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THE BICENTENNIAL IS A THINGAMAJIG

The children were preparing to make bicentennial flags, a bicentennial cake for the front of the school, a bicentennial banner. But first: a little discussion. "What," I asked the children is a 'bicentennial.!' "

"Ummm," said Nancy, "it's a thingmajig. I don't know how it works but that's what it is. But I don't have one."

"It's a year," said Stacey the wise.

"Bicentennial means birthday, I think," said Michael tentatively.

Laurie raised her hand and glanced around for full attention. She got it because Laurie always had GOOD IDEAS. "It tells you when the United States had its first birthday and some people have flags out because at the president's house he has a flag in his backyard." Laurie's description seemed overwhelming and there were only one-liners to follow.

Scott: "It tells you because they fought because it was the United States birthday."

"Bicentennial?" asked Julie. "I think that was when they got here and they fought and then they thought to make a bicentennial."

Enough discussion. On with the flag making and raising. When all decorations were up, Brandon, sotto voce, added the fillip: "I think the bicentennial tells you when somebody just invented Seattle!"

Nancy admired the total effect. "I think a bicentennial is the prettiest thingamajig I ever saw!"