

WAGON WHEEL

July 2012

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

Upcoming Events

Now through September Dougherty Farmstead Sunday Tours

The Dougherty House is open every Sunday from 1pm to 4pm for drop-in visitors. Invite friends and family to learn about the Dougherty Farmstead and Duvall life in the early 1900's.

September 10th Monthly Member Meeting

Duvall Historical Society Member Meetings resume after a summer hiatus. See you at 7:30pm at the Dougherty House.

September 29th Heritage Festival

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



CULTURE

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

Duvall Days 2012



Photos courtesy of Connie Zimmerman

On Saturday, June 2nd, a brave community turned out in spite of early morning rain, to parade down the Main Street of Duvall. The event was Duvall Days 2012, and many were there, dancing horses and roaring tractors alike. This year the Duvall Historical Society participated by riding in a covered wagon. Wagon master Russ Galusha steered the ship, while Tove Burhen (pictured above), Ray Burhen, and Connie Zimmerman waved to the crowd. Mary Lampson and Beth Lepkowski walked alongside. Thanks to Russ for his capable driving and for sharing his miniature mules and wagon with us!

Historical Society Happenings

Dougherty Farmstead Open House

A steady stream of visitors toured the Dougherty Farmstead on Sunday, June 3rd. Guided by Historical Society volunteers, the guests learned about the life of the loggers that Kate Dougherty housed in the bunkhouse. They saw the home's original woodwork dating back to 1888, and toured rooms furnished to reflect Duvall life in the early 1900's. Among the visitors was a grandson of the Dougherty Family. We enjoyed spending time with him and all else who came!



Pictured far right is Mr. Ross, grandson of the Doughertys. Accompanying him are members of his family.

School Tours and Group Tours

As part of their studies of local history, two 3rd grade classes from Cherry Valley Elementary visited the Dougherty Farmstead on Tuesday May 29th, and Wednesday June 6th. For information on scheduling a group or class tour, contact webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org.

This month we'll take a break from the Centennial Snapshot, our preview of Duvall's Centennial Documentary. Instead we're featuring an article about a person, place, or event in Duvall's history. Enjoy!

Martha Wright: A Star From Duvall



*There's a farm I know, in my old hometown,
Where we too, can go, and try settling down.*

So sings the blonde-haired Broadway star from the Pacific Northwest. The year is 1964 and Martha Wright performs alongside other artists on "The Bell Telephone Hour" in a tribute to the singer/songwriter Cole Porter. Gliding across the stage in her flowing white gown, she belts out the lyrics of Porter's "Why Can't You Behave?" while at the same time harking back to her childhood in rural Duvall.

Born March 23, 1923, to parents Fred and Lucile Wiederrecht, Martha was the granddaughter of Judge Edward H. Wright and his wife Cora, a classically trained pianist and vocalist. From an early age, the young star was at her grandmother's side, learning to sing and play piano. As a child she performed in her sixth grade class' production "The Princess and the Peddler", and when not on stage, she spent time with friends and family on her grandfather's farm. Her childhood friend, Mae Kusters, recalls swimming with Martha in Cherry Creek, and speaks fondly of an afternoon spent together, hoeing corn. It was an afternoon that they reminisced about recently, now with grandchildren of their own.

Martha's family continued to reside in Duvall until her teenage years, when she left with her parents for Seattle. But her hometown didn't forget her.

In a letter dated April 25, 1940, Martha wrote:

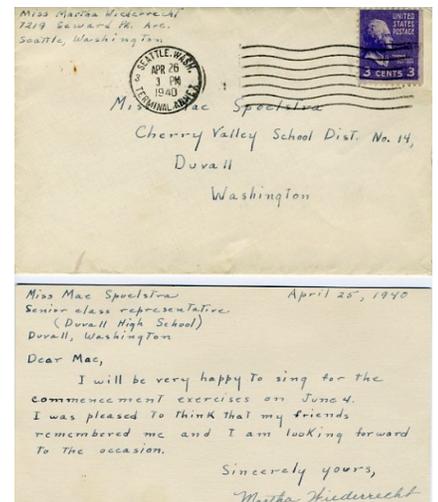
"Dear Mae,

I will be very happy to sing for the commencement exercises on June 4. I was pleased to think that my friends remembered me and I am looking forward to the occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Martha Wiederrecht"

And Martha didn't forget her hometown. After graduating from Franklin High School in Seattle, and finishing two years at the University of Washington, she launched into decades of stardom. Adopting the stage name of Martha Wright, Martha performed in local Seattle productions, and from there made her way to Broadway in New York City. Discovered by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein in 1951, she played the role of nurse Nellie Forbush in over 1000 Broadway performances of "South Pacific". Her career continued to evolve as she starred in a television show, sang in musicals including "the Sound of Music", performed at supper clubs, and performed with the likes of Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, and others, including John Raitt in their tribute to Cole Porter.



And in the midst of it all she made time for Washington State. Returning often to visit friends and family, she also sang in many local performances and spent time supporting the community. Before "South Pacific", in 1951, she hung posters for the local Cancer Crusade during a visit to Duvall. Her efforts helped the town reach its fundraising goal. In 1955 after marrying New York City restaurateur George J. 'Mike' Manuche, she brought her first infant son to meet her friends and family. That same trip she performed in Seattle's production of "South Pacific" at the Greenlake Aqua Theater, returning again in 1957 and 1959 for other performances at the Seattle locale. Nearly twenty years later in 1976, then a mother of four children, she treated the Seattle area to a rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner". It was the opening night of the Seattle Kingdome.

Although no longer living in the Pacific Northwest, throughout the years Martha never forgot her Duvall and Seattle heritage, and Duvall didn't forget her. Now over 80 years old, Martha has retired from the stage. Even so, she still has a special place in the heart of her old hometown, and in the hearts of friends that continue to reside here.

Thank you to Mae Kosters for sharing her collection of Martha Wright articles and pictures.



Current Officers

Mike Reid, President
 Ruth Bellamy, Vice President
 Mary Lampson, Secretary
 Connie Zimmerman, Treasurer

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, submit an
 article, or have something to share, please
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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***