

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

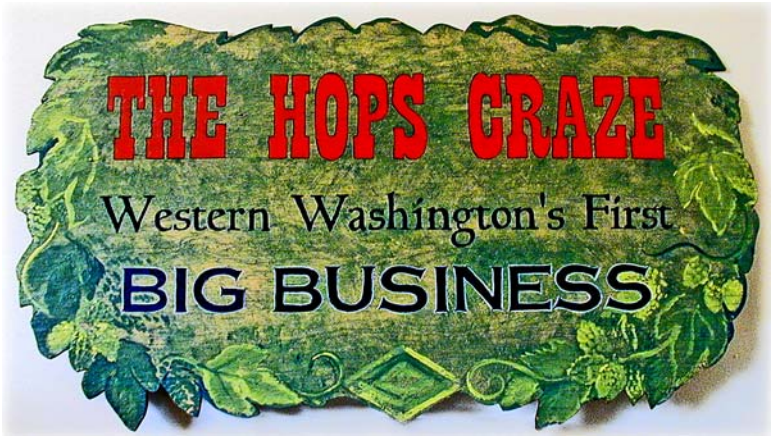
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Learn about the HOPS CRAZE on Fall City Day!

In our lifetime, hops have rarely been grown commercially west of the Cascades. Most of the hops farming in early King County was in the valleys of the White, Puyallup and Snoqualmie Rivers. Ezra Meeker (later dubbed The Hop King) started in 1868 in Puyallup. The Wold brothers in the Squak Valley (now Issaquah) and Patrick Hayes on White River were well established by 1876. Transportation was difficult, as roads were poor. Most hops were shipped by steamboat. In Fall City, a warehouse for hops storage was built on the Hance Moore property, which had a river landing.



In 1881, weather and insect pests severely damaged European hop crops and prices soared from a few cents to more than a dollar a pound. Since railroad transportation was now available for this easily shipped product, hundreds of smaller operators converted to growing hops. A Hop Growers Association was incorporated in Seattle and bought 160 acres from Jeremiah Borst, adding other land until they owned 1,500 acres. Of this, eventually 900 acres were planted with hops, making it the largest hop ranch in the world. However, due to over-production and insect problems, hop prices and production declined starting in the early 1890s and the crop had largely disappeared by the early 1900s.

MANY THANKS to all who made *GiveBIG* donations. Your contributions will help pay for a third printing of the *Memory Book* and for more historic signs.
Much appreciated!

HISTORIC PRINTS NOW AT RUST & CLOTH

We thank the folks at **Rust & Cloth** for providing sales space for our historic prints... stop by! (the former Liquor Store site)



Most prints are 11" x 14" and are in a handy rack for viewing.

Support for our work from King County Heritage 4Culture is gratefully acknowledged.

