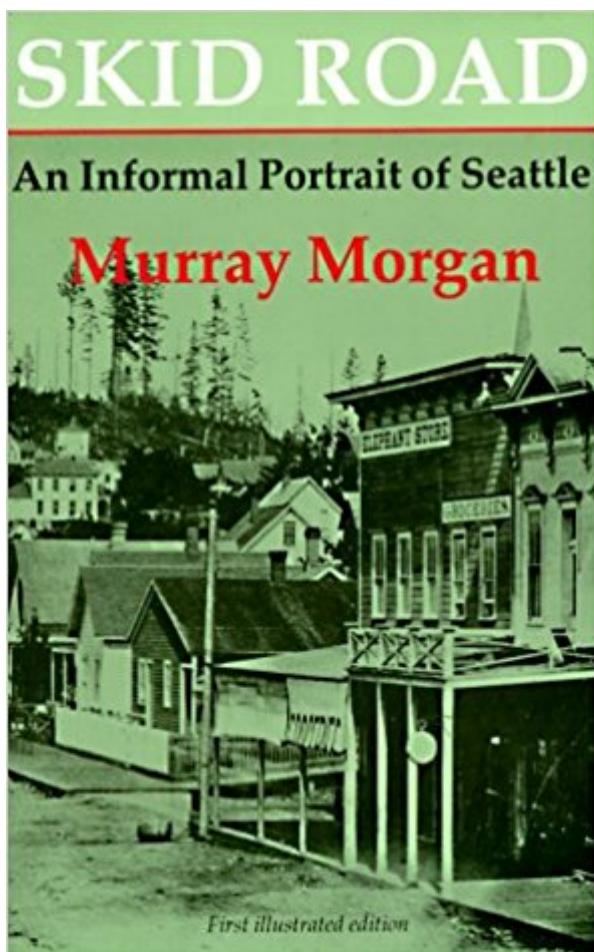


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# Skid Road: An Informal Portrait Of Seattle



## Synopsis

Informal and picturesque, Skid Road is the story of Seattle during its first hundred years, seen through the lives of the vigorous personalities of its settlers and early citizens. This handsomely illustrated revised edition brings Seattle's history up-to-date and provides a vivid portrayal of its past: pioneering, Indian warfare, lumber, railroads, the great fire of 1889, the Alaska gold rush, the amusement business, newspapers, the general strike of 1919, and the tumultuous politics of city and state that have made history in the Northwest.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"No one who has ever written Pacific Northwest history can match Murray Morgan's craftsmanship, the signal virtues of which are pace, precision, humor, and a keen eye for the characterizing detail." — Norman Clark, *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* "Mr. Morgan's book is the sort of corrective history that all communities should welcome." — Stewart Holbrook, *New York Herald Tribune*

I live in the Seattle area and heard about this book while reading another book. I'm so glad I wrote it down and ordered it, because I learned a great deal about Seattle, and thoroughly enjoyed it. The writing is welcoming and easy while still giving a very good overview of this city.

This is the great popular history of Seattle. Learn about the pioneers behind the downtown streetnames: Denny, Stewart, Mercer, and more. Yes, there was history here before Grunge -- and

it was even more earthy. The colorful stories just don't stop: the founding and abandonment of Alki (now West Seattle); the "Battle of Seattle," with the settlers hiding in a fort; Chief Sealth's myth and legacy; the Great Seattle Fire that burnt down Pioneer Square, and the landfill into the Sound that rebuilt it; how Seattle overtook Tacoma as the dominant city on Puget Sound by luring miners bound for the Yukon Gold Rush with the promise of "the best whorehouses north of San Francisco" and, of course, provisions for the trail and for prospecting; the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition on the University of Washington grounds, designed by the Olmstead Brothers (of Central Park fame); Seattle's mixed role in the anti-Chinese mob violence that swept up the Pacific coast in the 1880s; the outrageously mammoth public works projects sluicing Denny Hill flat, using the dirt for landfill on the waterfront, and creating the world's largest man-made island in the harbor; the Seattle General Strike of 1919 that prompted a nation-wide red scare; and more and more and more. It makes me breathless just to type this! A very enjoyable read, in a breezy story-telling style, Skid Road gives you more of a flavor of where Seattle came from in just a few hours than anything else.

Great history of Seattle, I am really enjoying it. Lots of interesting stories, embarrassing to read of the mistreatment of Chinese people who helped build the city. I wish the folks who made "Deadwood" would do these stories, too!

if you want to know about the Northwest this is the book to read. A Tacoma librarian recommended it to me. Outstanding book of the trials and tribulations of east to west immigration too let alone the interface between "white settlers" and the Northwest's native Americans.

Great read about the history of the fabulous city. As you read you can actually envision what Seattle looked like all those years ago. And when you are in town you can easily find the locations.

We live in such a COLORFUL city!!

Good

A little dry in places but perhaps the best account of Seattle's early history beyond - yet including - the early mudflat days.

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