



Upcoming Special Event...Mark Your Calendar!

**Paul Dorpat and Jean Sherrard
will be on Magnolia showing and sharing their new book**

SEATTLE NOW & THEN The Historic Hundred

When: December 11th, 7:00-9:00pm

**Where: Magnolia Lutheran Church - 2414 - 31st Ave. West
Fireside Room**

A coffee-table compilation which showcases the most compelling and essential of the more than 1,800 "Seattle Now and Then" photo-history columns that Paul has produced in the Seattle magazine of the Seattle Times for more than 35 years since January 1982.

We hope you will join us. They always entertain and educate.

Also -- Sneak Peek at our new book *Magnolia: Midcentury Memories 50's & 60's* - a reading by authors.



Magnolia: Midcentury Memories 50's & 60's Update... COMING UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS 2019!

by Monica Wooton, Project Manager



**Writers and Peer Editors met at Magnolia Public Library on Sept. 23rd.
They discussed their first drafts and next steps in the process.**

Magnolia: Midcentury Memories 50's & 60's is going to be a great addition to Magnolia's written history. I know because I am reading it! First drafts are in and writers are busy doing rewrites. Great photos are being collected from personal collections and local archives! There is unabridged enthusiasm for this collection from the writers to the public.

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Magnolia: Midcentury Memories 50's & 60's (continued on Page 2)

These decades were diverse, intense and iconic! From the *Leave it to Beaver* years after WWII, television taking hold, the "British Invasion" of music, to the first Catholic President of the United States being the first President assassinated in modern history. The subsequent assassinations, a World's Fair, civil rights, the Vietnam War, walking on the moon, the "Summer of Love", Detroit burning, and "Woodstock". These decades brought medical advances, vaccinations in schools which defeated polio, fallout shelters and "duck and cover" drills because of the Cold War, paper drives, the best penny candy, good soldiers, draft dodgers, long hair and flower power!

On Magnolia, we watched *JP Patches* (Chris Wedes lived here), listened to Tom Thumb and the Casuals (Tom Blessing started the band in his Magnolia home), attended *Elvis at the World's Fair* at the Magnolia Theater and Magnolia women gardened proudly all over the Bluff in clubs that competed to keep Magnolia blooming beautifully. The new Magnolia Library won design awards, eight churches were built and Blaine and Briarcliff Schools were added to handle the baby boomers.

Over 40 folks are working together to bring you the words and images of these Magnolia times. The Army BRATS (Born Raised And Trained) gather back in Seattle to write their Magnolia story. A Magnolian architect explains the new Modern architecture of this era and we will hear the many memoirs and mini-memories about growing up in Magnolia in the 50's and 60's.

Since July, we have earned in volunteer hours nearly a third of our \$80,000 Matching Grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and received \$17,000 in donations to see this book written. We will be hiring the professional team of Editor, Designer, Copy Editor and Printer in December. We are moving forward with enthusiasm and a love of sharing the stories of the 50's and 60's which contributes even more to our sense of place for this neighborhood we love.

There will be Sneak Peek readings before the book is launched in time for the 2019 Holidays. One is coming up at the Paul Dorpat and Jean Sherrard Program on December 11th, 7:00pm at Magnolia Lutheran Church.



Magnolia Historical Society Mission

Initiate interest in Magnolia history - gather and protect it for future generations.

Inspire the Magnolia community to help us gather acquisitions for our photo and document archives at UW Special Collections.

Invest in historical research and writing of Magnolia history that encourages historic projects and events.

Encourage a more accurate "sense of place" through our work preserving the stories and images of Magnolia.



Magnolia's Pumpkin Patch

by Greg Shaw

Pumpkins, an icon of Halloween...so when I saw a package of pumpkin seeds that said Big Max Pumpkin Seeds - Grow 100-pound Pumpkins. I immediately bought one pack. My rental house had no place to plant them so I purchased the largest pot I could find. The plant produced a pumpkin close to 100 pounds, I was not disappointed. The pumpkin was the catalyst for the pumpkins I have been growing for the last 35 years.

However, it would be another 6 years before I grew pumpkins again. After finishing school, I returned to Magnolia. A few of you may remember the little house directly behind where I live now on 30th Ave W, it had a gigantic front yard. This would be a great yard for pumpkins. The little house was on the back of the lot with a small flower bed in front, which is where I planted two pumpkin plants. They did well, each year I added more pumpkin plants until the entire yard was covered with pumpkins and flowers. The area was about three times larger than my current front yard.

Jon Holland won at the Puyallup Fair almost every year and is probably the winningest pumpkin grower in the U.S. The pumpkins in my yard now are descendants of Joe Holland's seeds.

I purchased seeds 3 years ago, from Joe. One seed from a 1,700-pound pumpkin was \$35 and another seed from a 1,500-pound pumpkin was \$25. I asked one grower's wife how her husband prepares his soil. She told me he digs a hole the size of an Olympic size swimming pool using his backhoe and then fills it with his secret mix. I do not think it registered yet what the top pumpkin growers do to win. Gradually I did realize after going to pumpkin weigh-ins for more than 30 years - I would have to be content with the biggest pumpkin in Magnolia.



**The Pumpkin House at 3707 - 29th Avenue West
Stop by on Halloween!**

Photo courtesy of Greg Shaw

I am also motivated by various newspaper, TV and even Sunset Magazine stories about my pumpkins. Each year I would try and do more. Lots of grade school classes and pre-school classes come to take in the pumpkin patch. I also delivered pumpkins to Magnolia Elementary, Catherine Blaine, Ronald McDonald House, Seattle Children's Home and the Seattle Center.

And Halloween had to be bigger every year with more than 100 pumpkins carved and lit with candles, a scary Halloween tunnel leading to the front door with a strobe light bouncing off 100 pounds of dry-ice clouds and enough candy for more than the thousand trick-or-treaters.

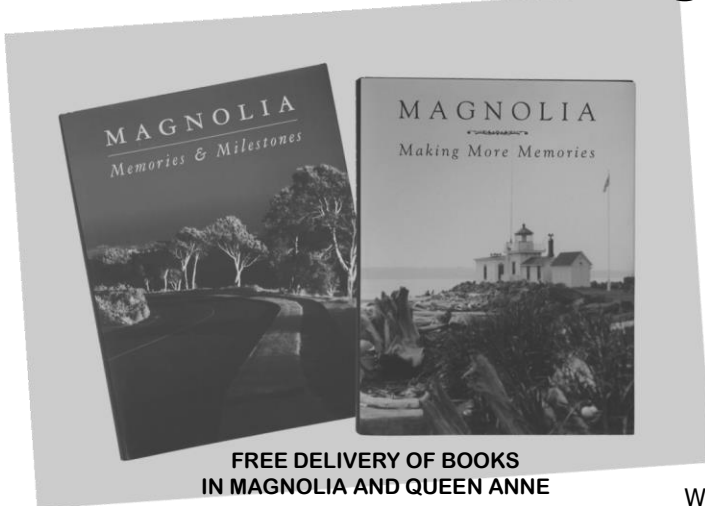
"What do you do with the pumpkins after Halloween?" It's sort of like I am a villain because I do not turn them into a thousand pumpkin pies. The reality is they are a hybrid type grown for size and speed of maturity. I have tried to produce some pies and I thought I had found the answer when a friend who had attended the Cordon Blue School of Cooking in France asked if she could have a pumpkin to make pies. She reduced and reduced for two days until she could reduce no more, there was still, alas, no flavor.

I save the seeds for growing. If you knock on my door in the spring I am happy to give you some. There are up to 600 seeds in a Giant Pumpkin if you had a prize-winning pumpkin and sold the seeds for \$35 each like I paid for one seed, you would not think about roasting \$28,000 dollars.

After Halloween, the pumpkins are composted and used as nutrients for next year's growth. If a few are still in good shape they will stay through Thanksgiving before returning to the earth.



Order Your Magnolia Memories



Magnolia: Memories & Milestones & Magnolia: Making More Memories

\$50 per set and sold separately

To order:

- ◆ Visit our website at www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org
- ◆ Visit Magnolia's Bookstore
3206 West McGraw St., Seattle

We are willing to work with any group in using our books as a fundraiser
Call Greg for details - (206) 579-5475

Magnolia: Midcentury Memories 50's & 60's will be released for the Holidays 2019!

WATCH FOR PRESALES!



MHS Seeking Members

to continue doing what we do to make more Magnolia memories.

Join our organization which enjoys our mission of collecting, presenting, preserving the neighborhood history

- > Interest in Magnolia's past and present
- > Meet monthly (but not in the summer)
- > Creative ideas encouraged
- > No experience needed

Questions or to Volunteer - Call Dee (206) 284-5480



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