



Emma Isabella Barnett

(1888-1979)

Emma Isabella Barnett and her husband, Harry (1883--1964), arrived in Mission in 1918 and took up residence for the next fifty years at the foot of "Mt. Mary Ann" at the corner of Stave Lake Street and Cherry.

Upon their arrival, Emma and her husband befriended Mr. Kudo, a prominent member of Mission's Japanese community. At Mr. Kudo's request, Mrs. Barnett began to teach English to his son and eventually, other Japanese children.

In 1929, Emma opened a kindergarten to help prepare Japanese children for entry into the local school system. The kindergarten remained in operation until the Japanese were evacuated in April of 1942 during World War II.

Her outstanding role as an educator among the Japanese had a lasting impression for many of Emma's former students kept in contact with her until she died in 1979.

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