

The History of Fircrest

The Early Days of Regents Park 1906 —1924



On October 31, 1906, a group of San Francisco financiers incorporated the Narrows Land Company and purchased the plat for Regents Park, marking the beginning of a new community development project. Their vision was to create a carefully planned, park-like community, with special attention to layout and amenities.

Major Edward J. Bowes, the project's promoter, played a key role in attracting residents, offering tours of the area in a carriage drawn by his white horses, "Merry" and "Christmas." These tours helped potential buyers envision life in Regents Park.

By 1910, the layout of Regents Park was nearly complete. The community featured Spring Lake, a zoo with monkeys, parrots, and a kangaroo, and the iconic Fircrest Lions at the entrance. The lions, however, were later removed due to weather-related damage. The 1910s also saw the completion of the first home in Fircrest, the Thompson House, located at 363 Del Monte. The Thompson family, part of the Sears Roebuck fortune, was instrumental in financing the development.

In 1912, the Fircrest Methodist Church was built by J.A. Mason. This church also served as Fircrest's first City Hall and council chambers, marking an important step in the formation of the town's governance. As more homes were constructed, so too were the Fircrest Golf Course and Regents Park Elementary School, both completed in 1924. These early developments laid the foundation for the community of Fircrest, shaping its growth and establishing a rich historical legacy that continues to define the community today.

Interested in more Fircrest History? Stay tuned to future issues of Town Topics, and head over to our website at cityoffircrest.net where we will share more facts and features as we celebrate our Centennial.

**Spring Street, looking east
from Buena Vista Avenue**

Circa 1931



Courtesy of the Clay Curtiss Collection, *Of Lions and Dreams, Of Men and Realities: An illustrated History of Fircrest, Washington* by Richard D. Osness (1976).