



Rhubarb Days at the Ryan House Museum

July 27th and 28th, the 9th annual Rhubarb Days in Sumner were very busy for docents and volunteers at the museum. Both days on the lawn we had the rhubarb racers and rhubarb rockets sponsored by the Historical Society and the Sumner, Bonney Lake VFW and GFWC-Valley Volunteers. They were joined by a number of youth games and

activities run by Calvary Community Church. In addition, the Washington State Fair brought back Mabel the Milking Cow and also, new this year, the Wranglers youth booth. Mike Connor manned the VFW booth by the fountain. Docents in the house were very busy interacting with the over 800 visitors that came through the house. Two full days of family youth activities, honoring veterans and sharing history. They were busy, however the Society is already looking forward to next year's bigger and busier event. Go to our website to enjoy a photo collection.

Classy Chassis



August 11th the museum was open with extended hours for the **Classy Chassis Car Show**. This annual downtown event was made more enjoyable as more car owners participated. The street in front of the museum was packed with vehicles and visitors. The house was busy. View more pictures on our website.

Classy Chassis



A Digital Window to Sumner's History

The Sumner Historical Society is in the first stages of a plan to digitize the content of the Society's collection of Sumner newspapers.

The plan has been named the **Genyss Vaughn Saving History Project**. Vaughn, a long time teacher and librarian in the Sumner School District, bequeathed funds to the Historical Society. Those funds will be the nucleus for the newspaper project.

Sumner's last local weekly newspaper ceased publication in 1990.

Before that, for over 100 years the weekly paper was the most informed, enjoyed and anticipated source of local news and events.



The collection has most of the 7000 issues on paper or microfilm. However it is not easy to research paper and microfilmed newspapers. Today's research tools are digital so the collection will be digitized.

The project has been broken down into phases. This phase, **The Pictorial Era**, will focus on digitizing the papers from the late 40s to the late 50s.

Those papers were still being printed with traditional metal typesetting processes, printing a photograph was expensive because an outside firm would have to convert the photo into a printing plate. The publisher, Pete Andrews, came up with an inexpensive way to provide many photographs in each issue. He used a small offset job press to print a separate 10 x 13 inch "montage" of photos which were then inserted into that week's issue. Most photos related to a story in the issue. He titled the insert "**The Pictorial Section of the Sumner News Index.**" *Continued on page 5*



Free Halloween Party

For grades K-5,
Saturday
October 26th
6 pm to 8 pm
VFW Post on
Willow Street.

Games, prizes, popcorn, beverages, photo ops, music and lots of Halloween fun! The Halloween Party is geared for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th. A great way for children to show off their Halloween costumes. Parents costumes are encouraged.

This annual event is organized by the Sumner-Bonny Lake VFW Post 370 with assistance from Rainbow Girls, GFWC-Valley Volunteers and the Historical Society.

Halloween at the Ryan House Museum



In the afternoon our docents will decorate the house and lawn in a vintage Halloween fashion. We had more than 1400 last year so we expect lots of happy treaters! Each treat had a sticker with the museum's holiday greeting.



October 31st, 5 pm to 7 pm on the museum's front lawn.



The Holiday Season at the Ryan House Museum

Decorating with Collections and Gingerbread



This year we will bring back two unique seasonal collections that historical society members are sharing with us. The Stroeve's Santa collection and Marcha Lindberg's angel collection, New this year will be a Gingerbread theme throughout the museum. This ties in with a Gingerbread House Contest organized by the Sumner-Bonny Lake VFW. Learn more about

the contest and find dates and entry forms on the VFW website, sumnervfw.org. The winners will be announced at

the Tree Lighting on November 23rd. Some gingerbread houses will be on display at the museum throughout the holiday season.

The kitchen will feature a gingerbread tree surrounded by vintage toys, many with a historical connection to the valley.



The parlor will host the Roger and Carolyn Stroeve collection of Santa Clauses from every period.



93rd Annual Tree Lighting

In 1926 Lewis Ryan decorated the holly tree on the museum's front lawn with strings of electric holiday lights, naming it *Sumner's Tree of Light*.

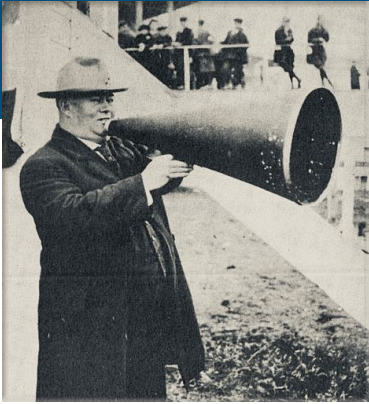
On **Saturday, November 23rd**, please join us for the 93rd Anniversary of our town's tree lighting. The evening starts at 5:00 pm with tree lighting at 5:30 pm. The Sumner High School Choir will lead the crowd in song. Calvary Community Church will bring back their snow machines. There will be refreshments and the house will be open for tours.



The Tree of Light



W. H. PAULHAMUS 35 Years in the valley, the farmer's friend



Founding Vice President of the Valley Fair in 1900, President from 1906 to 1925. He said this about the fair,

**"A farmers fair,
for the farmer
and about the farmer"**

1864 -1925 Born in Pennsylvania, moved to Sumner in 1890, one of 100 Washington citizens in the Washington State Centennial Hall of Honor

WASHINGTON STATE SENATOR 1907 - 1913

- Negotiated lower railroad rates for shipping the products of the valley
- 1907 Regulations on wholesale firms handling agricultural products
- Flood Control, Puyallup and Stuck rivers
- 1907 Reopening of the Puyallup Western Washington Experimental Station
- 1909 Appointed by governor to the National Farm Congress



MADE 'EM YELL FOR BERRIES OF THE PUYALLUP

W. H. Paulhamus Put Canning and Fruit Industry on Prosperity Road
CO-OP. PLAN SUCCEDES



Square Deal Boosts Cannery Business

By W. H. Paulhamus

The fruit and vegetable canning industry of the Pacific Northwest is just entering into its own. For many years Baltimore, Md., was the seat of government from a canning standpoint, but the canners of the good old Southern city became gardeners, with a result that the canned products sent out from that famous city were not to the liking of the consumer. In fact, many canners in that part of the world tried to see how little could be put in the cans, outside of water.

This resulted in a large part of the canning business shifting to the state of California, and for the past 20 years California has been the canning center.

Home at First. In Alaska and Washington can producing plants were established in California. All parts of the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, but the plants were so small that they produced better Bartlett pears than California. We have the greatest apple section in the world to back these Western Washington canners. This is in a class by itself. This is more than a class, it is a class of its own. If these statements are correct, the first few years of their existence these small canners put up a plan of putting up the highest grade of goods and of filling the cans with fruit or vegetables, and not with water.

Rainier State Fruit. The nation's canning industry has lost out of packing a damn rate of loss, and a market for our fruits and vegetables. For the reason that the rate of transportation has been too high. In transportation companies have very often said, for the reason that the fruits and vegetables with national relations, the transportation is too high in the nation who desired.

Seattle Star, 9-15-1917

PUYALLUP & SUMNER FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

In 1902, a leader in local agriculture, Paulhamus spearheaded the effort to organize a cooperative association to centralize processing and marketing for berries, fruit and other produce grown by valley farmers. The first year's focus was providing fresh product to existing markets.

Later, canneries were purchased and built and a special freezing process developed. Paulhamus expanded the business into markets ranging as far as Winnipeg, Dallas and Boston.

By 1915, there were 1,800 members and the association was providing agricultural education in farming methods and co-op stores for members where they could purchase groceries and sundries at low prices.



- 1920 The canneries were sold to to Hunt Brothers Packing Co.
- 1992 The PSFGA Canning Corporation bought them back.
- 1935 SFGA Canning Corporation combined with the Washington Berry Growers Association to form Washington Packers.
- 1946 Sold to Kelly-Farquhar
- 1949 Purchased by DEWKIST
- Later, the Sumner plant was closed, the Puyallup plant became Valley Packers.

Sumner Historical Society



MAPLELAWN FARM Home to "Three Story Farming"



On Wood Avenue in Sumner stands a home that in the early 1900s was the testing ground for a concept to successfully manage small acre farms. The theory, developed by W.C. Paulhamus, a leading figure in early valley agriculture was **"Three Story Farming"**.

It promoted the value of raising tree fruit, bush berries, poultry and dairy cattle on the same land at the same time.

The house was built in 1882 by E.C. Meade who made a fortune in hops and then lost the house and 60 acre farm when the hops industry failed. Paulhamus bought the farm in 1897.

Maplelawn Farm had 100 Bing cherry trees. Paulhamus also recommended sour cherries, like the English Marilla and the Montmorency.

The farm cultivated Cuthbert Red raspberries, Evergreen blackberries, gooseberries, asparagus, and rhubarb.

Poultry that Paulhamus promoted included White Leghorn, Brown leghorn and Barred Plymouth Rock chickens along with geese, ducks and pigeons.



Maple Lawn Farm pictured in a Seattle publication, the "Ranch" in 1910.



Maple Lawn Farm, 1920, *Sumner Historical Society*

I Desire to Purchase

10 to 15 head of two-year-old grade Jersey or Guernsey heifers. Must be from good milking mothers; high-class stock. Quote price and where stock can be seen.

W. H. Paulhamus, Sumner, Wash.

"Ranch" 1913



The VFW building on Willow was a Maple Lawn Farm Barn, *Sumner Historical Society*

The farm had forty registered Jersey cattle. This was the first dairy in Pierce County to supply certified milk. This was by request of the Tacoma Medical Society. Tuberculous was rampant in area dairy cattle and Paulhamus agreed to be the first to implement safe certification processes in his dairy.

Soon the dairy was using wagons pulled by four horse teams to deliver certified milk to Tacoma daily.



Tacoma Times. 1915



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 & Mike Conner
Carolyn Stroeve
Roger Stroeve
Linda Sader
John Galle
Marcha Lindberg
Dale & Rita Loseth
Ed Hannus
Michelle Champlin
Leroy Goff
Kris Arnold
Patricia Tribby
Sara Lucas
Chris Loseth
Pam Prasch
Amie Rang

Mary Beth Ryan,
Director Emeritus



The Ryan House Museum is affiliated with the NEA as a Blue Star Museum offering free admission to the nation's active duty military and their families.

Interested in joining the Sumner Historical Society?

You can find a membership form on our website.



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!



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

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The Historical Society recently received an extensive file of the photo negatives that Pete Andrews used in the Pictorials. He took most of them with a Speed Graphic press camera.

The file with over 1300 negatives came to the Society through the generosity of Karl and Barbara Keck, long time, now retired, proprietors of the Whistle Stop Antique Mall in downtown Sumner, now known as *Off the Beaten Path*. The antique mall building had been the newspaper building for most of the years that Andrews was the publisher. Andrews had left the file with the Kecks.

The Historical Society has named the file, the "Andrews - Keck Pictorial Collection". It will be the rootstock of the "Pictorial Era" newspaper digitation project. The negatives will be converted into a digital photograph and then matched to the Pictorial and newspaper issue. This will be a long, labor intensive process, however the end result is a clean, clear photographic collection of many historical Sumner events.

Anyone interested in participating in the project can contact the Sumner Historical Society through our website.

There is a reason the society is taking on this huge task. It has been said that we should always leave something about ourselves for future generations.

The on-line version of the newsletter is now available!

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

Get on the list for the on-line version, send your email address to:
publicist@sumnerhistoricalsociety.com



Ryan House Museum Fall Calendar

October 31st ~ Halloween, museum is closed, outside is decorated and docents hand out treats for Street of Treats, 4-7 pm

November 23 ~ Tree Lighting & Open House - 5:00 pm

November 23, 24 ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm

November 30 ~ Board Meeting, 10 am, open to the public

November 30, Dec. 1, ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm

December 7, 8. ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm

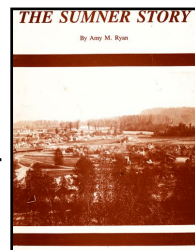
December 14, 15 ~ Open for holiday season, 1 pm - 4 pm

December 16 ~ Closed for the Winter

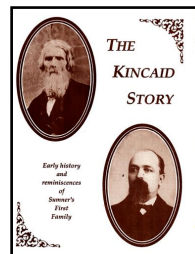
Visit our web site for details!
www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com

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

