

## 102 Years ago, Sumner and the Spanish Flu

### Masks sorely needed, *Sumner News Index*, October 11, 1918

An urgent call for contagious ward masks for use at Camp Louis has been received by Mrs. Jeff Jones, instructor of the (Red Cross) surgical dressing classes. Mrs. Jones asked that every member be present both afternoon and evening so that a large amount of work can be done to relieve the immediate necessity. By Friday, October 18 the paper reported that the club had completed 200 masks and the work was fully up to the standard.

Another article reports that pharmacists have been recommended to give a shot of a serum for pneumonia, the serum is not a cure for influenza but, according to tests, will prevent the development of pneumonia in influenza patients. Persons with severe cold or influenza symptoms are advised to remain at home and use every precaution to avoid exposing others and also, to reduce their own liability to serious illness, it is understood that a limited quarantine is to be enforced.

In that same issue the Sumner Council discussed the influenza situation. It was noted that Sumner has thus far been favored and has only a few influenza cases of any severity and the majority of these were outside the city limits. It is reported that there is one case of the Spanish type at Lake Tapps.

"Surrounded as our town is by communities experiencing serious inroads of the disease everyone should be more than willing to restrain from leaving their homes".

A December 2nd article noted that Christmas programs at all Sumner churches will be simple due to the prevailing health conditions but the Christmas spirit will be exemplified and the children need to be happy.

**These write ups are 102 years old but could have been written in 2020**



Linda Sader, Leroy Goff and Pat Tribby at the 2016 Ice Cream Social

### Patricia Tribby, our newest Director Emeritus

During our February 2020 meeting, the Board had the honor of voting for Patricia Tribby as our newest Director Emeritus of the Historical Society. This honorific position allows a current or former board member to stay associated with the board, but lessens the requirements that are part of a Board Member's position.

Pat was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5 generations to graduate from Sumner High School. Her interest in history generated from an episode from her teenage years. She cut the vintage brass headboard from her bed as she thought it wasn't modern enough. She has regretted that since and became the collector of all things historical. However, history wasn't everything. She and husband

Don were always on the cutting edge. They purchased one of the first TVs in Sumner (1950) and the first two tone 55 Chevy Belair, green and white.

Pat has been a member of the Sumner Historical Society since the early 2000's. Her knowledge of Sumner history and memories of the past have always been freely shared. She has donated a number of treasures, including newspapers and berry farming items, some of which were featured in a display at the Washington State Fair Museum. She has volunteered as a docent as well as supporting the annual meeting, Daffodil Tea, the ice cream social and many other events. She loves sharing her knowledge and wants to encourage others to remember our legacy. Congratulations and thank you Pat, our newest Director Emeritus!

### 2020 Board Elections

Covid 19 prevented the Society Board from following the usual first quarter election and general meeting process. However at our first Zoom meeting in July we were able to use a special clause in the Bylaws to fill the 2020 positions by appointment. Vicki Connor for Position One and Roger Stroeve for Position Two.



# Complete your chapter In Sumner's Family History Book

A family history is not just names, dates and genealogical charts. Those are the vital foundation, but there needs to be more.

How did people spend the hours in their day? What were the events of the time and how they impact your family?

Hopefully, someone recorded that. They kept a journal, they kept letters, they kept photographs with notes or captions.

Now, you are the caretaker of that history and you want to share it.

The Sumner Historical Society is starting a new project that will help you do that. We have many family history articles and writings in our collections, all from Sumner and the valley. We would like to have more.

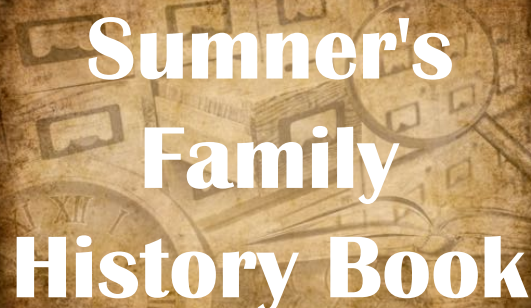
We would love to include your's as part of a Family History Book with chapters large and small telling the history of Sumner and the valley with the most interesting information of all. The daily lives and experiences of those we remember and honor the most.

The end product will be a printed book as well as a web based version. That is all still in the works.

Right now we are collecting more stories.

On our website we have placed a contact form that you can use to tell us about your story.

**Let's start a conversation.**



Sumner's  
Family  
History Book





## Hewitt Lea Funck ~ W. V. Young ~ Pasquier Panel Products

Over 100 years of manufacturing wood products in our valley

By Carolyn Pasquier

In May 1914, an article in the Sumner Index tells us about the Hewitt Lea Funck Company building a manufacturing plant between Zehnder and Puyallup Streets at the North end of town. The product: ready made (prefabricated) homes in a style made popular by Sears and Montgomery Ward.

One of HLF's first employees was Emmanuel Pasquier, born in France in 1881.

The 33 year old brought his wife and two young sons to Sumner from Sumas, Washington. Emmanuel was a planer operator. Emmanuel was good at it and in the following years showed that he was also good at turning rough concepts or ideas into innovative machinery and machining processes.

HLF's market was both national and local. They sold in the plains states where lumber was scarce and locally in the UPS area of Tacoma where the Tudor style was popular. In 1918 part of the mill was destroyed by fire. In 1920, the prefab home business slowed, the Hewitts had moved on and HLF

sold off some of the operation and lumber yard area to the Pacific Lumber Agency.

In 1922 HLF built a 18,000 square foot 'sawtooth' building on what is the present site of Pasquier Panel Products (now over 200,000 square feet) and went into the silo business with 10-15 employees. Like the houses, the silos were prefabricated kits, loaded on a train car and shipped to the customer. The design was based on French silos, something Emmanuel was familiar with. They had a unique stud design and double walls for insulation which made them popular in cold winter areas like Montana, the Dakotas and the rest of the Midwest. During the 20's the business expanded to include such products as wheel barrows, baby bouncers, floor boards for Model A cars plus Automobile Loaders for railroad cars.

*The  
Hewitt  
Lea  
Funck  
Crew*

Emmanuel  
Pasquier,  
seated in  
front  
middle with  
folded arms,  
dark shirt



**Wait!** before you build that house or barn—get our prices.

**Save 40% to 60% on Lumber**

You really make your local lumber dealer a present of \$50 to \$500, when you give him an order for \$100 to \$1000 worth of lumber. You can buy better lumber of us, at a saving of 40% to 60%.

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Notes: What are you planning to build?  
When can you send us bill of materials?

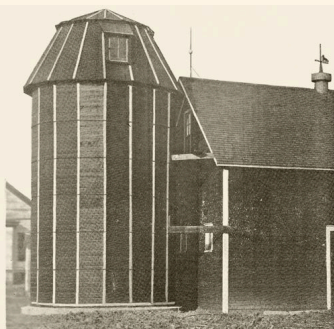


The new factory in 1922

### A Silo for Cold Weather



H-L-F PATENT STUD - FULL SIZE



Every Stud as tall as the Silo —No Splicing

Stud designed for double wall construction - the air chamber insulates, preventing frozen silage

**On the Historical Society website: More history on HLF & The full HLF house and Silo catalogs**



## Hewitt Lea Funck ~ W. V. Young ~ Pasquier Panel Products

In 1926, employment expanded to 90 when they were awarded the contract to make plywood running boards for Chrysler. During the Depression, the mill was pretty much shut down, except for occasional orders for wheel barrows, baby bouncers, and car loaders. In 1933, when Willard V. Young bought the company, Emmanuel Pasquier was the plant foreman. During World War II the Willard V. Young Company produced plywood parts for GM's DUKW, the "Duck" amphibious landing craft and also for Quonset Huts. In 1945, Mike Pasquier, still at M and M Woodworking, contracted Willard V. Young Company to build GM bus floorboards.

### Pasquier Panels

In 1923, Mike Pasquier first worked at the mill at the age of 11. In 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, Mike Pasquier completed his Chemical Engineering Degree at UW, and moved home to Sumner. He spent this time experimenting with various wood glues, for Willard V. Young, in his parents' basement. In 1933 he was hired by Harbor Plywood in Aberdeen to work on exterior wood glues, increase production



Mike and Charles Pasquier looking over plans for a new plant with Mayor Ronald Gosselin, *Saturday Evening Post*, 1955

efficiencies and reduce fuel costs. He was the first Chemical Engineer hired by the Plywood Industry. In 1936, having successfully developed the formula for waterproof wood glue, Mike was hired by M and M Woodworking in Portland, Oregon to assist them in the production of Exterior Plywood.

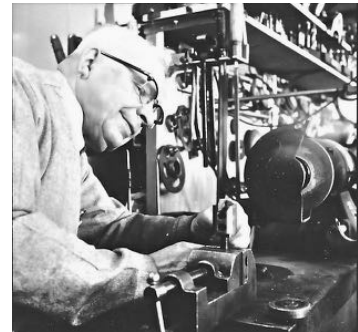
In January, 1951, Willard V. Young died. In September of 1952 Mike Pasquier, along with his brother Charlie, bought the company. At that time, the company had only 6 employees, the GM bus floor contract, and was threatened with being shut down. Mike went to Pontiac, Michigan, locked down the bus floor contract and then added other customers and soon a wide variety of product was flowing out of the plant.

In 1959 the name of the company was changed to Pasquier Panel Products. Through the late 50's and early 60's the company grew and began making parts for the electronics industry: Zenith, Panasonic, Hammond and Thomas Organ and the game industry: pool tables, air hockey tables and jukeboxes.

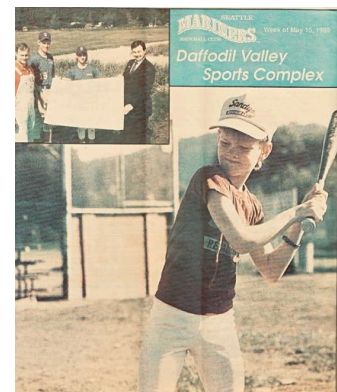
In 1966, Pasquier Panel bought the Puyallup Brew Plant that was built in 1926. In October of 1970, Emmanuel Pasquier died, having worked at the plant continuously until shortly before his death. During the 1970's, the electronics industry moved off shore and deregulation of transportation made changes necessary. Pasquier put in a paint line to run drawer sides and shelving products for the kitchen cabinet industry, first of plywood, then particle board and MDF. The GM bus floor business continued. Other Automotive projects included van linings for Chevrolet, GMC Motor Home floors and Ford pick up beds.

In the 80's the company entered the office furniture industry. By the mid 80's, when Mike and Charlie Pasquier retired, the company had moved into the ready to assemble furniture and storage business, developing a line of products under the trade name, Panelcraft.

Mike Pasquier died in 1993. His brother, Charlie Pasquier died in 1998. Both left a legacy of community development and community service, providing local employment and many donations of time and land. Most notable are the Field of Dreams Sports Complex, the new St Andrews Catholic Church, and the expansion of Loyalty Park.



Emmanuel Pasquier  
Sumner News Index  
December, 1964



**On the web: [More history on Pasquier Panels](#), [The Life Magazine story](#), [Community service plus a factory tour](#)**





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

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Linda Sader  
Marcha Lindberg  
Dale & Rita Loseth  
Ed Hannus  
Michelle Champlin  
Leroy Goff  
Kris Arnold  
Sara Lucas  
Chris Loseth  
Pam Prasch  
Amie Rang

### Director Emeritus

Mary Beth Ryan,  
Patricia Tribby

## Pictorials

### Pictures that Support a Thousand Words

The Pictorials were a unique addition to the Sumner New Index from late 1948 to the late 1950s.



Here is why. Those papers were still being printed with traditional metal typesetting processes. The product of Linotypes and individual pieces of metal type.

At that time, publishing a photograph was expensive, 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 purchased a small offset job press and used it to print a separate two sided 10 x 13 inch "collage" of photos which were then inserted into the letterpress issue. Most pictures were related to a story in the issue. He titled the insert "The Pictorial Section of the Sumner News Index."

The Historical Society recently received an extensive file of over 1400 envelopes, some with multiple negatives, that Pete Andrews used in the Pictorials, He took most of them with a Speed Graphic press camera.

The negatives are being converted into a digital photograph that will then be matched to the Pictorial and newspaper issue it appeared in. This is a long, labor intensive process, however the end result is a clean, clear photographic collection of many historical Sumner events.

Once completed we will have a searchable digital database of all the pictorials, pictures and captions and a reference to the issue the Pictorial was in. An invaluable tool that helps us document the history of our town and our valley.

### Progress on this Project to date:

3000 negatives scanned. (more to do)  
2447 captions manually transcribed for the digital database.  
310 Pictorials scanned front and back into the database (more to do)  
1490 Envelope Index Card entries transcribed for the digital database.  
Our thanks to Pam Prasch and Vicki Connor for the super efforts they have put into the project.

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 the future. They will come looking for it.



## In this issue



**Hewitt Lea Funck ~ W. V. Young ~ Pasquier Panel Products**

Over 100 years of manufacturing wood products in our valley

**Pictorials, Pictures that Support a Thousand Words**

**Patricia Tribby, our newest Director Emeritus**

**102 Years ago, Sumner and the Spanish Flu**

**Sumner's Family History Book**

**Sumner Historical Society  
Ryan House Museum**

1228 Main Street  
Sumner Washington, 98390





## *The last years of our local newspaper could become the lost years of Sumner's history*

Between 1889 and 1990 Sumner always had a weekly local newspaper. For thirty seven of those years we had two publishing at the same time.

The weekly paper was the most informed, enjoyed and anticipated source of local news and events.

The Sumner Historical Society is in the process of digitizing the Society's collection of Sumner newspapers. Most of the collection is available as paper issues and is also on microfilm.

**However there is a gap in the microfilmed editions.**

Sumner's last local weekly newspaper, the Sumner News Review, ceased publication in 1990. The News Review years from 1979 to 1990 were never microfilmed. These eleven years existed only as bound paper volumes.

## **What would happen if these were lost or destroyed?**



It is likely that those eleven years blended with your personal history or that of a relative. **That history would be gone.**

Each paper is a historical vault filled with sports activity, school news and functions, business news, construction and demolition, church and civic groups happenings, farm and local agriculture, news about notable people and people that did notable things, police, fire and medical news, city government changes and accomplishments,

**Here is some good news.** The Historical Society found the funds to digitize four of those eleven years. The work was done by a firm in Shelton Washington that specializes in that activity.

157 issues are now available on line. You can browse or do research with an easy to use search function. The available years are 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1985.

12 to 16 pages per week of our small town's history, four years worth now on the web

**See page two for some bad news**

## **A Digital Window to Sumner's History**

A link is available on the  
Historical Society's website.



# Save the Papers Project

Special Insert to the  
Sumner Historical  
Society Newsletter  
Spring-Summer 2020

**Here is some bad news.** The Society does not have adequate funds to digitize the remaining seven volumes.

**It is expensive, roughly \$1,000 per volume.** However the cost of losing those volumes is even greater.

***The Society does not want the last years of our local newspaper becoming the lost years of Sumner's history.***

***Your contribution can help us digitize the last seven years of the Sumner News Index. Any amount, large or small will get us closer to completion.***

**Send a check to: Save the Papers Project  
Sumner Historical Society, 1228 Main Street, Sumner, WA 98390**

For more information on the project, contact the Society Publicist. Dale Loseth [drl@shspublicist.org](mailto:drl@shspublicist.org)

Cut and enclose with your contribution

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