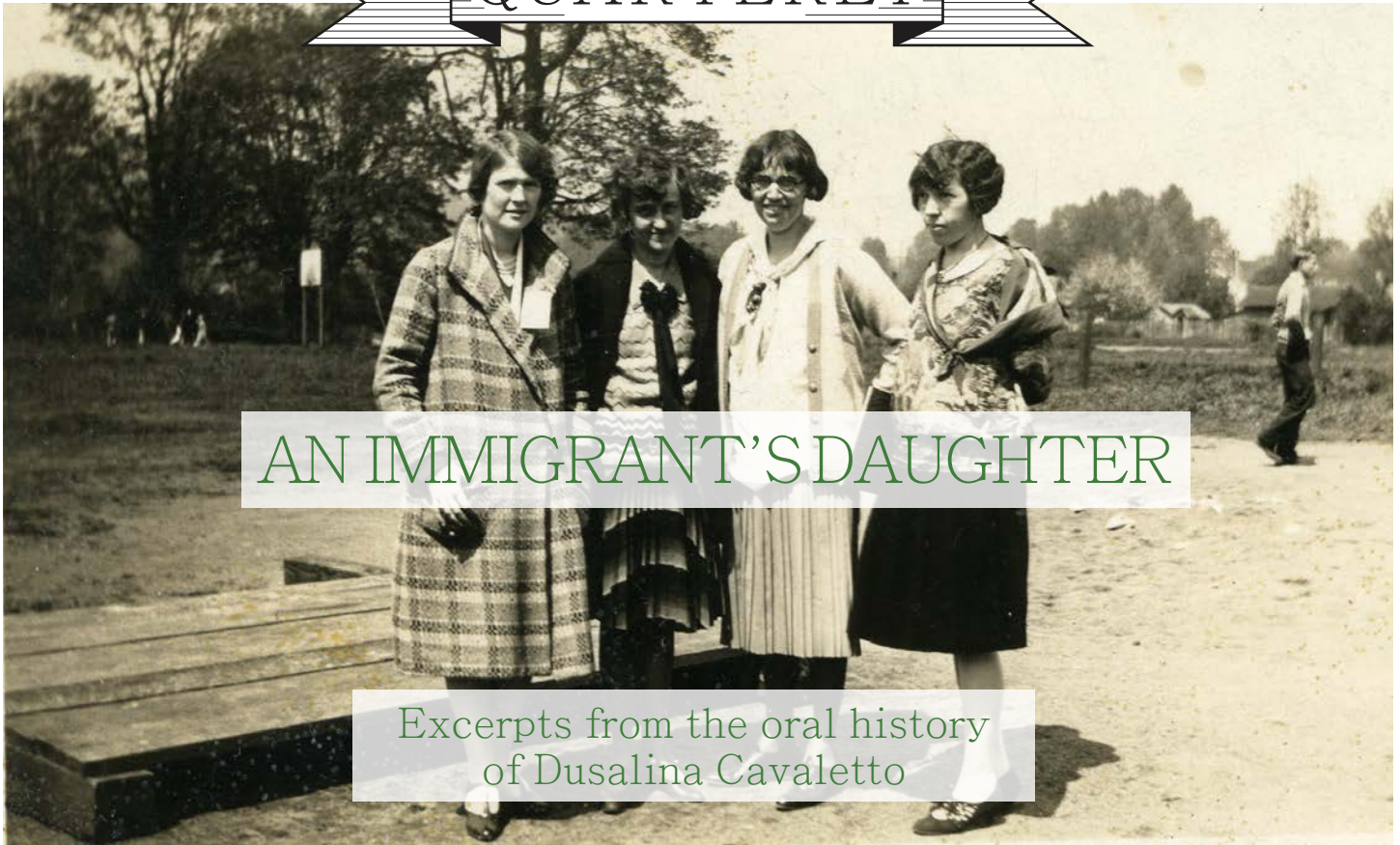


RENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Spring
March 2019

QUARTERLY

Volume 50
Number 2



AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER

Excerpts from the oral history
of Dusalina Cavaletto

Volunteers for the Renton History Museum have been collecting oral histories with notable Rentonites, from Mayors and City officials to businesspeople to farmers to Boeing and PACCAR workers. Today we have just over 150 taped and transcribed interviews in our collection. Every single one of these life stories captures invaluable insights into everyday life in Renton, as well as history-making events and trends.

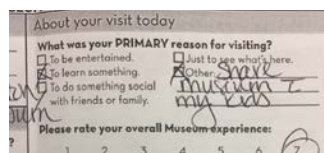
Teacher Dusalina K. Cavaletto is an example of this. The child of Italian immigrants, Dusalina was born in Black Diamond in 1900 and moved to Renton with her family as a ten-year-old. After that she was a long-time Renton resident, leaving only a few years before her death in 1988. Dusalina worked in the Renton School District for more than 40 years, mainly as a school librarian. Her vivid recollections at age 85 reveal life as it was in early Renton. The interviewer was Lorraine McConaghy.

Continued on page 5

Also In This Issue...



2 | *Switchboards to Selfies* currently on exhibit at RHM.



3 | Museum Report by Elizabeth P. Stewart, Director.



4 | Board Report by Colleen Lenahan, Vice President.



10 | Docent Report by Kate Dugdale, Public Eng. Coord.

Switchboards to Selfies

A Look Back At How We Connect



The need to communicate is central to our identity as human beings, but how has communication changed as technology continues to evolve over time?

From fountain pens to typewriters, from switchboards to smartphones, from handwritten letters to Facebook, as our communication technology changes, so do our messages. Exchanging ideas has never been faster or easier, but can we even hear each other through all the noise? *Switchboards to Selfies* uses Renton artifacts to explore this local, national, and global story.

From
NOVEMBER
20
to
APRIL
27

NEW RENTON COMMONS EXHIBIT

Renton History Museum staff had the honor in the past few months to work with the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) on exhibits interpreting the Edmund E. Duff house at the new Renton Commons building at 215 Whitworth Ave S. Concrete Contractor Duff built his Arts & Crafts house on this site in 1930, in part to demonstrate the beauty and durability of this new building material. He died in 1939, but

his wife Jane lived there until her death in 1964. Despite LIHI's best efforts to have the historic house moved, the home was torn down in 2018, but the history lives on in the new multifamily dwelling.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF RHS NEWSLETTERS

This issue kicks off Renton Historical Society's 50th year of publishing newsletters. The first newsletter was published in March 1970. At first the newsletters simply informed about Society business and mentioned new artifact donations. Soon, though, "old-timers" began providing short reminiscences that were published alongside the nuts and bolts information. Those colorful stories

eventually evolved into the lengthy, researched articles you enjoy today. The newsletters hold an amazing amount of Renton history and are available to researchers in our library. Do you have a favorite?



MUSEUM REPORT

by Elizabeth P. Stewart,
Museum Director

At the Renton History Museum, we spend a lot of time thinking about how to serve our community. Who is our community? Members, visitors, the public? Students, seniors, lifelong learners? What do they—you—want from us? What do you enjoy, and what makes you think? To help answer all these questions, we conduct surveys, we keep track of comments on Facebook and reactions on Twitter, we note attendance at programs and exhibits, and, of course, we listen when you talk to us or email us with suggestions and questions.

Because if our work does not move you in some way, we're not doing our jobs. We know from surveys, for example, that everyone who comes to the Museum is looking for a learning experience. That's not a surprise—going to a museum is a great way to follow your passions. But many of our visitors are also looking for a social experience, and that was a surprise when we learned it. These visitors want to have a good time with their out-of-town visitors or their kids or their date, while sharing something that's important to them: a uniquely Renton sense of place.

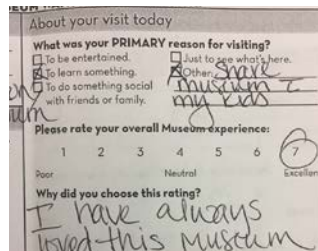
Recently we gained an insight from a new employee at the City of Renton. Our mini-coal mining exhibit had sat in the lobby of City Hall for some time, featuring mining artifacts that included a mule whip. This gentleman pointed out that for people of color, especially those from the South, a mule whip symbolizes slavery and human brutality—not the most welcoming first impression of our city and not accurate in a place where enslaved people came to escape. We removed the exhibit and we are considering what next to put in City Hall.

What does any of this have to do with history? If we aren't bringing you stories that spark your curiosity and preserving objects, photos, and oral histories that provide new insights into the past, we're not meeting your need to understand Renton. Most importantly, we want to make this city a place where every time you turn a corner, you think about who and what was there in the past. That's our mission: to give you roots here through a shared knowledge of Renton.

** Follow-up to my June 2018 column about new census questions: In January 2019 Judge Jesse M. Furman of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ruled that the federal government could not proceed with adding a citizenship question to the census, since by the government's own estimate it would discourage 6.5 million people from responding to the census at all. The case will probably go to the Supreme Court.*



Elizabeth P. Stewart
—
Director



Gallery survey filled out recently.



Coal mining mini-exhibit removed from City Hall.

RENTON HISTORICAL
QUARTERLY
Sarah Samson
Graphic Design & Layout
Karl Hurst
City of Renton Print &
Mail Services

RENTON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BOARD
OF TRUSTEES
Laura Clawson, President
Colleen Lenahan, Vice President
Jessica Kelly, Treasurer
Antoin Johnson, Secretary
Lynne King, 2019
Betsy Prather, 2021
Denise Dhakal, 2022
Doug Brownlow, 2022
Elizabeth Stewart, Board Liaison

MUSEUM STAFF
Elizabeth P. Stewart
Museum Director
Sarah Samson
Curator of Collections &
Exhibitions
Kate Dugdale
Public Engagement
Coordinator
Nezy Tewolde
Office Aide

RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM
235 MILL AVENUE S
RENTON, WA 98057

P (425) 255-2330
F (425) 255-1570

HOURS:
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00am - 4:00pm

ADMISSION:
\$5 (Adult)
\$2 (Child)



CULTURE

UPCOMING
EVENTS



TAKE A STAND AGAINST
CYBERBULLYING

March 14
6:00-7:00 pm

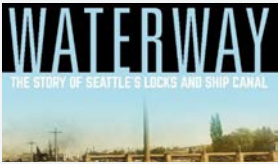
Join Dr. Michelle Bennett for a workshop for parents and educators on the topic of cyberbullying. Participants in the workshop will learn tools to recognize and evaluate instances of cyberbullying.



DIAMONDS IN THE
ETHER: TUNING IN TO
NORTHWEST RADIO
HISTORY

April 4
6:00-7:00 pm

With a mixture of vintage audio, historic images, and expert storytelling, Feliks Banel revisits the power of radio in the Evergreen State then and now, and looks ahead to the unpredictable future of local radio in our communities.



THE LOCKS, THE LAKE,
AND THE LOSS OF THE
BLACK RIVER

April 18
6:00-7:00 pm

David B. Williams, co-author of *Waterway: the Story of Seattle's Locks and Ship Canal*, will share stories about the political shenanigans, and far-reaching social, economic, and environmental impacts of the canal's construction and operation, particularly in Renton.

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Colleen Lenahan,
Vice President

The start of a new year is always a good time to re-evaluate where we are, where we've been, and where we're headed. For the Renton Historical Society Board, this means updating our Strategic Plan to lay out our goals for the next five years of the Museum's operations.

Our previous Strategic Plan was adopted in September 2010, and the five main strategic goals of the plan were as follows:

1. Operate a professional museum that Renton can be proud of;
2. Nurture a more diverse set of stakeholders;
3. Capture Renton stories;
4. Tell Renton stories; and
5. Create community interest.



Colleen Lenahan
—
Vice President

As part of the planning process, we took a look back at what we – Board, staff, and you, our community – have accomplished together over the last 8 years. Here are some high points:

We have come a long way on the goal of “creating community interest.” The Museum's temporary exhibits and their associated programs have brought in a wide array of audiences for topics like pets, women's history, and, most recently, the extremely timely and relevant topic of confronting racial stereotypes. Program attendance numbers continue to grow, and opportunities for partnerships help us bring in first-time visitors.

To capture and tell Renton stories, we have identified areas of our collection that need bolstering, developed a Collections Plan, revitalized our oral history program, and continued to bring Renton stories forward to the present day to make them relevant to today's audiences. Efforts in this area are ongoing, as we want to continue to be representative of our diverse community and provide a venue for the community to tell their stories.

The area of “nurturing a more diverse set of stakeholders” is one that still needs our attention going forward. As we make our plan to guide the next five years of the museum, one of our priorities is growing a fully-staffed and diverse Board. We want to continue making renovations and updates to our physical infrastructure to ensure that the appearance of the building is representative of the quality of our exhibits and programs. We also want to continue breaking down barriers that prevent members of our community from connecting with our Renton stories, ensuring that all decisions of the Museum are guided by the principles of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.

We're setting new goals in the area of “operating a professional museum that Renton can be proud of.” In the next five years we aim to adopt an HR policy for Museum staff, install a new point-of-sale system, and develop a value statement to guide our work with partners. We have continued housing and cataloging the artifacts in our care, though we are now finding ourselves running out of storage space for our ever-growing collection.

To help us achieve these goals, we are proud to welcome two new members to the Board in 2019: Doug Brownlow and Denise Dhakal. Doug and Denise show a passion for our work and are excited to get started bringing their talents and expertise to board. If you would like to help us achieve these goals over the next five years, please consider joining us!



AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER

Renton girls Helen Goodall, Della Anardi, Dusalina Cavaletto, and Tilda Plano, ca, 1913. (RHM# 1997.080.7929)

Continued from page 1

FROM BLACK DIAMOND TO RENTON FOR THE KIDS

Lorraine: Your dad was a miner?

Dusalina: Yes.

L: Had he been an immigrant from Italy?

D: Yes, he came to this country when he was fourteen years old, with his father. And then his father left him with an uncle, and he went back to Italy to get the rest of the family, and he died while he was back in Italy. So my father was left here with his uncle in Michigan, working in the mines there. He went from there to some mines in Colorado, and eventually came to the Northwest.

L: Do you happen to know if the mines he worked in in Colorado were coal mines in the southeastern corner of the state?

D: They were coal mines, because he worked in coal mines in Michigan. He eventually got to Washington in 1892. My mother was married in Italy, and she came here in—let's see. When was the Seattle fire?

L: 1889.

D: She left Seattle the day before the big fire on her way to Franklin. When they got to Franklin, there was a pall of black smoke coming from Seattle. Of course there was just one train going up in the evening and coming down in the

Cover photo:
Renton High School teachers,
1932. L-R: Kathryn Watt
(Business), Dusalina Cavaletto,
Merle French (History), and
Florence Dean (Science)
(RHM# 1985.058.10831)



Miners at the Renton Coal mine, ca. 1915. Angelo Cavaletto is 4th from right. (RHM# 1970.009.0733)

morning, and all it was one passenger car on the end of a coal train. So they found out the morning after there had been a big fire in Seattle that had practically burned out the whole town.

L: And she was married in Italy?

D: Yes, and her husband went back to Italy, and he died there. Then she married my father, in Franklin.

L: There must have been a network of sorts among the Italian miners in the United States that they knew where to go. They seem to have followed a kind of pipeline.

D: Well, don't you think that all nationalities did that, more or less?

L: Oh, yes, I do. Was it by letter, do you think, or actual publications?

D: I don't know, but probably a great deal of it was just by word of mouth. They'd come into Seattle, and there were already Italian businesses established in Seattle, and they went out from there to the various mines—and there were lots and lots of mines in this area at that time. There were three big ones up in Black Diamond alone.

L: Your sixteen-year-old brother—had he been in school?

D: Oh, yes. But they had a habit—and I think it was probably true in all mining towns—that when they graduated from the eighth grade, and that was all the schooling we had there, the bosses from the mine would come over and entice the boys to work, usually in the bunkers. Not down in the mines, but in the bunkers.

L: What would his alternatives have been if he wanted to go on to school?

D: He would have had to leave Black Diamond—there just wasn't anything else beyond eight grades.

L: Did your older brother go on to high school, once you had moved here [to Renton]?

D: No, he came down here and got a job, and then went to business college in Seattle. That was about all he could do since he'd been out of school for a number of years. There wasn't any way he could make up all that time he'd missed and go into high school. They didn't have much here in the way of a high school at the time, anyway. It was just one big room in the old Central School.

L: Going back a little, I wonder if you can tell me how you perceived your father's job. It interests me that he himself continued to work here as a miner, after moving here to Renton, after deciding it was a life he didn't want for his son.

D: Well, he worked in the mines here, and then when these mines closed, he went into construction. He helped to build one of the first highways across Snoqualmie [Pass]—he was a powder man.

L: Setting charges?

D: Yes. He wound up being almost stone deaf, which wasn't unusual. He liked that kind of work.

L: Did he become at all involved in the move to organize the mines here?

D: Oh, yes. He was a member of the union.

L: Do you remember any picket lines yourself?

D: The only thing I remember about the picket lines—and you know the mine was right over in here—we had a big slag



Cast of Renton High School play " Back to the Farm," 1917. Dusalina Cavaletto is back row, 2nd from left. (RHM# 1994.068.3862)

dump there, and in the evenings, men would sit around and we kids would go over and they always had bonfires. As a child, all I got out of it was the fun, and I'm sure it wasn't that way. Most of the miners were working ten hours a day for two and a half [dollars], or something like that. Nowadays it wouldn't even buy you shoelaces for your shoes. But, of course, you could get a good pair of shoes for two and a half in those days.

SCHOOL DAYS

L: How do you remember school? You were a bookish girl. Did you enjoy it?

D: I loved school. At the end of that first semester, the seventh grade was moved over to the new high school. So part of our seventh year was in that room up above what was at that time a bank, and half of it was at the high school. For the eighth grade, we came back to Central School. Of course, they had moved the high school people out of there, so the eighth graders had a beautiful big room next to the principal's office and it was very nice.

L: Were you thinking of going on to the University?

D: No, I went to Ellensburg [Normal School]. I wanted to be a teacher. When I went to Ellensburg, and after I taught five years up in Ravensdale, I came to Renton at the Renton High School. I was there for thirty-six years and I loved every day of it. I hate to brag, but I'm going to. I don't think there was ever a school district anywhere that was better than Renton's. I was one of these fortunate people that served under three of

the finest educators we had. The first one I had was just for a year, and then he went to Eugene, and his name was Howard Gould. And then E. W. Campbell and Oliver Hazen. I don't think any district was ever as lucky as we were to have three such fine people.

L: What year did you start teaching here?

D: In 1927.

LIFE IN ITALIAN HOMES

L: Was your home bilingual?

D: No, my mother and father both learned how to read and write and talk English. I was very thankful for that because when we moved here—I don't know whether you know enough about Renton—but up on Cedar Street there was house after house after house occupied by Italians. We didn't move up onto the hill—we moved down here. And most of the people in this block were Finnish, except one family that lived across the street, and they were French. If they wanted to talk to each other, they had to talk English. If my family had moved up on Cedar Street, they probably would have been like a lot of the old-timers up there and never learned how to speak English.

L: I wonder if it was any kind of sacrifice for them not to speak their native language in their own home?

D: Well, now, this is the funny part of it! My father was Piedmontese and my mother was Genovese, and if they spoke their own dialect, they couldn't understand each other. It was the funniest thing you ever heard of – really, it was.



Docents provide an invaluable service, introducing kids and adults to Renton history.

DOCENT REPORT

by Kate Dugdale, Public Engagement Coordinator



Kate Dugdale
—
Public Engagement Coordinator

Hello all! I've been at the Renton History Museum for almost five months now, and I really enjoy the variety of work that I get to do here. A major part of my job is to oversee the museum's volunteer program. Related to that, one of the projects that I've been working on since practically my first day is a revamp of the museum's docent program. For those who don't know, a docent is a volunteer who guides visitors through the museum and shares learning experiences. Our current docent corps

work hard but are few in number, which makes it hard to fulfill every tour request that we receive. Docents contribute significantly to our ability to serve the public, and it is one of my goals for the museum to have a more substantial group of active docents.

What does a docent program revamp look like? For the first months, it was all research. One part of this process is rewriting the museum's current docent training manual, which covers everything from an overview of Renton's history since time immemorial, to practical visitor engagement strategies (how to ensure that tour participants are getting the most from the experience). For example, a lengthy chapter in the old manual covered the history and culture of the Duwamish people. This section needed to be updated to reflect the full story of Duwamish in Renton, as well as the Museum's commitment to acknowledging the complicated and sometimes painful history of this place. Related to that, in the new manual it is now our policy to start each docent tour with a land acknowledgement statement, acknowledging that the Museum stands on the



Docents and volunteers have access to special training (and delicious food) at volunteer events.

ancestral land of the Duwamish people.

The new docent manual also has an expanded section on Visitor Engagement. I included engagement strategies that I have used throughout my almost nine years of museum education experience. One of these is something called Object Based Learning. People come to the museum to see objects; objects are what set us apart from classroom learning. One of my goals of this revamp is to compile and expand our education collection, objects that docents can allow visitors to handle in tours to help them learn. Hopefully, this information can help docents relate to visitors and present our history in an interesting and meaningful way.

After research and writing and editing, the next step in this revamp project is recruiting new docents, and that is where I could use your help! I am actively looking for people who are interested in becoming a docent here at the museum. By increasing our docent corps, we can more easily share Renton's stories with the public.

All you need to become a docent is a willingness to learn about Renton's history and an interest in sharing that history with others. There are several benefits to becoming a docent. Docents have the opportunity to create their own tours working with the Public Engagement Coordinator, giving them the freedom to choose the story they tell. Docents also gain knowledge about Renton's history and important skills such as public speaking. And of course, as a museum volunteer, docents receive benefits such as free admission to the museum, organized visits to other museums and locations of interest, behind-the-scenes opportunities, and invitations to all Thank You events for volunteers. If you or anyone that you know is interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact me for more information!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

November 11, 2018 - February 10, 2019

Ken Baker
Connie Baker

Michael Barilleaux
Carrie & Greg Bergquist

Janet Belmondo
Al & Shirley Armstrong
Cleo & Wendell Forgaard

Bob & Olive Corey
Janet Henkle

Bill Heath
Ron & Sharon Clymer

Richard Hoyt
Lori Hoyt

Tom & LoRayne Kerr
Connie Baker

Linda Knowle
Ron & Sharon Clymer
Cleo & Wendell Forgaard

Richard Warren Lucotch
Al & Shirley Armstrong
Bill Anardi & Darlene Bjornstad
Mary Jean Cooks
Nancy & Paul Duke
Cleo & Wendell Forgaard

Pam McFadden
Cleo & Wendell Forgaard

Donna Nelson
Bill Anardi & Darlene Bjornstad

Alvina Popke
Hazelle Dubois

Howard T. Townsend
Cleo & Wendell Forgaard

John Webley
Cleo & Wendell Forgaard

MEMORIAL DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE

Linda Knowle
Marsha & John Nissen

Donna Nelson
Orville Nelson

Peter & Shirley Newing
Hazel Newing

Della Pistoresi
Mary Jean Cooks

MEMORIAL DONATIONS OF \$500 OR MORE

Richard Warren Lucotch
Judith Lucotch

Elizabeth (Lil) Menzel
Margaret M. Gambill

GENERAL DONATIONS

Don & Carmel Camerini
Ron & Sharon Clymer
Shirley Custer
Michael Dire
Diana Durman
Karren Emmons
Barbara Fujita
Janet Graham
Don & Judy Gunderson
Dan & Elizabeth Hemenway
Derric & Irma Iles
Lynne & Mike King
Bruce MacDonald
Judith Matson
Herb & Diana Postlewait
Dennis Sipila
Rachel Thomas
Carolyn & Gary Vrablick

GENERAL DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE

Karen Boswell
Dorothy Finley
Kurt & Laurie Hanson
Jessica Kelly
JoAnne Matsumura
Shirley Moretti
Lynn & Ray Peretti
Sandra Polley
Rentonites, Inc.

GENERAL DONATIONS OF \$500 OR MORE

Nancy Fairman

NEW MEMBERS

Adrienne Coppinger
Raymond & Diane Lewis

BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Derric & Irma Iles

PATRON MEMBERS

Norm & Carol Abrahamson
Dan & Elizabeth Hemenway
Eleanor Boba & Alan Humphrey

LIFE MEMBERS

Kurt & Laurie Hanson

GIFT MEMBERSHIP DONORS

Judy Leu
Margaret M. Gambill



UPCOMING EXHIBIT...

We are pleased to announce our next temporary exhibit, *Hero's Feast: Finding Community Through Dungeons & Dragons*. The curator is UW Museology graduate student Allison Moore; this exhibit will be the basis for her Master's thesis. *Dungeons & Dragons*, a popular game in the 1980s, has recently made a resurgence in popular culture. Allison has already collected several

oral histories and has made connections with community members to source artifacts, photographs, and stories for this exhibit. The exhibit will run from May to October.



And that was true of all Italians. If they were just a few miles apart, they couldn't speak the same language. Queer but true, and interesting.

WHAT IMMIGRANTS BROUGHT

D: I'll never forget one time when we were organizing the Retired Teachers [Association], and we had one teacher here, her name was [Florence] Guiteau, and she got up and made a speech, as she usually did, for she could talk a leg off anybody. But she said, telling about Renton, "Renton didn't amount to anything until the Italians came here. They taught us that it paid to plant vegetables instead of only flowers. That was the first time Renton had ever had vegetables." The people from the British Isles had beautiful flowers, and that's all they planted in their gardens, but we raised food in our gardens. And we had lovely, lovely flowers, too.

L: *In this part of town, did people keep chickens?*

D: Oh, yes! We raised practically everything we needed in the way of food. We had fences all around, of course, at that time. And that lot there [gesturing out the window to the north] belonged to us, and that was occupied by a full garden. And we had fruit trees and raspberries and strawberries and currants and gooseberries and chickens and sometimes rabbits. Of course, we raised all our own vegetables, and those we could keep all winter, we did. We never bought carrots or onions or potatoes or anything like that.

We had beautiful flowers, and a pear tree out here in the front yard, and an apple tree in the back yard. And a great big cherry tree. Then we had one tree of Royal Annes, but we never got any cherries off it because they'd ripen so fast, the robins always beat us to it. Then later on, we had peach trees and we had wonderful peaches.

So we were perfectly happy. And during the Depression we had plenty to eat. In the house next to that little one there, they lived here before we moved in, and when I was in high school, the father of the family was killed in a mill accident up near Snoqualmie. He left a widow with five children, and they always said they never suffered from the Depression because they had plenty of food from our garden. We shared with everybody.

L: *You mentioned earlier that a lot of the Italians liked to live on Cedar [Street]. Were there other ethnic "islands" in Renton?*

D: We had a lot of Finns around here, but as far as the rest of them, I don't know. I know there were a lot of Italians living over where the high school was built. We were pretty spread all over.

L: *Did the Catholic Church tend to be a congregating place for Italian folks?*

D: That was everybody. There were a lot of Yugoslavs in town, too. I remember them. But they were like the Italians, too, spread out in lots of places. There were a lot of Italians in North Renton, too. They moved all over. This was a close-knit community. During the Depression it was a case of everybody trying to help everybody else.

JAPANESE EXCLUSION

L: *Mentioning the truck farming down the valley towards Kent, who owned those?*

D: I think various people owned them. One of the big owners

had a daughter who went to our high school and he lived up on the hill. I can't remember his name.

L: *But it was too early for it to be Japanese immigrants?*

D: No, but it wasn't long before they came here. When the Japanese were deported from here, there were lots and lots of them that went. They had to go, of course, which was a tragedy, and one of the great tragedies of the whole war.

L: *Did they return after the war?*

D: Yes, some of them have returned. But a great many of our prize students were Japanese, and they've never come back. There are several families that have come back, and they were nice people, just awfully nice.

Miss [Gertrude] Schlauch, one of our high school teachers, and I went over when they were loading them up over here at the street depot. We went over to say goodbye to some of them. We had many cry on other people's shoulders — it was an awfully, awfully hard thing.

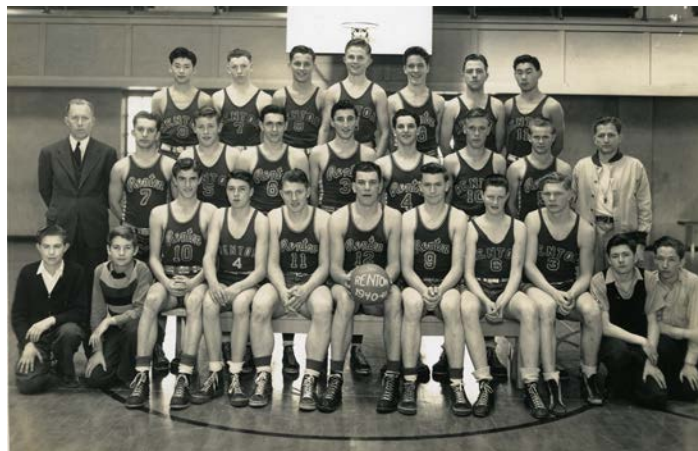
L: *Do you remember if there was much debate here at the time in the newspapers or in peoples' homes about the wisdom of interning the Japanese?*

D: Well, a good many hotheads decided they ought to get rid of them, but the people who stopped to consider might have figured out what would happen. When the Japanese left, there wasn't much going on in the valley anymore. They were wonderful, wonderful gardeners. But I don't wonder that they've resented it all these years.

L: *Did anyone try to come in and to take over those truck farms during the war and try to operate them?*

D: Yes, everybody who could grab an acre or two did it. But there are still Japanese farmers in the valley. Some of them have come back, but it's not like it used to be. And, of course, the valley isn't the way it used to be in those days. There were no buildings, no big warehouses—it was all just purely agricultural. And beautiful—it was a beautiful valley.

If you are interested in volunteering for our Oral History Team, we have positions for researchers, interviewers, and transcribers. No experience is necessary; training is available. Please contact Public Engagement Coordinator Kate Dugdale at 425-255-2330 or kdugdale@rentonwa.gov.



Renton High School basketball team, 1940. President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in February 1942 and basically overnight all the Japanese students (like Ted Nakanishi, upper left, and Hiroshi Nakanishi, upper right) disappeared. They were first held at the Puyallup fairgrounds before being sent out of state to places like Tule Lake in California and Minidoka in Idaho. (RHM# 1992.084.3500)



SAVE THE DATE! JOIN US FOR THE RHS ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and activities as we celebrate another year of participation with the Renton Historical Society and the Renton History Museum! The meeting is open to Society members, prospective members, and museum volunteers. Introduction of new Renton Historical Society trustees, awarding of the George and Annie Lewis Custer Award for Heritage Citizenship, volunteer awards, and raffle drawing will all be a part of this exciting event. Reservations required. Please RSVP by May 31. No regrets, please.

On
JUNE
 5
 at
6:00 PM

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please select a membership level:

BASIC MEMBERSHIPS

- Individual \$30
- Student/Senior \$20
- Family \$40

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

- Benefactor \$75
- Patron \$150
- Business/Corporate \$175
- Life membership \$750

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation!
 Your donations help us provide new exhibits and exciting programs.

Donation: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Visa or MC #: _____

Exp. date: _____ CVV code: _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to Renton Historical Society.

Renton History Museum
 235 Mill Avenue South
 Renton, WA 98057

Phone: 425.255.2330
 Fax: 425.255.1570
 rentonhistory.org

RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM
235 Mill Ave. S
Renton, WA 98057

IN HINDSIGHT...



Library in the new Renton High School, 1932. Dusalina Cavaletto worked here as the school librarian for many years.
(RHM# 41.9163)