

The Herbfarm



When the sad news of Ron Zimmerman's passing came last month, many would immediately think of his AAA 5-Diamond *Herbfarm Restaurant* in Woodinville. But for Fall City folks, his name is associated with a local landmark.

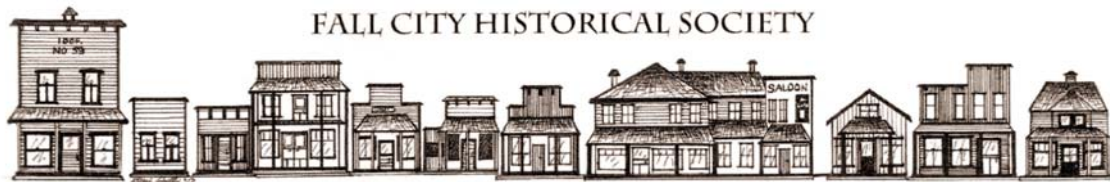
In 1974, Ron's parents, Bill and Lola bought a run-down dairy farm at SE 46th St and 328th Ave SE in Fall City. They fixed up the house and found that the soil on an old dairy farm was conducive to growing plants. They could be seen puttering around in their garden most days. One day, Lola found she had too many chive plants, so she set several pots in an old wheelbarrow and put them out by the road with a "Herbs For Sale" sign and an empty jar. At the end of the day the plants were gone and the jar was full of cash.

They got interested in growing herbs for culinary and medicinal purposes. Soon they had two greenhouses and a thriving business selling over 300 varieties of herbs. In their travels, they would seek out rare varieties and learn about the attributes and uses of each. They planted theme gardens including mints, medicinal, and one filled with herbs mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. Bill could be seen walking amongst the tables of plants, carrying a chicken, encouraging shoppers to smell, touch and rub each herb to get the full effect. He was known for his knowledge of medicinal herbs and worked in his later years in Fall City at Mountain View Nutrition.

Ron and his wife, Carrie Van Dyck, joined his parents in the operation in 1986. They operated a gift shop with all things herbal, held classes on cooking, crafting, gardening, and the medicinal use of herbs. They held festivals and created a mail-order catalog. To help sell herb plants, they started offering a lunch in the converted garage, that included a walk through the garden, and herb education. *The Herbfarm Restaurant* was born. At first Ron was the chef and Carrie was the host. The popularity of their cuisine led them to offer a nine course dinner which routinely sold out months in advance. They soon attracted talented chefs eager to work in a farm-to-table kitchen before locavore became a culinary trend.

A fire that destroyed the building in 1997 led to their moving the restaurant to Woodinville. But still when you make that bend in the road and drive by the original farm, you can almost smell those herbs.





FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024

historylives@fallcityhistorical.org

www.fallcityhistorical.org



FALL CITY DAY 2023



The Fabulous Fifties (the 1950s that is) brought us the space race, poodle skirts, and really cool cars. Remember? Wait – you weren't born yet? Well, that's even better. Stop by our Fall City Historical Society pavilion at Fall City Day to get a glimpse of life when times were slower. We'll have pictures of Fall City people and places, some old time artifacts, and games from the way back. We'll be selling some fun Fall City mugs, glasses, books, and even magnets. We also have a new shipment of Salish Salmon pint glasses coming in.

Stop by and say hello!



Tour Local Museums

Throughout King County, local historical societies have museums featuring collections of local memorabilia. In April, several Fall City Historical Society members made the trek all the way to Monroe to visit the museum in the old Monroe City Hall. The building once was also the fire department, municipal courthouse, and jail. Their volunteers welcomed us and shared interesting ideas on artifact preservation and display. We toured the jail and agreed that the cell was no place anyone would want to spend much time. Throughout the summer, we'll be scheduling trips to other nearby museums. If you'd like to join us on future outings, look for details in our monthly email. If you don't already get our email, sign up at historylives@fallcityhistorical.org.



Historic Signs Tour coming up in July. Check the July Neighbors for details.

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

