

# Bellingham, Washington Former Teacher Weaves Apparel Of Distinction

By CALVIN JOHNSON  
Herald Reporter

BELLINGHAM (AP) — Along one of Copenhagen's tourist-filled streets recently a young American housewife startled her husband by suddenly darting from his side to greet another woman like a long lost friend.

"I never saw her before," the housewife later explained. "I thought she might know Elmer Barber. She was wearing a Barber skirt."

The American tourist was referring to 54-year-old Mrs. James Barber, a former grade school teacher, who operates a hand-weaving shop near Bellingham. The shop is in a long concrete-block structure behind her small frame home. Both buildings stand on land purchased 30 years ago from the Lummi Indians.

Mrs. Barber is a short woman. She looks younger than her 54 years. Her graying hair is offset by the spring in her step and the snap in her voice.

Her clothes are literally hand-made, but would do justice to a Fifth Avenue frock shop. She wears heavy-rimmed glasses, respects her husband's business judgment, smokes unfiltered cigarettes, and has a painter's feeling for color, balance and design.

"Things like that Copenhagen incident have happened in other parts of the world," she told a visitor during a tour of her loom room. "One woman told me my designs are as distinctive as a barber pole."

"But I think it's the color and balance rather than design that makes Barber material so easily recognizable. Of course the designs are important too," she said.

"Here's what I mean," Mrs. Barber paused at one of 12 looms operated by a Lummi Indian woman. "Watch for a few moments."

The woman's hands were a blur as she slid a long bobbin through parallel layers of taut cotton thread. Her feet moved from side to side depressing what looked like organ treads that raised and lowered various strands after each passage of the bobbin.

## Student Wins Legion Fete

DUNSMUIR — Winifred Anderson, Dunsmuir eighth grade student, has won second place in the Department of California, American Legion Auxiliary, Americanism essay contest, Mrs. Velda Shearer, Americanism chairman of Epps unit, confirmed recently.

Winifred will be given a check for \$50 and a certificate of award for her outstanding essay at the annual Epps Post and Unit picnic at the Dunsmuir City Park on Thursday, July 17.

Patty McEnerney, Girls' State delegate, and Joe Ammirati and Richard Anderson, Boys' State delegates, will also be special guests at the picnic and report on their experiences at these respective events.

The picnic will be a family affair and will begin at 6:30.

Recent unit events include the annual election at which Myrtle French consented to serve as president for another term of office. Her corps of officers will also continue in office. They are Christine Coon, first vice president; Lois Beutel, second vice president; Virginia Martin, secretary; Sidona Beaughan, treasurer; Clara Nibecker, chaplain; Rosa Carter, marshal; Susan Martin Sergeant-at-arms; Nellie King, historian.

## Massey Presents Ike With Gift

OTTAWA (AP)—Gov. Gen. Vincent Massey has presented an Eskimo stone carving to President Eisenhower.

It was done by Thomase, a leading Eskimo carver who lives with his wife and family in the village of Povungnituk, on the east coast of Hudson Bay.

The carving, seven inches high and weighing 14 pounds, shows an Eskimo hunter, with a full bag under his left arm, rising from the snow and slinging a Canada goose over his left shoulder with his right hand.

"This is Delores Senior," said Mrs. Barber. "She's completing an order from a store in Montana."

The material being "built" contained about six different colored threads. The overall effect might be called one of colored salt and pepper.

"There is no distinctive pattern here," said Mrs. Barber. "yet there is a definite design and weaving formula that combine to create visual balance and color harmony. This is a special order. Most of our cloth has a recognizable pattern."

The weaver never interrupted her rhythmic movements. "Delores has been with me a long time," said Mrs. Barber. "Over there is Verla Kinley," she pointed.

"Delores and Verla now run the weaving shop. I taught them most of what they know about weaving. Now they teach the new girls. I no longer weave. . . just spend my time experimenting with new designs and color."

"These Lummi girls are wonderful workers. They have great patience and skillful hands. We usually keep nine to 12 of them employed, although we have had as many as 17 during the rush season (June to Christmas)."

Mrs. Barber hired her first weaver in 1946 when she chose to convert a ten-year-old hobby into a profession. "So many people offered to buy things from me, I finally decided to try making a living at it," she explained.

"I started with one loom and half a garage." Now she has about ten times as much working space. "I guess you might call it the only hand-woven concrete building in the state," she said.

Business growth accounted for building growth. The Barber "dirndl" (or peasant-type skirt) was the chief item for many years. Today's Barber-woven products include dresses, sheaths, chemises, aprons, ties, blouses and children's clothes. Three Bellingham women do the tailoring for finished items sold at the Barber shop.

Uncut cloth ordered by stores and individuals in America and overseas absorbs a large percentage of the Barber production. "We seem to be able to sell all we can make," she said.

Workmanship and quality ingredients have added to the demand for Barber cloth. Skirts and dresses are still being worn six and seven years after purchase, and color — also has a lasting quality. "By experimenting we have arrived at something the public likes," Mrs. Barber said.

In creating a new design, she does it "from head to loom." She never makes drawings. Once developed, she gives her designs a "name."

Here is an example picked at random from her record book: "evergreen LWTSY's new."

Translated, it loses none of its mystery: "Little white twill and 20 tabbles, one-shot white, four tabbles, double self-twill with a center gold shot, eight tabbles, one half new done in white and repeat to the beginning."

These security regulations for designs are "because some hand weavers are notorious pirates. That's why I keep everything up here," she said, touching her temple.

"Delores, Verla and I know most of the designs from memory. . . and there are thousands of them. . . but I don't think they're going to tell anyone."

"The only thing I don't mess with around here is the business end of the business," she said. "My husband handles all that."

"We made an agreement years ago and stuck to it. He handles all the paper work. I handle the designs and production."

The system has worked out pretty well. Gross income of the Barber Hand Weaving Shop is now approaching \$100,000 a year.



MILLER'S Department Stores observed their 50th anniversary recently and tied in the observance with the annual blanket sales promotion. Each of the 17 stores in the chain presented a lucky winner with a cedar chest which holds two blankets. Shown here is the Klamath Falls winner, Mrs. D. W. Lavin, 5531 South Sixth Street, accepting her gift from Walter Kennett, manager of the Klamath Falls Miller's outlet.

## Invest With Care, Wife Of Broker Tells Women

By ELMER C. WALZER  
UPI Financial Editor

NEW YORK (UPI) — Women own half of the stock outstanding in this nation and each day more of them become potential investors through inheritance or insurance left by their husbands.

Many of them lack training in market procedure and often lose a large part of their money that should have provided for their future.

Mrs. Morton Seidel, of Beverly Hills, Calif., wife of an investment banker, gives women some advice on this subject in the current Commercial & Financial Chronicle.

She decries the free advice given women by novices in investment. "The layman in the field of investment is an offender," she says. "A person who has no knowledge or experience or has not had the opportunity to study problems, techniques, or methods of investing is not a person from whom to take advice."

Women should invest with care, says Mrs. Seidel. "We should read more books, articles, reports written by financial men and hear reliable, well-informed speakers. We should study and above all learn to read a balance sheet."

And what about checking up on one's investment adviser? The women, Mrs. Seidel holds, should investigate his moral and financial standing, his reputation, background, and his interest in his clients.

"You'll throw your money away if you accept tips on nothing better than rumor," she explains. "And a woman shouldn't become angry with the counselor who tells her, 'don't buy.'"

She explains that investments must be made to suit the individual. What is good for one may not be good for another—another, perhaps, with plenty of money to take chances.

What is the criterion of a good investment? It is one the coun-

selor can describe: "This is as safe as any good security can be." Here's why:

"1. It has conscientious, reliable well-trained men at its head."

"2. It has paid its dividends without interruption for years."

"3. It is a type of business which does not fluctuate from prince to pauper."

Mrs. Seidel insists women must familiarize themselves with the fundamentals of investment. They must know the various terms used in dealing in stocks and bonds.

The best way for a woman to learn all that, is from her husband while he is still alive, says Mrs. Seidel.

Donald I. Rogers, financial and business editor of the New York Herald Tribune, not long ago wrote a book designed to give such instruction, entitled "Teach your wife to be a widow."

He seriously outlined the problems involved when a man dies and leaves an inexperienced widow with more money than she has ever seen before without a knowledge of how to handle it. He gives details on methods, and generally outlines what the widow ought to know.

And just to show that all women aren't eager to learn about investment, one married woman wrote Rogers and asked where she might buy the book on "how to become a widow."

## Senate Confirms AEC Nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate confirmed the nomination of John A. McCone to be a member of the Atomic Energy Commission Wednesday. Action was by voice vote.

McCone, a Los Angeles businessman, was nominated by President Eisenhower for a five-year term to succeed Lewis Strauss, the commission chairman, who stepped out recently.

## British Cancer Scientists Find Dangerous Electricity

By ALTON BLAKESLEE  
Associated Press Science Writer

LONDON (AP) — British scientists have found a curious and apparently dangerous electricity in cancers.

The healthy cells stick together and don't go wandering off. But cancer cells seem to develop strong negative electric charges. This could make them repel other cells, so they move about freely and spread to start cancers elsewhere in the body.

This electrical action was described in a report today to the seventh International Cancer Congress by E. J. Ambrose and G. Easty of the Chester Beatty Research Institute in London.

They have been studying cells growing in tissue culture. The cells are kept alive and growing in glass tubes or plates. The cancer cells gained increasingly strong negative charges as a tumor developed and as it became more invasive or able to

spread, the scientists said. The negative charge became stronger than that of healthy cells. The cancer cells could be made to stick together by adding certain chemicals which carry a positive electric charge.

The research is helping to explain the chemical nature of changes taking place on the surface of cancer cells. It might even prove useful as a method someday of stopping the spread of cancers.

Among other reports to today's session of the cancer congress: The experimental antibiotic Actinomycin D produced a slight but definite improvement in about a fifth of 54 patients with various

forms of cancer. The benefits were temporary, reported Doctors C. T. C. Tan and Joseph H. Burchenal of the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York.

Mitomycin C, an antibiotic discovered in Japan, and several other drugs can cure leukemia in mice which is caused by virus. Sloan-Kettering Doctors Kanematsu Sigura and C. Chester Stock said. The drug is not yet available for human use.

Mice that fight win a defense against leukemia. This happens in a strain of mice susceptible to this blood cancer. Females ordinarily die when they are 270 days old and the males when 305 days old.

The males of this strain fight but if kept from fighting they die as early as the females. Those males allowed to fight live two months longer on an average.

Fighting perhaps stimulates the adrenal gland and the production of adrenalin, according to Dr. Paul Lecomte of the University of Montreal.

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