



Check out the real-life history that inspired the book  
***Love Finds You in Victory Heights, Washington***  
by Tricia Goyer & Ocieanna Fleiss

1. **Victory Square:** Chapter 1 of *Victory Heights* opens with Rosalie racing through Victory Square in downtown Seattle.



On May 2, 1942, dedication ceremonies are held at Victory Square, a civic focal point for Seattle's World War II homefront. Located on University Street, between 4th and 5th avenues in front of the Olympic Hotel, Victory Square is home to rallies, bond drives, and a monument that lists the names of Washington state citizens who lost their lives during the war. (Quoted from [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=2873](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=2873) )

- 2. Names etched in the monument.** Rosalie traces the names of military men who've died in the War. These are names of real soldiers and sailors.
- 3. Riveting contest.** Rosalie and her friend Birdie find themselves striving to beat the national record. Rosies of that time did participate in this quest to beat the record.

Stories appeared in the press about yet another real-life "Rosie." Her name was Rose Hicker, employed at the Eastern Aircraft Company in Tarrytown, New York. She and her work partner had driven a record number of rivets into a wing of a Grumman "Avenger" Bomber. And so the story goes as the Rosie evolved across the country. Both real and legendary, the "Rosies" were depicted in the press, celebrated in song, and produced in Broadway plays and movies

- 4. Contracted non-military workers.** One of the characters was wounded overseas while working for a contracted ambulance company that wasn't part of the military. Because of this he struggled to get the healthcare he needed. We learned of this situation from Georgie Kunkel, a real-life Rosie that we interviewed. Her husband worked for the ambulance company, and never received the same honors as the military, although he risked his life retrieving wounded soldiers from the frontlines.
- 5. Boeing Roof.** At one point, Rosalie is on a motorcycle overlooking the camouflaged Boeing roof. The dark area below is how it looked. Next to it is a photo the fake houses.



- 6. The Ferry Kalakala.** Rosalie and Birdie meet some soldiers on Seattle's famous streamlined ferry.



At its debut in 1935, the *Kalakala* was the largest and fastest ferry on Puget Sound. The ferry *Kalakala* was launched from the Lake Washington Shipyards, in Kirkland, on July 2, 1935.

**December 7, 1941** Pearl Harbor is bombed by Japan! Bremerton Navy Yard is instantly working around the clock to repair our damaged Navy. Because of tremendous naval yard expansion the KALAKALA carries as many 5000 shipyard workers and sailors per trip. (Quoted from [http://www.kalakala.org/history/history\\_timeline.html](http://www.kalakala.org/history/history_timeline.html) )

7. **President Roosevelt's daughter and son-in-law worked at the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.** Although in *Victory Heights* we created our own newspaper (*Seattle Tribune*), we did take some facts from real life.

[The P-I's owner] Hearst named a new publisher: John Boettiger (1900-1950), a former reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* and, more important, son-in-law of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had just been re-elected to his second term ... His wife, Anna (eldest daughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt), was named assistant editor with special responsibility for the "Homemaker" section. (Quoted from [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=pf\\_output.cfm&file\\_id=8956](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=pf_output.cfm&file_id=8956) )

8. **Macaroni-Man Story.** Kenny is assigned a story about a Seattle macaroni manufacturer, Mr. Merlino, whose son, stationed at the POW prison in Texas, stumbled across his cousin, Mr. Merlino's nephew, at the facility. The nephew, recruited into the Italian army, was captured by the allies. Two cousins on opposite sides ended up meeting in Texas. Apparently the boy from Italy liked the American prison so much, he hoped to stay in the States after the war. (From *The War Years* by James Warren p. 62)
9. **Attack on Columbia River by Japan.** At one point Kenny has to go on assignment to cover an attack by the Japanese in Oregon. This really happened, but wasn't publicized during the War.

#### 10. Fort Stevens Attack



The Fort Stevens attack was the only attack on an American military installation during World War II. The Japanese submarine I-25 surfaced in the Columbia River, and fired upon Fort Stevens. The submarine was spotted, and attacked by a US bomber, but it escaped. (Quoted from [http://war.wikia.com/wiki/Attacks\\_on\\_North\\_America\\_during\\_World\\_War\\_II](http://war.wikia.com/wiki/Attacks_on_North_America_during_World_War_II) )

**11. Igloo.** Rosalie's and Kenny's favorite hang out.



The Igloo, a diner and drive-in restaurant at the southeast corner of 6th Avenue and Denny Way, operated from late 1940 until sometime in 1954. It featured a distinctive twin-domed design intended, like much vernacular commercial architecture of its period, to grab the attention and business of passing motorists. (Quoted from [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=1162](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=1162) )