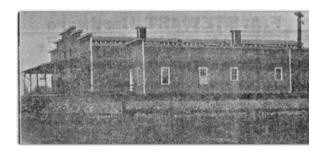
#### **Sumner Historical Society Newsletter**

Summer 2018

The first cannery in Sumner was the Weber-Bussell plant built in 1907 on Hunt Avenue, across from the current Sounder Station. It later became the Puyallup & **Sumner Fruit Growers Cannery** Association. (shown below in 1910)

### 1936 From the Fields of Our Valley to the Nation's Tables

The H. A. Baker cannery was built in 1920 on East Valley Highway. It later became the Washington Berry Growers who in 1935 joined with the Puyallup & Sumner Fruit Growers to form the Washington Packers.



#### Other canneries & processing houses

**Puget Sound Vegetable Growers** Epperson & Sons Kelly-McLaghlin Bodle E.Brock & Co. Sumner Rhubarb Growers Assn. Frost Sound Products Sound Fruit Growers



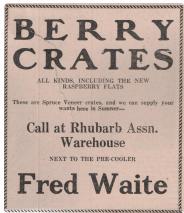
In the Sumner papers, at the Ryan House museum, there is a 1936 article about the two Washington Packers canneries in Sumner and Puyallup. That and other articles tell us what an agricultural powerhouse our valley was in that era. There were over 1,000 employees at Washington Packers and many more were employed at other canneries, receiving sheds and processing houses. The two WP canneries alone shipped 40 million pounds of products with a value of 2.5 million dollars (over 45 million in todays dollars).

Sumner's valley helped feed America as did thousands of other communities across the country that supplied the nation's tables. In that day, farmers were a large and powerful profession. Politicians courted them. Merchants

#### Who Will Help the Farmer?

Blackberry pickers are still in urgent demand, both home and out of town pickers being asked for. Anyone wishing to pick either full or part time should register at once at the federal re-employment bureau at the Independent Fuel office.

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scrambled to meet their household and farm goods needs. Today, in some areas that is still the case. In our area, not so much. We still praise and appreciate the farming concerns we have left. However we continue to overlay the fields with warehouses and pavement. There is some good in that, we need physical goods and places to store them before we buy them.

However, Some day technology will eliminate the need for warehouses in our marketplace. What will replace them? What will our valley look like then?





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## Sumner Historical Society Newsletter



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# Canneries Giving Valley Payroll of 1,000 Employees New Products of Washington Packers

Meeting Signal Success

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#### 1936 Washington Packers Production 40.000.000 Pounds

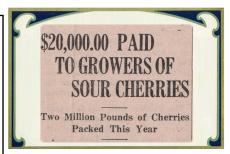
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	<u>Pounds</u>
Strawberries	2,350,000
Rasberries	4,550,000
Red Sour Cherries	2,200,000
Blackberries	9,550,000
Prunes	700,000
Carrots	275,000
Loganberries	500,000
	<u>Tons</u>
Pears	3,000
Apples	4,500
Peaches	

Miscellaneous: rhubarb, gooseberries, sweet cherries, youngberries, black cap raspberries, plums, huckleberries, squash, pumpkin

Shipped from the **Puget.Sound Vegetable Growers processing house**, 320 freight cars of:

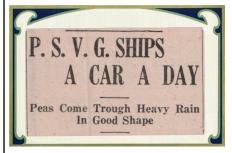
Peas, frozen & fresh, lettuce, celery, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, beans, prunes, green corn and mixed produce



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