



House Notes, a digest of recent events



A bench honoring former Board members Genyss and Robert Vaughn is now on the lawn in front of the cabin porch. The open patches around the trees and where trees were removed have been reseeded and the grass is coming in beautifully. This is part of the new landscaping plan that the Historical Society and the city are developing.

A display of 50 vintage, historical and unique quilts was created by Curator Vicki Conner for the 2017 open season.

The Ice Cream Social held June 25th will be re-imagined for next year and possibly tied in with another event. This year's social fell on one of the hottest days so attendance was low. The Red Hat ladies from the senior center helped out with the social and the plan is to partner with them again next year.

The bees have been banished from the east front porch and a fairly large area of the damaged siding removed and replaced with siding and square head nails that match the original.



Ice Cream Social



Rhubarb Racers & Rockets



"Newsies" deliver the Rhubarb Times

Rhubarb Days, July 15 and 16th, was a big event for the Historical Society. Our visitor count was high, one of the largest for this year. Visitors enjoyed the *Vintage Quilt Display*, the *Aprons from the Archives* in the kitchen and the exhibit, *Rhubarb Roots, Past & Present*, posters and artifacts telling the story of rhubarb around the world and specifically in the Sumner ~ Puyallup Valley.



Docents gather on the porch for Rhubarb Days

Mike Conner manned a **VFW Booth** on the front lawn and the Historical Society hosted two children's activities on the lawn, **Rhubarb Racers and Rhubarb Rockets**. These activities were sponsored by GFWC Valley Volunteers and by the Summer Downtown Promotion Association. Fresh rhubarb for the racers was donated by Scholz Farm.



Mike Conner at VFW Booth

The Historical Society participated in **Sumner Days**, August 5 with their self guided history tour "Walking Main" featuring the history of the oldest buildings on Main Street. Over 70 people participated in the walk.

On August 13th the museum was open with extended hours for the **Classy Chassis Car Show**. Attendance at the museum was very good.

September and October the museum is closed as the Historical Society prepares for the holiday season open weekends and events.



Classy Chassis (photo by City of Sumner)



House Notes, coming up!



HALLOWEEN AT THE RYAN HOUSE MUSEUM

October 31st brings over 1200 people to our museum's front lawn. The Street of Treats event officially spans two hours but in reality runs at least three hours. We will be ready with treats and a fun experience.

A team of Board members and volunteers are busy turning this year's vision into actuality.

Be prepared for a landscape of vintage trappings and the porch filled with friendly fiends.

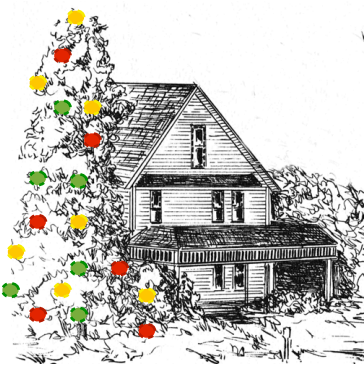


91st Annual Tree Lighting

For over 100 years Sumner's Main Street has been decorated for the holiday season. At first it was the merchants and businesses who decked out their establishments with merchandized windows and holiday lighting and trim.

In the early 20's, Lewis D. Ryan added street decorations to Main Street's light poles, hanging cedar festoons interwoven with colored electric lights to create a bright holiday canopy along Main street.

In 1926 Lewis decorated the holly tree on the museum's front lawn, naming it Sumner's Tree of Light. Please join us this year for the 91st Anniversary of our town's tree lighting. **Saturday, November 25.** The evening starts at 5:30 pm with tree lighting at 6 pm. There will be refreshments and caroling and the house will be open for tours. Check our web site for updates.



The Tree of Light

Holiday Schedule for 2017

November 25 ~ Tree Lighting & Open House 5:30 pm
November 25, 26 ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm
December 2, 3 ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm
December 9, 10 ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm
December 16, 17 ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm
December 18 ~ Closed for the Winter



Story on page 5



Looking back to 1949 When the Circus came to Sumner

It's fun to read the Sumner newspapers. The last locally owned Sumner paper was published in June 1990, however the Sumner Historical Society archives contain most of the papers from 1889 to 1990 on paper or on microfilm.

So, it's fun to read the Sumner newspapers. How else would we know that on July 26, 1949, the Seal Brothers Circus came to Sumner and set up for a one day stand in Griffen's pasture. An ad in the July 21, 1949 Sumner News Index promises a colossal event.

Griffen's pasture was an open field, a bulky triangle where Sunset Chevrolet is now. Locals remember horses pasturing where, today, horsepower reigns.

The owner of The Seal Brothers Circus was Fred (Bud) Anderson and this was not his first circus. In 1915 Bud started with a dog and pony show in Emporia, Kansas. He worked his way up to starting the Seal Brothers Circus during the depression, after a few years he sold it and started Anderson's Jungle Oddities Circus which he sold, and in 1948 formed a new Seal Brothers Circus.

That circus started its tour in March at Giddings, Texas and by July found it's way to Sumner. Other Washington State stops on the way were Kennewick, Prosser, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Wapato and Goldendale. He liked small towns.

The ad in the newspaper trumpets 150 performers, 22 tents and 5000 seats but it was probably a stock ad used in every small town and what actually came to Sumner would have been a smaller show. In those days there were no regulations for Truth in Circus Advertising.

Let's look at the logistics, Griffen's Pasture would not hold all the ad ballyhooed and still have room for customers. Plus our small town (under 3000 at the time) would struggle to host such a large influx. We would run out of rhubarb pie!



photograph, courtesy City of Sumner



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(from page 3)

Billboard Magazine in 1949 carried "help wanted" ads plus a roster for Bud's circus tour. There were over 25 support people with jobs and titles like superintendent, canvas man, office wagon, equestrian director, ticket promotion, electrician, master of transportation, head waiter, brigade agent, band leader and country routes. Bud was also looking for a trombone player, cook, ticket sellers and dancing girls.

When you pay cash for ads you usually get free ink. The News Index ran an article telling folks to expect to see these performers. Wilhemina, the ponderous performing pachyderm, the Fuller family with acrobatic and tumbling feats, the Dekohl trio, jugglers. There would be trained dogs and monkeys plus a Liberty Horse Act, riderless steeds performing in tandem to the horse master's verbal instructions and crack of a whip.

There were many clowns. Billboard gave us their names, Happy Kelly, Fats Miller, Harry Harris, Slats Henderson, Wally McKinley and Randy Johnson.

Billboard listed the Concert Band (featuring Lenord Buck Jones) and the sideshow acts. The Hopkins Family Scotch Bagpipe Band; Marie Leter, ventriloquist; Cleo Bennett, mentalist; Dorothy Taft, Sword box; Val Deene, tattoo artist and Maye Jones, Hawaiian Village. Eddie and Frenchy Moore handled the inside concessions.



Billboard 7-9-1949



Billboard 5-21-1949



Matt Laurish with the Bud Anderson Liberty Horses



Hawaiian Village, Doc Capell Show 1941

It had to be an exciting show for Sumner and it is probable that more than one young man in the bleachers daydreamed about running off to join the circus. Bud probably needed help by then, the circus had been on the road for five months. Maybe the job of "candy floss man" was open. A cotton candy making machine cost \$235. in 1949, expensive, but a money maker and fun to operate.

After Sumner the circus traveled to other small towns in Washington, Idaho and Montana. It went on tour again in 1950. On June 14, 1950 Bud was killed when a semitrailer carrying horses overturned on a mountain highway in Montana. The next show, that same day, went on as scheduled in Forsythe. That gives meaning to the expression, 'the show must go on'. Luke Anderson, Bud's son, took over the business and later renamed it the Wallace & Clark Circus. He went on touring the same routes as his father.

Let's revisit Griffen's pasture, where Sunset Chevrolet stands now. Could it be that part of Sunset's success is because it occupies the same piece of ground where people once flocked for showmanship and salesmanship? Did those vibes carry on into the present? If so, Bud Anderson would have been proud to add something to Sumner's success and Sumner's history.





Sumner Historical Society

Caretakers of the Ryan House Museum

Mission Statement: To collect, preserve and display books, letters, diaries, photos, clothing, and other artifacts of the history of Sumner and surrounding areas

Officers

President: Kris Arnold
Vice President: Linda Sader
Treasurer: Pam Prasch
Secretary: Dale Loseth
Curator: Vicki Conner

Board Members

Vicki Conner
Rodger & Carolyn Stroeve
Linda Sader
John Galle
Marcha Lindberg
Dale & Rita Loseth
Ed Hannus
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Leroy Goff
Kris Arnold
Patricia Tribby
Sara Lucas
Ken Woolery
Mary Beth Ryan
Pam Prasch
Mike Conner



You can link your Fred Meyer Rewards card to benefit the Sumner Historical Society. Go to their website www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

Follow the instructions to Find us by name or by our non-profit number: 88948

When when you shop you still earn your points plus you help the historical society earn a donation!

Recent Donations to the Sumner Historical Society

Vaughn Family ~ Bench and monetary donation

Valenta Family ~ Metal toy truck, cobbler's forms

Purvis Family ~ Rug, box of items, annuals and utensils

Andrews Family ~ 1890's stereoscope and view-master



Visit our web site!

www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com

Don't want to type all that into the browser?

Just Google for **Sumner Historical** or **Ryan House Museum**
You will get there!

The Holiday Season at the Ryan House Museum



Check our calendar for our holiday open days. Here is a preview of what to expect.

The parlor will host a gathering of Santa Clauses from the Rodger and Carolyn Stroeve collection.

In the dinning room will be a new "pencil" Christmas tree which will be the home to Marcha Lindberg's angel collection.

The cabin will be decorated in primitive holiday style and the rest of the house, inside and out, decked out for the season.

Santas from the Stroeve Collection



Share your email address with us!

The Historical Society is planning a digital version of the newsletter for those who may want to receive and read it as a PDF document.

We are asking you to send your email address to:

sumnermuseum@comcast.net

We will keep you informed on the progress of the digital newsletter.



Ryan House Museum Fall Calendar

October ~ Closed for season

October 28 ~ Board Meeting, 10 am, open to the public

October 31 ~ Street of Treats, 5 pm – 7 pm

November 25 ~ Tree Lighting & Open House 5:30 pm

November 25, 26 ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm – 4 pm

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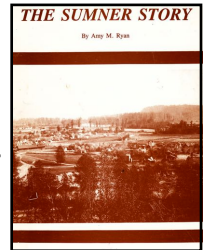
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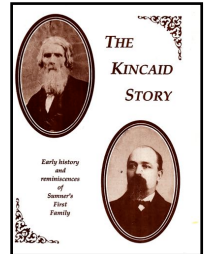
December 18 ~ Closed for the Winter

Available at the Museum

The Sumner Story
The History of Sumner
by Amy M. Ryan



The Kincaid Story
Early history and
reminiscences of
Sumner's First
Family



Visit our gift area for books, cards and items of local interest

Sumner Historical Society
Ryan House Museum
1228 Main Street
Sumner Washington, 98390

