



- (1) This little snap-shot was the beginning! It inspired the the idea and sparked the interest in doing what so many had talked about and wanted for so many years -- A reunion of pre-World War II friends. Arline Yarbrough invited those in the picture to dinner and it was at that time that she suggested a reunion picnic of friends. This was in June 1972.

Back row: *Candace Coleman, Evelyn Taylor, *Helen Frazier,

Middle row: *Susan McVey, Louise Adams, Willetta Gayton,
Emma Gayton, Bernice Gray, *Idelle Vertner,
Babe Holmes.

Front row: Clarissa Wildy, Sarai Haith, Maceola Smith**

The picture was taken on the steps of the N.T. Greene home on 21st Avenue in Seattle.

*Deceased

**Present married name unknown.

- (2) Those living in the Seattle area responded to the dinner invitation and the reunions of "old-timers" was begun that same year, September 1972. By 1973, the name ROOTS (Relatives of old-timers) was adopted.

Back row: Letcher Yarbrough, Bernice Gray, Babe Holmes,
Charles Taylor, Emma Gayton, Willetta Gayton,
Leonard Gayton.

Front row: Louise Adams, *Roy Holmes, Evelyn Taylor,
Charles Adams.

This picture was taken on the sun deck of the Yarbrough home in Kirkland. The hostess snapped the picture.

*Deceased

- (3) The first seven picnics were held at Seward Park. The The reunions had never been "rained-out", but the threat was always there and caused considerable anxiety. In order to eliminate the threat of cancelling the picnic and to provide shelter in the event of rain, the picnic was moved to Gas Works Park and adequate covered area. The number of participants has increased from the 300 at the first picnic, to over 1000 on several occasions. Many "old-timers" have returned "home" to be with friends and relatives -- some coming great distances from all over the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, and from Mexico.

From left to right: Bernice Gray, Charles Taylor, Emma Gayton, Leonard Gayton, Evelyn Taylor, Louise Adams, Charles Adams, Letcher Yarbrough, Arline Yarbrough.