Duvall Historical Society All-Stars

(A tribute to those who contributed so much to preserving our local history)

By Mary Lampson

2020 marks the 40th year I’ve been a member of the Duvall Historical Society. In 1980, I was relatively new to the community and wanted to learn more about its culture and roots, so I joined the Duvall Historical Society. It was mostly a group of “old-timers” with long roots in the community who all knew each other and enjoyed sharing stories about the “old days”. Sometimes those stories were tape recorded. One of the highlights of the evening were the treats at the end of the meeting.

I was the youngster in the group.

Forty years have passed since then and I have witnessed many amazing volunteers contribute generously of their time and talents to make sure our local history is preserved. I have also seen a lot of change as the “old-timers” have passed on and as we have struggled to attract new members and embrace new technology while preserving our own record and the records of those that preceded us. It has been a challenging task, sometimes almost overwhelming, but we have done a lot. A lot still remains to be done, but next year, I look forward to passing the torch of leadership to the capable hands of the next generation.

As I reminisce, I would like to especially acknowledge and thank seven volunteers that deserve special recognition.

Vera Heavens was president when I joined. She built the structural foundation of the organization. A stickler for detail and proper administration, she made sure we had all our ducks lined up, so the meetings were more than just a gab fest. She was a tough task master. By-laws—yes, compliance with non-profit requirements—yes, Robert’s Rules of Order—of course. Vera saw the need to record oral history and most of our earliest tapes were recorded by her.

She was deeply involved in the local community and made sure the Historical Society was part of it. She was a leader in AKCHO (Association of King County Historical Organizations) and maintained close contact with the King County Office of Historic Preservation. Everybody respected Vera even though they didn’t always agree with her strong opinions.

Ralph Taylor was a young boy when his family emigrated from England to Duvall. He was passionate in his love for this community and its history. A founding member of the Historical Society, he faithfully kept scrapbooks, journals, clippings, photos, and other memorabilia. He was a historian, writer, and artist. When he died, the Duvall Historical Society was the recipient of boxes of archival information.

Ralph wrote a book of his memories, The Duvall Immigrant, which the Duvall Historical Society published. He was also an artist and his Grandma Moses style pictures depicting historic Duvall scenes grace the walls of the Dougherty House. Ralph also served a term as Duvall’s mayor. He was always a gentleman, though sometimes mischievous.

Ralph Taylor
Ray and Tove Burhen. Ray used his substantial political savvy and connections to secure the transfer of the Dougherty Farmstead, first to King County and later to the City of Duvall, with the vision that it would someday become a museum. He was successful in this effort. The Farmstead is now listed on the National and County historical registers. Being on Historic Registers increased grant opportunities, but also meant that strict limitations applied on what could be done.

The house had been neglected for several years and was greatly in need of maintenance and refurbishment. Ray found affordable and reliable local contractors that could meet the standards and preservation/restoration work began. Now, not only do we have a house, but a restored bunk house, tool shed, milk shed, and logging display. Ray had a huge part in all of this.

About this time, Ray married Tove, who eagerly joined him in his historic interests. The two of them were the driving force for getting eight local history books published and both served many years as Historical Society officers and board members. They were both doers and made things happen. They were also active in many other civic affairs.

Don Williams moved to Duvall when he retired as a professor at the University of Washington. He immediately joined the Duvall Historical Society and served several terms as president and Vice President. He put in countless hours organizing and indexing our archives. He also co-authored a book, The Story of Duvall, with Allen Miller. It is a publication of the Duvall Historical Society. He and his wife, Kathleen were very involved in the house restoration.

Kimberly Engelkes is currently a DHS board member. She is a trained library researcher who works for Microsoft and is responsible for bringing us into the modern technical age. Under her urging, we purchased a computer and began digitizing our archives. To increase interest and visibility, she set up a Facebook account. She helped set up our website where people can easily go to learn more about us and access our archives. In addition, Kimberly helps our budget by getting Microsoft matching funds for all her volunteer hours. Kimberly also spent countless hours spearheading and planning the year-long Duvall Centennial celebration in 2013.

Many other folks, too numerous to mention, have contributed their time and talent over the years, recording and maintaining our local historical legacy. We thank and appreciate them all.
December 14th  4 pm Wreaths Across America Ceremony @ Novelty Hill Cemetery
January 9th  4 pm—6 pm Yearly Duvall Historical Members Meeting
@ the Duvall Library. Drinks & snacks provided.
January 16th  6 pm Yearly All Members Meeting @ DVC Rose Room
January 30th  7 pm—8:30 pm Monthly Board Meeting @ Dougherty Farmstead.
February 4th  Ruth Bellamy turns 93
February 18th  Ward Roney turns 89
February 27th  7 pm—8:30 pm Monthly Board Meeting @ Dougherty Farmstead.
March 26th  7 pm—8:30 pm Monthly Board Meeting @ Dougherty Farmstead.
April 30th  7 pm—8:30 pm Monthly Board Meeting @ Dougherty Farmstead.
May 3rd  Opening Sunday for Dougherty Farmstead Tours
May 16th  Novelty Hill Cemetery Spring Cleaning & Community Picnic
May 25th  10 am Memorial Day Ceremony @ Novelty Hill Cemetery
May 28th  7 pm—8:30 pm Monthly Board Meeting @ Dougherty Farmstead.

Slate:
President: Marilyn “Country” Roney
V. Pres.: Lance “Fiver” Pilon
Secretary: Alana McCoy
Treasurer: Connie Zimmerman

Board:
Tom Norenberg (2020-2022)
Kimberly Engelkes (2020-2022)
Nicole Cohn (2020-2021)
Archivist: Lyn Ziuchkovski

Continuing Board Members:
Janet Kuller (2018-2020)
Greg Giuliani (2018-2020)
Mary Lampson (Past President 2020)