

HALLOWEEN AT THE RYAN HOUSE MUSEUM



**October 31st
brought over
1200 people to
our museum's
front lawn.**



Each treat bag had a sticker with the museum's holiday greeting.



In the afternoon our docents decorated the house and lawn in a vintage Halloween fashion. The green and red "M & M's" (the Stroeves) and Curator Vicki had a grand time working the early evening event. Lots of happy treaters!



The 2017 lighting of Sumner's Tree of Light

For over 100 years Sumner Main Street businesses have celebrated Christmas with decked out holiday windows, lighting and trim.

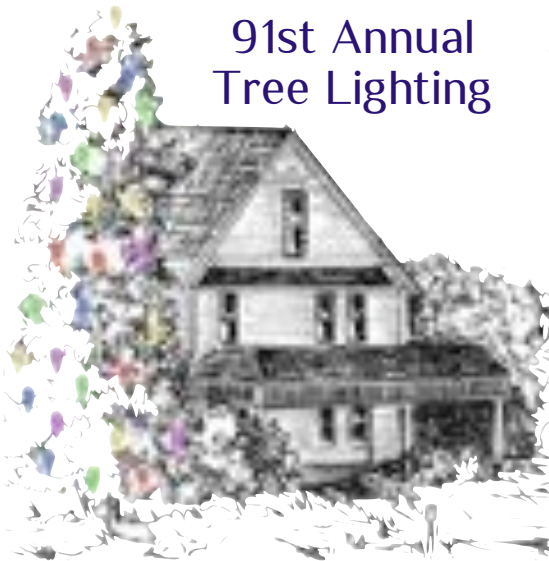
In 1926, Lewis D. Ryan used colorful lights to decorate the holly tree on the front lawn of what is now the Ryan House Museum. He named it *Sumner's Tree of Light*. Ryan also organized civic groups, businesses and the city to create a canopy of lighted garlands covering Main Street and many of the side streets.

Sumner has carried on those traditions throughout the years.

On Saturday, November 25, The Sumner Historical Society partnered with Valley Volunteers, the Sumner Downtown Promotional Association, Calvary Community Church and the City to organize the 91st annual lighting of *Sumner's Tree of Light*. The museum was open for tours and members of the Sumner High School choir along with Choir Director, Dorraine Eash, led the community in song prior to the lighting of the holly tree.



91st Annual Tree Lighting



The lighting of the tree blended in with downtown's celebration of Small Business Saturday. The event was called, "Light Up Main".

City workers strung the lights in a beautiful pattern. Valley Volunteers members helped put up Christmas decorations at the Museum, worked on the community songbook, donated cookies and served at the event. Calvary Church provided fresh cedar garland for the porch and printed the song books. They also brought a popcorn machine and helpers to pop popcorn and serve cider and cookies.



The Tree of Light at the Ryan House Museum

**Join us next year on the last
Saturday in November!**



The 2018 Holiday Season at the Ryan House Museum

Decorating with collections and artifacts



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



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Our Calendar for 2018!

We are open most weekends from April through August and the first three weeks in December. The usual museum schedule on open days is 1 pm - 4 pm. As a courtesy we have included a number of community events in Sumner for 2018. The museum participates in most of them. For some events the open hours are longer. Check out website for specifics.

January-March	The museum is closed to prepare for the 2018 season	Sunday, August 26th	Museum's last open day for the regular season
Saturday, April 7	Daffodil Parade , museum opens for the season	Saturday, October 6th	Come Walk with Me , museum not open
Sunday, April 15th	General Membership Meeting with focus on honoring Grandparents	Saturday, October 27th	Festival of Bands , museum not open
Fridays, July 6,14,29,27	Music off Main	Wednesday, October 31st	Street of Treats , museum closed, but the grounds are decorated and docents hand out treats, 5 pm - 7 pm
Saturday & Sunday, July 20 to 21	Relay for Life , museum is open with regular schedule	Saturday, November 24th	Museum opens for holiday season, Tree Lighting at 5:30 pm
Fridays, August 3,10,17,24,31	Movies off Main	September October~TBD	Museum is open the afternoon of the SHS Homecoming Parade
Saturday & Sunday, August 4, 5	Sumner Days , Museum open Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday 11 am - 4 pm On Saturday, the Society sponsors "Walking Main". a self guided history walk of downtown buildings	Saturday, December 1	Santa Parade , museum open regular hours, 1- 4 pm
		Sunday, December 16th	Last open day for holiday season



Sumner Standard, 8-28-1936

Looking back to 1936 The Train that Came Down Main

The afternoon of September 2nd, 1936, Sumner citizens came as close to Hollywood as they would be that year or probably, any year.

Peter Constaniti and Mike Barovic, owners of the Riviera Theatre arranged a Sumner visit of MGM's Traveling Motion Picture Studio, a miniature Hollywood on wheels, equipped with motion picture cameras, sound equipment and an expert crew of studio technicians.

Called "The Globe Trotter" it was built around a trackless locomotive. Fire engine red and trimmed in gold and chrome, It measured over 70 feet long and nine feet wide. It had a fully functioning talking picture recording studio and a projection booth that showed film on a six by five foot rear projection screen. MGM billed it as "The Eighth Wonder of the World". The cost to build it? \$150,000 in 1930's dollars, sounds like a lot but it came with a whistle and a bell.

In the mid thirties MGM sent the Globe Trotter on a world tour to show the public the inside workings of motion picture making. People could tour through the unit and then, from outside, watch film on the rear projection screen at the back of the studio car.

MGM also used the Globe Trotter to search for new talent. Advance men would precede its appearances and hold auditions at local theatres. They would then schedule the best candidates for a recording session on the traveling studio.

Both Sumner papers reported that auditions were not held here. The stay was too short. That's too bad, reporting on any local participant would have been prime local news.

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Sumner Historical Society Newsletter

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Rear projection screen



*Clark Gable touring the Globe Trotter,
Sorry, Clark never came to Sumner*
www.footnotemaven.com

The Globe Trotter had a lot to experience; the crew of camera and sound men, technicians and make up artists demonstrated equipment and answered questions about their work.

Imagine yourself there, that Wednesday afternoon in Sumner, population 2000. There would have been no distraction from television, smart phones or the internet in 1936. The main event of the day would have been the Hollywood train on Main Street.

Heading East on Main with a police escort, the seventy foot long, fire engine red, smoking, tooting, two unit vehicle slowly made its way down to the Riviera for the Sumner segment of its world tour. The movie showing at the Riviera when the Globe Trotter was in town was "The Harvester" starring Alice Brady, Russell Hardie and Ann Rutherford. It was not an MGM studio picture.

MGM had more than one of these trackless trains traveling the country from the mid 1920's through the late 1930's.

This one was built in 1924 by the H.O. MaGee Company in Indianapolis, Indiana. Harry Magee eventually built sixteen trains of varying designs, all of which had gasoline engines. The live steam effect was generated by oil dripping on an exhaust manifold. Puffs were created by revolving blades in the smokestack.

The Globe Trotter was retired in 1937 and the locomotive was later sold for scrap as part of the build-up to World War II.

We still have trains that stop in Sumner. They can take you to points North until you are in Seattle or points South until you are in Lakewood. But none will get you to Hollywood. The only chance for that was on Wednesday, September 2nd, 1936.

The Riviera Theatre was originally the Liberty Theatre built by Dominic Constaniti in 1924.

In 1936, when the Globe Trotter traveled to the theatre, the Riviera was managed by Paul Constaniti, Dominic's son, in partnership with Mike Barovic, who was Dominic's father-in-law. The Constaniti and Barovic families were involved with seven local picture houses in the area. They had the pull to get the Globe Trotter to visit Sumner. Their business life was one of perpetual promotions. Ticket contests, tie-ins with local merchants, booking vaudeville style small stage acts, and opening their stage to local school and civic group events. They kept the theatres, and Main Street, busy.



In the 1950's the Riviera closed as a picture house but was still used at times for special events.

In 1973 it was torn down. The Bank of America drive-thru now occupies the space where Hollywood came to Sumner.





Sumner Historical Society Newsletter



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
Michelle Champlin
Leroy Goff
Kris Arnold
Patricia Tribby
Sara Lucas
Ken Woolery
Mary Beth Ryan
Pam Prasch
Mike Conner

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The 2018 Holiday Season at the Ryan House Museum

The dining room featured garlands, antique tableware and small themed trees.



The cabin was decorated in period holiday style. A visit to Christmas past.



The kitchen featured heritage cookbooks and artifacts and a full tree surrounded by vintage toys, many with a historical connection to the valley.



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!

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.



Sumner Historical Society Newsletter

Visit our web site!

www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com

Join the Sumner Historical Society

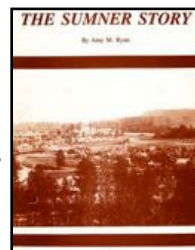
Memberships for the year 2018

\$10.00 for individuals \$15.00 for families

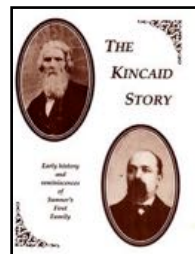
Find a printable membership application on our web site

**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

