

WALKER
ROCK
GARDENS

WASHINGTON - MILTON WALKER - WALKER ROCK GARDENS

1905 Milton Walker was born in Rockford, WA,
1930's Working for the WPA as a landscaper for a Camp Long Creek, ^{he won}
1941 He and his wife Florence purchased a vacant lot ^{and}
next to the house. In his backyard he began
making a set of winding paths.

ca. 1959 By this year the terraces had been constructed.

1950's The Walker family visited Wenatchee, where they saw
the Ohme Rock gardens. Once home, Milton built
the concrete 'Blue Lake' surrounding it with ^{concrete}
_{of cement and of smaller, measurable rocks from the Grand Coulee area}
meantans, capped with white painted snow.

During his spare time - vacations and Boeing layoffs,
Milton who worked in mock-up at Boeing constructed an
elaborate garden. The garden grew to include water-
falls and walls decorated with stones collected during
family outings.

1960's He and Florence bought ^{the entire stock} ~~a rock shop~~ of thousands
eggs, quartz, agates and other rocks for \$150 from
an Oregon man closing his rock shop. For 11 weeks
they hauled 10 tons of rock from Oregon to their
back- and side-yards in Seattle.

He was
inspired to create one-of-a-kind paving stones of
rectangles, squares or butterflies. Laying sand in a
wooden form, he put in the rocks with their best
side down, poured over cement, and let it stand
overnight. ^{Then} ~~then~~ he ~~would~~ blessed the mold.

After growing up in Spokane
he attended the University of
Washington where he majored in
Diplomacy in Alaska
for two years
for Los Angeles
He worked as a teacher in
New York, Canada
and other jobs in
1984

In the last part of
his life he began his own
working business in Spokane.
Like other such independent
firms of the time, his business
eventually was out-competed by
large chain stores. (Feb 1984)

The garden is composed of walls, walkways, towers and
arcades decorated with semi-precious stones, glass, fossils,
quartz, and mineral cobbles, petrified wood and dyed
cement.

1970's He retired from Boeing (Sept 1974)

1984 Milton Walker died.

* except where otherwise noted information from Beers 1987

Sources / Contacts

Florence and George Walker
5407 37th S.W.
Seattle, WA 98126
(206) 935-3036

Nancy Warden
9804 62nd Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 725-2338

Friends of the Walker Rock Garden

Bibliography

- ✦ Joeb, Paul 1984 "Milt's Enchanted Rock Garden", Alaska-
fest ^(Alaska Highlands magazine) August. pp. 76-78.
- * ——— 1983. "Milt Walker's Magical Back Yard". Americana
Jan./Feb. p.104.
- ✦ Hadley, Wayne P. 1972 "The Ultimate Rockhound's
Garden". Rock and Gem September pp. 26-29.
- ✦ " 1985. "The Ultimate Rockhound's Garden Revisited".
Rock and Gem October. pp. 48-50.
- ✦ Fishes A.R. 1969 "Miniature Mountain Wonderland".
Sociology Journal. September
- ✦ Hachett, Regina 1987 "Some of the Best is Unseen".
Seattle Post-Intelligencer ("Art on the Streets") October 4
- ✦ Beers, Carole 1987. "On the Rocks". Pacific (The Seattle
Times / Seattle Post-Intelligencer) October 25.

Nancy Wonen
9804 62ND Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118

Dear Nancy:

Thank you so much for the information packet you sent us. We are quite overwhelmed by your thoroughness and generosity. The materials you sent are a most welcome addition to our archives, and have saved us a lot of effort in updating our file on the Walker Rock Garden.

As for the site plan, perhaps a local university class/department in landscaping or surveying could be persuaded to provide assistance. We ^{to help your efforts} have enclosed ^{1.)} a list ^{of the kinds of} people you and the Friends of the Walker Rock Garden will need to develop as contacts; Would you be interested in a list of SPACES members in your area who may also be interested in the site and could provide useful contacts? (based on the information you sent)

Enclosed as well is a time line of Milton Walker's life. We would appreciate your comments and/or suggestions.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of any help. Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Parsing
Reverend

Sergious Rosen
Director.

encl.

LIST.
and 2.) "some things you should know if you would to save a site".