon Point an amazing taco truck in Rainier Beach. The house where Elvis once slept near Alki point. Now I go by all of these points. I don't always tell you where they are so sometimes you have to do your own sense of discovery. Urban walking to me is simply the best way to get to know a place and to develop deeper connections to its story. Plus there are some wonderful advantages to urban walking compared to wilderness hiking. You can complete an urban walk after dinner. Your carbon footprint is smaller as you don't have to drive this far or better yet bike or bus to the walk. You can go on an urban walk any day of the year. The food is generally better or if you simply get hungry a meal is not too far away. If it's raining you can always duck in somewhere and dry out.

[00:10:39] You don't have to worry about quiet as it's always noisy. You can go with friends of all ages walking with friends has also led me to taking out groups. I've explored Seattle with elementary school kids. Employees of the Washington Trails Association and my mom's walkie talkie gang. I can't actually reveal their average age because they would hit me so I don't want to be beat up by a group of elderly people so. They're close to the front row so I know what I speak. I've also guided walks for many organizations around town from the Burke Museum to the Seattle Audubon Society. The two most common comments I hear "Wow I always walk by there a thousand times and never

noticed that” and “I will never look at that building the same again.” These guided walks are one of the reasons I decided to write this book. I wanted to be able to share these walks and what I what I have discovered on the ground with more people. I also wanted a place to share my inner geek. Many of my discoveries in the field such as the dozens of carved faces on the downtown building or the nuclear fallout shelter under Interstate 5 near Green Lake have inspired me to head to an archive to scroll through microfiche, read old letters, or pore over maps in hopes of discovering the story behind what I have seen.

[00:12:00] Each discovery is a little mystery to solve regarding the walk selection. I encourage you to venture into new parts of Seattle and discover the diversity of terrains, people, cultures and green spaces that make up the city. One of the simple pleasures of walking is getting out of one's routine. I also encourage you to try some of the longer walks. I have friends who've said that a five mile urban walk feels longer than a five mile hike. I disagree but also suggest to them that if this is the case then break up the walk into two parts walk more slowly or take more breaks. I know from taking friends out with me that the longer walks can be done by most people and that they have fun at least they tell me that. So ultimately I hope that these walks will enable you to see Seattle in a new light and to acquire a new appreciation of how the city has changed through time how the past influences the present and how nature is all around us even in the urban landscape. And I trust you will make many discoveries on your own.

[00:13:00] So what I want to do is talk a little bit more about the book and dive in. There are 17 walks as has been said. I tried to cover the entire city as best as I could. The couple neighborhoods where I did not go such as Queen Anne I feel are covered pretty well. There's a wonderful map of staircases there stairways there there's the stairways book. So I tried to get into areas that maybe were a little different. Most of the walks are round trip a few of them are one way the Green Lake walk traces the historic drainage of Green Lake down Ravenna Creek and out to the Lake Washington. The this long narrow finger right here Madison Street as I learned from someone who is here tonight. Our old family friend Goldie Silverman the only street that goes from Elliott Bay all the way through to Lake Washington and so some of the walks are one way all of them connect back either by bus or if you want to take a car or a bike or something to that effect.

[00:14:04] But most of them are round trip and so I think it gives you an idea of trying to cover the entire city.

[00:14:11] And so I want to look at talk a little bit about inspiration. This was a Facebook post of a friend of mine who is here tonight. That it was sort of giving people ways this sort of a different way to think of walks in Seattle. This was not a central inspiration on how I could help. Mystery writers in Seattle.

[00:14:34] But you know as a humble writer I try to do my best to help everybody out there. But more seriously the inspiration for much of this came from earlier projects that I had worked on. So my book Seattle's street smart naturalist this collection of essays about natural history in the city several of them lent themselves to walks one in the book is a in a street smart is a one way walk down Thornton

Creek which I converted into a round trip and then there's stories in stone which basically wanders through the downtown area as Karen said. Looking at some of the buildings stone in the city we've been together the human and natural history of the stone and the architecture in the city and what's wonderful about Seattle is that we have a rock that's used in the city that ranges in age from some Italian travel teen about 80000 years old to this rock that's shown right here. This is the Morton nice. This is three point five billion years old. It's probably the oldest rock that you will ever see in your life it's certainly the oldest rock that I will ever see and so on the walk I encourage you to reach out and touch it because you're reaching back into the deepest time of the planet. Eighty percent of the age of the earth is represented in this rock. And I just.

[00:15:57] Think that's pretty cool. So that was one of the goals. A fair amount of inspiration came from my most recent book too high and too steep. That looks at this change of topography in the landscape and one of the walks does look at Denny Hill one of the challenges of Denny Hill as a walk point of view is how do I tell the story of something that isn't there. The hill is gone. So what I do is I start at the southeast corner and whined around looking at some of the old industry that was in the area looking. I eventually make you around to wear this the cover of the book I place you where this photograph was taken which is I think sort of cool. And then ultimately end up at second and Virginia at what is now the high point of Denny Hill and the other cool aspect of it is the more theater right next to it which is the building in the photograph the more theater the top of the more theater is about equal to the elevation of what Denny Hill was prior to the re great and the building to the south of it. This big tall thing is the now known as the Josephinum of the top of the Josephinum is about equal in elevation to the top of what was the tallest building on the Hill the great Danny or Washington hotel.

[00:17:19] So it's trying again. How can I connect you to this landscape and take the stories that in two high took 12000 words to cover and boil it down into its essential elements. I tried to do the same thing with the walk along the shoreline. This was the sort of lead in chapter of sort of laying the groundwork again bad pun. Of the landscape and what I do in this walk is trace what was the shoreline like in Seattle when the Denny Party arrived 1850 or so. So I start at the north end up here about first and Leonora. Underneath this bridge Norris Street Bridge and continue walking along the path of the shoreline where we were you could find it pointing out some of the disparate elements pointing out how the past influences the present of some of the structures that have been altered. And I start at this point because this hillside in the background here is a unique bluff. It is the last example of any bluff in Seattle of what would have been initially encountered. So when the Denny Party arrived and they sailed along Elliott Bay there they would have encountered these high bluffs instead of this nice flat landscape if you will of Alaskan Way. They would have basically had these cliffs that started one hundred feet above sea level and drove down.

[00:18:45] And this is the last remnant. So again the driver for me was this early work and trying to take the history that I had learned and and create it create a walk so that you could go out and experience that history yourself. A secondary influence or a tertiary after killing people and. Books was my own sort of weird curiosity about things that I see in the landscape and what I was most interested was this little granite finger right here this is on 14th Avenue in Seattle. Some people noticed millionaires row and I had seen this for a while. I grew up in this neighborhood and you're like

What. Why is this sauce thing here. Well Capital Hill. This walk. This is part of the Capital Hill Walk which mostly focuses on the north end of the hill so basically north of Volunteer Park and around to this point. This is a hitching post from when the area was developed and when Seattle did not have automobile traffic and when horsepower meant horsepower literally and so people would ride up they'd tie their horse up or if they had it rode up in a carriage they could tie it up and further down the block. There's actually a stepping stone where people who would pull up on their horses could step onto that step before stepping down onto the ground.

[00:20:08] What I thought was really cool is that in the University of Washington there is a postcard. It's not. This is just down the block. This step this hitching post is still there. It's just down from where I took the other photo but these houses are here. This is the water tower. Obviously these are not in the middle but I just thought it was so cool that they had.

[00:20:29] Here was this deep connection to the early history of Seattle. So this walk basically wanders through that neighborhood looking at some of the elegant old aspects of Capitol Hill.

[00:20:42] Another walk is called Where You At, fortunately the editors left alone most of the titles. But this point right here what I'm interested in is this right here this is the city datum point. And what this walk does is goes through downtown Seattle looking at maps and other markers in the city that give insights into where you are in the world where you are in Seattle. So it goes by a couple maps goes by this wonderful display of photographs in the Rainier tower goes by a couple of places where there are artwork that provides information about the city and the city datum point is what started it for me. This is the Zero Point in Seattle or at least it was historically. So all points in Seattle had to be measured from a specific spot in elevation and prior to this there was not a good elevation point.

[00:21:43] So if you know Bob was building something and it needed to be 12 feet above sea level and Jane was building something above sea level that was 30 feet above sea level. What was sea level what was zero and they determined what Zero was marked it on a building. Originally it was a little bit south of here at this point this is the pioneer building at first and Yesler. Originally it was a block south at a building that burned in the great Seattle fire and then after the fire when this building went up they chose this point and it says elevation eighteen point seven nine so sea level is zero.

[00:22:17] So there is a little square carved into the steps there and that step that square is eighteen point seven nine feet above sea level. So that all elevations could be measured from this specific point. They now use much more technological means but I just thought wow this is where it sort of all started if you will this is zero in Seattle. This comes from the Beacon Hill Walk you've probably maybe seen walls like this around the city. You may be familiar with it that Seattle once had a much more extensive street trolley system dozens of miles of track. It was look like the other street cars of that city south of San Francisco I think it's called. And. So it was rail and the rails would be attached to a concrete block. And when in the late 1930s the city decided to remove the street trolley system and replace the street trolleys with electric buses they ripped up the entire system and they used the concrete blocks and the rails for retaining walls throughout the city. They also used them for sidewalks around the city. Excuse me I mean stairway so a lot of the old stairways in the city are

made of these concrete blocks and I thought wow this is amazing. This is the original sort of hip Seattle recycling reuse project. And fascinatingly enough the buses that are still electric street trolleys today basically follow many of the old electric trolley routes in Seattle. So this again this this deep connective tissue of the story and this the Beacon Hill Walk goes along the west side of Beacon Hill head south and sort of curves back around looking again at some of the features of the landscape some wonderful views looks into one of the great engineering failures in the city.

[00:24:12] So it's just a fun walk for me to do in a neighborhood that I had not spent a lot of time and then this.

[00:24:20] I know you're very impressed. This is a very beautiful photo. It took me hours to get this one just right now.

[00:24:28] This is where Western runs into Yesler. And this is most of the way through the walk of the shoreline. And if you've ever walked along this street you've noticed that it's a little bit troubled if you will it it sort of roller coasters along and where I'm standing taking this photo of my if I were to get down at the level of my feet at this at the curb there and look across the street I would not be able to see the curb on the other side because the street bows up so high. It's because this street is built on the early fill. This would have historically prior to development this would have been water under water. This is where Henry Yesler's mill was along here. And so all this material was dumped.

[00:25:16] And as the buildings and the streets settle at different rates you get this uneven terrain and you see it throughout Pioneer Square.

[00:25:26] But this to me is really the best example. There's also a building here. The one that's highlighted here on this crack in it is no longer there. They went. They've rebuilt this building and I talk a little bit about the troubles of the building there.

[00:25:39] But I think this I hope this gives you an idea of what was really driving me as a writer and as someone interested in telling stories of the city of how here are ways to connect better with the landscape that's around you. And so what I want to do is I want to focus on two walks a little bit more and a little bit more detail. And the first one is the Del Ridge and Pigeon Point walk. How many of you know where Pigeon Point is

[00:26:10] Few people. It's not a place that you go to. I'm not saying that disparagingly but it's not between point A and point B it's not something that we all come to use when there's traffic and we need to get off and bypass something.

[00:26:28] This is where Del Richard and Pigeon Point are located. Del Ridge is the low that low valley there where the steel plant is. So if you come over the West Seattle bridge and you drop when you drop down there's that big industrial complex on your left that's the steel plant in Del Ridge. And then the point that sort of runs into the West Seattle bridge is the Pigeon Point and I think this exemplifies I chose this walk in particular because I think it really exemplifies the goals I had in this

book. So I start at the up here at number one. Pretty clever that we numbered them sequentially throughout. That was the editor's suggestion I had something totally different I didn't know what to do but she said start with one. So we start with one and we start just behind the steel plant along the creek there that has a name Longfellow Creek and that spot where we start where the walk starts was has been known as Young's Cove as Humphrey and Youngstown. Youngstown and Young's Cove have no connection at all. Youngstown was named for the town where the two people had started the steel plant came from but we go up Longfellow Creek. Longfellow Creek interestingly enough is the oldest named Creek in Seattle. The first name to appear on any map of any Creek in the city.

[00:27:54] So work our way up that creek stopped by this wonderful art project this massive Dragonfly. I love the way that the Dragonfly is pinned the way people pin bugs if you've ever seen bugs. Very wonderful piece of art. And in the book. I don't show you actually have it a conceptual drawing of the project and what you can't see is that the garden is laid out as an even bigger Dragonfly. So it's a really really wonderful spot. So we work out walk up the creek looking at some of the salmon restoration looking at some Beaver habitat along there and eventually pop out of the creek at about this point right here south. This is the Louisa boarding school. So a little bit south area and you have this opportunity. What I consider really a wonderful opportunity to climb up a flight of steps and what's wonderful about it is that this is an unusual ridge at this point. Most of the hills in Seattle if you were to slice them at the bottom would be a layer of clay and then a layer of sand and then a layer of till the very heterogeneous material of cobbles and sand and pebbles and such. But if you were to cut into behind this the stairway here what you would realize or discover is that the rock that makes up this is older so that last rock most hills and Seattle were deposited in the last ice age say fifteen thousand years ago there was rock here before that and this hillside this ridge is here because of this harder sediment.

[00:29:26] It's a little bit more resistant and so it was not as eroded as much during the last ice age. And so it's left behind this remnant that you have the the joy really the joy of climbing up. It's about one hundred and fifty stairs or so. And you go up the stairs. It's not that bad. And then you drop down into a little valley carved by Puget Creek. You climb up another little valley and then you ultimately end up at South Seattle college you work your way along the college passed a wonderful garden and a wonderful little arboretum here you find your way and eventually you end up at Puget Park and Puget Park is right on the edge of Pigeon Point. So this is this is Pigeon Point sticking out to the north here. Hard to tell from this map but as you walk along you get the Pigeon Point in the first time I ever went there there's this green space at the park and then there's this sort of fence with barbed wire in places and I thought why is a park protected or hidden or defended.

[00:30:30] How do you want to view it by this barbed wire. So I started investigating and asking around and people said oh it's because they did. There was nuclear testing their radiation experiments or they spied on the Japanese from there. I don't know if it like Sarah Palin sort of view of the world but this. And so you know this doesn't make sense.

[00:30:51] So I started investigating and ultimately ended up at the National Archives and at Sandpoint and I will zoom in a little bit more so you don't have to read this in detail on this series of documents all of which was not marked secret which I thought was sort of cool. What it revealed is the fact that. Early on in the early nineteenth hundreds this property was acquired by the government for what was known as WAM cats that Washington Alaska Military cable and transport. You can read the book or buy it to get exactly the system. And this was a series of cables and telegraph wires that connected Alaska to the rest of the United States through Seattle. So the radio transmission was taking place at on this hill. And then during World War II as Alaska became even more important they realized that they needed to protect the transmitter and build this underground bunker. This very well protected bunker. This is for you Kevin. And this is the bunker. So they built this bunker and they use it through the war and then in the 1950s the University of Washington acquires the property and they start doing some work out there. And when they acquire the proper acquire the property one of the things they have to do is fill out an annual report.

[00:32:16] So I end up at the University of Washington archives and all the annual reports are there. And what I discovered is that they used this bunker this site for they're doing some radio transmission there's an electrical engineering program that was allowed students to do work out there. There was some cosmic ray research which just to say that is sort of I think cool a cosmic ray and then there was also some medical research out there. There was work being done on bone marrow transplants. A man named Donald Thomas was working out there and he needed a place where he could use radiation to to do his work and he needed it in a facility that was radiation proof or radiation couldn't get out. So he does work there for through the 60s and into the early 70s. He eventually starts working at the Fred Hutch. And in nineteen ninety two he wins the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine for the work that he did with dogs and people in radiation at this bunker up on the Hill. So they were actually right. They were looking at the Japanese or they were a community of maybe some were pursuing but there's certainly radiation experiments going on. Then in the 1990s the project the place was acquired by the City of Seattle and the Parks Department.

[00:33:35] You don't need to memorize this drawing. This is one of the. This is not in the book so you don't need to fear but I'd like to show it because it says underground building right here. It says underground kennel appear.

[00:33:48] So this the park or the city school system acquires it and they remove all the buildings and they build a new school there and there is a parking lot there. And that parking lot sits. It's hard to tell but it rises up just slightly that parking lot sits on the bunker which is still there. It's just sealed off. They got rid of all the radiation but just to think that there's this bunker.

[00:34:17] It's such a cool thing. I just. And again what was also exciting for me is that I could not find this information out there really was so much fun.

[00:34:26] It was one of these great little mysteries that I was able to to dive into and try and pull out the information from so I hope that gives you an idea I mean most of the walks are like this going around stopping at different spots telling little stories weaving together the human and natural history.

And so what I want to end up with is looking at one final walk. This is the who's watching you walk. As I spend a lot of time downtown if you happen to read the article in The Seattle Times where Mary Ann Gwinn said this weirdo doesn't even own a cell phone I don't. And I do spend a lot of time just wandering around looking at things in the city and I noticed all these amazing animals and figures carved in sandstone or done in terracotta. You know we're probably all familiar with the art building and the wonderful walruses on there. So I thought I do I'll be sort of fun to put together walk winding through downtown Seattle a little one way walk looking at some of these characters and telling some of the stories related to them. So I'm going to show you some of the figures I may or may not tell you where they are.

[00:35:43] There is a book available that has all that information in it. So this is the first one I'm not sure how many if you're familiar with these characters these little figures I'll zoom in a little bit closer. These are known as grotesque.

[00:35:56] There are seventy eight of them on this building in downtown Seattle and it's across from my wife's office. How about that for a helpful hint. This eagles and lions are probably the most common animal in the city of from a carved or terracotta point of view. You see them on numerous buildings and I think they were supposed to convey this idea of regalness and pride and intelligence all the things we think of with these animals. This building also has this wonderful panel above the front door on the left is the gathering of information in the middle is the assembly of the information into a newspaper and on the right is the newsboys selling the newspaper. This was owned by The Seattle Times for just a handful of years but just this wonderful you can imagine. Well I like to think that the reporters who knows well maybe back then they really weren't inspired to do anything but walking under this to see this fabulous panel. There are many faces of the city in a variety of different buildings of variety of different images of them. This is over the entrance to a bank.

[00:37:14] And I'm not sure if the lion was supposed to inspire confidence in the person depositing or fear in the robber who wanted to do this story regulating this figure if you have seen this.

[00:37:31] You have spent a lot of time in downtown Seattle wandering and looking at strange little things this is actually slightly below ground level. And one of the older buildings in the downtown area just a little bit south of Elliot of the wonderful and much missed L.A. Bay bookstore.

[00:37:49] But you also sometimes have to look up and on this walk I encourage you to bring binoculars I heard you bring binoculars on many walks you just sort of have to get over that fear or weirdness of peering up at buildings with binoculars looking into or maybe that's what you do all the time in this you've now have an excuse to say oh I'm looking at these figures these are on a one of the great art deco buildings in Seattle.

[00:38:14] This interesting combination of sort of mythological and Native American. So it's a fabulous building there's some great eagles on it. And. This horse gets back to the the column the hitching post earlier up on Capitol Hill. And if you had horses you needed to have stables and there were quite a few stables in downtown Seattle and there's only one building as far as I know still has a hint to the

fact that it was stable and that being this this horse had on the top and I'll end with one that you probably all know and if you can't figure out where this is you need to read. So this wonderful eagle on the Eagles auditorium which there are there's this one but there are many others on this building. And again it was one of these things where I looked at I saw this one and then as I kept looking at the building more and more eagles appeared on this building and this is a wonderful building. We're actors now all sorts of great history in this building. But so I hope this gives you an idea of some of the things I was trying to do in the book and so I just want to end with a little bit of reading that is the. The end of the book.

[00:39:29] And then I'd be happy to answer questions a book of walks is by nature prescriptive telling the reader where to go and what to see Seattle walks follows that approach but I like to think that this book is a beginning. I hope that the walks have revealed sides of Seattle that you have not known whether they are sites you pass by every day and had not noticed or lay undiscovered in a part of the city you had not thought to explore. Now that you've completed all 17 walks or listen to me read or at least made it to the end of the book I encourage you to repeat walks take them at different times of day in different weather at different times of the year a walk in Magnuson Park and summer for example is so different from a stroll there in winter different birds have settled in leaves reframe your view sunbathers dot the shoreline boaters ply the lake the rich smell of flowers permeates the air it may feel like you have never visited the park before in a city that is changing so rapidly many walks in the most developed parts of Seattle have probably evolved from when you first did them I truly believe that few pleasures in the city are easier or simpler to pursue than walking it is free and requires little more than the clothes on your back all you need is a desire and willingness to get outside explore and use your senses and the possibilities. Just in Seattle are endless. The city has more than twenty one hundred miles of sidewalks and pathways with another eight hundred and fifty miles of streets without sidewalks and one hundred and twenty miles of trails in its city's parks. You could wander for months and never cover the same terrain. Have fun.

[00:41:09] Thank you.

[00:41:17] I'd be happy to answer questions or make up answers to questions yes. Oh good. So what are some some walks that I thought would make the cut and and didn't. At one point I was going to do a walk along the west shore of Magnolia bluff and go at low tide because you can walk from Discovery Park all the way around Magnolia bluff and then circle around and come back up and back to Discovery Park is about a seven and a half mile walk and I realized. Well you know. That could be an issue if the tide came in

[00:41:56] So that was one. It didn't make it and I was originally going to do a walk around Green Lake and do that as a series do it sort of abstractly do it over four seasons and just sort of describe the changes in the landscape over time and just ended up sort of running out of out of space.

[00:42:15] I mean that's the great thing is you know there's 17 in this and there could easily have been 30 but one of our goals was to make a book that was not the size of this one on the screen right here to carry around yes.

[00:42:30] Yes.

[00:42:31] Oh. Examples of facts that I threw out.

[00:42:34] Probably I got some of those I got a little too much detail probably on some of the architecture I would get or some of the geology I would go a little bit more in-depth on that I was really trying to to balance out the sort of Oh here's something totally cool with. Yeah. That's great. So it was there weren't a lot but there were a few. It was it was almost maybe more where people thought I should have more information and one of my goals in the walks book is there are some sections some longer sections half mile at a time where I don't say I don't say anything and I just want you. I hope that you'll just walk along and look at what's around. I mean there's so much to see and it was almost more of the fact that I could have just like every 10 feet come up with something. I thought that was interesting. And at that point I it's not worth it. I do really hope that people find more and find more questions out there and try and answer them because there are so many wonderful stories in this I hope is as I said it's just the lead in to some of those stories. Yeah.

[00:43:47] Do I say where some of the bakeries are.

[00:43:49] I actually purposely did not ever mention any place to eat because as you well know in Seattle if I put it in there it would be gone tomorrow. But actually the best walk we did was a grease walk. We followed a series of grease greasy foods. Mom don't listen to. We exercise the whole time. But that was one of our favorite logs to read it was the grease walk around Seattle from donuts to French fries to tofu. Yes. I have to say I didn't have a lot a conversation sometimes you know people would I would get lost and ask people for help. But I'm alive. Sometimes I did a lot of these walks in groups and so a lot of it was sharing information with the people. It was I was with them and some of it. We also would often when I did lots of people we go into restaurants and that was just fun to go to places I'd never been this wonderful Ethiopian restaurant in south in the Sword Park area. There's another restaurant in Beacon Hill we got there like two weeks before it closed and that was just amazing. How did I decide where they would begin and end. As I said a lot of times the goal was to create a round trip. So for instance the story is in stone walk when I in street smart naturalist that is a point A to point B walk and I realized that I needed to figure out a way to do that as a round trip and I where I began on that one for instance is where is across the street from where Seattle's great fire began in June of 1889.

[00:45:29] And it was a logical place to begin because prior to the fire the city was made of wood after the fire. The city was made of stone and brick. So it was a very logical point. So some of it was very logical. Some of it was just purely practical like. I've gone about a mile and a half. That seems pretty nice in the downtown area. So there are a few the walks have little side trips on them when it didn't really fit in. And I thought I really want this information. I think it's really cool. I'm for instance that figure I showed that one that's a side trip to get to that spot. I mean it's not terribly far but I wanted to include because I thought it was just so cool so that that was sort of a driver for some of it was just practicality and having fun. In other places businesses paid me off big bucks. So

[00:46:23] I probably shouldn't say that the press wouldn't be upset by that. Which one.

[00:46:29] All the fish all the fish. Well at the very beginning. Yeah.

[00:46:33] This just went.

[00:46:38] I'll get there. Well you know what's amazed this is up at the time. Well you saw it it was very exciting.

[00:46:47] I'll get it. It's at the Chinese Garden up on South Seattle campus. Yeah. And that. I won't embarrass her but the person who took the photograph the wonderful photograph of that which I was very blessed to be able to use is actually here tonight. So I thank her for her wonderful photograph because it's a really it's amazing garden. And what's also really neat about this park and the arboretum. It has these wonderful little pocket views of Seattle that were completely unexpected. Do you think in South Seattle like there's no way I can see downtown and particularly this time of year before the leaves leaf out. There's just these great little views and so that's one of the things about going back and doing these walks over again. And I did many of them have tried to do it multiple times was experiencing and discovering how the city changes as for instance there's a walk in Magnuson Park that's much that what you go through this walk over the section that's you know in this winter it's very light and open in and in the summer it's very dark in there. So I think that was to me again a very key aspect of getting to know this place and seeing the different animals and seeing how how seasons affect all these walks. Yes many of them are very urban and they're not that affected but quite a few of them are and that to me was a really a fabulous aspect of the story.

[00:48:13] Good question. Yeah.

[00:48:14] So one of the spots I was going to stop on for instance on the walk.

[00:48:21] Who's watching you. Where are the walrus are on the Arctic building on Third between 3rd and 2nd on Cherry. There's a little parking lot right there and you can actually go up and you'll be basically face to face with one of the walrus while that's supposedly the spot where they're going to build this hundred or ninety seven million story tall building in Seattle. So I know that it's not going to be there. There's so downtown was very challenging because I often knew places were gonna disappear. There's a there was a gas or a garage. In the Denny regrade area that had been there for years until about a year and a half ago just north of the Coliseum not the Coliseum what's the Cinerama and it's gone now. So there was there were several places like that that disappeared as I was doing work on them and there's I know there's a walk in here that I'm doing it right now you can do it but I know they can six months you're going to have to go around it. But I wanted to have the walk in the book but I know they're going to be doing a major work project there. I didn't know how. How do I get around it. To have this one little spot you can make it around but it's not going to be there forever and so again I was going to talk about this little bridge and so development is definitely challenging and I make that point explicitly in the book. Please just bear with me.

[00:49:47] Things change in our fair city as we all as we all know.

[00:49:52] So one last question and or none or no. One last question.

[00:49:59] Excellent when's my next guided walk. I am trying to figure out that schedule.

[00:50:07] I have three walks that I need to do for a grant I received. So there will actually be three free walks. I don't have the dates picked out but it will be on the website and it will be advertised to 4 Culture which is where the funding for this book came from. Partial funding. And then I'll probably do a few others. I have one that's listed on the website with historic Seattle but it's sold out and we actually have to move the walk because it's on the Pride Parade and the walk was going to wine through the pride parade and I mean I think that be fun but I don't know if anyone else wants to be with me in ten thousand other people looking now but I am trying to continue to do walks because I love doing them to me it's really fun to to go out in part because I see the city through other people's eyes and I'm always learning from other people as I do walks with them and they go hey have you ever noticed this and I think wow I know everything it's like now. I miss so much detail so oh my website is geology writer dot com and there is a walks and talks page on that website that has

[00:51:21] I usually I do keep it up to date. These are the talks I'm doing but I do try and keep that very up to date because despite having a not having a cell phone I'm very technologically advanced probably cutting edge. It depends on how you define edge and cutting. So once again it was my pleasure. Thank you kindly for coming out.

[00:51:50] This podcast was presented by the Seattle Public Library and Foundation and made possible by your contributions to the Seattle Public Library Foundation. Thanks for listening.