



To Orting and Beyond!

On February 24th Vicki Conner, Curator and Pam Prasch, Board Member, spent a pleasant afternoon at the Orting Branch of the Pierce County Library.

They didn't go to read books, or browse the latest videos, they went to reach out to community members attending the inaugural event of a new PCL program called "Discover Pierce County's Heritage".

The event brought ten local historical societies and museums together so that each could share it's history with displays, artifacts and photographs. The event was free and it was well attended. At least 134 people visited during the four hour event. The Orting Friends of the Library provided a lunch for the society and museum members.

Vicki, Pam and the Sumner Historical Society shared our free standing presentation on Women in the Military. The table had items from our Daffodil Festival collection along with posters and related items from our Rhubarb Roots collection. There was also a scrapbook with photos and information on the major events the society hosts during the year.



Signs noted our museum hours and open dates. The table offered the society's pamphlet, the Sumner Historical Sites Tour Map plus an assortment of current and past newsletters. Pam and Vicki reported that sharing the valley's history with visitors generated interest in donating family history items to the society.

Based on this event, the Pierce County Library will decide on holding similar events at it's other branches.

Good Ideas Generate other Good Ideas



The Puyallup Historical Society at Meeker Mansion was one of the participants at the February Pierce County library event in Orting.

The excitement and geniality of that day inspired them to invite historical organizations to participate in a similar function on the lawn of the Meeker Mansion on Saturday June 16th. This is during Meeker days which is June 15-17 this year. Each participant will have a free 10 x 10 space on the lawn.

The Sumner Historical Society will be there, so save the date!.



Museum opens for the season on April 7th, Daffodil Parade Day



Our first day of the season is also the first day of the Daffodil Parade. We are open at 1 p.m. Visitors will have time to tour the house before the Sumner portion of the parade starts at 2:30.

The museum has an extensive collection of daffodil related items. Some tell the history of the daffodil industry in the valley and why we were once known as the "Daffodil Bulb Capital of the World". The sign proclaiming that still exists, find it on East Main, in the triangle by Windmill Gardens.

Most of the collection is Daffodil Festival regalia along with photographs of past parades and princesses.



New this year is a pre-parade party put on by the City of Sumner with food trucks, music and more in the parking lot at Main and Ryan. It starts at noon.



April 15th, General Meeting, Grandparents Tea and Slang

The Sumner Historical Society will hold a "Grandparents Tea" as part of the annual general meeting on April 15th. The event will be at the museum, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will honor grandparents. Members are encouraged to join us for the afternoon and, of course, bring grandparents.

This is also the meeting where board members are elected. Four board members are up for re-election. They are: Position 8, Leroy Goff; Position 10, Kris Arnold; Position 11, Pat Tribby and Position 12, Sara Lucas. Ballots will be available at the meeting.

Vicki Connor has put together a display on "Slang". It will take us through the usage of slang words and phrases through the years as a fun way to relate to our distant and more recent past.

Vicki has assured us that only good humored and fun slang has been included, so it's still ok to bring the grandparents.



1917 Liberty Loan Parade, The Goddess of Liberty on Main Street



America entered World War One in April, 1917. On Wednesday, October 17, 1917, there was a city wide event in Sumner supporting the Second Liberty Loan Drive, (selling bonds to finance the war effort). The Sumner News Index had two articles and a number of advertisements about the drive. The reporter noted: "The four hundred seventy pupils of the Sumner schools, accompanied by the entire faculty and the mayor of the city, the Red Cross auxiliary and Home Guards and lead by the Sumner band paraded the main thoroughfares Wednesday afternoon in the interests of the Liberty Bond sale."



The article went on to describe the day. The parade finished up on Main Street for the pledge of allegiance by the students, followed with speeches by dignitaries, cheers for all participants and ended with the crowd singing "America".

The following week, the Mayor declared a holiday from noon to 4 p. m. On October 24th, the day appointed by President Wilson as "Liberty Day". (continued on page 4)

The Goddess Of Liberty *The enlargement to the left shows Mrs. Corinna Platter, in the long dress with large stripes, as "Goddess of Liberty". She is surrounded by city dignitaries, the Sumner Band and students carrying flags of America's allies.*



Three photographs of the parade have been preserved by the Sumner Historical Society



(from page 3)

The national organizations promoting the drive relied heavily on the volunteer efforts of women who distributed seven million fliers across the nation.

Librarians, in one thousand five hundred libraries, inserted over four million Liberty Loan reminder cards in books.

Montgomery Ward and Sears-Roebuck mailed two million flyers to farm women.



Sumner News Index. 10-19-1917

The entry level for bonds in 1917 was \$50. However there was an installment plan, \$4.00 up front and \$2.00 a week for 23 weeks. Note that \$50 In 1917 would be \$1,062 today.

Focus was heavy on schools and educators. At the Sumner event the Mayor proudly announced that every educator in Sumner's schools had bought bonds.

The Sumner educators subscribed to \$1,100 in bonds which today would be \$19,793. One hundred percent participation is very impressive as educators were and still are a chronically underpaid group of public servants. We don't know, but we are sure that many of them proudly wore the button shown above.

By the end of the war there had been four bond drives. There were 24 million households in the country and 20 million people had bought bonds. They raised 17 billion dollars. The Second Drive raised almost four billion.

Two thirds of the war's cost was paid by the bonds, the other third came from taxes.



Sumner participated in all four bond drives in WW1 but we know more about the second drive because someone took time to photograph the event and others took care in preserving the pictures. We thank them, and we thank the local newspaper for providing the details that goes with the pictures. We can record history, but we need to preserve what we record.

Check your attic and cubbies, you may have a piece of Sumner's history that can be shared with future generations. Contact the museum.



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



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!

What's in your scrapbook?

Do you have a piece of Sumner's history that you would be willing to donate or share with the Sumner Historical Society?

Examples are photographs of community events, homes, business buildings, schools, churches, street and farm scenes.

Newspapers, family histories, club and event memorabilia and other items of a printed nature.

1890's to 1990's We can scan or photograph most any item.

Help us preserve Sumner's history



Sumner Historical Society, Ryan House Museum
1228 Main, Sumner, Washington 98390
253-299-5780, sumnermuseum@comcast.net
www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com

Share your email address with us!

The Historical Society is now offering 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 Spring Calendar

April 7 ~ Open for season Saturday & Sunday, 1 – 4 pm.

Exhibits and special events:

April 7 ~ Daffodil Festival Exhibit at the museum

April 14 ~ General Meeting, Grandparents Tea, 1 – 4 pm

April 14 ~ Slang Exhibit at the museum

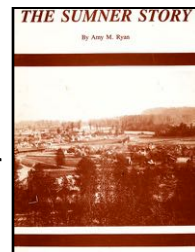
Mid May ~ Love & Marriage Exhibit, wedding gowns, baby carriages and more

May 26, 27 ~ Closed for Memorial Day

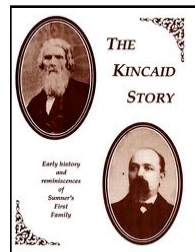
May 28 ~ 10 am Ceremony at Sumner Cemetery, lunch at VFW Hall

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

