

Women Who Made a Difference

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary
of the 19th Amendment

Washington State School Retirees' Association

August 2020



Cover Photos – stories not in this volume

Top Row Left to Right:

Bonnie Dunbar, Astronaut from Sunnyside, WA

Dr. Frances Axtell, State legislator and first woman appointed to a federal commission, Bellingham, WA

Mourning Dove, Colville/Okanogan Native American Author

Middle Row:

Margaret McKenny, Garden designer, nationally published writer, a Montessori-trained teacher, naturalist, Olympia, WA

Amanda Hebeler, Director of Washington Normal School's student teaching program 1924 to 1956, Ellensburg, WA

Ruby Chow, Chinese-American, Seattle-King County Council and restaurant owner

Bottom Row:

Josephine C Preston, Washington Superintendent of Schools, first female statewide elected official

Esther Short, Native-American pioneer founder of Vancouver, WA

Claudia Thomas, first African-American woman mayor elected in Washington State, Lakewood, WA



Thanks you to all Unit writers who researched and made the tough decisions regarding which woman from each area to submit. The stories are varied, their lives separated by decades. But, each woman left a legacy and we are honored to share these stories.

Karen Keller, Historian
Pam Francis, WSSRA President 2019-2020
Dr. Alan Burke, WSSRA Executive Director

ANGIE BEAN

1854 - 1930

Mountainous Eastern Columbia County, later renamed Asotin County, was the most populated area in southeastern Washington because of a thriving sawmill owned by Thomas and Sarah Bean. Thomas felt his worker's children needed an education and opened a school in 1879.

His granddaughter, Miss Angie Bean, became the first teacher of 20 students in a log hut in Anatone, Washington near the Idaho, Oregon borders. Miss Bean was self-taught with a few weeks of training in faraway Spokane, Washington. She was well read because of her grandfather's vast library, which qualified her as a teacher.



Miss Bean was the total caretaker of the school. She chopped wood and built the fire before students came, put the pot on to make lunch, and hand printed materials for students' use. A hand-made black board was her main teaching tool. Chalk was a precious item and paper and pencils were treasured items.

Students traveled by horse and on foot from as far as 20 miles away. With snow from six to ten feet in winter months, the roads were impassable and unsafe. Miss Bean taught from April through September. As a teacher, she was determined to teach "head knowledge" in an organized way that would stick in her student's mind, but she also taught from the heart. Students respected their young teacher and thrived under her teaching. Her salary as a woman was a mere \$49.26 a year compared to the \$70 paid a man teacher.

On November 14, 1883, Charlie Goodwin was appointed the first Superintendent of the school district but for some reason he declined, and Miss Bean was appointed Superintendent. She qualified and was elected to that office and served until 1893. In 1887, the Anatone School became an organized school district. The population of the county grew to 12 school districts with over a thousand students. Miss Bean's natural leadership provided organization and structure needed for future students' education.

After she stepped down from her Superintendent position, she taught at the Silcott School just west of the present city of Clarkston. Her heart was always in educating the next generation.

Unit 02 - Chelan/Douglas SRA

EVA ANDERSON

1889 – 1972

Eva was born 1889 in Surprise, Nebraska to a strict and loving Methodist family. She was intent on becoming an educator. She earned her BA at Nebraska's Wesleyan University and began her teaching career in Wenatchee in 1912. After teaching for many years, Anderson enrolled at the University of Washington and earned her MA and PhD degrees in Education. Her career in education included County Superintendent of Schools for Douglas County, Superintendent of Waterville Public Schools, instructor at the University of Oregon, and Washington State Supervisor of Adult Education.

A woman who lived by her convictions, Anderson wanted women to take an active role in politics and use their rights: to vote, to sit on juries, to hold public office. Anderson filed on the Republican ticket.

Representative Anderson characterized her legislative role as similar to a mother shopping for her family; each weighs things in relation to needs, buys necessities, and if there is money left, buys luxuries. In the Legislature, Representative Anderson fought for better funding of education; the building of new roads; the first State Commission on Public Utilities; and the development of public power.

Eva Anderson represented the 12th District of Chelan County in the House of Representatives for six terms from 1948 to 1960.

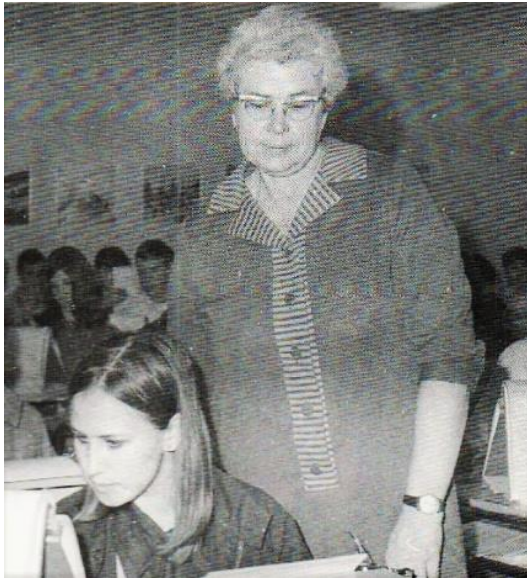
Among the more than a dozen of her published books on Pacific Northwest history, her book, *Chief Seattle*, was rated one of the 10 best on Native Americans by the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Unit 03 - Clallam County SRA

ELEANOR NADDY

1920 - 2009



Eleanor Naddy is an example of service to the community in the past and will continue to be for eternity!

She started teaching in rural in South Dakota, then Wyoming and she spent 25 years teaching in Port Angeles High School, 1949-1974.

Eleanor Naddy taught business, typing, accounting, was Sophomore/Junior Class Advisor, Junior Class Counselor, and Girls' Club Advisor. She earned her BS degree in 1947 at Northern State and her Master's degree in 1966 from Oregon State University.

Upon retirement Eleanor led the AARP Income Tax Program and the 55 Alive driving classes.

Eleanor hosted "Open House" potlucks for single people for many holidays over the years.

Eleanor was instrumental in getting CCSRA up and running. She was a driving force in getting people to join CCSRA and for organizing retirement seminars in the Port Angeles School District. She was involved in the following organizations:

- Clallam County School Retirees' Association
- Washington State School Retirees' Association
- Klahhane Hiking Club (50+ years)
- AARP Income Tax Program
- 55 Alive Driving Classes
- Clallam Conservation of Farm Land/River Areas

The Naddy Estate (Donald Naddy-Representative of South Dakota) and Eleanor Naddy established a large estate in a forever trust from which the earnings of the trust are divided between South Dakota and Clallam County. CCSRA works with the estate to give CCSRA Mini-Grants and CCSRA Scholarships to Peninsula College as well as the North Olympic History Center. Last year the trust gave over \$6,000 in Mini-Grants and Scholarships in Clallam County. This is expected to increase in the coming years. CCSRA is blessed to be a part of Eleanor Naddy's legacy! Eleanor continues to serve in our community and CCSRA and will do so for eternity!

Unit 04 – Columbia Basin SRA

WANDA HARRISON

A lifelong resident of the Columbia Basin, Wanda Harrison has spent nearly six decades making a difference in her community, and at the age of eighty-five, she's still going strong!

Back in the 1960s Wanda worked hard to bring Big Bend Community College to her town and became one of its first students! Later she began her long teaching career, with many of her former students eventually becoming prominent community members.

While teaching in Moses Lake during the early days of Title IX, Wanda and her husband, Frank, served as board members bringing Miss Softball America to the community which resulted in nine teams of girls having the chance to play softball. The girls even qualified for Nationals in Anaheim, California.



Wanda also started a youth group at her church and served as Sunday School Education Superintendent, Vacation Bible School Coordinator and hosted various activities for children. She also taught Model Classroom and Classroom Management courses, through CWU to teachers in Columbia Basin school districts.

Wanda and her husband, Frank, joined Kiwanis when women were finally allowed, and they started a service program for disabled adults which received two awards. Later, she started a K-Kids service club at her school, teaching children to serve in their community.

Wanda retired in 2001 but didn't slow down. She refocused her energy on new endeavors, starting an after-school tutoring/activities program called Youth Senior Connection, which pairs elementary students with volunteer senior citizens, who help them with homework. The program, now in its fifteenth year, is still coordinated by Wanda!

But wait . . . there's more! Wanda also saw a need to revive the Columbia Basin Unit of WSSRA. She worked to renew interest, offer teacher grants and scholarships and, perhaps most importantly, gain many new members! It is truly a sight to see Wanda in action, as she shares the advantages of joining CBSRA with prospective members!

Wanda is definitely the heart and soul of Unit 04 and an example to us all, as she continues to make a difference in her community.

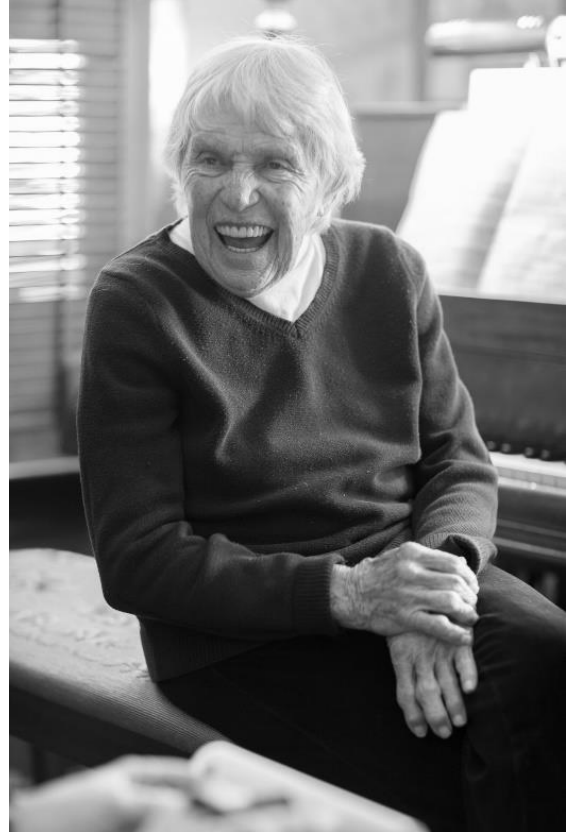
Unit 10 – Columbia Gorge SRA

MARGARET WALKER

1926 - 2019

Margaret Walker impacted scores of children with her acts of kindness and volunteerism for community youth and local school programs, as a school board member and a piano teacher. She not only volunteered for schools, well into her eighties, but also for the hospital, city library, and the Catholic Church-- which she joined at the age of 75. She ran the baseball concession stand, named Margaret's Snack Shack, which still sells sno-cones for 25 cents in her honor.

She has received numerous awards and recognition from the schools, hospital, and community for her 55 years of tireless contributions. Margaret Walker, who died in July of 2019 at the age of 92, leaves an impressive legacy of community service.



Unit 11, Lewis County SRA

PATTI MORTON

May 30, 1935 - October 16, 2019

A girl from Napavine, WA had a life of hardships and trials, but also great adventure and great rewards. Patti was the first woman in the State Department and first woman as Special Agent Security Officer as well as other firsts.

She graduated from Napavine High, Centralia College and was their 2nd Honored Graduate of the Year. She continued her education at WWU and started her career in service, first in our state working for the Governor, then for the nation. She was in the Nepal Embassy climbing Mt. Kinabalu several times. She then served in Kinshasa, the former Congo, where the Embassy was stormed in 1967 and stayed with few staff and was attacked on her way to work. She was then transferred to Yaounde, Cameroon, then Singapore where she received the Meritorious Honor Award.



It was a difficult for Patti, being the first female in an all-male field. She faced many challenges as a first female agent, including lack of support from some of her colleagues, specifically the secretarial staff. She would have to type all her documents, memos, and instructions herself, even those that were hundreds of pages, because the secretaries would not do it. At the time, Diplomatic Security did not issue gun holsters that would fit or be practical for a woman, so Patti had to come up with her own way to carry her weapon. She decided to carry it in a blue clutch handbag, which she did say made it a little tricky to quickly pull her weapon when needed! During her years as a Special Agent, she earned the nickname "Pistol Packin' Patti".

Patti was one of the last evacuated from Vietnam where she burned the records and money so they wouldn't fall into enemy hands in 1975. She was a member of the State Department Board of Examiners helping select people for Foreign Service. In The Hague she was in charge of the Marine attachment there. She even designed the 1st bullet-proof vest for women.

After retirement she remained living across the street from the State Department where she mentored young women in the Department and volunteered in and outside--even weeding at the Kennedy Center. Later, Patti would become the Federal Women's Program Manager where she would direct the Department's efforts to provide employment for women at all levels. In the State Department, Patti was the only woman to have been a Regional Security Officer, the first woman admitted to the Office of Security as a Special Agent and the first woman to work as a desk officer in the Foreign Operations Division.

Patti Morton was a trailblazer at home and abroad. On October 16, 2019, Patti died in her apartment in Washington, DC and had a grave side service at Napavine Cemetery in her parents' plot. It was a cold, windy day with six members of the State Department coming to honor her. She will be remembered for saying often, "I may not have known how to do a new job; but I really wanted to learn, and I never felt I was unworthy to try."

Unit 14 - Mason County SRA

IRENE SIMPSON REED

1877 - 1940

The eldest daughter of Sol and Mary Simpson, Irene was born in Carson City, Nevada, on March 18, 1877. The family moved to Seattle in 1878 (where Irene's sister, Caroline, was born) and to Mason County in 1886. In 1901, Irene married Mark E. Reed, manager of several of her father, Sol Simpson's, logging enterprises.

Irene became best known and loved in the community for her patronage of the Shelton school system. She was first elected a Shelton school director in 1909 and served continuously for 31 years, attending all board meetings even after the Reed family moved to Seattle following the murder of their eldest son, Sol, in 1930. She attended her last meeting only one month before her death in Seattle on May 1, 1940.

In 1923, Mark Reed offered to build a modern high school as a gift to the City of Shelton, asking that it be known as the Irene S. Reed High School in honor of Mrs. Reed's interest in and service to education in the community. In 1938, Irene gave \$25,000 to build and equip an addition to the school in honor of her husband, who had died in 1933. She also served as chairman of the Shelton Public Library Board for many years.

In announcing Irene's passing in the May 2, 1940 issue of his newspaper, Grant Angle wrote: "It is not easy to conceive how far behind in school progress this community would be without the interest, advice, and support of Mrs. Reed through all these years."

On the day of her funeral in Seattle all operations of the Simpson Logging Company, including the Lumbermen's Mercantile store, were closed as were all Shelton schools. The Retail Trades Committee requested that all Shelton stores close that afternoon from two to four o'clock in tribute to the memory of Irene Simpson Reed.



Unit 15 – Okanogan County SRA

VIRGINIA GRAINGER

1858 -1948



Virginia Hancock was born September 28 on Whidbey Island, Washington. During that time, life was difficult and frightening. Besides the wild animals, there were unfriendly Indians with which to contend. There was a time when little two-year-old, red-haired Virginia wandered off and an Indian seized her and was running toward his boat when Virginia's dad saw him and fired above their heads. The Indian dropped Virginia and ran off.

Virginia's mom, Sarah, was a teacher on the island and took Virginia to school with her when she was only six weeks old. Virginia claimed her love for teaching was influenced by all those years at school.

In 1877 Virginia began teaching in various towns along the Washington Coast. Most of the time she traveled in a small boat. In 1884 she married James Grainger and her first son, Frank, was born in 1886. He was a sickly child and on the advice of their doctor, the Graingers moved in a long, dusty journey from the Coast to a sunny, dry area called the Okanogan Country.

The first few years in the Okanogan were full of many hardships, loneliness, and tragedies. But soon more families moved in and in 1889, Mrs. Grainger started the first school at Spring Coulee. It consisted of a dirt floor in a tent!

That winter was severely cold with many snowstorms. There she and her husband, James Grainger, struggled to develop a ranch, losing almost their entire herd of 300 cattle to the winter of '89-'90. Thus 1890 found Okanogan County bankrupt. James apparently was more of a jeweler at heart than a stockman. Virginia divorced him at a time when divorces were rare. Virginia was persuaded to become the First Woman County Superintendent of Schools with a salary of \$50 a year. Even though the county had no money to pay her, her love of teaching made her accept the job anyway. Resolute and nearly tireless, Mrs. Grainger rode horseback through a territory extending

Unit 15 – Okanogan County SRA continued

from Canada to the Wenatchee River, organizing schools and teaching a month or two at each until an instructor could be employed. At the time she took office, five districts had been formed, Loomis (No. 1), Conconully (2), Ruby (3), Spring Coulee (4), and Chelan (5). She organized eight more, Loop (No. 6), Silver (7), Methow (8), Entiat (9), and Curtis, near Brewster (10), Chelan Falls (11), Pine Creek (12), and Malott (13). She covered a territory of more than 150 miles by horseback always carrying her trusty revolver.

She later married Conconully merchant Charles E. Herrmann, but she seems to have had difficulty in accepting Herrmann's relaxed attitude toward customers who should have been paying their bills. Again, there was a divorce.

She gave 10 acres of her land to Okanogan School District. On part of that land was built the Virginia Grainger School named in her honor. When in 1992 a new elementary school was built, it was decided to continue to honor her by naming that new school also, Virginia Grainger. She was a pioneer woman of courage, spirit, and a love for children.

Unit 16 - East King County SRA

KATERI BROW

1943 - 1992

Kateri Brow (pronounced Bro) was the Issaquah School District's spiritual leader and educational guru. She was a change-maker, opening doors for herself and others throughout her life.

Kateri served as the Issaquah Superintendent of Schools from May 1987 until her death in November 1992. She stepped forward to take that position after the earlier superintendent resigned over a \$1.5 million debt. Kateri had worked her way to the top in the district after being a classroom teacher, Special Education Manager, Director of Program Planning, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, and Instruction, and finally, Interim Superintendent. Her reputation grew along with the status of her titles.

With the district growing at an unprecedented rate, adding 500-1000 students per year, Kateri was able to restructure the district's finance office, and within a few months, the school board enacted budget controls and oversight measures still in place today. The district's bond rating was renewed at the highest possible level.



Certainly, gaining control of the budget was mandatory, but Kateri accomplished other things that made a difference. She was a state leader in building-based management. She directed curriculum leaders to show a cyclical review system so that every area of student learning was subject to continuous quality improvement. As a new superintendent, she convinced voters to approve a levy and bond, an amazing accomplishment. She played a significant role in the development of standards that later shaped Washington State's school reform movement. Kateri helped parents establish the Issaquah Schools Foundation, an organization that has since raised millions for Issaquah schools and students.

During her 23-year career in Issaquah, Kateri received many honors. They ranged from Educator of the Year by the Issaquah Education Association in 1980 to Washington State Superintendent of the Year in 1988.

Kateri was born in Nova Scotia and raised in Neah Bay. She was proud of her Native American heritage. Her mother influenced her to thank everyone who helped her achieve success. She was the oldest of four sisters. Kateri graduated from Seattle University and earned her doctorate from the University of Washington. She taught for five years in Seattle before she settled in Issaquah where she loved her home among the trees on Beaver Lake. She died in November 1992.

Our Kateri opened her heart and her office to Issaquah educators, parents, and students and became revered by all. She was recognized by her booming voice and her booming laugh, but most especially for her shrewd intellect, her wry sense of humor, and above all, her integrity. She was a champion of our schools. She was a woman who made a difference. (Sources: [Issaquah Press](#), [Seattle Times](#), [Issaquah Reporter](#))

EILEEN YAMADA LAMPHERE

1946 -



Eileen was a teacher at Fairwood Elementary in Kent and later an administrator at Kent Meridian High School. After retirement Eileen researched her Japanese-American heritage with the intent of teaching others about the Japanese-American internment during WWII.

She moderates a panel of elders who speak about that experience to groups and schools throughout King and Pierce Counties.

At the present time, Eileen is President of the Puyallup Chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League. In 2016 the Puyallup Valley JACL hosted the 75th Remembrance program of the Puyallup Assembly Center at the

Washington State Fair. She also opened a special exhibit featuring interactive exhibits/displays, replicas of a family barrack, and a horse stall furnished with period items for the duration of the State Fair.

The event was held to honor the more than 7,600 men, women, and children — as well as all those incarcerated in any detention facility — who called the Puyallup Assembly Center, or “Camp Harmony,” their home before they were transferred to the War Relocation Authority Camps. These camps were located at Minidoka, Idaho; Tule Lake, California; and Heart Mountain, Wyoming. They resided at these camps throughout the duration of World War II after President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066.

INEZ EDNA MARIE BREAZEALE

1895 - 1987

Edna was born in Missouri in 1895 and moved to the shores of Padilla Bay with her family in 1901. Edna and her brothers, Fred and Marcellus, learned to love the natural world while growing up on the family farmstead playing a crucial role in her later life.



Edna graduated from Burlington High School in 1912. She then moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington, where she graduated cum laude in 1917. Her teaching career of 43 years included teaching English and journalism at Seattle's Roosevelt High School for 33 years. During her teaching career, Edna was known for respectfully standing up to administrators without being intimidated, a skill that served her well in her later encounters with legislators and government officials.

In 1961, The Breazeales and area residents were confronted by a large development proposal for Padilla Bay. Plans were underway for a 9,000 acre industrial park, with a dredged deep water port and filled industrial land. A local committee, headed by Miss Breazeale, circulated a petition showing opposition to the plans. Over 2,000 area citizens added their signatures, and the project was eventually abandoned.

"There are so few places anymore where children can go and just be free and learn about things. We felt there ought to be some place that wasn't just all people and houses." - Edna Breazeale

Edna's untiring 23 years of work to protect the largest eel-grass meadow in Puget Sound paid off. In 1980 Padilla Bay became the National Estuarine Research Reserve, set aside for research and education. She and her brothers gifted their 64-acre farm for the interpretive center and research facility which flourishes today on her property and with her spirit for preserving wetlands everywhere.

Joyce Moon, a member of Skagit/Island/San Juan Unit lived near the Breazeal farm/homestead and she had this to say about Edna: "Edna was highly admired and loved by her neighbors – of which we were part. She always had time for the kids and loved it when they stopped by."

ALICE BAIRD

1860 - 1915

Alice Baird founded the Woman's Columbian Book Club of Everett now known as the Woman's Book Club (WBC). She is a woman who made a difference. In 1894, Everett was growing into a small industrial town with no paved streets, street cars, and hardly any boardwalks. Entertainment and social life was geared to what men liked.

A book club was just what many women needed after moving from larger towns and cities. A group met at Alice Baird's home. Mrs. Baird was elected president and the group voted to do one good thing a year for their city (along with meeting to discuss books). The Red Cross was frequently the beneficiary of the club's efforts. In the midst of all this hard work, the women also made time for social engagement--hosting picnics, dinner parties, children's festivals, and other entertainment.



The club's first goal was to create a public library. Under Mrs. Baird's leadership, the group wrote to each of the other 450 Women's Book Clubs around the country asking for donations. By the summer of 1896 more than 1000 books had arrived. The city was committed to idea of a library but gave no funding to build one. Under pressure from Mrs. Baird and the group, the city donated three rooms in City Hall. Thus, in April of 1898 Everett had its first library.



Early club accounts describe Alice as having a trained and brilliant mind. Her interests went beyond the Everett Peninsula, toward state and even national women's organizations. Early club member, Mrs. H. D. Cooley, was quoted as saying that "when Mrs. Baird asked us to do anything, it was done". Baird's leadership was so significant that the WBC presented a bronze plaque honoring her on October 1, 1915, the year of her death, still hangs in the entrance hall of the library on Hoyt Avenue.

Mrs. J. J. Clark spoke a tribute: "Our lives are richer because of her."

RUTH PARMAN

1919 -

Ruth Parman was born November of 1919 in Maryville, Missouri. She and her younger brother rode their Shetland pony together to school each day. In May of 1936, she graduated from Maryville High School, cashed in a savings bond from her grandfather for \$36, and paid for her first quarter's tuition at Northwest Missouri State Teachers' College. After completing two years of college and obtaining her 60-hour certificate, she was able to teach in elementary schools. In the summer of 1938, she was hired to teach 5th and 6th graders at Ravenwood, Missouri for a salary of \$72 a month. She returned to school in 1939 and graduated in Elementary Education with a BS in Intermediate Education. In 1944, she moved to California and taught 4th grade at Garfield Elementary in Long Beach for a \$2,000 increase in salary.

Mrs. Parman taught many different grade levels at a variety of schools throughout her career. She and her husband, Loren Parman, completed a two-year course to become missionaries. Mr. Parman went on to become a Presbyterian minister and Ruth, in addition to teaching, helped him implement youth retreats, leadership training, and field trips for Missions, among other duties. They had two children, David and Diane, and family activities increased immensely. Church work opened many avenues for community involvement by adding a 45-minute radio broadcast on Sunday, Ministers' Wives Fellowship, PTA, women's work in the church and a child care center to name a few.



Reverend and Mrs. Parman were always there to help their families during difficult times. In 1988, Ruth began her genealogy research and has completed an exhaustive amount of documentation on the history of her family. A true treasure to be passed on to future generations.

Ruth retired when she was 67. She received a retirement award from the Omak School District in 1987 and became involved in a retirement planning program, "Think of Your Future". The group conducted workshops throughout Washington State for both active and retired teachers. It later became credits in clock hours for active teachers. Sixty-nine trained leaders

conducted workshops to benefit the needs of the profession. The Washington Department of Retirement Systems continues this successful program to this day. She was awarded the first Very Special Person Award initiated by Jim Becker, Chair of the WSRTA Retirement Planning Committee.

Mrs. Parman served on the advisory committee of the Omak Park Board and as Mission Chairman of the Omak Church, securing a skate park for the youth of the community. The Presbyterian Women of Omak presented her with an Honorary Life Membership in 1996.

Ruth Goodspeed Parman, at 100, has not slowed down one bit! She lives in her own home, drives her own car, and is still active with her family, community, church and education. It is a rare gift to meet someone who inspires you to do more with your life, but she certainly made a lasting impression on many.

Unit 27 - Pierce County SRA

TERRY BERGESON

1942 -

For more than a half century, Terry Bergeson has been involved in improving the educational system in Washington. Dr. Bergeson graduated from Emmanuel College in 1964 with a BA degree in English. In 1969, she earned a Master's Degree in counseling and guidance from Western Michigan University and followed with a doctoral degree from the University of Washington.

She has held leadership positions in Washington State educational institutions as teacher, school counselor, and administrator. She became involved in the political arena as Vice President as well as President of the Washington Education

Association. Superintendent of Public Instruction of Washington State kept her very busy for three terms. Then it was back to the academic world where she was hired by Pacific Lutheran University as Interim Dean of the School of Education.



Terry can be compared with the Energizer Bunny! Whatever she has been involved with, she has tackled with great eagerness. She made numerous improvements to K-12 education. Her many accomplishments at the University level strengthened educational leadership programs. Although Terry has joked in the past that she has failed retirement, her enthusiasm no doubt will enable her to continue her work for the students and educators of Washington State. The Pierce County Unit is proud to have her as a member.

Unit 28 - Thurston County SRA

LUCILLE MESSER

1908 - 2008

One of eight children Lucille Messer was born in Seattle. She was a contributor to the Thurston County Unit through the years, even into her 90's. She was the newsletter editor, secretary, luncheon menu planner, convention delegate, historian, and always "cookie baker" for Thurston County Unit board meetings.



After graduating from the University of Washington with a degree in Home Economics, she taught Home Economics in Montesano and Wapato. She served as lunch supervisor at Yakima School District for ten years. Lucille's leadership skills eventually took her to OSPI serving as Assistant Supervisor of School Lunches. A few local retired principals have spoken of the panic they felt during Lucille's "pop up" visits to their kitchens, checking for cleanliness and wholesome food preparation. She wanted everything to be just right for the children. One of the projects she was most passionate about was starting school breakfast because as she said "The children cannot learn on empty stomachs."

Her interests were varied, including serving in many ways at her church as an Elder, serving as "honorary grandmother" for neighborhood children, and supporting a handful of important health-related causes including Cancer and MS. In 1987 AARP awarded her the prestigious National Community Service Award. Lucille spoke of lessons learned from her parents, who were missionaries, about serving the community and helping neighbors in need. She was probably happiest surrounded by children. Many neighborhood children stopped by her house on the walk home from school to get a cookie and a story.

Lucille's extraordinary financial donation from her estate to the Unit's mini grant program has funded literally hundreds of school projects. Her estate made financial contributions to her church for a new kitchen and other causes she supported. Furthermore, she was a recipient of the Platinum Award from the WSSR Foundation, indicating a donation exceeding \$10,000 to the scholarship fund.

ELAINE BANKS

1930 -

Elaine Banks is a respected and beloved retired teacher and principal in the Tri-Cities known for her educational leadership, for helping bring Washington State University to the area to train future educators, and for her community involvement.

In 1952 Elaine began her teaching career with a degree in Business Administration in the small town of Pe Ell. She earned her Education degree from the University of Puget Sound, then taught in Raymond, Yakima, and finally Pasco.

Elaine made things happen in Pasco. For example, physical education was not offered to elementary students. She researched how basic motor skills in kindergarten could affect learning. The study and its results were the basis of her Masters' thesis at Central Washington University. When four administrative positions opened, Elaine applied and was assigned to work with kindergarten teachers.



During her career Elaine served as state president of the Elementary School Principals Association of Washington and president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Retiring in 1986 she worked with other community leaders to bring Washington State University to the Tri-Cities to provide local teacher training. Today WSU branch campus works with Columbia Basin College to train future educators.

She also looks after the needs of retired school employees. For 27 years she co-chaired the WSSRA Legislative Committee. She continues as co-chair of her Unit's Legislative Committee.

Additionally she is actively involved in the community as a member of the Franklin County Public Utilities District Advisory Committee, as a member of the Virgie Robinson Scholarship Committee, as chair of

PEO Philanthropic, and as a member of the Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

Elaine is a remarkable, passionate, and active woman whose intelligence and kindness has impacted the Tri-Cities community. She has been a model for women in educational leadership.

PAT JOLLOTA

1944 -

Patricia “Pat” Jollota has modeled excellent citizenship through her actions and service to the Clark County community and beyond, including effectiveness in leadership roles, raising community standards and expectations, strengthening community identity and civic pride, and exemplary giving of time, self and resources. Curator for the Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver City Council member for 20 years, Clark County’s First Citizen for 2012, author of over eight books, historian and community advocate are some of Jollota’s many contributions.



Jollota also helped to establish, and regularly supports, the Children’s Justice Center and Justice for Children—organizations committed to protecting children who are victims of abuse and increasing local awareness of child abuse. She also supports the Humane Society for Southwest Washington and served as the Clark County Animal Control Board’s chair. Her personal and professional contributions to her community are labors of love that go above and beyond. Her service and volunteerism continue to inspire many. Her colorful speeches at public events also have this effect—weaving the region’s history into engaging and entertaining tales. She also passes this wealth of knowledge onto others

by teaching corporate and continuing education courses at Clark College and giving guided tours of Vancouver to businesses, organizations, and citizens. She is admired for her honesty, commitment, vision and humility. “She truly cares for, and believes in, our community.” Jollota says history should be fun. “People are funny and tragic and exciting, and I think if people know their community, they will preserve it and protect it.”

Unit 31 - Walla Walla/Columbia SRA

SARAH MINER

The first woman school teacher in Washington Territory was Sarah Miner. In 1861 she and her husband A. J. bought land in Walla Walla. She started a private school in 1861-1862 with 40 students. Attendance was not consistent because students stayed home to help with household chores or harvesting of crops.

In 1862 Walla Walla was incorporated as a city. School Superintendent, J. F. Wood, asked her to be the first public school teacher in the city. She taught in a storefront in downtown Walla Walla.

Mrs. Miner left her teaching position that fall to take care of harvesting and household chores. She was described as “a lovely, cultured woman, who had the finest house plants in town.”

Unit 32 - Whatcom County SRA

PHOEBE JUDSON

October 25, 1831 – January 16, 1926



Much has been written about Phoebe Goodell Judson, sometimes called Phoebe Newton Judson. She was born in Ontario, Canada in 1831, moved to Washington Territory in 1853, and to Lynden in 1870. She was a strong, dedicated woman, known as a "doer of good deeds." She was actively involved in many of Lynden's affairs in its earliest years; and provided a solid anchor to the town's citizens until her death in 1926. The history of her marriage at age 17, the birth of her children on the journey to Washington Territory, to finding her "ideal home" in Lynden is fascinating. She has been called a pioneer and an author, but also carried another title. A remarkable woman Phoebe Judson was called the "Mother of Lynden". Some

say she was given the title because she was the first non-Indian woman to settle in the Lynden area. Another reason was of the large role she played during the 1870s through 1890s in the development of the Nooksack Valley (including giving Lynden its name). From the beginning of the time she arrived in the area, she was called "Aunt Phoebe," someone you went to when you needed something, be it a pail of buttermilk or help during childbirth. She was also known for writing letters to the Bellingham Bay Mail during the 1870s, describing the joys of life as a "Pioneer's Wife", as she usually signed her letters. She, along with her husband Holden, founded the city of Lynden. An interesting tidbit is how the town Lynden was named. Her husband, Holden, was the postmaster of Lynden in 1873, and Phoebe was asked to select the name of the new town. She chose a name she had heard from a poem, "Hohenlinden", written by Thomas Campbell, which begins "On Linden, when the sun was low. . .", but she changed the "i" in Linden to "y" because she felt it looked prettier.

Phoebe believed education was important and started the first school in her home with one of her own children, another settler's child, and three Native American children. Eventually, she and her husband decided to build a proper schoolhouse, donating the land and some building materials; they raised money to complete the project. In October 1886 she started the Northwest Normal School in Lynden, Washington, which eventually became Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. It was a teachers' school predominantly for women although men also enrolled. The school was closed in 1892, due primarily to lack of state funding. In 1893 New Whatcom Normal School was founded succeeding the private school of teaching for women. The school was a way to teach teachers that included women – in a time when women were not even allowed to vote.

Unit 33 - Whitman County SRA

BLANCHE KING

1918 - 2016

Born in Connell, Washington Blanche graduated high school in 1936, then moved to Pullman to attend college. Graduating with a degree in Home Economics her first job took her to Toppenish. After her father's death, Blanche took some time off from teaching; returned to Pullman to be with her mother; and began work on her Master's Degree.

In 1945 she married Myron King. Biloxi, Mississippi was their home for a time, the family growing to four with two sons. Sadly, Blanche was widowed in 1949 so with two children to raise on her own; she and her mother returned to Pullman where she got a job at Pullman High School. She also began supervising student teachers for Washington State University. Blanche's career in Pullman lasted 29 years until her retirement in 1982.

Blanche had a lifelong passion for traveling, Over the years she and her sons and her visited all the lower 48 states. After her mother's death in 1972, she began to travel abroad. In 50 years, she visited 120 countries. Blanche was in her early 90's when she went to Antarctica, Greenland, and also went on a big game tour in Africa.



One of her sons lived in Australia. Blanche made many trips to Australia and 31 driving trips to Alaska to visit her other son. Her last trip to Alaska was when she was 95.

Blanche was a daughter, wife, mother, teacher, and world traveler. She cared for her mother and her sons alone while being a full-time teacher. She loved to share stories of her travels. The Whitman County School Retirees' Association and her church were big parts of her life as well. She lived a life full of adventure.

Unit 34 - Yakima County SRA

VIRGINIA BEAVERT

1922 -

Virginia Beavert, native daughter of Yakama Indian Nation, will be remembered for her dedication to preserving the Indian language and culture through storytelling, teaching, and publishing. Virginia's storytelling ability, recollections of the past seventy years, and her knowledge of anthropology add up to authentic and entertaining lore of Northwest Indians.



Virginia's interest in the language and culture of the Yakama Indians was fostered by her step-father, Alex Saluskin, Chairman of the General Tribal Council of the Yakamas for eight years. Alex Saluskin, in cooperation with Dr. Rigsby, anthropology linguist of the University of Washington, began the standardized spellings and printing of the unpublished Yakama Indian language. Upon Saluskin's death around 1978, Virginia assumed the charge to

complete and publish the Yakama Indian Language Dictionary (1975). She also earned an anthropology degree from Central Washington University. Virginia, who speaks five Northwest Indian languages, has received fellowships for study in history and language research at Newberry Library in Chicago, Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and Dartmouth College.

Virginia was the first woman to be elected Secretary-Treasurer (a full time job) to the General Tribal Council of the Yakama Indian Nation, serving in that capacity from 1978 - 1985. While on the Council, Virginia promoted the Tribe's Code of Ethics that serves as a watchdog of the performance of elected officials. She promoted a Town House Meeting idea (1979 -1983) that resulted in seminar-type meetings held before the General Council Meeting for all Yakama Indians. This change helped Indians to be better informed of issues that are brought before the General Council.

