

# WAGON WHEEL

June 2018

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

## The Roneys and Their Ponies

As a part of the oral history program at the Duvall Historical Society, a small excerpt of an interview with longtime Duvall citizens Ward and Val Roney was found and presented below:

Interview and transcription by Janet Kuller.

**Ward Roney:** Well my family was a horse family as my Grandfather rode with Buffalo Bill Cody, and we came by it naturally...my Grandfather worked with Buffalo Bill Cody and when he bought horses he always saved the best for Bill which he appreciated.

My Grandfather followed the showed but when my father was born, he was ill so they meandered north...they heard there were some people in a town called Duvall from Nebraska. They enjoyed it very much so Grandfather bought a small farm down on river road...for 40\$ an acre.

That was in 1925, I believe that my Granddad bought the farm and went into the dairy business. In those days they always had a team of horses, so my father grew up with a team of horses rather than a tractor.

When my father was discharged from the military he moved out to the farm...he bought this old 1940...tractor - all it was, was an iron horse used to plow and till - it was all manually hooked to the back of the tractor. I did appreciate the tractor - as it's a lot more convenient than a team of horses.

**Greg Guilliani:** How many horses would it take to be the equivalent of a tractor?

**Ward:** That's a good question maybe 4 to 6. So anyway Dad and I loved working with horses, and he would buy horses and break them and sell them except for the few ones we really liked. My sister had one horse called the "High School horse".

**Janet Kuller:** It took you to high school?

**Ward:** No it had different steps it could do ...it was trained. My father saw this advertisement of a horse for sale in Lake City...so he went there and bought it. I had just got my driver's license and Dad was going to ride the horse back from Lake City to Duvall, so he started riding and he leaned



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forward and the horse jumped a fence. We knew then that this was the cue for jumping. Well, that didn't bother my father; except he was jumping... he finally made it home!

So we finally got the horse trained. We bought horses and sold them and brought them and the like and had a lot of fun with it. A friend of ours from up near Stillwater came down one day and said he had a couple of horses that he'd like for us to have. But we'd have to break them and round them up in that they have never seen human beings. They were two brothers... Beautiful saddle horses - the faces of each horse was exactly the same...the stockings were the same on the front but the hind leg each had the same stocking but on one side or another.

So we rounded them up and tried to load them into my cattle truck, but that was very unsuccessful. We had turned out the Mothers and we decided the wisest thing is to get the Mother and get the sons to follow her. So we did that and then we let the Mother out.

My dad wanted to take it easy with them as they were going to be our horses forever...we had a feeding shed and every time we went by they'd jump and their eyes would spin...after a while we got them to calm down to where it was safe to lead them to water and such.

**Greg:** I have a question for you. Do you think the foundation of training would be to get them to trust you?

**Ward:** Yes.

**Val Roney:** I remember my first introduction to horses. I was a city girl. I looked out the kitchen window one day and there was my 2-year-old daughter on a horse by the river and I just stood there and watched and thought there are enough men around to keep an eye on the baby. The Giuliani's, the family, were a real important part of our life they owned a company down the road from us, Rick and Alvena. They were in the town. I befriended his mother as I just loved her. She spoke up to men - she was a wise woman. Greg was the eldest; he was this quiet humble but effective leader...he did everything...just like his Dad. He and his dad were pals and helped one other in my opinion.

**Greg:** I thought it was part of the job...if the family was going to survive and thrive everybody needed to pitch in...a team effort...you don't see that so much anymore!

**Wade:** So Dad wanted us to treat those horses tenderly. So he had us take the horses into the part of the yard for the horses to walk around in. We were going to take turns breaking our horses in that area and Dad decided he'd take the first chance. He was on the horse and that horse starting bucking him and really nasty and the horse went thru the barn door with my father staying on it. Was I ever surprised about that! My father had lots of injuries but he stayed on after that!

**Greg:** Do you think that the other horse saw the first one capitulates and that helped him be trained?

**Ward:** yes, they'd see that in each other, but we were not worried about

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them. After you broke him they were great horses.

Janet: They were a big part of your growing up!

**Greg:** Was it an American saddleback that you'd ride across the old wooden bridge?

**Ward:** There is no sound on earth like a horse walking across the bridge!

**Janet:** "What does it sound like? Can you make the sound?"

**Ward:** It was like music; I wish I could.

**Greg:** .... like a drumbeat with a rhythm...

Do you know anyone, including yourself, the Duvall Historical Society could interview for our Oral History Program? Please let us know! We are always looking for more people to interview and add to our archives.

The Duvall Historical Society is looking local Depression Era photos and items such as letters. If anyone has any they would be willing to share with us, they can contact us through our website. We can scan the items and return them promptly. Please let us know!

# Historic Happenings in Duvall

The open house at Duvall Days was a great success. Thank you to everyone who stopped by.



# Upcoming Events

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**May – September 2018 Sundays 1-4pm**

**Dougherty Farmstead Open**

Stop by through September 30<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the Dougherty Farmstead. Walk through the Dougherty House –built over 100 years ago- and visit the bunkhouse, milk barn and pioneer cemetery nearby.

**\*The Dougherty Farmstead will not be open on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> but will be open for tours during Duvall Days Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**June 21<sup>st</sup> 2018**

**Historical Society Board Meeting**

Monthly board meeting at the Dougherty Farmstead 7pm.

**July 26<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Historical Society Board Meeting**

Monthly board meeting at the Dougherty Farmstead 7pm.

**August 30<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Historical Society Board Meeting**

Monthly board meeting at the Dougherty Farmstead 7pm.

**August 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**

**Twilight Tour of the Novelty Cemetery**

More information to come

**September 8<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Potluck Picnic of Valley Historical Societies**

Tree Farm in Carnation at Noon

**September 27<sup>th</sup> 1018**

**Historical Society Board Meeting**

Monthly board meeting at the Dougherty Farmstead 7pm.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Historical Society Board Meeting**

Monthly board meeting at the Dougherty Farmstead 7pm.

**November 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Readers' Theater Presentation: Impacts of the Great Depression on Our Local Community**

Duvall Visitors Center at 7:30pm

## 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

Mary Lampson, President  
Alana McCoy, Secretary  
Connie Zimmerman, Treasurer

### At-large Board Members

Ruth Bellamy  
Kimberly Engelkes, Past President  
Tom Norenberg  
Greg Giuliani  
Rachel Hess

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 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!

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**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**