

Marrowstone Island Brief 1

School's out. Summer's here. Where are all the children? Many of us raised children on the island, or hired a neighbor's child to cut the lawn, or bought a candy bar from a Little Leaguer. Children have the habit of growing up and moving on. So where are some of them now? Amy Goetz is visiting parents Shirley & Jerry Goetz of Mumby Road. She has returned from Guatemala with 9 month old daughter Camilla, and husband Roberto Costa Ribiero. They will be attending brother Eric's wedding in July. Eric lives in Kirkland and works for Verio NW.

Dean and Darlene Sanders' daughter Julie taught English at the University in St. Petersburg, Russia three years ago. On her return trip she stopped in Askim, Norway to marry Marshall Keymer in the same church her great, great grandmother was married. They live in Walla where Julie works for Coffey Communications, and the Walla Union Bulletin writing feature stories. Julie's sister Holly is a senior at San Jose State majoring in art and photography.

Cee and Gary Rowe's son Andrew is home on Griffiths Point Road. He completed the sophomore year at the American University in Washington D.C., and is working at Fort Worden for the summer. He will be attending the Frei University in Berlin in the fall for one semester studying German. Andy was a Rotary exchange student to Japan in '95 and speaks fluent Japanese. Andy's brother Gabe will be a senior at Chimacum High School, and sister Abby will be a junior.

Marcie and Steve Van Cleave's daughter Brie was valedictorian of Chimacum High School's class of '97. She spent the past year living three months in Belgium studying French, travelled throughout the Mediteranean and Aegean side of Turkey for six weeks, visited Eyypt for two weeks, and trekked Ireland with friend Shelby Smith. She returned to Skelleftea, Sweden visiting her host families when she was a Rotary exchange student there in 1996. Brie is working at Swan Farms for the summer, and will attend Smith College in Massachuettas in the fall.

Teri and Steve Grace of Robbins Road have two sons, Brian, and Brendan, who were schooled in the off campus program called Pi. Teri and son Brian, 15, will be going to the largest youth soccer tournament in the world held in Stockholm, Sweden in August. There will be 52 countries represented and Brian will be one of 20,000 soccer players. Brendan, 14, has been apprentice instructor for the Wooden Boat Foundation sailing program this summer.

What do island residents Pearl Thompson, Ray Thompson, Natalie Wyman, Clara Lybeck, Katy Johnson, Roberta "Bootsie" Hendrix, Marsha Wiechert, Helen Constantine, Carl Johnson, Elmer Stevens, and Aubrey Redling have in common? They were students of either the Nordland or the Adventist schools on Marrowstone Island. The Nordland School, in operation since 1893, closed in 1944-45, after which the kids were bussed to Chimacum. The Adventist School ended its operation in 1985-86, moved to Hadlock, and is named the Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School on Kennedy Road. An early Adventist School pupil, Pearl Thompson, 86, arrived on Marrowstone in 1916 at the age of four and is the longest lived island resident. Pearl's daughter Natalie Wyman remembers sitting on the fence that fronted the Nordland school yard when the soldiers from Fort Flagler marched by. They would sometime toss gum or candy to the kids. She also remembers when the two holer outside toilets were replaced by flushing ones in 1943.

An early Nordland School pupil, Clara Lybeck arrived in 1924 and remembers when the children were asked to bring the ingredients for the soup that was served for lunch. A pot belly stove was used as a space heater and a cooktop for the soup. Katy Johnson, who owns the Beach Comber's Beauty Shop on the island attended the 2nd grade at the Nordland School in 1942. When the Nordland School closed in 1945 the name of the last teacher was Miss Severance.

LOFT Learning Opportunity for Thinking People, rented the vacated Adventist school house in 1990. Julie Marston is teacher/facilitator of the school. It is an approved Washington State private school for grades 4-12. The tenet of the curriculum is for a multi-age group of students to delve into one subject. Through the instructor's guidance the students learn the subject from a math/science, language, social studies, and art perspective. LOFT is not having a summer program this year. Julie and her staff are working on next year's curriculum which will include a 10 day trip to the Olympic Coast. Information: 385-5284.

MICA is out for the summer after a celebration of it's annual Strawberry Festival on June 27th. There were 113 people enjoying the free strawberry shortcake and turkey served under a brilliant blue sky. Many thanks to those who volunteered to make it another successful event. President Carrie Rice's MICA project for the next year will be to get island residents to replace faded house numbers. In an emergency the reflective numbers on the post boxes need to be visible from the road. New signs can be purchased for a nominal fee. There will be a notice sent out in the fall informing residents of where and when the new signs will be available.