

WAGON WHEEL

December 2012

Duvall Historical Society · PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019 · www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Events

December 9th

DHS Holiday Party

The annual holiday party for members. See you at 5pm at Mary's.

January 6th

Duvall's 100th Birthday Party

We're invited to Duvall's Centennial Celebration Kick-off Party, hosted by the Duvall Centennial Committee. It will be held at the Riverview Educational Service Center Auditorium from 1-4pm.

January 7th

Monthly Member Meeting

Members will gather to discuss beginning-of-the-year business as we start a new year.

February 4th

Monthly Member Meeting

Join us for a presentation by guest speaker Allen Miller. Stay tuned for time and place.



Happy Holidays from the Duvall Historical Society

Wishing you a joyful and safe holiday season!

Pictured at left is the illuminated tree at the 2012 Duvall Tree Lighting Festival.

Next Month: Duvall Turns 100 Years Old!

On January 6th, 1913, Duvall was officially incorporated as a town.

100 years later on Sunday January 6th, 2013, Duvall will celebrate its Centennial. Hosted by Duvall's Centennial Committee, the Celebration Kick-off party will take place at the Riverview Educational Service Center Auditorium from 1pm to 4pm. We'll see you there for fun-filled activities and birthday cake.



CULTURE

We are grateful to 4 culture, the King County Cultural Services Agency, for their support in the preservation of our heritage.

Over 100 Years of Hardware

As we celebrate Duvall's centennial in January, we'll follow in the footsteps of Duvall's True Value Hardware, who earlier this year celebrated a centennial of their own.

During the weekend of May 5th, 2012, the store's owners celebrated 100 years of Duvall Hardware with great fanfare. Decorating the store with balloons and banners, they hosted activities and provided free goods for shoppers, as they honored the hardware business present in the valley for the past 100 years.

The first general store appeared in the Duvall area in 1905, opened by Arthur and Pauline Hix (This is the same store we wrote about in last month's *Wagon Wheel* article, 'A Duvall Thanksgiving Story'). Similar to many small town general stores, the Hix store sold some hardware, and was the only local supplier until A.P. Manion opened the first hardware store in 1912. *(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1, 'Over 100 Years of Hardware')

Located on the northwest corner of Cherry and Main Street, A.P. Manion's Hardware sold items such as farm machinery, logging supplies, firearms, and blasting powder. In 1923, Baker Hardware opened. E.J Baker was the owner, and his wife Ethel Baker was postmaster. Two years later, Mr. Manion sold his business to Gilbert M. Jones, who changed the name to Jones Hardware and Dry Goods store. The store served as both hardware store and post office until it burned down in the nighttime fire of November 1925. Jones promptly rebuilt and continued operating his business until 1947. At that time he sold it to his stepson Jack Frommer who maintained the store's name, although the duties of postmaster had by then switched to Duvall's new postmaster, Velma Hix Hill. The daughter of Arthur Hix, she ran the post office out of the long-operating Hix general store until 1976.



Other hardware stores appeared in Duvall over time. Duvall Hardware and Appliance was sold to Dave and Diane Harder in 1964, and in 1985 Francis and DeLayne Cox purchased Coast to Coast Hardware. They changed the store's name to True Value Hardware and Garden in 1997, at the same time adding their daughter and son-in-law (Sarah and Mat Higgins) as partners. Today the family still operates the business, and on May 5th and 6th of this year they hosted the party honoring all of the businesses that have brought hardware to our area for more than a century.

True Value Hardware continues to be heavily involved in the community of 2012 Duvall, and in just a few weeks the owners will join the town in the celebration of a different centennial, this time in honor of Duvall's 100 years.



Today at least one Ford Model A still has a presence in our town. This past September at the Duvall Historical Society's Heritage Festival, the adventurous owners of Duvall's True Value Hardware had theirs on display. Still boasting an original Model A engine, the car was built in 1929. In the works is a tentative journey. The owners are thinking about shipping it to Chicago, then driving it cross-country along route 66.

If you didn't get a chance to see it at the Heritage Festival this year, stop by the True Value store on Brown Avenue, where you might see the Model A sitting out front in the parking lot.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the owners of Duvall's hardware stores have also been mayors, postmasters, and fire chiefs?

A.P. Manion, E.J. Baker, and Dave Harder all served as mayors of Duvall.

Dave Harder also served as fire chief.

Gilbert Jones served as postmaster, as did his wife Isabel, as well as E.J. Baker's wife, Ethel.

And Velma Hix Hill served as postmaster in her general store until 1976.

Wrapping Up Centennial Snapshots

Throughout 2012, Duvall residents were interviewed for Duvall's Centennial Documentary. Snippets of the interviews were featured here, in the Wagon Wheels of 2012 (Read them at our website- just click on "newsletters/publications").

In the April Wagon Wheel Ward Roney spoke about growing up during the valley's booming dairy industry. In May's newsletter Ruth Bellamy shared memories of her Dad's milk delivery business. In June, author Don Williams talked about his impressions of Duvall after moving here in 1988. And in August, Verle Bowe talked about walking alone to school as a six year-old girl in early 1900's Duvall.

As 2012 comes to a close, the December Wagon Wheel includes our last Centennial Snapshot. This month Velma Hix Hill shares memories of working in her father's store, the same general store we read about in the November Wagon Wheel's "A Duvall Thanksgiving Story". We hope to see you at the kick-off celebration of Duvall's 100th birthday on January 6th, where we'll get the opportunity to preview the documentary and hear more from Duvall's citizens as they share their impressions of the Duvall they've known during the past 100 years.

Centennial Snapshot

"My name is Velma Pearl Hix and I married Clifford Hill. I was born in 1914 in that house, right where my piano sits now."

The daughter of Arthur Hix, young Velma helped out in the Hix general store. Built in 1905 in the village of Cherry Valley, the store was moved uphill in 1910, to the soon-to-be town of Duvall. In 1913 the town of Duvall was officially established, and just one year later Velma was born.

"Our store was a grocery store. It sold hardware, things that in a small town you'll see in a grocery store. My dad would let me help him put things on the shelves. He got things by the boxes and he'd bring them in. Instead of boxes of chocolates, he'd have those little dishes that we had. They looked like chinaware, and he would fill them with nuggets, cream chocolates, dark chocolates, and peanuts, chocolate covered. I'd say 'Would you like me to put the candy in the candy case in the dishes?' And, well, you know the rest don't you? I would help myself to a little bit once in a while, and then I would fill the boxes of candy."

At the age of 18 Velma's father retired, so Velma and her siblings stepped in. Eventually Velma married and her husband took over the store.

"I've seen the changes come gradually, I remember when Jones's Hardware moved in across the street. They called it Duvall Hardware and dry goods, because Mrs. Jones had the other section where she sold yardage and all those goods."

Jones's Hardware was also the site of the post office until Mr. Jones retired in the 1940's.

"And I remember that they had the post office then, and they had the signs posted that the present postmaster was 70 years old, and there would be a new postmaster application. Because it was government, anyone who was interested would have to take a civil service exam. There were five people that tried out for that I remember, and I was fortunate to get it, but then I had to go around to all of the merchants and see if they approved too. That wasn't just winning. There were several people that wanted it, because it brought people into their business."

Velma passed the exam, and after she became postmaster, the post office moved into Hix's store and stayed for 36 years, until 1976.

And now, almost 37 years later, as Duvall prepares to turn 100 years old, Velma shares her opinion of the town she's lived in for more than ninety years.

"It's been a nice life here, I have never wanted to live any place else. I've done a lot of traveling, and have never seen a place I like better. I think Duvall is the best."

The 2013 Election Results Are In

The Officers are:

Mary Lampson, President
Kimberly Engelkes, Vice President
Tove Burhen, Secretary
Alana McCoy, Treasurer

The At-large Board Members are:

Mike Reid, Past President
Ward Roney
Ruth Bellamy
Connie Zimmerman
Beth Lepkowski
Melissa Clark

Oops

The November 2012 *Wagon Wheel's* "A Duvall Thanksgiving Story" stated that the pioneer cemetery was moved with the village of Cherry Valley because the railroad wanted to lay tracks through its land.

While it is true that the village of Cherry Valley was moved uphill by the railroad, the cemetery was moved for a different reason.

In the early 1900s as valley residents dug graves in the Duvall cemetery, they discovered that the water table was high. Rather than continue to struggle with the high water table, they stopped using the Duvall cemetery. The headstones and their graves were thought to have been moved to other local cemeteries, leaving only a few behind. Recent imaging calls this into question. Read all about it in the [Wagon Wheel, Third Volume: Vignettes of Duvall's Historical Past](#), available at the King County Library, or for purchase from the Duvall Historical Society.

Current Officers

Mike Reid, President
Ruth Bellamy, Vice President
Mary Lampson, Secretary
Connie Zimmerman, Treasurer

The **Duvall Historical Society** is located at the Dougherty House at 26526 NE Cherry Valley Road, Duvall, WA 98019

The *Wagon Wheel* is a monthly publication of the **Duvall Historical Society**

Editor: Beth Lepkowski

If you would like to receive a copy, be interviewed for a future edition, have something to share, or would like to be added to or removed from our emailing list, please email

wagonwheeldhs@gmail.com

Become a Member!

Please Print:

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone(s): _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed/Yearly Membership Dues (check one):

\$5 Annual Membership (0-64 yrs) \$2 Senior Annual Membership (65yrs +)

Would you like to receive information about volunteer opportunities? Yes No

***Thank you for your support! Welcome to the Duvall Historical Society!
Please detach and mail this form to PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019***