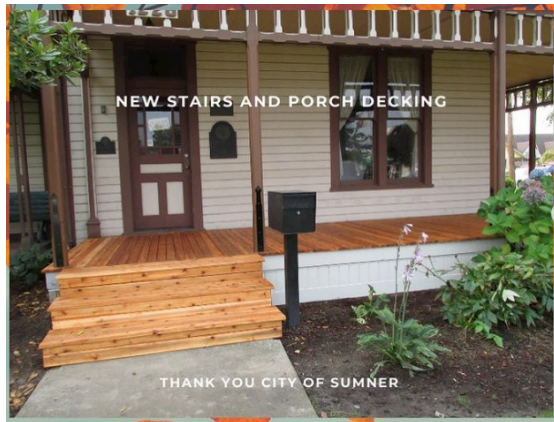
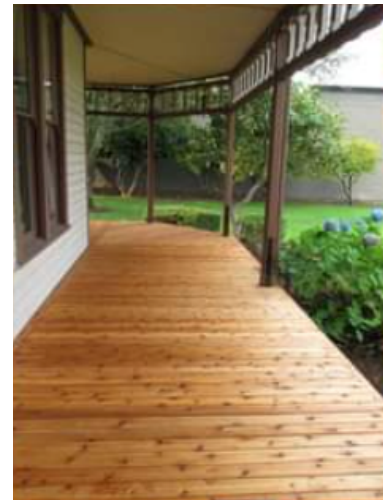


## Our new porch, a place to rest, play and present history



This summer the city replaced the porch decking and steps. The new look is beautiful and stayed in character with the historical aspects of the building.

In 2021 the new porch will continue to be a treasured rest area for docents and citizens, for displays during events and naturally, for the school choir during tree lighting.



The Sumner Historical Society thanks the city of Sumner.

## 2020 Tree Lighting, The 94th Year How did we do it?



Social distancing, masks and thinking of others,  
NO gatherings, no crowds, no choir, NO tree lighting?  
In 2020, Things are different, what would we do?



We put on our thinking caps, we thought long and hard....

how will we light that holly in our yard?

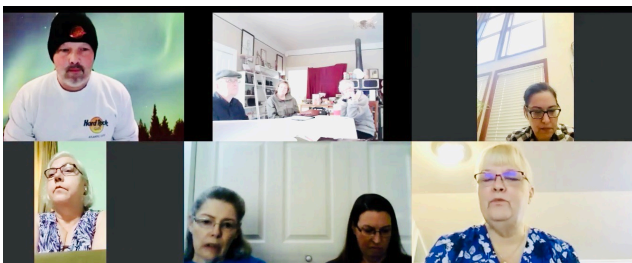
There is a three minute video on our website homepage about this year's tree lighting plus a historical glimpse of the lighting of Sumner's **Tree of Light** and some great visuals of the holiday season in mid-century Sumner.

[www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com)



## Virtual Meetings

### We learned to love our little place on the Zoom grid

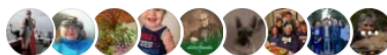


Our Society missed a few meetings due to the C-19 shutdown. Then we started experimenting with Zoom. We settled on a hybrid model where most Board members attended on line while we Zoomed the meeting from the museum so those who did not want the tech challenge could attend in person. No more than five of course. Attendance has been excellent.



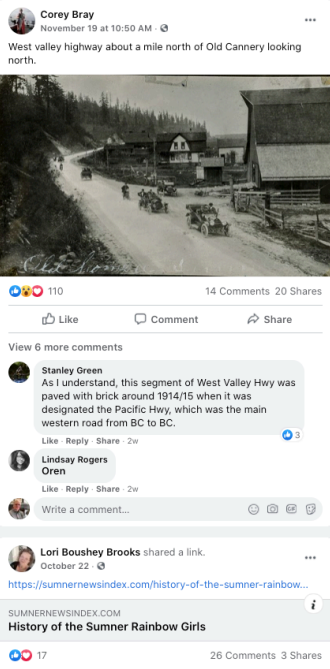
## Sumner History Group

Public group · 1.0K members



+ Invite

Sumner History Group



There is a new Facebook group that you will enjoy, ***the Sumner History Group***. It started this summer and already has over a thousand members. People from Sumner and all over the valley have been posting pictures and snippets of history focused on Sumner, Orting and all parts of the valley. It is a comfort to our Historical Society to know that there is such a large population of people that enjoy reminiscing about something that is close to them, the history of their families and friends. The page was thought of by Kimberly Kay Enlow who is one of the administrators along with Lori Haun, Janis Yoder Breen, and Paul Silvernail.

The page is an open public group and once you are there you will spend hours scrolling through pictures and stories, some of which may trigger thoughts and memories that will lead you to start digging through your files and start posting and sharing.

The easiest way to find the page is with the Facebook search function. Type in **Sumner History Group** and you are on the way to hours of enjoyment.

## 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.

(Continued on page 5)





# **SUMNER**

## The Mid-Century Christmas Town

In 1946 Pete Andrews, publisher of the Sumner News Index, bought a Speed Graphic camera and began to capture Sumner's history on film. In 1948 Pete bought a small offset job press and for many years it was used to produce an insert in every paper called "The Pictorial Section of the Sumner News Index". The Pictorials were double sided on 10 x 14 paper and were packed with pictures related to the articles in that week's newspaper.



In the 50s, the season started with a letter to Santa



Santa arrived, Sumner style, on a big red sleigh!



Santa's favorite stop was the Riviera Theater!

Kids got in line



And had a good time!, a picture with Santa

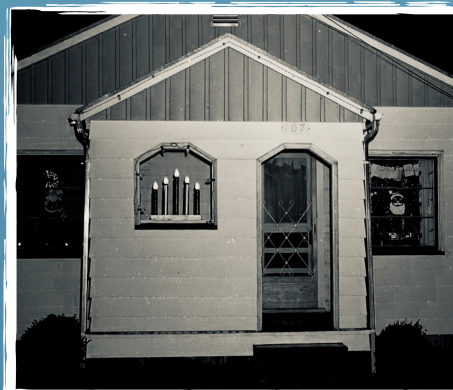
And a candy cane!



Large scale holiday art appeared in yards all over Sumner



And on rooftops



The Historical Society has an extensive collection of negatives that were used in the Pictorials, they are being scanned, digitized and cataloged and the entire searchable collection will be available to all by mid 2021.





When it snowed,  
the editor  
roamed the  
streets with his  
Speed Graphic







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  
Publicist: Dale Loseth  
Curator: Vicki Conner

## Board Members

Vicki & Mike Conner  
Carolyn Stroeve  
Roger Stroeve  
Linda Sader  
Marcha Lindberg  
Dale & Rita Loseth  
Ed Hannus  
Michelle Champlin  
Leroy Goff  
Kris Arnold  
Sara Lucas  
Chris Loseth  
Pam Prasch  
Amie Rang  
Scott de Carteret

## Director Emeritus

Mary Beth Ryan,  
Patricia Tribby

(Continued from page 2)

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:

4000 negatives scanned. (more to do)  
2447 captions manually transcribed for the digital database.  
400 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.

## Complete your chapter In Sumner's Family History Book

### The Sumner Historical Society is starting a new project.

A Family History Book that tells the history of Sumner and the valley with the most interesting information of all. The lives and experiences of those we remember and honor.

**The end product will be a a web based collection  
with the possibility of a book in the future.**

Right now we are collecting stories and we would love to add yours.  
Anything, large or small, a letter, a full journal, could be a chapter in the book.

**Do you have photographs? Documents?** The Society has scanners.

**Is your material handwritten?** The Society has docents willing to transcribe.

**Do you have keepsakes related to your story?** The Society has cameras.

**Let's start a conversation. We have a contact page on our website.  
Use it to tell us what you have**

[www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.sumnerhistoricalsociety.com)



Sumner Historical Society



## In this issue



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94th Annual lighting of the Tree of Light

Our meetings are Zooming

Sumner History Group Facebook Page

Sumner, the Mid-Century Christmas Town

Pictorials, Pictures that Support a Thousand Words

Sumner's Family History Book

**Sumner Historical Society**

**Ryan House Museum**

1228 Main Street

Sumner Washington, 98390

