



DAFFODIL
TACOMA YACHT
CLUB
HISTORY

1930's

YEAR	THEME	QUEEN	SCHOOL	PRESIDENT
1934	None	Elizabeth Lee Wooten	Puyallup	Erin Ouellette
1935	None	Margaret Thomas	Sumner	Lee P Merrill
1936	None	Helen Edgerton	Puyallup	Herbert Stimson, Jr. Jr.
1937	None	Dorothy Lyons	Sumner	Frank Chervenka
1938	None	Bliss Lundrigan	Puyallup	Frank Chervenka
1939	None	Bette Lee	Sumner	Frank Chervenka



1934

The Daffodil Festival

It all started in 1934.....



1934 Original Daffodil Festival

Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-173

Organizers of the first Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival in March 1934 were not above using a little “cheesecake” to advertise their fledgling flower festival. Left to right, Frankie Cowan, Betty Brumbaugh, and Billye Fairchild pose in 30’s swimsuits in field of bright spring daffodils. The first festival was the brainchild of Tacoman Lee Merrill and was loosely patterned on the Dutch flower festivals held around Easter. The 1934 event included the reign of the first Daffodil Queen, Elizabeth Lee Wooten, a parade (then called a “procession”) and “Bulb Sunday” where visitors were invited to motor out to the fields and view the blossoms.

Credit: Pictures/stories provided by Tacoma Public Library – NW room



March 1934

Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-164

In March of 1934, (l to r) Frankie Cowan, Billye Fairchild, and Betty Brumbaugh wearing long Spring dresses and stylish hats posed in a field of bright yellow daffodils to help advertise the first ever Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival. Several days before the parade, Puyallup lawyer Herman Zander had still not selected a Festival Queen. Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Wooton of Puyallup was finally selected when he saw her stroll by his office window. Billye Fairchild was selected the Queen's attendant from Tacoma. In the early days of the Festival, pre-1950s, the Queen had to be from either Sumner or Puyallup. TPL-9812



Daffodil bulbs came to Valley when hops died

By BOB LANG
The South Valley

A bug owned the way in the Puyallup Valley for the bulb industry on that is the foundation for the annual Daffodil Festival.

In the last decades of the 19th Century, hops were the principal crop raised in the valley's rich soil. Loans and credit at a cost of a dime a pound. Puyallup Valley was brought to a standstill from the hawking industry.

Standing under 600 pounds an acre from Eastern Idaho, the plants put out a ton or more per

were here. Immigrants and Indian laborers alike thrived as hop farmers, converting every acre out in produce to the valuable crop.

BUT BY THE century's end, the hop fields were in hard times. Idaho had wiped out the crop or sent the cost of their extermination past the income the salvaged crop could bring.

Fields were converted to berries. Bulbs, many imported from Europe fields, began to make an appearance. Fremont Day life was known in 1910 as Gardenville and sported daffodils and narcissus.

In 1923, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommended bulb-growing on a large scale to replace Puyallup Valley's soil and climate ideal for the industry.

Comments in bulbs had grown enough in the root. 15 years to prevent annual cultivation on a modest scale in the valley towns of Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Orting and Pile. There was a Bulb Queen, and a Bulb King, and a Bulb Sunday.

When bulbs are the crop, flowers are just something to let bloom

and grow under as fertilizer.

THE VALLEY'S fields rolled out mile after mile of brilliant color each spring, attracting the attention of a young photographer and his camera.

The photographer, Lee Merrill, had just covered (retired) in The Netherlands in the early 1920s when he studied forestry there. He suggested to some of the growers that a parade be staged and the daffodils used to decorate the vehicles.

The idea caught on and Merrill saw his first Puyallup Valley Daffodil

60th Festival Parade on April 11, 1918.

Except for three years during World War II, the Grand Floral Street Parade has been an annual tradition in Tacoma and other valley cities.

Merrill himself took time-out for World War II, as a U. S. Navy photographer. But Merrill, now 72 and retired, was in yesterday's parade for Merrill's memory.

While still in the land, the daffodils are cut and shipped to most major metropolitan areas to decorate the floats in the Grand Floral Street Parade.

LAST YEAR, 15 million flowers

were harvested in Puyallup County, about a fourth of the state's total harvest of daffodils, crocus and tulips.

About 240 acres were in daffodils in Puyallup County.

Recently, with the festival promoting the sale of cut daffodils throughout the nation, they no longer are left in the fields, as known for Merrill's memory.

First Daffodil queen wore borrowed crown

By WILLENE ANDERSON
The South Valley

Mrs. Paul Wotton vividly recalls the 1914 Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival. She was the queen that year — for the first festival and parade — wearing a borrowed crown.

Mrs. Wotton, the former Elizabeth Lee still resides in Puyallup. The man story those recalled days in her life have added, such upon the scene, but it hasn't faded the memory of the joy she felt, she said.

THE DAFFODILS were to bloom in the Valley, and they seemed to have a brighter glow that year, she said. Mrs. Wotton didn't know it at the time, but several delegates from the Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and Orting chambers of commerce had met in Sumner, and had discussed how to expand that 1914's first festival, an annual event since 1927. They decided to hold a parade.

Of course, with a parade, you need floats, and with floats you need pretty girls and maybe a queen.

PUYALLUP businessman Norman Zander was named parade marshal. He saw Mrs. Wotton strutting along Puyallup's Main Street, and picked her to reign as the queen.

In three days of hurried preparation, the parade was ready to go.

Mrs. Wotton wore a gown and a crown borrowed from the Daughters of the Nile.

The review stand in Tacoma was from a 23-foot high replica of the

Washington Monument that required 100,000 daffodils to cover it. The reviewing stand was on South 19th and Pacific Avenue, adjacent to the old Tacoma Hotel.

There were 23 decorated cars and 20 floats, plus Boy Scouts, Elks, Kiwanis and other veterans' groups in that first parade. Mrs. Wotton and her husband was in charge of decorating the Kiwanis car. He spent \$7 in the effort.

Patricia Richter, now Mrs. Charles I. Randall, was the flower girl. The year's court consisted of Mrs. Leroy Junge, the former Clarice Humphreys, Hazel Boden of Orting, Virginia Bryan of Sumner and Billie Fairchild.

THOSE WERE the Depression years, Mrs. Wotton said. "We didn't need any money for anything lavish," she remembered that it was a low, significant day.

From 1934 until 1942, the Daffodil festival was an annual event.

World War II put a halt to the activities from 1942, but in 1946, the parade returned and has been held each spring since then.

All the queens selected in the early years were from either Puyallup or Orting. That was changed in 1946 and expanded to include other schools in the area. Daffodil queens of younger age are

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|----------|
| 1917 | Dorothy Lyons | Sumner |
| 1918 | Ellis Lundegren | Puyallup |
| 1919 | Belle Lee | Sumner |
| 1920 | Marge Hanson | Puyallup |
| 1921 | Pauline Martin | Sumner |
| 1922 | Shirley Newman | Puyallup |
| 1923 | Christa Dinesdale | Sumner |
| 1924 | Jean Edson | Puyallup |
| 1925 | Dorcas Boden | Sumner |
| 1926 | Mary Jean Cropper | Puyallup |
| 1927 | Nancy Davis | Sumner |
| 1928 | Elaine Jay Clapp | Puyallup |
| 1929 | Erica Brattin | Sumner |
| 1930 | Joan Marie Demko | Puyallup |
| 1931 | Mary Lucille | Sumner |
| 1932 | Elsie Sumner | Puyallup |
| 1933 | Margaret Sivcham | Sumner |
| 1934 | Janice Mathen | Lincoln |
| 1935 | Orville Brockhoff | Stadium |
| 1936 | Carol Mich. | Franklin |
| 1937 | Diane Barkness | Lincoln |
| 1938 | Carroll Mackie | Puyallup |
| 1939 | Sharon Silvernail | Orting |
| 1940 | Gail Burkcap Mount | Tacoma |
| 1941 | Karen Gottlieb | Puyallup |
| 1942 | Kay Bryson | Sumner |
| 1943 | Susan Ross | Woburn |
| 1944 | Carol Paulsola | Franklin |
| 1945 | Cheryl Lamka | Sumner |
| 1946 | Linda Michael | Puyallup |
| 1947 | Shelley Groby | Mount |
| 1948 | Joan Fink | Lakem |
| 1949 | Paula Arntson | Wilson |
| 1950 | Shirley Marren | Wilson |
| 1951 | Lori Weller | Wilson |
| 1952 | Wanda Van Noy | Franklin |
| 1953 | Elmer Hopp | Sumner |
| 1954 | Carol Glenn | Bugers |
| 1955 | Janice Ash | Berber |



Puyallup Daffodil Festival's first royal court

Queen Elizabeth Lee posed on a sunny spring day in 1914 with members of the first royal court of the Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival. At the left is Mrs. Leroy Junge (Clarice Humphreys), the flower girl is Mrs. Charles I. Randall (Patry Lou Richie) and the attendant at the right is Billie Fairchild. The first queen, who now is Mrs. Paul Wotton, resides in Puyallup.

Dianne Bell holds a page of The News Tribune with a photo of her mother, Elizabeth (second from left), and other members of the first Daffodil royal court at the Rhododendron Garden Nursery in Federal Way, Wash., on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. Bell's mother, Elizabeth, was the first Daffodil Queen. Joshua Bessex JOSHUA.BESSEX@GATELINE.COM





Daughter of first Daffodil Queen honors mother by planting a thousand daffodils every year

BY ALLISON NEEDLES

APRIL 24, 2018 07:00 AM

For Dianne Bell, the idea to plant 10,000 daffodils on her property sparked with an image she saw in a garden magazine in the late 1980s.

The picture was of an English manor surrounded by daffodils.

The minute she saw it, the Federal Way resident knew she had to plant daffodils. Because for Bell, daffodils are more than just flowers. Her mother, Elizabeth Lee Wotton, was Puyallup's first-ever Daffodil Festival Queen.

VIDEO: <https://www.thenewstribune.com/latest-news/article209071934.html>

"It came together that I loved daffodils — I grew up in Puyallup — I could plant daffodils for my mother, and my father had always wanted to plant daffodils for my mom.

And now this was my opportunity to plant for him," she said.

THE FIRST DAFFODIL QUEEN

The way that Bell's mother was selected as the first Daffodil Queen was serendipitous.

In 1934, a group of organizers of the first Daffodil Festival were in a meeting when they realized they needed a Daffodil Queen. Right then, Wotton happened to be walking down the street.

"At that moment my beautiful mother turned the corner, came in view and someone said, 'Her!'" Bell said.

Wotton, who was in her late 20s, was photographed beside the parade float, which was covered in daffodils. She wore a borrowed dress and crown.

"Those were the Depression years," Wotton was quoted saying in an article published in The News Tribune in April 1979. "We didn't have any money for anything lavish."

Bell described her mother as very sweet.



“She loved music,” Bell said. “There was a lot of spontaneity in our family. She liked to sing. We grew up knowing all the songs that were popular back then.”

Bell has a sister, Marilyn, and a brother, Warren. Growing up, Bell’s family had a rhododendron garden, and she was always surrounded by flowers.

“It was so wonderful and exciting to go out and see for the first time a new creation. I got hooked,” Bell said.

In 1981, Bell opened the [Rhododendron Garden Nursery](#) in Federal Way with her husband, Cecil Bell. It would be where she planted thousands of daffodils years later.

PLANTING 10,000 DAFFODILS

In 1989, after deciding to plant daffodils for her mother, Bell drove out to what was then the Van Lierop Bulb Farm in Puyallup to pick up the 10,000 daffodils she’d ordered. Bell packed up her truck with half of the daffodils — that’s all she could fit — and decided she would return later for the rest of them.

She drove back to the Rhododendron Garden Nursery, where she’d already dug out the beds she needed, and got to planting. It was a lot of work.

“At the end of the day, I stood up. I had planted one bed and reality set in,” Bell remembered. “I knew I was in trouble.”

It took another two days for Bell to finish planting. She planted some daffodils on the hillside of her property, and some others in a field.

Later that year, Bell took her mother out to the property to see the daffodils.

“That’s nice, dear,” Bell remembered her saying.

Bell was glad her mother got to see them. Her father, Paul Wotton, died in 1985 and never got the chance.

In 1992, Wotton died at the age of 86. But after planting the initial 10,000, Bell continued to plant daffodils for her every year.

KEEPING UP THE TRADITION

Now, Bell still operates her nursery in Federal Way, and the daffodils continue to grow there. Every year, she plants another 1,000 daffodils to replace the ones that don’t bloom again.

White Thalia, orange and yellow Jet fire, February Gold and Alexis Beauty daffodils are planted around the property.

While gardening gets difficult sometimes, Bell is resilient in her planting.

“When I’m all done, I’m relieved, but the minute it’s over I’m ready to plant some more,” she said.

Bell works at her nursery nearly every day, with the daffodils a constant reminder of Wotton. The way Bell describes daffodils, it’s almost as if she’s describing her mother, too.

“Growing up in the valley, everybody liked daffodils. I don’t want to meet the person who doesn’t like daffodils,” Bell said. “Daffodils have, to me, a personality, and it’s very unassuming. They’re beautiful, but they’re unassuming.”

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Dianne Bell stands amongst thousands of daffodils she has planted at the Rhododendron Garden Nursery in Federal Way, Wash., on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. A magazine photo inspired Bell to plant 10,000 daffodils around her nursery in 1990 to honor her mother and father. Bell’s mother, Elizabeth, was the first Daffodil Queen. JOSHUA

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<https://www.thenewtribune.com/news/local/community/puyallup-herald/article208403059.html>



A child rode in the large wicker basket atop a flower bedecked automobile in the first Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival parade in March of 1934. The early Daffodil Festival parades were held in late March at a time when the golden daffodils were blooming profusely. This float was sponsored by Mannings Inc., a tea and coffee dealer. Few entries in that first parade were as lavish as this one. Awards were given in eight categories in 1934: best pony, best horse, best bicycle, best Valley Exhibit Car, best Garden Club float, best service club float and best commercial division float. Mannings took the best commercial float honors for their beautifully decorated entry. (T.Times 3-19-34, p. 1-article; p. 5-alternate photograph)



March 17, 1934

Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-166



March 17, 1934

Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-157

This daffodil decorated horse and driver were one of the entries in the first Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival parade in 1934. The two wheeled cart was advertising Will Rogers in the motion picture *David Harem* playing at the Roxy Theater. Most of the entries in the first parade were modest when compared to later years. The parade began at Union Station, travelled through downtown Tacoma then on to Puyallup, Sumner and Orting.



1935



Richards Studio 972-1

ABOVE: Margaret Thomas is crowned Queen Margaret I of the 1935 Daffodil Festival in Sumner on March 22, 1935. The 23 year old beauty is from Sumner. The new queen, bearing a bouquet of sunny daffodils, smiles at Frank Chervenka (right), bulb grower and daffodil authority, who is also president of the Sumner Chamber of Commerce. They are separated by Stewart Brown and Nancy Zech, whose faces peek over a mound of daffodils. (TNT 3/23/1935, pg. 1)



Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-140

LEFT: Margaret Thomas, crowned Queen Margaret I of the 1935 Greater Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival, smiles serenely over her bouquet of daffodils. The twenty three year old from Sumner was the first Queen chosen in an actual contest. Queen Margaret was selected from a field of ten candidates. The very first Festival Queen, Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Wooten, was selected by a committee without a contest. Until the mid-1950s, the Queen was always from Sumner or Puyallup, the birthplaces of the daffodil industry.



March 1935

General Photograph Collection G2.1-044

1935 Daffodil Festival Queen. 23-year-old Margaret Thomas of Sumner was the Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival's second-ever queen. She was the first chosen from a field of ten contestants in 1935; Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Wooten was selected by committee without a contest the previous year. Miss Thomas is pictured looking pensively at the camera while holding an enormous bouquet of daffodils. (General Photograph Collection G2.1-044)



Queen Margaret I, Margaret Thomas of Sumner, and her four attendants pose on their Daffodil Parade float on March 23, 1935. The attendants are, left to right, Irma Jane Janig, Sumner; Billie Barto, Puyallup; Olive Chervenka, Sumner; and Evelyn Mellinger of Tacoma. The 1935 parade was the second annual.



Mar 23, 1935

Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-113



Mar 23, 1935

Richards Studio 972-4

Queen Margaret Thomas, floral ruler of the 1935 Daffodil Festival, and her court wait on their float, built by Tacoma Distributors, for the parade to get started. Queen Margaret I rules from a throne graced with flower covered replicas of enormous daffodils. The weather for the Saturday parade was the expected brisk Spring morning. People gearing up to view the daffodil fields on Sunday were surprised by an unseasonable sprinkling of snow.



Mar 23, 1935

Richards Studio 972-2

The crowning of Margaret Thomas as Queen Margaret I kicks off the celebrations of the 1935 Daffodil Festival. The queen is being crowned in Sumner, the city that she represents. Queen Margaret is pictured on her throne surrounded by, left to right, Frank Chervenka, Billie Barto, Irma Jane Janig, flower girl Nancy Zech, Olive Chervenka, Evelyn Mellinger and Stewart Brown. The throne is liberally decorated with daffodils. The 1935 festival was the second annual floral tribute. (TNT 3/23/1935, pg. 1) (filed with Argentum)



1936



Apr 18, 1936

Richards Studio D2513-2



Photos: the daffodilfestival.org

The prize winning float in the Daffodil Parade, entered by the Puyallup and Tacoma Active Clubs. The float is a flower bed ecked replica of a US destroyer, complete with swinging life-boats and a rosy cheeked crew of little girls in nautical attire. The float is accompanied by a man dressed in a sailor's uniform. The float ship bore the number 110, the number of the Tacoma Sea Scout ship. (T. Times 4/20/1936, pg. 3)



Apr 18, 1936

Richards Studio D2513-11



Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-190

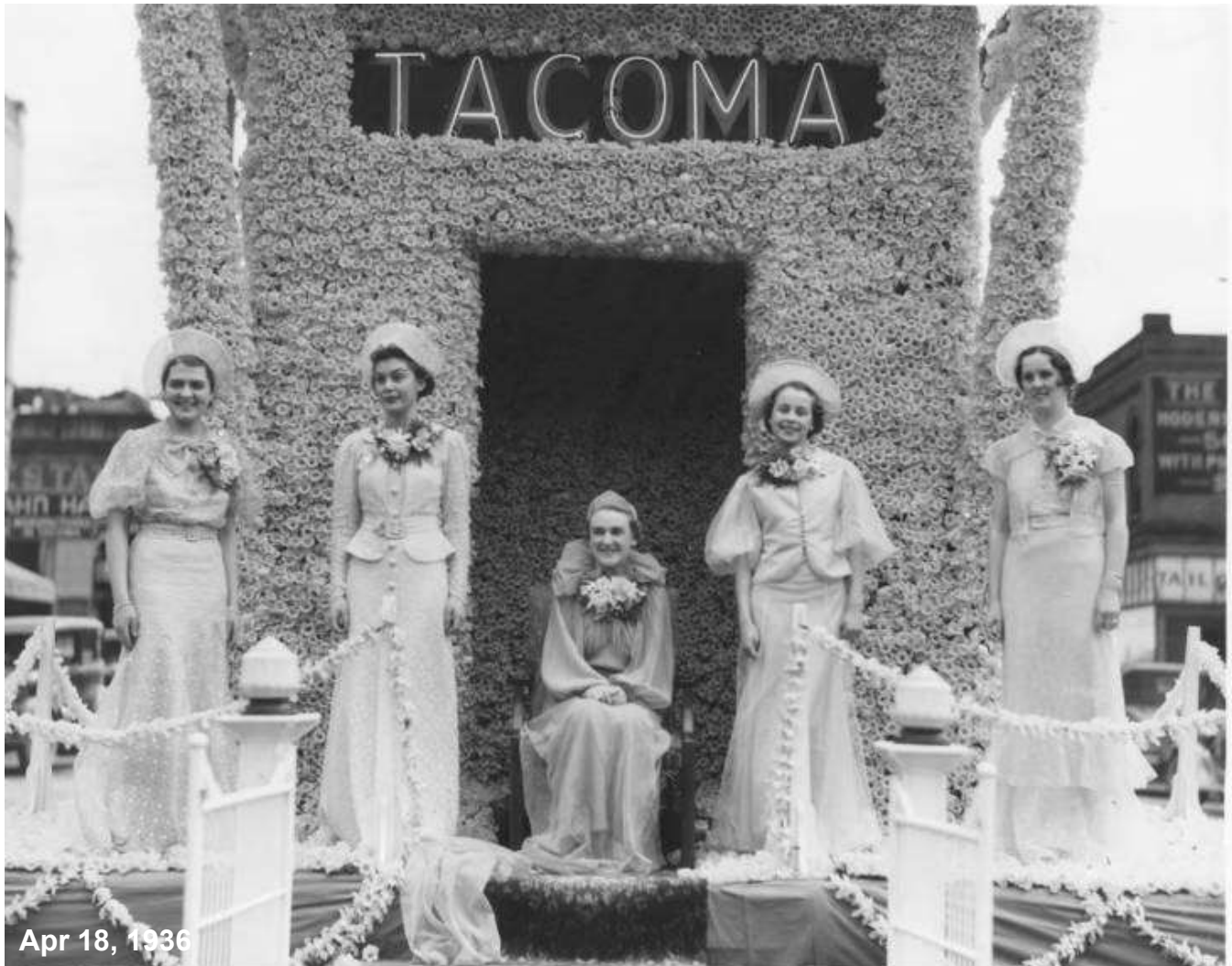


Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-111

TOP: Daffodil Festival. The four tier, 35 foot tower of daffodils used as the reviewing stand. The pylon was covered with 200,000 bright yellow blossoms. (T. Times 4/20/1936, pg. 3)

LEFT: 1936 Daffodil Queen Helen Edgerton of Puyallup. In the early years, the queen alternated year to year between Puyallup and Sumner residents. The first queen from Tacoma was in 1956 and from Orting in 1962.

BOTTOM: The 1936 Daffodil court is getting out of their vehicle at the base of the reviewing stand on So. 10th Street & Pacific, a 35-foot-high, four-tiered structure covered with 200,000 daffodils. They will ascend to the first daffodil covered platform to view the parade as it passes by. The pylon was the photo opportunity of the third annual Daffodil Festival. The old bank building at 10th and Pacific, overhead streetcar wires, and the ruins of The Tacoma Hotel punctuate the background. (T. Times 4/20/1936, pg. 3)



Richards Studio D2513-B

On April 18, 1936, Queen Helen Edgerton enjoys the parade from her throne in the base of the 35 foot daffodil "tower" that served as a reviewing stand for the Daffodil Parade. On either side of her are members of her court. At this time, the princesses did not wear matching dresses, so each member of the court is dressed differently with the wide brimmed hats being the only unifying element. The Princesses are, left to right, Esther Kaufman of Puyallup, Alice Margaret Woods of Tacoma, Helen Rockway of Sumner and Joy Lundrigan of Puyallup.



The 1936 Daffodil Queen, Helen Edgerton of Puyallup, and her court were present at the Tacoma City League's opening day of the baseball season. The bleachers at Lincoln High School were packed with spectators eager to watch the two top finishers of the previous year, the champion Beacon Oilers and second place Superior Dairy, in action. Flanking the young ladies were Gov. Clarence D. Martin at far right and Tacoma Mayor George A. Smitley at left. Queen Helen is third from right.



May 12, 1936

Richards Studio D1712-A



Richards Studio D1712-6

Tacoma City League's first baseball game of the season. Daffodil Queen Helen Edgerton of Puyallup (second woman from left) and her court are posed with ball players from the Superior Dairy team. The men's uniforms have a milk bottle emblem with initials "S.D." on them. Bleachers at Lincoln High School filled with capacity crowd. The two top finishers in 1935 are playing the season opener: champs Beacon Oilers versus second place Superior Dairy. (T.Times 4/27/1936, pg.



1937



Apr 10, 1937

Richards Studio D1727-9

The 1937 Daffodil Parade. City of Sumner float carrying the festival's Queen Dorothy (Lyons) and her two attendants. Forty-five thousand daffodils were used to decorate the float. It is passing a "Donut" shop at Tenth St. on Pacific Ave. Individuals watch the parade go by from second story windows. (T. Times, 4/10/1937, p.1)



Apr 10, 1937

Richards Studio D1727-21

1937 Daffodil Parade. Festival Queen Dorothy Lyons with attendants Eugenia Spencer and Hazel Phillips, standing on decorated platform on Tenth St. at Pacific Ave. Reviewing stand adorned with four, classical pedestals & daffodils. (T. Times 4/10/1937, pg. 1)



Apr 10, 1937

Richards Studio D1727-11

1937 Daffodil Parade. Lincoln Citizen's Club float carrying Lincoln Business District's special Queen and her court. Six young women wearing daffodil crowns. The float, decorated with 30,000 daffodils, won Division II honors. (T. Times, 4/10/1937, p.1)



Apr 10, 1937

Richards Studio D753-1

Ready to start their parade are, front row (L to R) bicycle cowboy Bruce Bowman, Dolores Detlofsen, Sharon Lloyd Detlofsen and Robert Hagstrom. Back row (L to R), Sonny Gange, Queen Marilyn Powell, Parade press agent Jacqueline Brown, Drum Major Roberta Powell, and parade clown Roy Howell.

Tired of waiting for the official Daffodil Parade, these kids from the Buckingham Apartments, 1001 No. Yakima Ave., decided to stage their own parade on April 8th, 1937. Using dandelions to pinch hit for daffodils, the kids, fully costumed and made up, carried a sign stating, "See the Daffodil Parade on Saturday."



Apr 10, 1937

Richards Studio D753-3

Make way for the Buckingham Apartments version of the 1937 Daffodil Parade! . . . Sharon Lloyd Detlofsen leads off the parade on a tricycle, followed by drum major Roberta Powell, Robert Hagstrom, Queen Marilyn Powell, Delores Detlofsen on her scooter, Press agent Jacqueline Brown, Cowboy Bruce Bowman and clown Roy Howell. Sonny Gange, left on grass, provided what every parade needs, an enthusiastic spectator.



1938



Richards Studio D7161-8

The second annual Tacoma Yacht Club Daffodil Festival Regatta was held on Sunday, April 3, 1938. Daffodil Queen Bliss Lundrigan, wearing a captain's hat and cape, is shown at the helm of I.J. Leonard's cruiser "Gadget" with her attendants Bernice Daniel (seated on the helm) and Agnes Kucemba. Eighteen sailboats and forty power boats took part in the procession before a day of races.



April 02, 1938

Richards Studio D7160-25

1938 Daffodil Pageant. Queen Bliss Lundrigan and her attendants Agnes Kucemba, right, and Bernice Daniel take their place in the reviewing stand to reign over the parade's 39 entries in Tacoma. For the first time in the Puyallup Valley Festival's 5 year history, the Royalty wears official robes. The costumes worn by the attendants are symbolic of three Pacific Northwest features; the white blouses represent the snows of Mt. Rainier, the yellow vests the fields of daffodils and the green skirts the waters of Puget Sound. Queen Bliss's skirt and robes are of purple for royalty. (T.Times, 4/2/1938, p. 1)



April 02, 1938

Richards Studio D7160-18

Daffodil Pageant. The Merchants Association float featured a lighthouse and rowboat with two women fishing. Tacoma Retail Trade Bureau won the grand prize for its "fisherman's paradise" theme. In the background is the Queens viewing stand at 10th and Pacific. Thirty thousand people attended Tacoma's parade. (Richards Studio D7160-18, 4/2/1938)



April 02, 1938

Richards Studio D7160-26

1938 Daffodil Parade. Large crowds gathered around the Daffodil Queen Bliss I and her attendants in an elaborate reviewing stand constructed at 10th and Pacific. Bliss Lundrigan, a 17 year old senior at Puyallup High School, is the reigning Queen, attended by Bernice Daniel of Tacoma, left, and Agnes Kucemba of Sumner. The trio appear in their official robes, a first for Daffodil royalty. An estimated 30,000 people attended the parade in Tacoma which continued on into the valley.



April 02, 1938

Richards Studio D7160-2

Puyallup Civic Club's entry led the parade with Daffodil Festival Queen Bliss Lundrigan and her attendants Agnes Kucemba and Bernice Daniel standing before a gateway arch with a model of Mountain Rainier completing the float design. (T.Times, 4/2/1938).



April 3, 1938

Richards Studio D7161-1

The second annual Tacoma Yacht Club Daffodil Festival Regatta. Several wooden power motored yachts, including the “Blanche D” gather on Puget Sound. The day of the regatta, April 3rd, 1938, proved to be an exciting one. It opened with a morning fire on one of the yachts, continued on with a collision during the power boat race, and ended with a small cabin cruiser capsizing, spilling 5 people into the frigid Puget Sound. They were rescued by a Foss tug. (T.Times 4/4/1938)



FIVE RESCUED IN BAY AFTER BOAT CAPSIZES

Collision, Fire And Cruiser's Accident Add Excitement To Yacht Club Regatta

No end of excitement, starting with a fire aboard one boat, including a collision between two power boats during a race, and concluding with a thrilling rescue of five persons from drowning in the bay, marked Sunday's second annual Tacoma Yacht club Daffodil festival regatta.

Rain, wind and tide all played their part in the spring water carnival but with scores of small craft in the harbor, no personal injuries resulted and property damage was limited to fire damage to the interior of the cruiser Bounty and some damaged bow planking to the power race winner, the Bo-Peep.

Minor Explosion

The excitement began at the yacht club basin Sunday morning as skippers were getting their ships ready for the events starting at noon. The Bounty, formerly the cruiser Hummy, was in her boathouse being prepared by her owners, R. M. Crosby and Gershom Rowland, for the power boat race. Suddenly there was a minor explosion followed by three or four more and the boat burst into flames.

Crosby, Rowland and other yachtsmen nearby began a fight on the fire while an alarm was turned in to the fire department. The Bounty was badly damaged before the flames were extinguished.

Queen On Hand

Club craft proceeded to the entrance of the city waterway for the regatta events with Queen Bliss of the Daffodil festival and

her attendants aboard Commodore I. J. Leonard's cruiser Gadget.

The parade was formed with the Gadget leading, followed by the coast guard patrol boat, Capt. T. J. Firth, towing a double column of 18 sailboats astern of which followed 40 power boats also in double column. The procession provided an impressive sight.

The sailboats found no lack of breeze for their event to Manzanita buoy and return by way of the Old Town buoy. They got away at 1:15 o'clock and the Manana, Capt. Allan Teitge, was

first to finish at 3:12:50 p. m., slightly under two hours. Capt. Silas Nelsen's Marnie was second and Capt. Dick Reynolds' Sail Ho was third.



April 3, 1938

Richards Studio D7161-11

Daffodil Yacht Club Regatta race.

ABOVE: Several boats on Commencement Bay with hill, east of Browns Point in background.

BELOW: Several boats on Commencement Bay appear in the distant view from above a wooden motored yacht decorated with marine flags.



April 3, 1938

Richards Studio D7161-9



April 3, 1938

Richards Studio D7161-5

Richards Studio D7161-3



Tacoma Yacht Club Daffodil Regatta race. Wooden motorboat number 30C333 pulls into the yacht harbor after the annual festival race. This boat is most probably the "Bo-Peep" owned by Bennett O. Swain, which was damaged on the bow after a collision with Norton Clapp's "Carmelita" during the race. Swain and "Bo-Peep" continued on to win the race with no errors. (T.Times 4-4-1938)

Two unidentified men observe the damage done to a power boat during the 2nd Annual Tacoma Yacht Club Daffodil Festival Regatta held on April 3, 1938. The boat is most likely the "Bo-Peep," captained by Bennett O. Swain, which was damaged in a collision during the 24 vessel race. Rain, wind and tide contributed to the accident which resulted when Capt. Norton Clapp's "Carmelita" passed the "Bo-Peep." The passing was close and the "Bo-Peep" was drawn into the "Carmelita's" wake, smacking the "Carmelita's" stern. The "Bo-Peep" was damaged on the bow above the water line, but continued on, and eventually won the race. (T. Times 4/4/1938, pg 1)



Win Dattodil Sail Race



Taking full advantage of every fresh puff of Sunday's southwest breeze, Capt. Allan Teitge skipped his sailboat Manana to victory in the sail event with Miss Marion Stuart, left, and Miss Barbara Means, center, as crew members. Miss Means hails from Hollywood. Teitge is shown at the right belaying a line used to secure his sail after the race.

* * *



Plenty of Excitement Here During Yacht Club Regatta

24 Boats Take Part

Twenty-four powerboats took part in the ground race on predicted logs, the winner being Capt. Bennett O. Swain of the Bo-Peep; a remarkable victory since it was completed with zero error on any leg notwithstanding the varied weather and tidal conditions.

No less remarkable were the remaining place winners, the Betty B., Capt. Bert Bradley, second and only 14 seconds late; and the Electra, Mrs. Helen Rust and the Carmelita, Capt. Norton Clapp, tied for third with a 15-second late error for the Electra, and a 15-second early error for the Carmelita. Extremely trivial errors for a course covering 11.7 knots.

Judges had their hands full when nearly a dozen boats crossed the finish line in rapid fire order—so fast that Rear Commodore Bill Healy in charge of events, and members of the committee couldn't fire the finish cannon fast enough. They were nearly deaf as it was from booming the thing for the race starts and the scattered finishes.

The powerboat collision resulted just as Capt. Clapp's Carmelita passed the race winner Bo-Peep. The passing was close and apparently the Bo-Peep's bow was drawn into the Carmelita's wake, smacking the Carmelita's stern. The Bo-Peep's damage was above the water line.

Thrilling Rescue

As if all that were not enough excitement for the afternoon a small cabin cruiser owned by J. L. Thompson, 5020 So. Asotin st., and carrying Bob, Harold and Margaret Thompson, his children, and Bob Snodgrass of Manitou and Walter Thompson, Seattle, cousins, capsized off the entrance to the Milwaukee waterway about 4:30 o'clock.

The youngsters had been spectators of the water events and were returning to mooring in the waterway when a sudden heavy gust of wind put the little cruiser on her beam and over she went, spilling into the bay two young people on top and one on deck; Harold and Margaret Thompson escaped from the cabin. All are good swimmers, but the water was cold as they hung onto the overturned hull until rescued by a Foss tug that put out from shore when their plight was observed. They were reported Monday as none the worse for the ducking.



April 3, 1938

Richards Studio D7143-4

The 10th Field Artillery band, state and local dignitaries, reporters and the Daffodil Queen waited at the Port of Tacoma to welcome occupants of the U.S. Grant transport ship as it prepared to dock. After 21 days at the sea, U.S. soldiers from the 15th US Infantry and their families returned home from China when bombing at Tientsin began. Thirty five soldiers were forced to leave their Chinese wives behind. US law strictly forbid the immigration of Chinese women, even those married to US soldiers.

(T.Times 3/24/1938, p.1)

A huge crowd waits on the wharf as the first people leave the U.S. Grant transport ship and walk down gang plank. Waiting on the dock to meet the returning members of the 15th Infantry are various dignitaries and the Daffodil Queen, followed by several persons bearing large bouquets of daffodils for distribution.
(T.Times, 3/24/1938, p.1)



Richards Studio D7143-13



Yachtsmen Set to Dine

Program and Sunday Racing Plans Are Announced

Farrar (Bub) Burns brother of the famous "Bazooka" Burns of radio and motion picture fame, will entertain the skippers of the Tacoma Yacht club at the Daffodil Festival dinner Thursday, at the Tacoma Yacht club.

Bub has the reputation of being as funny as his famous "Bazooka" brother and a wonderful time is expected. This Daffodil Skipper's dinner is an annual event in connection with the Daffodil Festival regatta to be run Sunday. Commodore Leonard reports that a big turnout is expected and Club Steward Frank Rybin says that a very excellent dinner is being prepared.

William Healy, in charge of the regatta committee, reports the following power boat skippers will participate in this race: Captains Clapp, Billings, Bourdon, Bradley, Brasier, Carlson, Cooney, Dabroe, Ekre, Emery, Gray, Hale, Heagerty, Johnson, Kintz, Langeland, Leonard, Lewis, Mairs, Oldfield, Pasco, M. C. Riggs, Paul Riggs, G. C. Rowland, Rust, Rybin, Sherman, Snyder, Stevens, Syford, Williams, Worthington, Garver, Thompson, Hollingsworth, Oksness, Treleven, Horjes, Mattson, Curtis, Dodds, Hull and Mojean.

Martin Stockwell, in charge of the sailboat division reports that the following sailboat skippers have entered their ships for the sailboat event: Leo Long, Captain Leibe, Silas Nelsen, Mark Hediner, Dick Reynolds, Al and Jack Teitge, Bet Nightingale, Rus Anderson, Charles Martin, Les Nelson, Mart Stockwell and Clark Gould. The sailboats will cross the starting line which shall be in line with the city buoy at the entrance to the city waterway at 1 p. m., and will run a triangular course to Browns Point from there to Old Town dock and then back to the finish line, which will be the same as the starting line except that it shall be approached in the opposite direction.

On the regatta committee is Ed Cooney in charge of the power boat division assisted by Captain Lewis and Captain Mairs. Martin Stockwell is in charge of the sailboat division assisted by Captain Ogden and Captain Leo Long with Fleet Captain Joel Williams in charge of fleet maneuvers.



MARCH 31, 1938

Yacht Club's Dinner Party Thursday; Regatta Sunday

In final preparation for next Sunday's Daffodil Festival regatta, skippers of Tacoma Yacht club's power and sail fleets will meet at dinner Thursday evening at the club with a special guest in the person of Farrar Bub Burns of Seattle, brother of the noted Bob "Bazooka" Burns of screen and radio fame.

Commodore I. J. Leonard announced he expected a full attendance of power and sailboat skippers for whom Frank Rybin, club steward, is preparing a fine dinner. The skippers' dinner, like the regatta, is now an annual event of the Daffodil festival.

Rear Commodore William Healy, heading the regatta committee, has as sub-chairmen Capt. Ed Cooney in charge of the power fleet and Capt. Martin Stockwell in charge of the sail division. Serving with Cooney are Skippers Ben Lewis and Tom Mairs, while Capts. Charles Ogden and Leo Long will assist Stockwell. Fleet Capt. Joel Williams will command fleet maneuvers.

Regatta Sunday

For Sunday's regatta, the sail race will come first, boats to cross the starting line at the entrance to the city waterway at 1 o'clock on a triangular course running from the city buoy to Brown's Point, thence to the Old Town dock and back to the city buoy for the finish.

The power boat race will start at 2:30.

Most of the yacht club fleet will be on parade within easy

view of the shore vantage points all around the harbor.

The following have signed for the races Sunday, the regatta committee announced Thursday:

Sailing race—Capts. Leo Long, H. E. Leibe, Si and Les Nelsen, Mark Heidner, Dick Reynolds, Al and Jack Teitje, Bet Nightingale, Russ Anderson, Charles Martin, Clark Gould and Martin Stockwell.

In Powerboat Events

Powerboat race—Capts. Norton Clapp, Paul Billings, Bob Bourdon, Bert Bradley, O. H. Brasier, Reuben Carlson, E. C. Cooney, A. M. Dabroe, H. O. Ekre, W. R. Emery, Bill Gray, George Hae-gerty, A. N. Johnson, C. A. Kintz, F. H. Langeland, I. J. Leonard, Ben I. Lewis, Tom Mairs, Lt.-Col. C. B. Oldfield, W. W. Pascoe, M. C. and Paul Riggs, Gershom Rowland, Mrs. Margaret E. Rust, Frank Rybin, R. G. Sherman, O. V. Snyder, E. T. Steven, Herb Syford, Joel Williams, Ted Worthington, Paul Garver, Harold Thompson, Jack Hollingsworth, Ted Oskness, Ted Treleven, John Horjes, Dr. W. W. Mattson, C. N. Curtis, Robert S. Dodds (commodore of Tacoma sea scouts); Warren Hull and C. R. Mojean.

The dinner Thursday evening will be a stag affair with Bub Burns as featured entertainer. Burns publishes the Puget Sounder at Seattle and is credited with composition of more than 100 songs, many of them ballads about Washington scenery. He sings them to his own guitar accompaniment.

Official Boats Named



Apr 07, 1938

Richards Studio D7179-2

Lois Jo Strong, 2nd from right, Wenatchee's 19th Apple Blossom Festival queen, and her two princesses. Susan Hilt and Doris Ames, visit with Bliss Lundrigan, 2nd from left, Daffodil Festival queen. (T.Times, 4/13/1938, p. 10.).



1939



Richards Studio D8076-7

Sixth Annual Daffodil Parade. Simply dressed, Daffodil Queen Bette I of Sumner, and her royal attendants Lucile and Doris Anderson. 20-year-old Bette Lee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lee. Lucile Anderson represented Tacoma and Doris Anderson was Puyallup's representative (T.Times, 4/1/1939, p. 1- alt photog raph; TNT 3-22-1939, p. 1-article & photograph of Bette Lee)



Apr 01, 1939

Richards Studio D8076-16B

The Sixth Annual Daffodil Parade was held April 1, 1939. The "Spirit of Electricity" float, possibly entered by the City Light Department, was captured on film as it moved past the Riviera Theatre followed by marching band. Spectators stand several rows deep as well as watching from second story windows and perched on the theater's marquee. (T. Times, 4/1/1939, p. 1)



PAGE	YEAR	PHOTO	RESOURCE
2	1934	Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-173	TPL
3		Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-164	
4-6		https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/community/puyallup-herald/article208403059.html	
7	1935	Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-166, G20.1-157	TPL
8		Richards Studio 972-1, Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-140	
9		General Photograph Collection G2.1-044	
10		Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-113, Richards Studio 972-4	
11		Richards Studio 972-2	
12	1936	Richards Studio D2513-2	
13		YEAR? the daffodilfestival.org	daffodilfestival.org
		Richards Studio D2513-11	TPL
		Chapin Bowen Collection G20.1-190, G20.1-111	
14		Richards Studio D2513-B	
15		Richards Studio D1712-A, D1712-6	
16	1937	Richards Studio D1727-9	
17		Richards Studio D1727-21	
18		Richards Studio D1727-11	
19		Richards Studio D753-1, D753-3	
20	1938	Richards Studio D7161-8	
21		Richards Studio D7160-25	
22		Richards Studio D7160-18	
23		Richards Studio D7160-26	
24		Richards Studio D7160-2	
25		Richards Studio D7161-1	
26			TYC, Scrapbook
27		Richards Studio D7161-11, D7161-9	TPL
28		Richards Studio D7161-5, D7161-3	
29		TYC, Scrapbook	T.T. ?
30		TYC, Scrapbook	T.T. ?
31		Richards Studio D7143-4, D7143-13	TPL
32		TYC, Scrapbook	T.T. ?
33		TYC, Scrapbook	
34		Richards Studio D7179-2	
35	1939	Richards Studio D8076-7	TPL
36		Richards Studio D8076-16B	

*TPL	Tacoma Public Library Online Digital Collections – NW Room
*TYC	Tacoma Yacht Club – Club Historian - Scrapbook Collection
*T.T.	Tacoma Times / Tacoma News Tribune