

# EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER



*Connections for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.*

## HERITAGE REFLECTOR

June 2011

Volume XI

Issue II

### Vision

To be a destination heritage museum and research facility that enhances community identity through the preservation and stewardship of the Eastside's history.

### Mission

To steward Eastside history by actively collecting, preserving, and interpreting documents and artifacts, and by promoting public involvement in and appreciation of this heritage through educational programming and community outreach.

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## Journey Story: Andrew Balatico, Jr.

Sherry Grindeland &  
Lynn Sherk

Andrew C. Balatico, Jr was born on November 10, 1906, in the Philippines. His parents were farmers and the children grew up working on the farm. He was 14 when his parents died. His oldest brother, 19-year-old Marc took over the farm with help from Andrew and the other siblings. The sisters did the housework and wove fabric to make clothes and sometimes helped in the fields, too.

Life was difficult in the Philippines. The family struggled just to keep everyone fed and clothed. Marc got a job working on a sugar cane plantation in Hawaii, so Andrew took over responsibility for the family farm. He planted some sugar cane and learned how to make molasses and wine, which they then sold.

He had heard stories about how wonderful the United

States was, and by age 19, he had enough money saved to make the trip. He and a cousin bought



*Above:* Balatico Farm, Mercer Slough. Andrew is third from left, brother Marc is far left.

*Left:* Andrew C. Balatico, Jr, 18 years of age. Photo taken in the Philippines.



tickets on the Empress of the China. They could only afford the cheapest tickets, which meant their bunks were at the bottom of the boat, next to the cargo. But the ship was clean and well lit and they could go up on the decks to watch the ocean. Their long journey concluded when they finally arrived in Seattle in 1926.

Andrew's first job was changing out the ties on the

railroad in the Cascade Tunnel. After quitting his job with the railroad, he began working for a Japanese farmer in the Kent/Auburn area. He learned a lot about farming in the United States from the Japanese couple. The man taught Andrew what could be planted early so you could get an early harvest, and the woman taught him the best way to pick the strawberries and peas. In the late 1930s, Andrew

*continued on page 2...*

*Balatico...continued from page 1*

bought three acres with the money he saved from the farming job. It would be next to today's South Bellevue Park and Ride lot. He also rented the farm land next door, owned by Mrs. Eleanor Renninger who lived in Beaux Arts Village. Neither plot of land was ready to farm, so Andrew had to cut trees, blast stumps, dig ditches for water drainage and level the ground. In return for his work, Mrs. Renninger gave him rent credit.

Once the land was ready, he grew strawberries, peas, cabbage and cauliflower. When the crops were ripe, he and his workers would pick and pack the produce to sell to wholesalers in Seattle. With the money he raised, and some help from one of his brothers, Andrew was able to buy Mrs. Renninger's acres for his farm.

When World War II started, the Japanese farmers in the area, including Andrew's neighbor, had to pack up quickly and go to internment camps. He helped take care of the neighbor's farm while they were gone. Many of the Japanese people, who were loyal American Citizens, lost everything during that time.

In 1960, at 55 years old, Andrew made his first trip back to the Philippines. There he married Angelina Valdez and brought her back to Bellevue where they later had a son and daughter.

He sold the farm in 1976 but continued farming until the Park and Ride Lot was built. Even then, he kept raising vegetables for his family. Andrew was 92 when he passed away on December 8, 1998.

## EHC Wish list

EHC is seeking the following donations:

### FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL (present and future)

- Children's prizes: activity books, comic books, young adult books with a historical theme (e.g., Anne of Green Gables, Laura Ingalls Wilder, etc.)

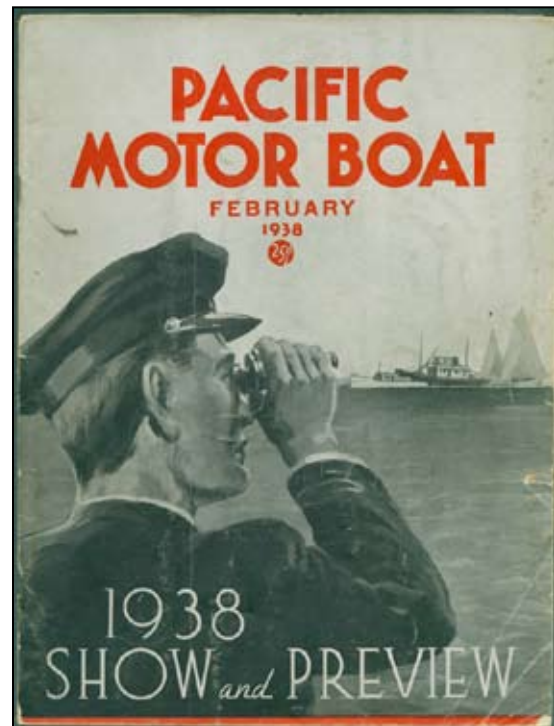
### FOR THE OFFICE:

- Blank cassette tapes  
- Empty shoe boxes

### FOR THE COLLECTION:

- Early Eastside photographs, including postcards.  
- Eastside newspapers published prior to 1950.  
- Any written material on Eastside topics published prior to 1918.

*Note: The Kirkland newspaper office burned down in 1918. Kirkland Heritage Society and Eastside Heritage Center together have only managed to find about two dozen Eastside papers published before then.*



## Recent Accessions

Thank you for your donations to the collection:

### Esther Blye

- Norm Blye's "Ferry Tales" notes and documents.

### Nan Campbell

- Plaques and certificates from her political career.

### Alexa Munoz

- Documents from the Nokomis Club of Redmond.

### Tim Johnson

- A 1938 issue of "Pacific Motorboat" magazine.

### Ken Schiring

- Ticket Book from the 520 Bridge at the time that the tolls were removed.

### Stu Vander Hoek

- Publications from the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and the Bellevue Downtown Association.

### Ross McIvor

- 1971 Map of Seattle and the Eastside.



*Above:* Pacific Motorboat magazine donated by Tim Johnson.

*Left:* 520 Bridge Ticket Book donated by Ken Schiring.

# Education Happenings

Jane Morton  
Education Coordinator

Natural Resource Week 2011 was held the week of May 23 at the Mercer Slough Nature Park in Bellevue. Each year, Bellevue Parks and Community Services invites fourth and fifth grade students in the City of Bellevue to participate in environmental education classes offered by



natural resource professionals from the area (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Woodland Park Zoo, Audubon, etc.).

This year the learning topics were Wetlands, Forestry, and Wildlife.

The History rotation at the Winters House was not offered this year, as Bellevue Parks wanted to center activities on the east side of the Slough.

Eastside Heritage Center was still involved, however, with a lunch activity each day (building with logs) and a history of the Slough delivered

by Jane Morton as part of the Forestry class. Ken Schiring, Karen Klett, and Barb Williams all helped with the lunch logging activities.

It was a great week and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Bellevue Parks for this program in future years.

# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

2011 Eastside Heritage Center

**TAKE A JOURNEY, HAVE FUN!**

**Bellevue Crossroads International Park**  
**Saturday, June 25, 10AM-8PM &**  
**Sunday, June 26, 10AM-5PM**

Food ✦ Entertainment ✦ Strawberry Shortcake ✦ Fun ✦ Hands-on History ✦ Vendor Booths ✦ more....

Microsoft Playtest  
[www.microsoft.com/playtest](http://www.microsoft.com/playtest)

**FAMILY FUN AREA**

**Free Parking & Shuttle**  
**At Highland Middle School**  
 On Bel-Red Rd,  
 East of 148th Ave NE  
 in Bellevue.

more than just money  
**RECU**

**Classic Auto Show**  
**(Sunday, 10AM-3PM)**

[www.bellevuestrawberryfestival.org](http://www.bellevuestrawberryfestival.org)

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**Presented by:**  
 EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER  
 Discover. Share. Participate.

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 Paper Sound Design  
 Owen/Conroy/Ark  
 Signature Windows Explanations  
 Turtle Clingworth Clinic  
 Wheel Coast Vinyl  
 Allied Waste & Recycling  
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 Bayline Architects  
 Kibler Malcoms  
 John Robert Powers  
 Bucks Brothers Farms  
 Nease Gardens  
 The Clusters Opt

## Eastside Heritage Center

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### Staff

Heather Trescases <i>Executive Director</i>	Megan Carlisle <i>Archivist</i>	Jane Morton <i>Education Coordinator</i>
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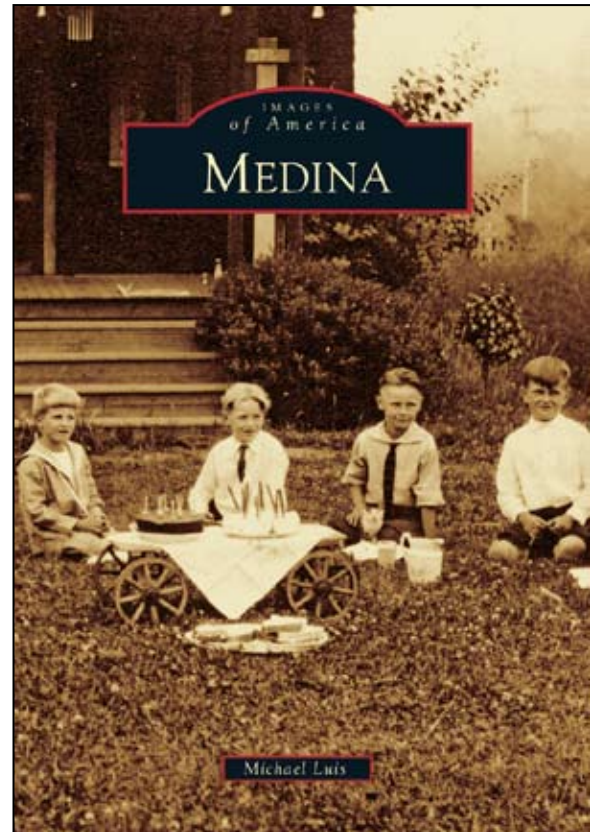
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Rosa McDonald	Marcy Williams

## New in the EHC Bookstore



Medina, once the gateway to the central Eastside, has become a fashionable suburb and a great place for families. This book by EHC Board President Michael Luis, a third-generation Medina resident, combines fascinating photos and documents with the first comprehensive historical narrative of the city. Learn about ferries and wharfs, homes and businesses, development of the SR-520 corridor and about the people that built Medina from the ground up.

Available at [www.EastsideHeritageCenter.org](http://www.EastsideHeritageCenter.org) for \$26.00 (tax and shipping included).

### Reminder: The *Heritage Reflector* is now digital!

The *Heritage Reflector* is now available on our website and via email distribution. Make sure we have your current email address so that you do not miss an issue as we phase out our printed version! Send an email to [director@eastsideheritagecenter.org](mailto:director@eastsideheritagecenter.org) and include the subject line "Subscribe to Heritage Reflector."

# Upcoming Programs



May 28-July 10, 2011

Crossroads  
Shopping Center

NE 8th & 156th Ave NE, Bellevue

## “JOURNEY TUNES” MUSIC NIGHT

*Date & Time:* Thursday, June 30, 2011  
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

*Location:* Crossroads Shopping Center Stage  
(15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue)

Celebrate *Journey Stories* through music! Stroll through the *Journey Stories* exhibit, grab a bite to eat and enjoy some great musical performances by local artists.

5:15 PM Jon Pfaff  
6:30 PM Tom Rawson  
7:45 PM Blue Lizard Band

Presented by Eastside Heritage Center, with the support of Crossroads Bellevue.

## FRASER CABIN HERITAGE DAYS

*Date & Time:* Saturdays, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, 2011  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*Location:* Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Bellevue

Visitors are invited to participate in hands-on activities that relate to early Eastside settler life at the historic 1888 Fraser Cabin. Eastside Heritage Center staff and volunteers present the activities and interpret the log cabin that was built and lived in by the Fraser family over 100 years ago!

Presented in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services.

## CATTAIL HARVEST

*Date & Time:* Sunday, September 18, 2011  
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

*Location:* Lewis Creek Visitors Center  
(5808 Lakemont Blvd., Bellevue)

Rain or shine, join EHC Volunteer Barb Williams for a walk to the cattail marsh. Learn how Native Americans harvested the cattails and why they were so important to these clever people who discovered how to make mats that heat up! You might even make a mat yourself to take home. Presented in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services.

*Journey Stories* is a compelling Smithsonian exhibition that shows how our evolving mobility changed a young nation and how transportation made us grow. Eastside Heritage Center companion exhibits include:

**OVER THE BRIDGE...:** The first Lake Washington Floating Bridge opened on July 2, 1940, and the Eastside would never be the same. Learn how the bridge was constructed, who promoted it, and why it was the symbol of Seattle for over twenty years.

**PERSONAL JOURNEY STORIES:** Some Eastside residents crossed the floating bridge to get here. Others crossed continents and oceans. Who were they, and where did they come from? How did they get here, and what happened after they arrived?

**STORIES OF TODAY:** Immigrants still comprise a large part of the Eastside's population. 30% of Bellevue's current residents and 20% of Redmond's were born outside of the United States. What brings people to the Eastside today?

**EASTSIDE SOUVENIRS:** The French word souvenir means memory. Souvenirs are items meant to help a person remember a place or event. Eastside communities and organizations have produced their share of souvenirs. How many do you have?

*Journey Stories* is part of *Museum on Main Street*, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Humanities Washington. It is being presented in Bellevue by Eastside Heritage Center, in partnership with Crossroads Shopping Center.



**Journey Stories Exhibit Grand Opening, May 28, 2011.**

*Left to Right:* Bellevue Councilmember Claudia Balducci, Bellevue Mayor Dr. Don Davidson, King County Councilmember Jane Hague, Victor Harja, Elise Trescases, Heather Trescases.

# Heritage Corner

## Voices of our Past: Ruth Clise Colwell

The oldest oral history in our collection was recorded on March 17, 1971. In this interview Ruth Clise Colwell and her relatives discussed Willowmoor (the Clise family estate) with members of the Northeast King County Historical Association. Ruth's father, James Clise, turned the area into a large farm in the first two decades of the 20th century.

Willowmoor is known today as Marymoor Park. The Northeast King County Historical Association is known as Eastside Heritage Center. In this excerpt, Ruth describes how James Clise selected the livestock for the farm.

*Ruth:* Father did a great deal of studying. ... When we first came here the houses were scattered here and there. And they came from everywhere, from Europe, and the people – some were educated and some were uneducated. But they knew very little about this part of the country. Father not only read a great deal, but he went to the University and talked to the man there to see what cattle would be best raised here and what horses would fit into this part of the country, and he spent a lot of time studying. This was at the time when they were having a lot of fairs because people wanted to know more. They had knowledge, but it hadn't been gotten together and so there was quite a lot of that being done just then. My son, my grandson, Allen Clise, has a Morgan horse. Al, will you tell them about that horse?

*Allen:* My Morgan horse isn't anything special except that he is a grandson of the famous Morgan, Troubador, which was grand champion at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.



Troubador, prize-winning Morgan horse, at Willowmoor, circa 1910.  
OR/L 79.79.347.

James Clise had a sizeable herd of Morgan horses here. Just after World War I, or just before, when this place was sold, the herd was sold to the army.

*Ruth:* When Father first was wondering what kind of horses would be best for this part of the country, the Army came and talked to him and advised that the Morgan horse was what they really wanted. They were better than racing horses, which were rather delicate. The Morgan, that was rather small at that time, was sturdy and good for the Army. So it was really for the Army that Father started that herd.

*Interviewer:* In raising cattle, you have to have a strong horse that

can stand up to the work, don't you?

*Allen:* The Morgan horses here really did the plowing – also it was a riding horse, carriage horse and haying horse. ...

*Interviewer:* Did [James Clise] specialize more in horses than in cattle?

*Ruth:* Oh, he was crazy about them both.

*Interviewer:* What kind of cattle?

*Ruth:* Well, he had Ayrshire. He went abroad to find out what kind of cattle would be best suitable here, and in Scotland he found a breed of Ayrshire cattle, and Scotland, of course, is quite a lot like the country around here, and he brought over, if I remember, about five Scot boys and about 10 or 15 cattle and started the herd at that time.

## Thank You

Eastside Heritage Center would like to thank the following funders for their recent grant awards:

- **4Culture**  
\$1,285 Heritage Education grant to update the "Strawberry Fields Forever" 8th Grade curriculum project.

\$5,000 Special Projects grant for a hands-on history partnership program with KidsQuest Children's Museum.

\$2,500 in support of a special *Journey Stories* video oral history project.

- **Bellevue Arts Commission**  
\$2,000 Special Projects grant for entertainment at the 2011 Strawberry Festival.

- **Humanities Washington**  
for its support in bringing the Smithsonian *Journey Stories* exhibit to Bellevue.

\*\*\*

We would also like to express our appreciation and give recognition to the following people for their contributions in memory of Donald Ford and Jean Everett:

David & Sherry Grindeland  
Jim & Paddy Loughran  
Barbara Reul  
Iris Tocher  
Nick & Heather Trescases

# Volunteer Corner

“You are the only person on this earth who can use your ability.” *Anonymous*

**Karen Klett**  
Volunteer Coordinator



Pat and Bob Sandbo have been faithful Winters House hosts since 1992, the year the House received its designation to the National Register of Historic Places. This treasured couple are now retiring and will be sorely missed; many thanks to them for their commitment! They have always understood that our use of this historic house as our public home, archives and research center is dependent on our Winters House hosts.

Pat and Bob’s departure means that we are now, more than ever, in need of four to five new hosts, especially on Saturdays! Members of the EHC Board have been hosting on the 3rd Saturday of the month and have found it to be an excellent experience.

PLEASE talk to your friends about this great opportunity to serve the EHC and to learn about Bellevue’s history.

Our presence is even more critical now that the house is primarily Eastside Heritage Center’s responsibility, since there is no longer a Park Ranger on site. Each host, devoting four hours a month, means that the house is open to the public; without them, it is impossible to fulfill our commitment to the City of Bellevue.

**Contact EHC and get involved today.**

Karen Klett  
Volunteer Coordinator  
425-450-1049  
karenklett@eastsideheritagecenter.org

**Eastside Heritage Center  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:**

- |                                       |        |                                      |       |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor   | \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward      | \$500  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family      | \$40  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter    | \$250  | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual  | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | \$100  | <input type="checkbox"/> Student     | \$15  |

Enroll me as:  New Member  Membership Renewal  Gift

MEMBER’S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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*This membership is a gift from:* \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

- Check (make checks payable to the Eastside Heritage Center)  
 Credit Card  
 Visa  Master Card  American Express

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Additional Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Eastside Heritage Center is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.*

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- Membership Card
- Quarterly Newsletter with historical features and program updates
- Invitations to exhibits and programs
- 10% discount on books and gift shop items

**CATEGORIES:**

**Benefactor - \$1,000**

Receives Steward Benefits, plus:  
 Honored at Annual Event

**Steward - \$500**

Receives Supporter benefits, plus:  
 Special publication  
 Curator’s Tour of the collection

**Supporter - \$250**

Receives Organization benefits, plus:  
 Historic photo reproduction

**Organization (schools, scout troops, etc) - \$100**

Receives Contributor benefits, plus:  
 Free Treasure Box rentals  
 Discounts on filed trips and classroom presentations

**Contributor - \$100**

Additional benefits include:  
 Access to Archives fee waived

**Family - \$40**

**Individual - \$25**

**Student (under 18 years of age) - \$15**

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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E-Mail: director@eastsideheritagecenter.org  
Website: www.eastsideheritagecenter.org

McDOWELL HOUSE (EHC Administrative Offices)  
Visiting Address: 11660 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005  
Tel: 425-450-1049

WINTERS HOUSE (National Historic Site and EHC Research Services)  
Visiting Address: 2102 Bellevue Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98004  
Tel: 425-450-1046 (EHC Research inquiries)  
425-452-2752 (City of Bellevue, Winters House)

Hours of Operation: EHC Research Office Hours  
Tues., 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

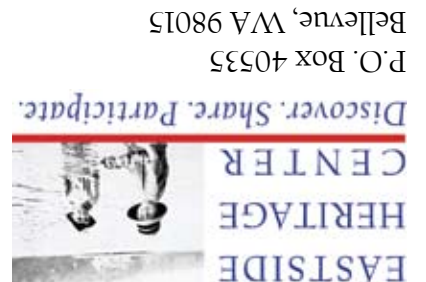
Winters House Public Visiting Hours:  
Tues 10:00 AM-4:00 PM ; Thurs-Sat 10:00 AM-2:00 PM ; Closed Mon, Wed & Sun.

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