

WAGON WHEEL

July/August 2013

Duvall Historical Society · PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019 · www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming DHS Events

May to September, Every Sunday Dougherty House Open House

The Dougherty house is now open every Sunday from 1-4pm for drop-in visitors.

August 18th

Potluck Picnic & Open House

Bring yourself, a dish-to-share, a chair for sitting, and dishware, to the picnic on the Dougherty House lawn. 12-4pm.

August 24th

Field Trip to Mary Olson Farm

Meet at the Dougherty House at noon to carpool to the Mary Olson Farm in Auburn. Open to Historical Society Members.

September 9th

General Member Meeting

Member meetings resume! Join us for a discussion of Historical Society business. 7:30pm pm at the Duvall Visitor and Centennial Center.

September 28th

Heritage Festival

Our biggest event of the year! Experience Duvall's pioneering days, from 10am-4pm. Churn butter, grind corn, watch miniature mules plowing a field, dance to live music, and more! Free for the whole family. Stay tuned for details.

October 7th

Special Presentation

7:30pm at the Duvall Visitor and Centennial Center. Details to come!



We are grateful to 4 culture, the King County Cultural Services Agency, for their support in the preservation of our heritage.

Inside This Edition

- The 1968 Piano Drop
- Duvall Centennial Film: A Call for Photos!
- Historical Society Thank You's
- Spotlight on Tove Burhen
- Duvall Historical Society Potluck Picnic
- Be Part of Historic Preservation, Volunteer!

Mark Your Calendars With This Community Event! SnoRiver Rock Concert and Lighter Than Air Fare August 3rd, 2013

**SNORIVER
ROCK CONCERT
and Lighter Than Air Fare**

11:00 AM
till 9 PM

ADMISSION
FREE!
ALL AGES

Duvall, Washington August 3, 2013

Rock All Day! McCormick Park Great Food!

JR. CADILLAC

ALICE STUART and The Formerlys
THE RENT COLLECTORS BLUES BAND
LUNATIC FRINGE - JACK BALLARD BAND
PARADOX - MALTBY CREW - OKEY DOKEY

- PIANO DROP -
- EVENING BALLOON RIDES -
BEER and WINE GARDEN

<http://duvall100.duvallwa.gov/>

April 28, 1968: The First Piano Drop

It was April 28, 1968, and the pilot tried to bring his helicopter to a stop in the sky 150 feet above ground, but the darn airborne piano had too much momentum and kept moving, pulling the helicopter along behind it. Frantic, the pilot hit the harness release and then the emergency cable release. Finally the piano snapped free.

As Ray Burhen writes in volume 27, number 6 of the Wagon Wheel “The piano drop was held on a postage-stamp size piece of ground up in the woods where several thousand people gathered. The roads were blocked for six miles back to Duvall, and the old logging road going over to the Lake Fontel road was also jammed all the way down to SR 203. Not everyone thought that it was such a wonderful event, especially the neighbors in the area.”

Released, and flying freely – most likely for the first time – the piano arced across the sky, missing both the target and the gathered crowd of thousands, landing with a surprisingly muffled thump in the grass.

But a cheer arose from the crowd anyway. Ecxcited about the piano free-fall, they flocked to the instrument, dismantling and claiming its pieces for souvenirs.

The founder of the event, Larry Van Over, was most likely disappointed by the absence of noise. He had dreamed up the drop after hearing the sounds of a piano pummeled by hammers. What, he had wondered, might a piano sound like after plummeting from above? So he and others had planned the event that culminated in the final flop. And after witnessing the large number that gathered for the spectacle, they planned another event, hoping to again attract large crowds. It was the first Sky River Rock Festival and Lighter Than Air Fair, and it took place on August 30th of that same year.

Now more than 40 years later, in honor of Duvall’s Centennial, the SnoRiver Rock Concert and Lighter Than Air Fare will take place this year on August 3rd at Duvall’s McCormick Park. And on that same day at 7:45pm a piano will drop again. Make sure to attend to hear first-hand the outcome of it’s demise.



Duvall Centennial Film: A Call for Photos!

Help showcase Duvall’s history! The Duvall Centennial Film is sending out a request for your photos. The producers would love to receive any images you might have from the both the old-times and from the last 30-40 years in Duvall.



To see the film trailer, look here: <http://vimeo.com/57003041>

To submit photos, contact **Rich Andrews**:

Email: rich@a2mediapro.com or images@duvall100film.com

Phone: (206) 755-4220



We’re looking forward to seeing your images on the big screen.

Historical Society Thank You's

A big thank you goes to Leo, the friend of Ray and Tove Burhen, for all he has done to help maintain the Dougherty House and its grounds. Thank you Leo, we appreciate your work!

Spotlight On Duvall Community Member Tove Burhen

On Saturday, June 1st, Tove and Ray Burhen led the city of Duvall in the Duvall Days annual parade, as the Grand Marshalls of the 2013 procession. At the Historical Society, we are thankful for all Tove and her husband Ray have contributed to our organization and community. This month we feature the biography of Tove Burhen.

Born in Centralia, Washington, in 1926, Tove Burhen (nee Hodge) has given countless hours to the Duvall community, and has been a leader and teacher for most of her life. "I'm naturally a follower," said Tove during a recent interview, "but I am a leader when put in that position."

Tove began her career in the classroom when she was 4 years-old, living in the countryside outside of Centralia. "I remember that as being the wonderful part of my childhood. I met a girl named Margie who lived across the road, and she became my lifelong best friend." Margie was two years older than Tove, and taught Tove all Margie had learned during first and second grades. As a result, by the time Tove started school she was ahead of her peers. "I was probably a pill - I thought I already knew it all," she said. "This ended after I finished first grade, when they put me straight into third."

Tove continued her schooling during the years of the Great Depression. "My mother always seemed happy during the Depression, so I didn't really feel it. She was a stay-at-home-mom like most women of that time and she was the main influence raising my brother and me. She felt we could do anything we aspired to and encouraged us to get an education." And Tove's dad? Well, he was quite clever. He created a big rocking horse and other toys for Tove and her little brother Ben. He was also a whistler and bird caller. "We would go out in the evening and he would call to the screeching nighthawk. At one point we had a bluebird's nest in the yard. He would hold my brother and me up to see the eggs, and later, the baby birds. He was an outdoorsman, having worked in the forests with surveyors." When the Depression hit, Tove's dad became unemployed for a year and grew to be a more serious, and maybe even depressed, person. He was later employed at a glove factory, and worked hard until his death at age 68.

As Tove entered high school, her career goals emerged. "I thought I was going to be a scientist, but there was too much math involved for me. To this day I think science is the most interesting thing to read about." During her teenage years she also found herself authoring her first work. With the guidance of her teacher, 13-year-old Tove wrote a chapter in the "History of Centralia: The First 50 Years." The chapter was about her ancestors, the Fords, who settled in Centralia in 1845.

Following high school, Tove entered the Centralia Junior College which was struggling to stay afloat. It was wartime and the student population had dwindled as men had left for the service and the women had taken wartime jobs. Two women, Margaret Corbet and Katherine Kemp, kept the college going by motivating the community to fund the school. And partly because of their endeavors, three students graduated in 1945 – one of whom was Tove. Two years later Tove graduated again, this time from the University of Washington. And then she entered a graduate year to get her lifetime teaching certificate.

It was during her senior year of high school and early years of college that Tove began to date. In 1945, men came back from the war and attended college with help from the GI Bill. "It seemed like there were 10 men for every woman on campus, so you could date every night of the week if you wanted to." Even so, Tove and Margie decided to prioritize their grades and date less often. Margie got married during Tove's graduate year and Tove decided to stop dating altogether, to devote her time to her studies.

In spite of Tove's disinterest, her friend Jessie asked her to go on a double date. Tove refused. Regardless, two young men came to the Cooperative House door and asked for Tove. Tove explained, "I was upset that Jessie had sent them so I stomped down the stairs to say 'Go away'. However, when I got to the bottom step I stopped as I saw Ray and I said, 'I'm sorry I'm not quite ready yet' and hurried back to my room to change clothes for the roller skating party." It was a match.

After graduation, Tove moved to the town of Ferndale to teach. Ray and Tove continued to see each other occasionally,

but their communication dwindled, and eventually stopped. Soon Ray was drafted and sent to Korea, and Ray and Tove went their separate ways.

At Ferndale, Tove had the freedom to teach the curriculum the way she wanted. "I thought I would only teach Spanish and English but I found I would also teach a girl's PE class and direct plays. Both of those activities I soon learned to enjoy, and I continued directing plays for most of my life. I also loved working at a Camp Fire Girls camp during the summers."

After teaching in Ferndale for 4 years, Tove married and returned to the Centralia area. Over time, she had 5 children and with her husband raised a few beef cows and chickens, and tried sheep and pigs. When all of the children were in school, Tove went back to teaching, sometimes full-time and sometimes substituting, ending with four years at the Grand Mound prison high school.

With her sons, Tove did stints as Cub Scout leader. With her daughters, she led the Camp Fire Girls for 10 years. Tove also joined the Lewis County Chapter of American Association of University Women and participated with her countryside neighbors in the Sunshine Club. And she formed a group of actors on Mima Prairie, calling them Mimaers. For many years she directed plays both on Mima Prairie and at the Centralia Evergreen Theater.

After her husband passed away, Tove received part of a lottery jackpot from her uncle. With it, Tove decided to visit Jessie, her friend from college, who had moved to Israel. Before the visit Jessie asked Tove to locate a few friends she had lost track of. Ray was one of those people, and after Tove and Ray met up again, Ray asked Tove to contact him when she returned from her trip. She did. And in 1986 they married.

Once in Duvall with Ray, Tove continued to involve herself in community events. She became involved in the Duvall Historical Society during one of Ray's terms as president. She later also served as Historical Society president, became a long-time editor of the Wagon Wheel newsletter, served as a docent for the Dougherty House, presented the treasure box for grade school visits, and spent countless hours getting material ready for eight books she and Ray published for the Historical Society. These books helped financially support the organization. When the Dougherty House was being renovated, Tove also helped with scrubbing and painting. "I had sworn I wouldn't get on ladders anymore," she said, "I thought of that one day as I was painting the ceiling in the pantry."

Tove has also belonged to the Civic Club since she first arrived in Duvall. Alongside Ray she also became involved in politics, supported candidates, attended the county and state conventions, and spent quite some time in Olympia at the Legislature. She is currently a member of the local Cascade Republican Women, and is a part of the Duvall Cultural Commission. She still volunteers at the SnoValley Senior Center and for quite some years she directed the annual plays there. That, she says, was her favorite activity.

Up until recently, Ray and Tove raised beef cattle and owned and managed Depot Village Mobile Home Park, which they eventually sold to the tenants. They are currently in the process of donating a public restroom to the city, to be placed near the historic train depot – the depot that they also preserved and donated to the Duvall community.

Through all of their community activities in Duvall, Tove didn't forget her home town, her dear friends, and the Centralia Junior College. Last year Margie's children called Tove, asking her to visit her childhood friend one last time, so she did. Tove told stories, and Margie laughed. And a short while after, Margie passed away. "I miss her so much" Tove says. To also honor the women who kept her college going, Ray and Tove donated the remaining funds needed for placement of a life size statue on the campus of her two favorite teachers - Margaret Corbet and Katherine Kemp.

So, this year, as Tove and Ray were honored as Grand Marshall's of the Duvall Days parade, the Duvall Historical Society whole-heartedly agreed that both Tove and Ray have been great leaders and community members, leading and teaching by example, positively impacting the city of Duvall. Thank you Tove. Thank you Ray.



It's A Potluck Picnic!

Join the Duvall Historical Society for our annual member summer picnic on the Dougherty House lawn. It will take place Sunday August 18, 2013 from noon to 4pm. Bring yourself, a dish to share, a chair for sitting, and dishware. We'll provide lemonade and shade.

Be Part of Historic Preservation, Volunteer!

The Duvall Historical Society is continuously looking for volunteers to help in its mission of recording and preserving culture. If you'd like to help with one of the opportunities below, or have an idea of your own, please contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org.

- Dougherty House docent (Sundays through September, training will be provided)
- Heritage Festival volunteer (Saturday, September 28th)
- Website design
- Cataloging of artifacts, books, and ephemera
- Promotion of Historical Society membership
- Planning of speakers and programs
- Research
- Education and outreach
- Book publication
- Maintenance of buildings and gardens

Current Officers

Mary Lampson, President
Kimberly Engelkes, Vice President
Tove Burhen, Secretary
Alana McCoy, Treasurer

At-large Board Members

Mike Reid (Past President)
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Ruth Bellamy
Connie Zimmerman
Beth Lepkowski
Melissa Clark

The **Duvall Historical Society** is located at the Dougherty House at 26526 NE Cherry Valley Road, Duvall, WA 98019

The *Wagon Wheel* is a monthly publication of the Duvall Historical Society

Editor: Beth Lepkowski

If you would like to receive a copy, be interviewed for a future edition, have something to share, or would like to be added to or removed from our emailing list, please email

wagonwheeldhs@gmail.com

Become a Member!

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone(s): _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed/Yearly Membership Dues (check one):

\$5 Annual Membership (0-64 yrs) \$2 Senior Annual Membership (65yrs +)

Would you like to receive information about volunteer opportunities? Yes No

Thank you for your support! Please detach and mail this form to PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019