



## 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 2)

**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.*



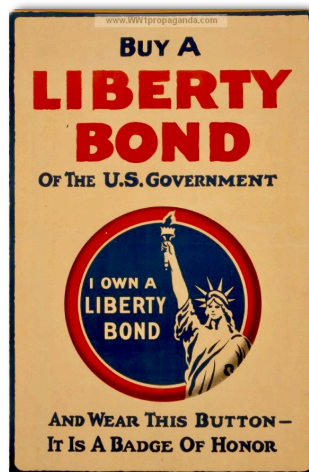
*Three photographs of the parade have been preserved by the Sumner Historical Society*



# Sumner's History Book



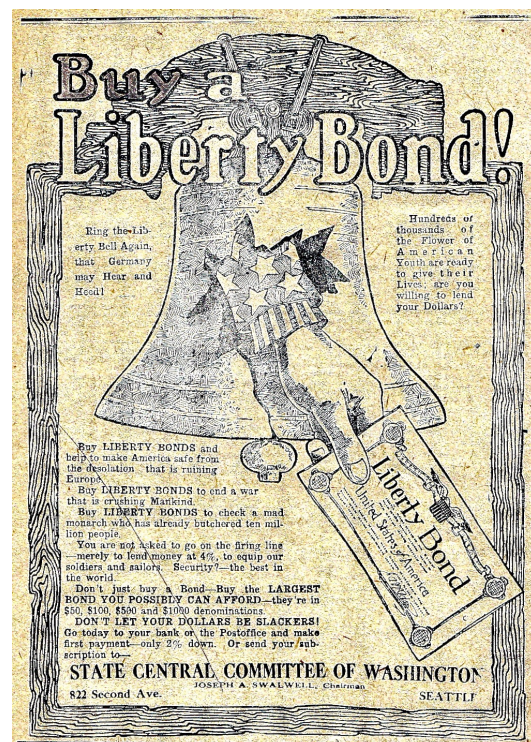
(from page 1)



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*

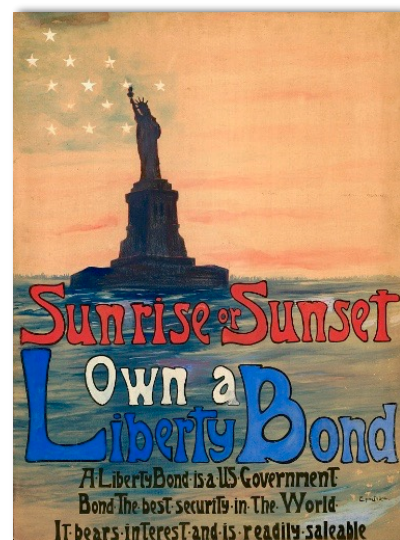
The entry level for bonds in 1917 was \$50. However there was an installment plan, \$4.00 up front and \$2.00 a week for 23 weeks. Note that \$50 in 1917 would be \$1,062 today.

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.