

WAGON WHEEL

December 2014

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

Happy Holidays from the Duvall Historical Society!

Events

December 5th

Duvall Tree Lighting

Stop by the Historic Train Depot to visit the Duvall Historical Society, warm yourself by the fire, and purchase this year's holiday ornament. You will also have a chance to wish longtime Historical Society member, Velma Hill, a happy 100th birthday. Pre-event festivities begin at 5:30pm, and the tree lighting program begins at 6pm.

December 7th

Historical Society Christmas Party

The annual Duvall Historical Society Christmas party for friends and members will take place at Dennis and Mary Lampson's home at 5pm. Contact the Historical Society for more information.

January 5th, 2015

Historical Society Annual Business Meeting for Members

Join us as we conduct beginning-of-the-year business and elect officers. Stay tuned for details on location and time.



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

Happy 100th Birthday to Velma Pearl Hix Hill!



Photo taken from the April, 1984, Wagon Wheel newsletter.

On Wednesday, December 3, 2014, former postmaster and lifetime Duvall resident Velma Hix Hill will achieve 100 years of age! See page 2 to read her story.

Velma Pearl Hix Hill

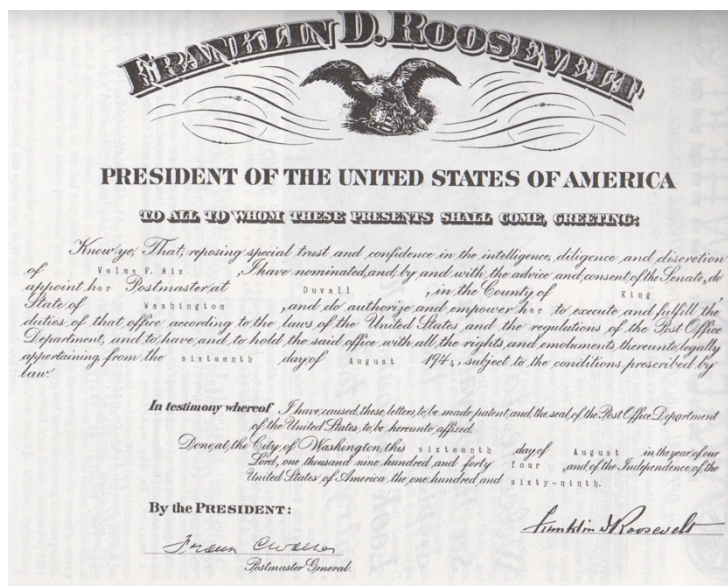
By Paula Herd

Velma Hill is the daughter of Duvall pioneers, Arthur and Pauline Hix.

Calling Duvall home comes naturally for Velma. She was born in her parents' Duvall home on December 3, 1914, one hundred years ago. Velma lives in the same house today, and has never lived anywhere else. As a girl, Velma loved participating as a Camp Fire Girl. The Duvall troupe brought her many happy memories and outings. A highlight was a week at Camp Sealth on Vashon Island.

Velma attended the Duvall School and was valedictorian of her class, graduating from Duvall High School in 1932. Upon graduation she walked across the alley from her house and went to work full time in her father's store, Hix Market (now Duvall Flowers), on Main Street in Duvall.

When she was twenty-seven, Velma took the Postmaster's exam and became the Postmaster of Duvall. Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed her appointment certificate, which proudly hangs in her home. The post office was moved into Hix's Market and EVERYONE in Duvall came to the store for their mail. Velma truly knew everyone in Duvall at that time, and everyone in Duvall knew Velma.



In 1947 she married Cliff Hill. Her new husband moved into the Hix home and Velma and Cliff looked after her parents in their senior years. Cliff joined Velma working in the store and he also became a clerk in the post office. Hix Market and the Duvall Post Office were on the corner of Main and Cherry until 1977. Sophie Herzog Fox, a wonderful friend, worked with Cliff and Velma to round out a great team that greeted customers at Hix's in the store and Post Office for thirty years.

In addition to working in the store, Velma and Cliff built some of the first rentals and apartments in Duvall. At the time, folks doubted their wisdom as to whether Duvall would grow to support such an enterprise.

In 1953 Velma and Cliff had their one child, a daughter they named Paula Pearl. This new addition caused the family home to expand to include three generations.

Music was always a big part of the Hix household. Velma, and her sister Mary, studied piano and often played for community events. Mary played for silent pictures at the early theater in Duvall as well as theaters up and down the valley. Velma played as pianist or organist in the Duvall Evangelical Methodist Church, the Cherry Valley Grange and Holy Innocents Catholic Church. As a fine alto she sang in the Women's Choral Society that rehearsed in Monroe and gave concerts in Everett and Seattle.

The death of her husband Cliff in 1977 ushered in the closing of Hix's store and the beginning of Velma's retirement. Throughout retirement Velma has taken many cruises, visited her daughter and family, and until the 1990's managed rentals she and Cliff built.

Velma remains so very proud of her Duvall roots, and her greatest joy is continuing to live in her home of the last 100 years.

~
A big "happy birthday" to Velma, from the Duvall Historical Society!

DUVALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

Cherry Valley Shingle Mill

The most well-know shingle mill in the lower valley was the Cherry Valley Shingle mill. It operated from 1911 until 1925 and was located on the riverbank at present-day Taylor Landing Park. It employed about 40 men when the town population was less than 300.

Boxcars were loaded with shingles for shipment all over the country. A dynamo was installed and the mill also became a source of electricity and water for the town.



\$10.00

Buy Your 2014 Duvall Historical Society Ornament at This Year's Tree Lighting Festival

This year you can purchase the Duvall Historical Society holiday ornament on Friday, December 5th, at the Duvall holiday tree lighting. Venture into the historic Train Depot to warm yourself by the fire and buy your ornament globe. At a cost of \$10, the ornament is also for sale at participating Duvall retailers.

Be Part of Historic Preservation, Volunteer!

The Duvall Historical Society is continuously looking for volunteers to help in its mission of recording and preserving culture. If you'd like to help with one of the opportunities below, or have an idea of your own, please contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org.

- Dougherty House docent
- Website design
- Education and outreach
- Book publication
- Maintenance of buildings and gardens
- Cataloging of artifacts, books, and ephemera
- Promotion of Historical Society membership
- Planning of speakers and programs
- Research

Current Officers

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

At-large Board Members

Ward Roney
Ruth Bellamy
Connie Zimmerman
Tom Norenberg

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!

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

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Amount Enclosed/Yearly Membership Dues (check one):

\$15 Individual Memberships \$5 Students 18 & Under \$250 Friends of DHS

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

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