

Wagon Wheel

3rd Quarter 2020

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

Our Beloved Ruth (Coy) Bellamy

By Country Roney



Ruth was born in Monroe, Washington. Her family moved away from the valley for a short time and returned to Duvall in 1938 for the rest of her life. She and her brother Carl and sisters Nora and Gail enjoyed playing and helping their parents run the family homeplace (now a part of Miller's Homestead).

Ruth married John Coy in 1950 and they built their house on NE Cherry Valley Road where she lived until her death. John and Ruth, along with his brothers

operated the dairy farm that is now Cherry Valley Dairy. Their family grew with four children. Sadly, John died in an accident on the farm in 1969.

In 1975 Ruth married Don Bellamy, a widower with eight children, so between them they had an even dozen. Don's youngest son was raised by Ruth and Don here in the valley. Five of her children lived within a mile of her home and she was happiest when they were visiting with her.

In addition to keeping the farm operating Ruth absolutely loved gardening; dahlias and pumpkins were her specialties. Her dill pickles and dill beans were known to fetch high prices at charity auctions! She loved the history of Duvall and was a board member of the Duvall Historical Society for many years. Sunday Church, Wednesday Women's Bible Study, the Tualco Grange and Friday lunch at the Sno-Valley Senior Center followed by domino games were other favorite pastimes. She was on the board of King County Drainage District No. 7 even after she sold the farm property. She also cared about keeping in touch with her family and friends. Cards were sent to old friends to keep in touch and sending birthday cards to her 23 grandchildren and 36 great grandchildren kept her busy.

Ruth passed away as she lay down to take a rest on a hot summer evening. She was a tiny woman who leaves a large hole in the lives of those who loved her. Her faith in Jesus gave her strength to go through a long and amazing life.

Another Outstanding Farm Family In Lower Valley



DAIRY FAMILY: The Coy family of Duvall gathered around one of the calves that one day will join their herd of Holsteins. (From left, rear) James Coy, Mrs. John Coy, John Coy. (From left, front) The John Coy children, Johnnie, Margie, Ruth Ann and Neal. (Engraving courtesy the Seattle Times).

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There is more to learn about Ruth in the Wagon Wheel 3rd Edition pages 122—125

Volunteer Spirit Grows

Written by Paul George, Contributor

Duvall's historic Dougherty Farmstead had a good reason to celebrate the recent Labor Day holiday weekend, as some of the farm's century-old buildings were prepped and preserved with new coats of paint. The labor for this Labor Day makeover came courtesy of members of the Duvall Historical Society and their supporters from the community, including local Scouts.

Despite challenges presented by the current historic Covid-19 pandemic, this volunteer event provided members of the community an opportunity to give back, while keeping safety in mind. Event organizers asked volunteers to observe social distancing, wear masks, and also managed limitations around group size. The group came prepared, with safety kit items including masks, gloves, and sanitizer.

When asked why the group decided to proceed with the project, Historical Society President Marilyn 'Country' Roney answered, "We are confident in our Covid-19 safety plan and our preparations. We are working outside, with the necessary six-foot in distance between us. And we trusted the self-disciplined volunteers to do their part."

Roney was pleased to have some local youth turn out to help. "Seeing young people contribute shows they have heart, learning selflessness, dedication and hard work," she observes. "Instilling these values early will only benefit our future community." The landmark is important to the local Scouts, who say they have grown up driving past the Dougherty house,



Left: DHS VP Fiver Pilon and Scout Zach from Troop 909



DHS board member Kimberly Engelkes power washes the ADA ramp getting it ready for paint



Covid kit ~ part of the safety plan



Treasurer Connie Zimmerman, intern Taylor Hill and friend Hendy Conlan scrape to the original cedar siding

and they want to do their part to preserve it. "Historical sites like the Dougherty farm are important to the history of the area," points out Trail Sammarco, from BSA Troop 909. "Every generation needs to part of the preservation effort if we want these sites to last.

"Being a Scout has helped me realize that I don't just like doing volunteer work because it makes me look good. I do it because it's the right thing to do as an American citizen and it helps to build a community and connect with other people."

The society offers its thanks to all who helped make the work party a success, including volunteers, the City of Duvall, and funding provided by the King County 4Culture program.

This work also marks continuing efforts from local Scouts to contribute to the site, including the recent addition of the dog park, completed by Eagle Scout Ikaika Ward of Troop 745.

DHS members report that the pandemic has ignited a strong interest in their work from followers on Facebook and Instagram. To learn more, visit the Duvall Historical Society website (www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org). The site showcases stories, video tours, and a self-guided history tour of Duvall, all of which are able to be enjoyed in a safe and socially-distanced manner.

Valley View

Duvall Historical Society adapts tours to pandemic

By Laura Guido

From teachers looking for creative lessons to residents who've always wanted to check out the century-old building on Cherry Road, the Duvall Historical Society has plans to deliver. After overcoming some technical difficulties, the organization is planning on hosting virtual tours of the Dougherty House by the end of August, according to President Country Roney.

Amid early signs of the novel coronavirus' potential impact, Roney started looking into ways to bring Duvall's historic landmark to people from a safe distance, she said.

"I just had a gut feeling that we weren't going to be able to share that face to face," Roney said.

Lamentably, the site lost internet connection during its early attempts at live, video-streamed tours. But the organization didn't give up, Roney said.

When the tours pick back up in August, she's hoping to work with local schools to incorporate them into the lessons. In the past, she's taught about the former homestead in classrooms, but now she sees an opportunity to spread the information to an even broader audience.

A trained docent will lead a guided tour via video chat through the rooms of the home and talk about each room and its significance to the greater

history of the area, she said. The docent will wear a clear face shield so that hearing-impaired viewers can read lips, and guests won't have to worry about the house's steep stairs.

"This way, we can reach those who might have a diminished capacity physically," Roney said. "They'll be able to visit the upstairs rooms virtually, where they couldn't have before."

The building has served a number of purposes in

the community in its more than 130 years of existence; it was owned by a homesteader, served as a post office, housed Cherry Valley loggers and its parlor at times doubled as a church for Catholic congregants, according to Roney.

The Dougherty farmstead, including the house, is designated as a national landmark and contains the Duvall Historical Society's archives.

During this particularly

tumultuous time, sharing information about the site as well as the area's past continues to be an important mission for the society and for Roney in particular, she said.

"One thing my father reiterated to me was, in order to know your future, you have to understand your past," she said.

"Duvall has experienced hardships like this before ... And we've made it. We've made it as a community."

Upcoming Events



Stay Safe, Stay Healthy order: We cancelled the Dougherty House tours for 2020 and all other events at least until January 2021 due to Washington's Stay Safe, Stay Healthy order for the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to re-opening as soon as the order has been lifted and our volunteer structure is secured.

We are grateful to 4Culture, Savor Snoqualmie, WSHS & the K.C. Cultural Services Agency for their support in the preservation of our heritage.

Current 2020 Officers

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