



# MHS News Quarterly

Fall 2013 Volume 13, Issue 1



Dale Forbus Hogle selling our books this summer at Magnolia Farmer's Market. It was a great success!

## FREE MEMOIR WRITING WORKSHOP WILL INSPIRE YOU!

by Joely Johnson Mork

Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
12:30-4:00pm

*Magnolia Branch Public Library*  
2801 34th Avenue West



Maybe you have always wanted to write down your childhood memories, explore your crazy Great Aunt Grace's memoir, or put your shoebox of inherited letters and recipes into a cohesive family history and are afraid to try.

If so, you are invited to sign up now for the Magnolia Historical Society's fall workshop. Participants last year found themselves immersed in a four-hour afternoon session of creative drafting, revising, and critiquing with a like-minded group of writers. With guidance and gentle feedback provided by Society President Monica Wooton and Board Member Dale Forbus Hogle, both published authors, all were able to plumb memories and explore personal histories, with an eye to revision. Seemingly simple writing prompts generated a colorful story that unearthed 1980s high school days of the punk rockers, the preppies, and the stoners. Other participants dug deep to share tales of family moves, community celebrations, and childhood dinnertime conversation.

Workshop is FREE. No writing experience necessary.  
We provide a booklet to write in.

**Join us! Call (206) 284-2430 to RSVP — Space is limited**



### MHS HAPPENINGS

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## We're Excited as Magnolia Historical Society Transitions Leadership to Jeff Cunningham

by Monica Wooton

This year MHS will have co-presidents as Monica Wooton transitions the leadership of the Society to Jeff Cunningham in 2014. Jeff brings nearly 3 years' experience on the Board, has a history major, and lots of new energy and ideas. Jeff has served as a docent at the Museum of History and Industry and started the MHS Facebook page.

Jeff will have several new Board members but many of the old members will be staying on during the transition. Jeff will take over next September. This year he will be leading the Board on a January field trip, help do logistics for the February Annual Meeting on the History of the Boulevard: the Street and Homes, scheduled for February 13th at Magnolia Lutheran Church, 7pm. He will also assume the MHS position on the Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council and do some historical writing for the Society.

It is exciting to pass down the rich legacy of good work of the Society to such a great guy who has a good sense of place and love for Magnolia history. Jeff grew up on Magnolia, attended Our Lady of Fatima School and O'Dea High, and went on to get his history major from Western Washington University. I look forward to Jeff taking on this new role and have confidence in his leadership ability. He has proven to be a good and thoughtful Board member. The Society will benefit greatly from a new generation participating and adding new perspective to the work we will continue to do in making more Magnolia history in the years to come.



## Snapshot in Time Magnolia School Days

by Monica Wooton

### Then...

According to Hal Will, in *Magnolia: Memories & Milestones*: "... A new eight-room brick building replaced the old South Salmon Bay School in 1908, and was renamed Lawton School. However, major geographic changes were underway in the area in preparation for the Hiram Chittenden Locks... The four-year-old school was... condemned in 1912. A new Lawton School was erected in 1913... It has since had additions and remodels"... and, was then completely rebuilt except the gym in 1990.

Wayne Gray wrote about "The One-Room Schoolhouse" in *Magnolia: Making More Memories*: "In the fall of 1928, Lawton Wood resident Ruby Scheuerman started a school in a one-room schoolhouse [there]. She was the granddaughter of Christian Scheuerman, the first homesteader in the area... We attended Ruby's school half days, and then went home and played. At Ruby's, we learned!... I probably learned more about life playing musical chairs there than doing anything else I have done since. She had a wind-up phonograph. We studied ancient history, arithmetic, US history, geography, places, and things like the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. At the time, they meant little to us... but today they are the center of the news! She had an old Packard in which she picked up youngsters from all parts of Magnolia.



Main entrance to Lawton School as it appeared in the 1930s.

*Seattle Public Schools Archives, #243-1*



The 1939 Lawton Safety Patrol members. This was a relatively new activity at that time.

*Seattle Public Schools Archives, #243-54*

Will wrote of his memories of Magnolia School: "My older brother... "Eddy" Will Jr., started attending Magnolia School in September 1930... Ed recalls the shiny, smooth new floors in the school hallways and how much fun it was to run and belly-flop for a nice slide, until caught by the custodian. Both Ed and I remember staying at home during our kindergarten year, as there was no kindergarten... until 1934 when Miss Entz was hired to start one... There was a good view of parts of Elliott Bay, Elliott Avenue West and Smith Cove from the school and its play fields east of the school building. Sounds from the railroad yard in Interbay and the Smith Cove area were loud and clear.... The forlorn wail of steam whistles from trains and many boats in the bay added industrial music to the scene."

Clint White in his memoir reflects: "When I first began attending Magnolia School nine months after the United States entered World War II, kindergarten was with legendary teacher Ruby Entz. Hers was a wonderful room that had a sandbox, menagerie, and the largest building block I had ever seen. Outside was a shrubby and fence-protected play area that rang with taunts of "Kindergarten Baby!" from the older students on the other side. "Rest" meant eyes closed and head on one's arms on a desk. The snack was always a half-pint bottle of milk and a graham cracker.

"School supplies were limited during the war years, and both teachers and students tired of using the same old salmon pink tag board to construct craft projects such as toy wagons and houses... Our first field trip was a

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“get to know your community” walk down West McGraw Street from 28th Avenue West to Magnolia Fire Station #41 on 34th Avenue West. The firemen put on a display by leaning ladders against the station, climbing up with hoses, and “extinguishing” a pretend fire on the roof.”

For me, in 1958, Our Lady of Fatima was four years old and the Sisters of the Presentation were in charge. This teaching order of nuns was from California and came originally from Ireland to spread the Christian Gospel and teach school. They settled in San Francisco at the request of the Bishop Joseph Alemany to teach the children of Irish immigrants who were going to the Gold Rush. And, were summoned by Archbishop Thomas Connelly to come to Magnolia and teach.

My first encounter, at six years old, was with the stout and very in-charge Sister Mary Banigna. She really did look like a penguin, completely covered with black

and white. The white was starched and as firm as plastic. Only her face and hands were exposed covered by different folded forms of that cloth. She was in a black veil and a long flowing robe, a black mantle over a cinched waist with a long and heavy giant rosary. That rosary was impressive; and, if you had any imagination at all it posed all kinds of threats to your safety. It served as a good reminder to be good.

At that time, a family could go to Fatima for around \$58 a year. For my family, with 10 children, that was a real bargain. As the oldest, I blazed the trail with my saddle-shoes and uniform of plain navy blue sweater, a white short sleeved shirt and peter-pan collar. The skirts were also plain navy. I always envied the Catholic Schools where skirts were plaid. Wool was the material of mandate; but, because I had an allergy I was exempted from what I would call something similar in feeling to the hair shirts we were told the martyrs wore to gain grace and heaven.

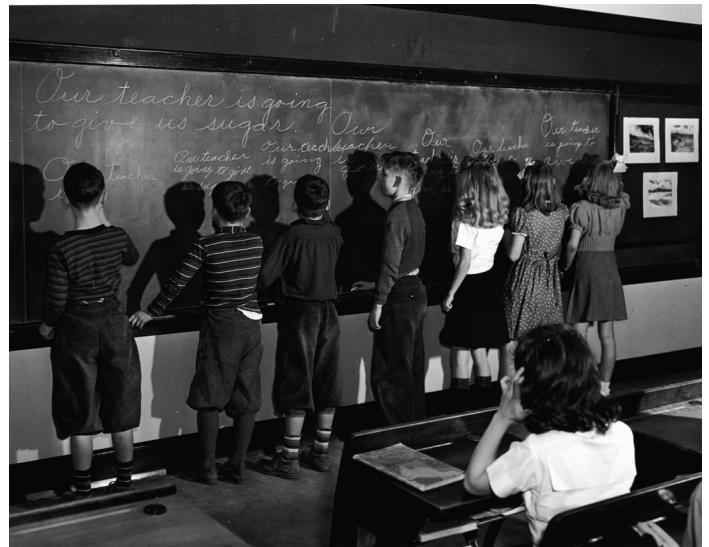
By the time there were six of us going to school there, the ritual of going to the Uniform Store was one I dreaded. The boys got their salt and pepper cords, their white shirts and navy sweaters, we our uniforms. It took hours to get all the sizes needed. I remember the pulling-off and putting-on of many garments. We all clustered in a makeshift dressing room which had no regard for sex or age. It was strictly business and busyness. The sooner you got your garb the faster you were out of there.

First grade found us in a room with over 40 children and one nun. The Rosary and postures and pretenses of that one nun were enough to keep order in the class. For back-up she had the Parish priest, Father Emery Blanchard, another big adult that dressed funny in a black flowing frock and could be called upon at any moment to straighten out any misunderstanding a child might have about the rules.

**Now...**

Lawton School in its third iteration is flourishing with an enrollment of over 400. There is no longer a one-room school house on Magnolia. Magnolia School remains boarded up and in possession of the School District in case they have need another school because the enrollment is growing for the first time in years since the Neighborhood Schools Plan was re-initiated after mandatory bussing. Its playground is now the beautiful Ella Bailey Park and railroad cars can still be heard, absent the steam whistle, as they rumble into and out of the BNSF hump yard. Fatima has expanded, kids wear a more casual uniform; they now have plaid skirts and there are neon tennis shoes where saddle-shoes used to be. There are no nuns teaching there. Our other elementary, Catharine Blaine, which served for many years as a middle school to many Magnolian kids who still can remember taking shop, cooking and sewing there, is an award winning K-8 school.

Magnolia/Queen Anne News, September 24, 2013

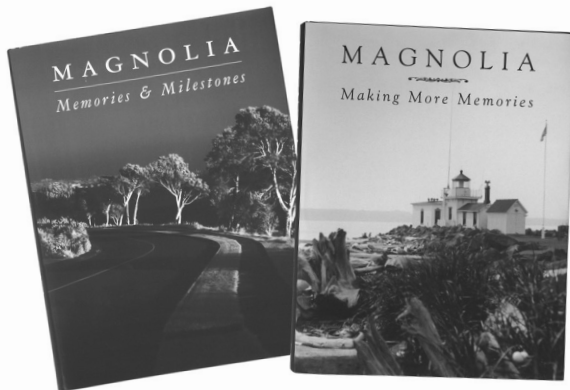


Fourth-grade students during WWII at Magnolia School write: “Our teacher is going to give us sugar” on the blackboard. MOHAI, Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, Seattle, #P125615. 1942.





## *Give a Gift of Magnolia Memories*



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**Please Note: The Magnolia Historical Society is willing to work with groups in using our books as a fundraiser. Contact us at number above for details.**



**MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
A 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization  
3202 West Emerson Street  
Seattle, WA 98199-1624



**FREE WRITING WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, Nov. 23, 12:30-4:00PM**

See Front Page for details