

# WAGON WHEEL

September/October/November 2016

Duvall Historical Society · PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019 · [www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org)



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



*Thank you to Jason Theriault of Naturescape for keeping the Dougherty Farmstead and Pioneer Cemetery looking so lovely this year. The Duvall Historical Society hired Jason to trim, mow, and prune around the Historic Dougherty Farmhouse this spring, summer, and fall. We are grateful for the hard work he did in keeping us looking great! [naturescapellc.com](http://naturescapellc.com)*

## Judge Ward Roney Sr. By Mary Lampson



Judge Ward William Roney was born near North Platte, Nebraska in 1903. His family had a ranch next to Bill Cody's. His dad rode with Buffalo Bill and was a horse buyer for Bill's *Wild West Show*. Judge Roney's father was a REAL cowboy. He taught Judge Roney how to ride, rope, and what to look for in a quality horse.

Judge Roney's health wasn't good as a youngster, so the family kept moving west to find a suitable climate. In 1912, the family settled in the Snoqualmie Valley. There were other Nebraskans already living here by that time. Judge Roney went to the elementary school and graduated from Duvall High School.

He was happy with a future as a farmer, but wanted to "make something of myself", so he worked for the railroad and earned enough money to study law at the University of Washington. He lived at home and did daily chores of milking the family cows in the morning, boarding the Index stage to the University, then returning home for the evening milking.

He joined the National Guard and was trained to be a pilot. He loved to fly and was good at it. He had the distinction of being the only person to crash an airplane in the Snoqualmie Valley and walk away from it unscathed. It happened just north of the Roney house and Rupard's farm. He was 22 at the time.

He married Irene Donahoe and they had a son, Ward, who still lives in the Valley with his wife, Val.

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When he graduated as an attorney from law school, he became an Army Judge Advocate for the 41<sup>st</sup> Army Division. He served under General MacArthur in the Pacific during World War II. It was while Judge Roney was on assignment in northern Australia preparing for an anticipated Japanese attack, that his son, Ward came home one day to find his mother crying. She had just received a telegram saying that her husband was missing in action. He was missing for six months before he emerged alive and the story of his disappearance became known.

An air raid siren had gone off on his base, so Judge Roney took his plane off base to avoid having it destroyed. He flew into the Australian Outback where his engine failed and he crashed, breaking his back and hip. Aborigines came upon him and a shaman fixed his back and hip. The Aborigines then carried him for six months in a kangaroo skin until they reached civilization and turned him in.

His military career spanned 25 years and he met many interesting people along the way, including General George C. Marshall, who became a friend. John Wayne was also a friend as they shared a love of horses and the cowboy life.

In his later years, he and Irene moved to a house that used to stand where the Riverview School District Administration Building is now. Ward Jr. continued to run the farm.

Judge Roney got his title when he was elected Superior Court Judge for King County and held that post for 30 years. He was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, several lodges in Seattle, and the Republican Party.

Socializing with friends was a favorite pastime, mostly over dinners at each other's homes. He always said after eating, "If the food wasn't the best, the friendship was"! He played the fiddle and livened up parties with his music.

## **Nominations for Board Members**

Rachel Hess, President

Mary Lampson, Vice President

Alana McCoy, Secretary

Connie Zimmerman, Treasurer

Kimberly Engelkes, Past President Board Member

## Historic Happenings in Duvall

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The City of Duvall received a 4Culture grant to restore the Dougherty Farmstead milk shed which incurred foundation damage. It has been lifted up on cribbing and the work has been started to fix the foundation.



The Historical Society has received a 4Culture grant to digitize the Carnavall Reporter and Duvall Citizen newspapers! When the project is complete, those newspapers will be available for viewing online.

Have you noticed something new with our website? The Historical Society has re-launched the website! It has all the same great content, a searchable digital collection of photos, ephemera, and articles, a calendar of events including upcoming programs, and some great oral histories! Just with a great new look. Bookmark us and check back often because we are always adding more as they become digitized.

<http://www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org/>

Rachel Hess has taken over for Beth Lepkowski as editor for the Wagon Wheel. Thank you so much to Beth for all her dedication and hard work as editor over the years. She will be missed!

# Upcoming Events

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**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## **Duvall Tree Lighting Festival**

Stop by the Historic Train Depot to warm your hands by the fire, say hello to the Historical Society and purchase a book or previous year's holiday ornament!

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

## **Historical Society Holiday Party**

Duvall Historical Society Members and their guests are invited to the annual Historical Society Holiday Party. 5-8pm on the 11th at the Rose Room of the old library. Bring a dish to share. Contact [webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.com) for more information about location and carpooling.

**December 29<sup>th</sup>**

## **Historical Society Board Meeting**

Monthly board meeting at the Dougherty Farmstead 7pm.

**January 9<sup>th</sup>**

## **Annual Duvall Historical Society Meeting**

Please join us for the annual DHS meeting January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm in the Duvall Visitor Center. Tom Matthiessen will make a presentation on the Little Postal Museum and the history of the Post Office in Duvall. Public is invited. Election of officers and board members will be held at this time.

## 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](mailto:webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org).

- Dougherty House docent
- Website design
- Education and outreach
- Book publication
- Maintenance of buildings and gardens
- Cataloging of artifacts, books, and ephemera
- Promotion of Historical Society membership
- Planning of speakers and programs
- Research

### Current Officers

Kimberly Engelkes, President  
Mary Lampson, Vice President  
Alana McCoy, Secretary  
Connie Zimmerman, Treasurer

### At-large Board Members

Ruth Bellamy  
Tom Norenberg  
Ward Ronney  
Greg Giuliani

The **Duvall Historical Society** is located at the Dougherty House at 26526 NE Cherry Valley Road, Duvall, WA 98019  
Contact us at [webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org)

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

Editor: Rachel Hess

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](mailto:wagonwheeldhs@gmail.com)

## Become a Member!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed/Yearly Membership Dues** (check one):

\$15 Individual Memberships       \$5 Students 18 & Under       \$250 Friends of DHS

**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**