



Harvest Fest Causes Donut Shortage in Gate City

By CeCe Talcott

The first annual Harvest Fest was held on Oct. 16 at our little Gate City Schoolhouse. People came from far away (Snuffy Smith's sister, Delores Irvine, came from San Gabriel, California!) to celebrate the school's 100th birthday. Others came from the big cities of Olympia and Centralia/Chelalis to give their children a chance to get their hands dirty throwing a pot, or to see firsthand how yarn is made from wool.

Evelyn Trussell (from Oregon) and her cousin Elmer Cook (from Winlock) attended the event because they wanted to see where their parents, George and Adelle Paroz, grew up. Their parents were part of a 14-member family who spent some years in Gate City. As Evelyn socialized with the other long-timers, she said, "We think a lot about this place." Elmer added, "Seeing this place makes me wonder just what



Linda Remmers organized the Harvest Fest. She is a potter, and captivated children as she taught them how to use a potter's wheel. On left is Isaac Niemi, standing next to his sister Matia.

they went through."

The Harvest Fest provided a chance for the senior Gate City residents to socialize. Often during the day, the schoolhouse was jam-packed. Estimates are that 300 people attended. Cars were parked up and down Moon Road. The beef stew and fresh donuts were huge hits, huger than we thought. Next year we will make more.

Steve Kvalve's free horse-driven carriage ride was hugely popular. Toby, the massive paint horse, took adults and children on

scenic tours of Gate City, over the railroad tracks and down Hunter Road. All you could hear was clip-clop. All you could do was imagine.

Another big hit was the first-ever Black River Ping Pong Ball Regatta. Balls were launched by President Donna Weaver Smith, drifted down the Black River, then passed under the Moon Road Bridge. The first one to cross under the bridge was the winner. It belonged to Matt Niemi, who won a one-night stay at the Eagle's Landing Hotel.

The Harvest Fest was a fund-raising event, and did what it intended by putting more than \$800 into the coffers to restore the schoolhouse. But, what the event also did was to show that family-friendly, kids-oriented, educational events are still valued, by people from Gate City, and locations beyond.

Congratulations and a million thanks to Linda Remmers who organized and lost sleep over this event, and to her ever-pleasant infrastructure guy, Larry.

Sat. December 11, 6 PM Christmas Party/ Potluck

- Bring a side dish or dessert and a can of food for the food drive
- Bring a wrapped gift valued at around \$5 (or homemade) if you want to join the Morris Dodge Gift Swap (It gets wild!)
- Join the decked-out Christmas tree raffle!
- Quilt raffle winner will be chosen!



Gate Community Club 2010 Annual Membership Form

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email: _____ Please send newsletter via mail or email.

Check one:

- \$5 Emeritus Member (for previous longtime members)
- \$25 Emerald Member
- \$25 Ruby Member
- \$75 Diamond Member
- \$100 Centennial Member (includes Glimpses of Gate book)

- \$250 Gold Sponsorship
- \$500 Platinum Sponsorship
- \$ _____ Business Sponsorship (includes ad in Gate City Globe)

Mail form and check or money order to:
Gate Community Club, PO Box 261, Rochester, WA 98579



Harvest Fest Brings Community Together

Photo above: Snuffy Smith, Dottie and Richard Hendricks, and Evelyn Trussell look over an historic black and white photo of Evelyn's grandparents and their children during the Harvest Fest. The event provided a fun time for people to reminisce.

Photo right: Steve Kvalve walks in front of Toby and a carriage full of site-seers. Steve and Toby gave free horse-drawn rides during the Harvest Fest.



All potlucks and events are held at the Historic Gate City School, 1 mile north of Highway 12 on Moon Road, Rochester.

Upcoming Potlucks

- Sat. Dec 11, 6 PM: Potluck/Party
- Sat. Jan. 8, 6 PM: Potluck
- Sat. Feb. 12, 6 PM: Potluck
- Sat. March, 12, 6 PM: Potluck

Save These '11 Dates

- Sat. April 23: 10-4 Spring Fair
- Mon. July 4: 10 AM Golf Tournament, 11 AM Horseback Ride, 5 PM BBQ at Golf Course
- Sat. July 23: 9-Noon, Pancake Feed
- Sat. Oct. 15: 10-4, Harvest Fest

Board Gets Batty

At the last meeting of the GCC Board, there was much talk about the bats in the belfry. When plaster from the ceiling over the kitchen remodel fell on **Mike Mooney**, it is reported that he yelled, "Guano!"

What to do with these sometimes creepy, sometimes delightful flying mammals?

Let's prove that you *can* polish a bat turd. The board is talking about "rehomeing" the bats to bat houses in the

extra lot. People can sponsor a bat house, and have their names on them.

Then, there can be bat viewing nights, bat education workshops, batmobile races, etc. If you have any ideas, please call our fearless Bat Woman, **Donna Weaver Smith**, at 360-273-0707.

