

WAGON WHEEL

January 2013

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

Upcoming Events

January 6th

Duvall's 100th Birthday Party

Hosted by the Duvall Centennial Committee, the Centennial Celebration Kick-off party will be held at the Riverview Educational Service Center Auditorium from 1-4pm.

January 7th

Monthly Member Meeting

Members will gather at the old Duvall Library to discuss beginning-of-the-year business. Dues are Due! See you at 7:30pm.

February 4th

Guest Speaker: Allen Miller Monthly Member Meeting

Local historian Allen Miller will talk about Cherry Valley, the village that was right in the way of two railroads. He'll cover the early-day village and its move to present-day Duvall. He'll also talk about the riverboats, the swing bridge, milk shipping, the town of Duvall, the railroads, and outlying towns such as Novelty and Stillwater. Held at the old Duvall Library, the talk will begin at 7:30pm. Admission is free, and all are welcome, members and non-members alike!



CULTURE

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

Happy New Year and Happy 100th Birthday, Duvall!

On January 6th, 1913, Duvall was officially incorporated as a town. And 100 years later, we are celebrating!

**You are cordially invited to
Duvall's Centennial
Celebration
Kick-Off Party**

Come join us for speakers, fun activities, and birthday cake!

Date: Sunday, January 6, 2013
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Where: Riverview Educational Service Center Auditorium

Highlights will include city and state representative keynote addresses, live music by the River Winds Band, community booths, interactive children's games, theatrical skits of Duvall's colorful past played by the Cascade Community Theater in period costumes, refreshments, the premiere of the documentary film "Spirit of Duvall- the First 100 Years", birthday cake, giveaways, and more!

Location: 15510 1st Ave NE, Duvall, WA 98019
For More Information: www.duvall100.duvallwa.gov

Event Sponsors include Safeway, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Joe's Tree Service, A2 Media, Duvall True Value, Duvall Outdoor Quilt Show, JCarmichael Photography, River Winds Band, Snoqualmie Valley North Little League, PSE, Rotary Club of Duvall, Starbucks, and Waste Management.

Voices from the 1912 Debate About Duvall's Incorporation

Before it became part of the "Monroe Monitor" in 1917, "The Duvall Citizen" was a news source that published both local news and letters from concerned citizens about current events. In late 1912 part of the discussion was about whether or not Duvall should be incorporated. Here are local voices published in "The Duvall Citizen" debating whether or not Duvall should become its own town.

AGAINST:

"In considering the question of town incorporation, the only consideration should be the public welfare. Whether the town is wet or dry should not be the paramount issue, but nevertheless it seems to be, and whatever the real merits or demerits of incorporation may be, these are significantly relegated to the background.

Incorporation ought to be opposed for two reasons: First, because too many people are still paying on their places, and these can ill afford the additional burden of taxation; and secondly, because the tactics adopted to secure incorporation are not the most democratic, to say the least.

It is hard enough for some of the working people to make their payments, without having to bear the additional tax burden that incorporation would undoubtedly impose. Duvall is not a city on the prairie where the cost of street grading is reduced to a minimum, but is a town of hills and road-trails upon which a large sum of money could be spent without appreciable effect. Only a wealthy town could make the improvements that Duvall would find it necessary to make were the town incorporated.

By way of illustration, it may be mentioned that the tax rate in Monroe is now four and one-half percent, and Monroe can certainly more nearly support such a rate than Duvall, where mansions can scarcely be used in plural number.

Again, the people ought to discuss the question in public meetings where the opinions of the citizens can be freely ventilated. There has been considerable talk that a 'floater' is carrying the petition around and also that intimidation is being used to secure signers. Whether this is true, or not, the best way to dispel all grievances is a public meeting where the question may be discussed pro and con and its actual worth passed upon. To ask a person to sign, or to refuse to sign, a petition upon a moment's notice is not only undemocratic, but dangerous to the welfare of any community."

(H. Pfeifer, published 11/23/1912)

FOR:

"I think that the majority of the people in Duvall appreciate the advantages of incorporation, and a great many understand the preliminary work necessary to accomplish it, but I have been told there are some who do not understand, who have been given a wrong impression regarding the matter, who believe that incorporation means increased taxation and an enormous expenditure in street and sidewalk construction. This impression is all wrong, and was brought about by persons who have no interest in Duvall whatever, beyond perhaps a desire to cause dissention and strife, for the benefit of those who have allowed themselves to be led by these influences. I will try to explain as concisely as possible just what incorporation means, and what it has done for other towns.

In an article published in last week's issue of the "Duvall Citizen", reference was made to Monroe, in a comparative sense, showing that the taxes in Monroe were 4.5 percent, and that the poor working man who had put his little all in Duvall could not afford such a tax. We shall see how it works out. I made a special trip to Monroe, Goldbar, and Sultan. These towns have all incorporated in the last few years. I interviewed business men in each town, and asked them to tell me if they had derived any benefits from incorporation. In every case, the answer was in the affirmative.

I also called on Mr. Heintz, who was Monroe's first mayor. He says that within the first two years that he served as mayor, no city tax levy was made, and that the taxes were 10 mills less after incorporation than formerly; also that the present tax rate in Monroe is 9.5 mills, and this tax pays all the running expense of the town, including improvements, sewer system, fire protection, and street department, also the salaries of the two marshals, city clerk, and city attorney. He also stated that property values had increased from 35 to 200 per cent since they incorporated. It is a well known fact that Monroe is one of the most prosperous little towns on the coast.

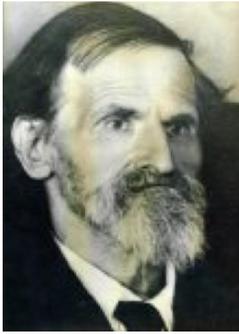
Taxes are less in Monroe today than they are outside the town, and this goes for Goldbar and Sultan. Now it strikes me that if incorporation is good for these towns, it is good for Duvall; at least it is reasonable to *(Voices from 1912, continued on page 3)*

How Did Incorporation Happen in 1913?

According to the November 30th, 1912 publication of *The Duvall Citizen*:

“Any territory having a population of 300 people in one square mile of territory, can, by a majority vote, incorporate. A certain number of residents, as prescribed by law, may petition the county commissioners for an election in the proposed unit, the boundaries of which are set forth in the petition. If the majority favor incorporation in this election, - it is done, and a full set of officials are elected.”

Did You Know?



Our town was named after James Duvall, who began to log the land in 1875 with his brother Francis. But he didn't live here for long. We'll share more of his story in a future *Wagon Wheel*.

(Voices from 1912, continued from page 2)

suppose so, in view of the fact that I personally called on 96 qualified electors and got their signatures to a petition for incorporation.

The road tax in this district for last year was approximately \$3,500. I think the commission gave us an appropriation of \$250 or \$300, out of that sum, for the improvement and maintenance of our part of the county road. This year the road tax levy will be 5 mills on the assessed valuation here in Duvall. I have no way of finding out what the assessed valuation will be here, so cannot give the exact amount you would save by incorporation. At any rate, it will be more than we have been getting from the county road fund, -- and you will have the satisfaction of spending it where it is needed.

In choosing your councilmen, every interest should be represented, the laboring man, the business man, and the manufacturer. It is absurd to think that your councilmen can saddle you with a lot of public debts, for they can not order improvements unless you want them.

There will be at least two public meetings held before incorporation, so that everybody living within the proposed city limits will have ample opportunity to discuss the matter fully, and I will explain anything regarding the proposed by-laws and ordinances that you are not clear on.

Incorporation means, independence for the city of Duvall. It means protection. It means self-government. It means that you, as citizens and property owners, shall decide for yourself what you want here — and don't want. It means something tangible back of your investment. It means law and order, and many more things, all good. You can make Duvall a good little business center if you all pull together and boost for the city of Duvall first, last, and all the time.”
(H.B. L'Hommedieu, published 11/30/1912)

The First City Council Meeting

“Duvall's first City Council meeting was held on the evening of January 7th, 1913, in the back room of Brown's Confectionery and Pool Hall. Lon Brown, the new mayor, called the meeting to order; and Roy Comegys was appointed City Clerk. The first ordinance passed established the regular meetings of the Council to be held at 8:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month and the place of meeting to be Couillard's Hall. Jeff Couillard was appointed Town Marshal at \$50 salary per month.”

Taken from p. 18 of *A Livable Community: The Story of Duvall*, by Allen Miller and Don Williams



Did You See What I Saw?

Anyone crossing the valley via the Woodinville-Duvall road this holiday season probably noticed the life-size illuminated nativity scene out in the field. And many probably wondered who made it and how?

The artist is Roger Powell, a Duvall resident and team member at CDK Construction Services, who spent many hours welding together rebar (steel bars used to reinforce concrete) into forms including Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, wisemen, camels, sheep, a star, and this year a cow.

Roger began the project in January 2011, and in his spare time made one figure each month, finishing and premiering the nativity scene on his private land in Christmas of 2011 and again in 2012. Having drawn for most of his life, he has previously created sets for his church, and thought about making a nativity scene for a while. The end result? A life-size (the top of the camel-riding wiseman's head sits 11 feet 6 inches off the ground) depiction of the birth of Jesus, shining in a field below the city of Duvall.

He gives thanks to Keith McKinney, Mike Marty, and Ryan Brown, for their help setting it up. We'll look forward to seeing it again in 2013.

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

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

Become a Member!

Please Print:

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! Welcome to the Duvall Historical Society!
Please detach and mail this form to PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019