

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of hops and their leaves. The leaves are green with serrated edges, and the hops are small, green, cone-shaped clusters hanging from the stems.

FALL CITY CALENDAR 2018

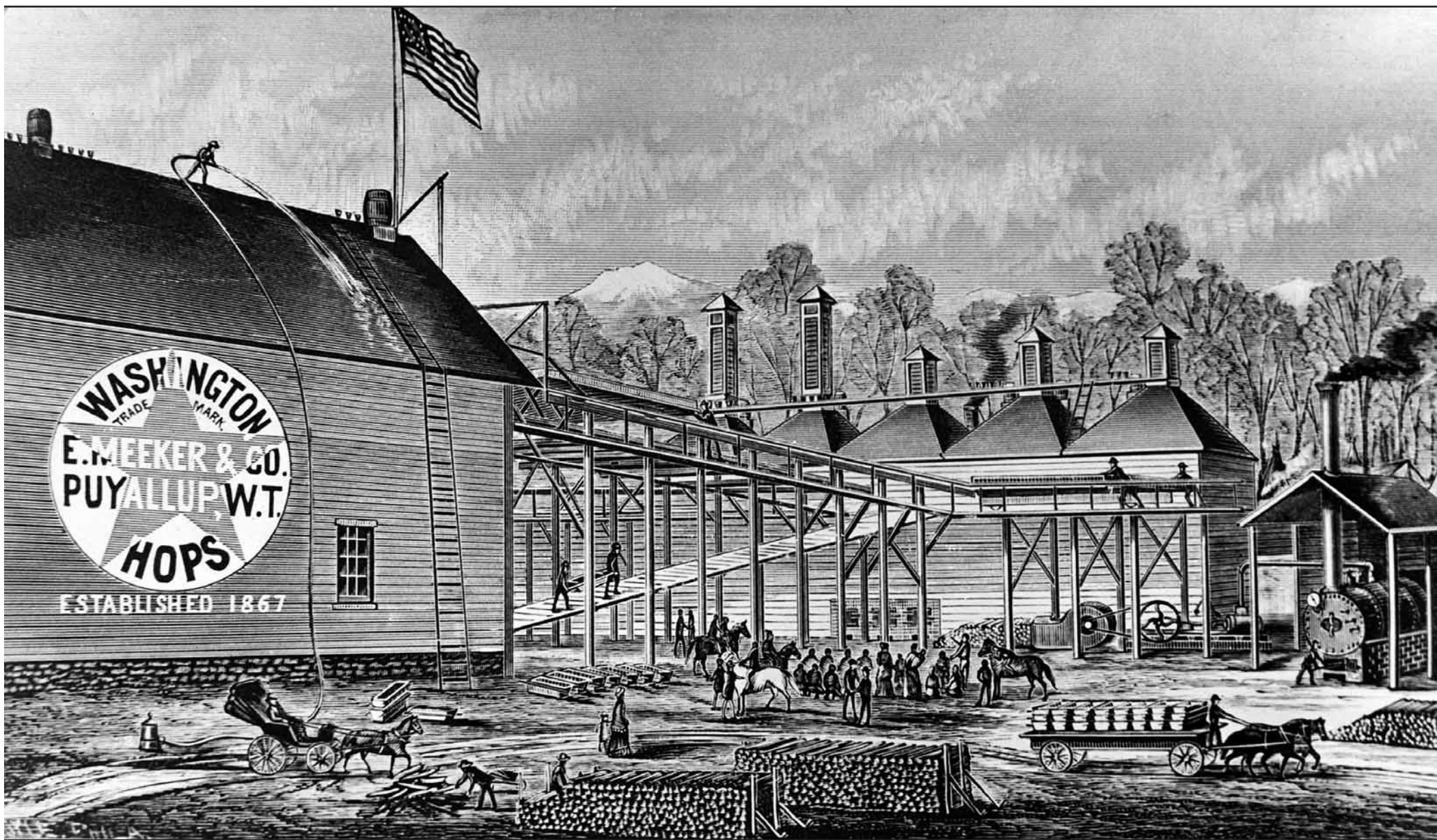
THE HOPS CRAZE

**WESTERN
WASHINGTON'S
FIRST**

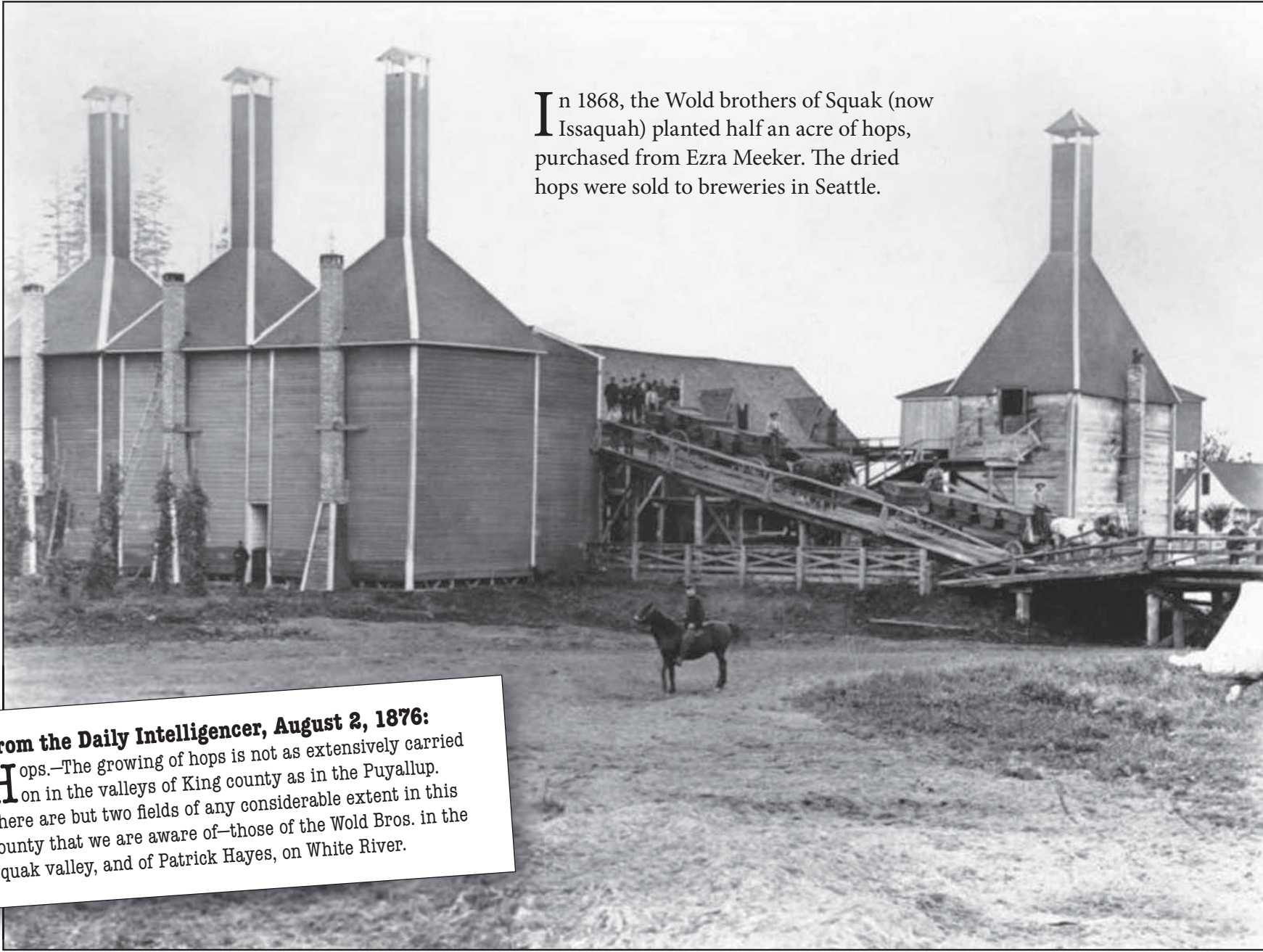
**BIG BUSINESS
1870s to Early 1900s**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$15



Ezra Meeker credited his father Jacob Meeker with being the first to bring hops to the Puyallup Valley in 1865. Ezra soon followed and built his first “Hop House” in 1867. Ezra later became known as the “Hop King” for his widespread encouragement of the hops industry in the Washington Territory.



In 1868, the Wold brothers of Squak (now Issaquah) planted half an acre of hops, purchased from Ezra Meeker. The dried hops were sold to breweries in Seattle.

From the Daily Intelligencer, August 2, 1876:

Hops.—The growing of hops is not as extensively carried on in the valleys of King county as in the Puyallup. There are but two fields of any considerable extent in this county that we are aware of—those of the Wold Bros. in the Squak valley, and of Patrick Hayes, on White River.

Little is known about early hop farms in the Snoqualmie Valley. No photos exist of the George Davis Rutherford hop farm in Fall City, but a remnant of one of his hop kilns still exists in Fall City Park, across the river. A hops storage building is said to have existed on the Hance Moore farm to help with shipping of hops on steamboats in the early days before railroad.

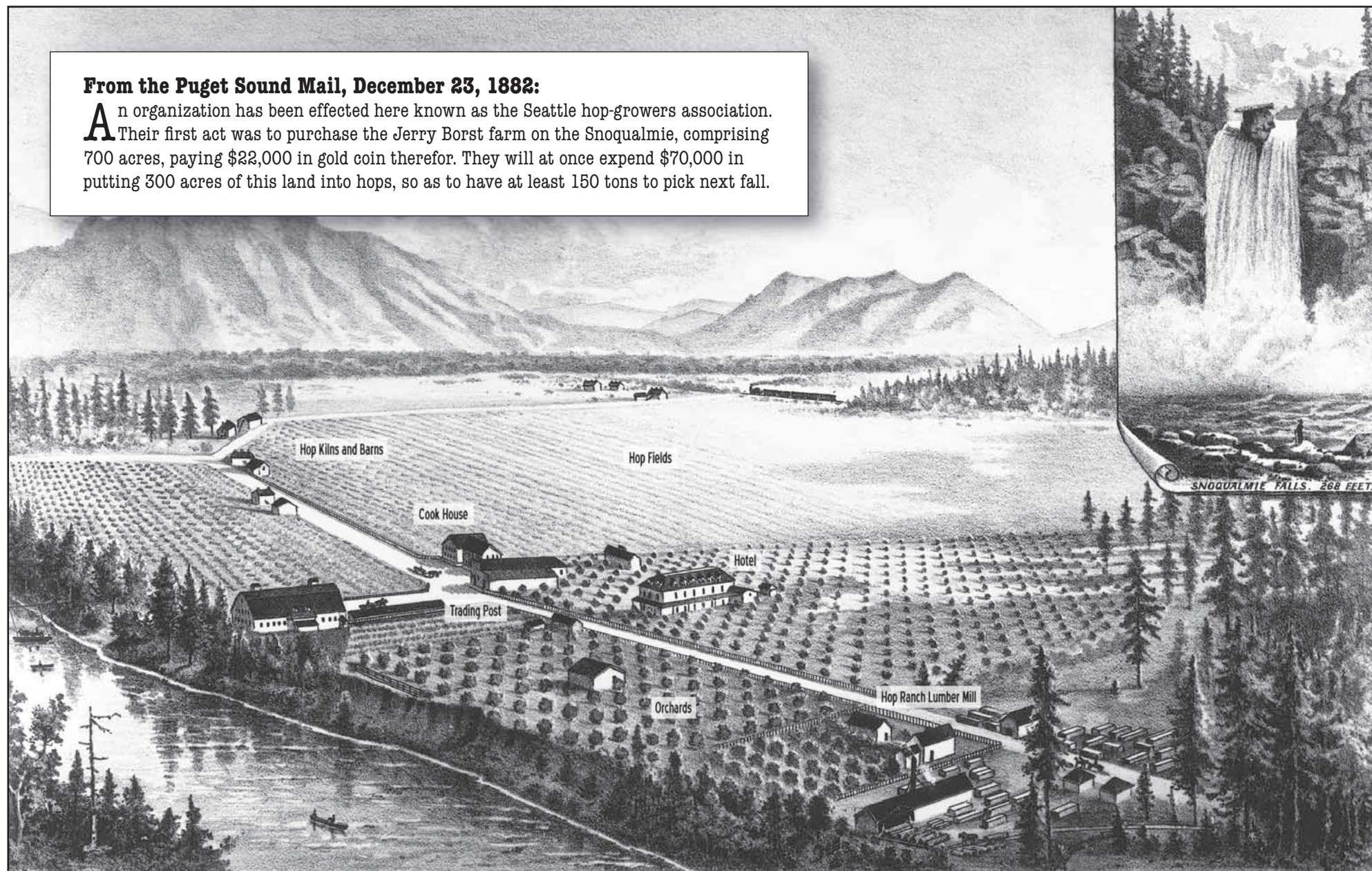
Below: The Entwistle hop kiln in Tolt (now Carnation).

Upper right: Old hop storage building and kiln on the Andrew Johnson farm in the Tualco Valley, south of Monroe.



From the Puget Sound Mail, December 23, 1882:

An organization has been effected here known as the Seattle hop-growers association. Their first act was to purchase the Jerry Borst farm on the Snoqualmie, comprising 700 acres, paying \$22,000 in gold coin therefor. They will at once expend \$70,000 in putting 300 acres of this land into hops, so as to have at least 150 tons to pick next fall.



SNOQUALMIE HOP RANCH,

420 ACRES HOPS. LARGEST HOP RANCH IN THE WORLD.

SNOQUALMIE, WASHINGTON TER.

WANTED!
1,000
HOP-PICKERS

At Klaber's Hop-Yards,
PUYALLUP.

\$1 Per Box!

Register at the office of
Herman Klaber & Co.

419 California Building, Tacoma.
Telephone John 2601, Or Register with

JOHN E. ANNIS, Manager, Puyallup,
Or Robert Wilson, Puyallup.

Suz Print, Tacoma.

HURRAH FOR
PUYALLUP

Do not fail to visit Puyallup and see the 2500 Indian Hop Pickers and secure one of their beautiful Native Woven Baskets or Mats, of which they have a full line of all kinds of Indian Curios.

Also see them play their native games. It will do your eyes good. Enjoy a pleasant outing.

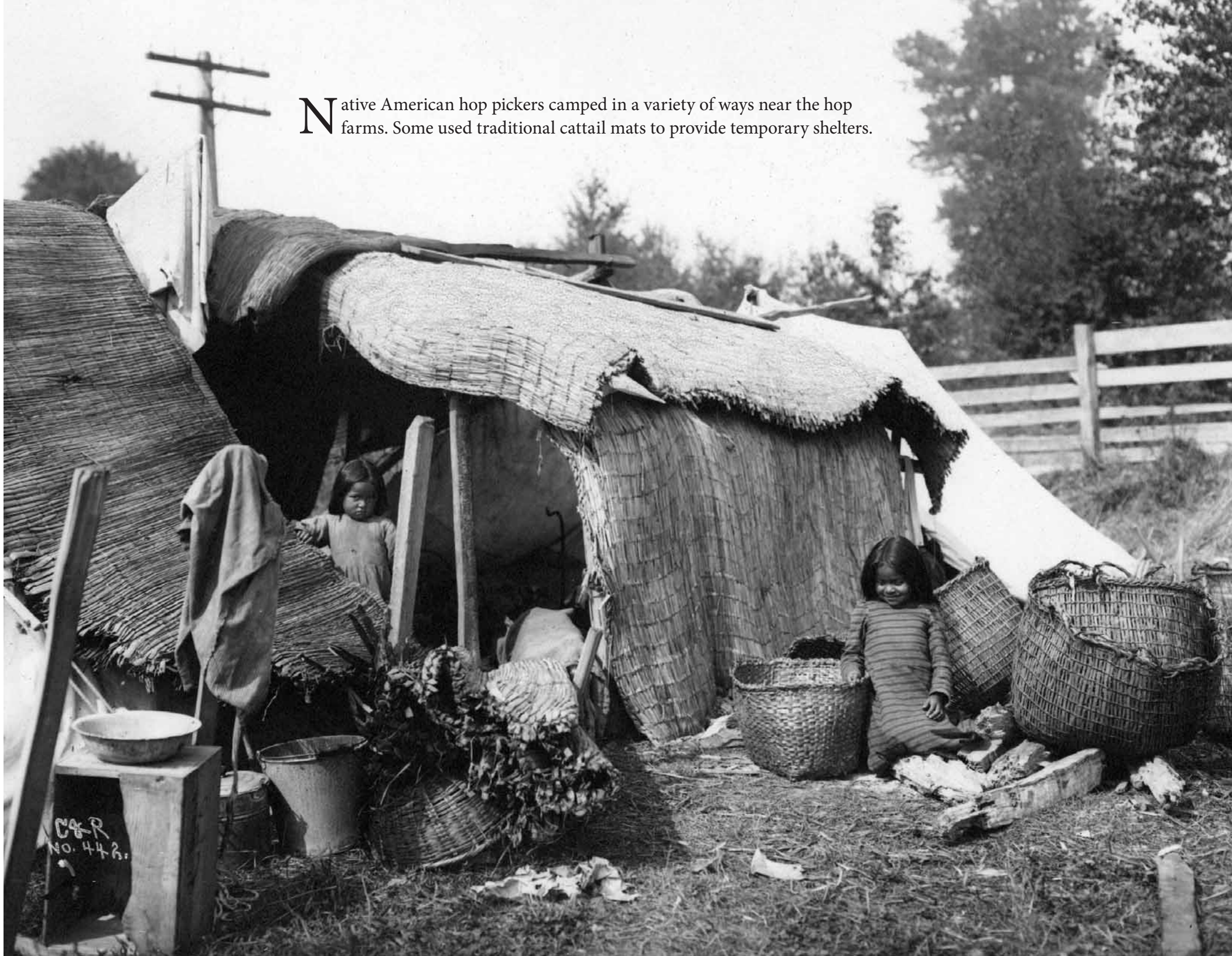
Round Trip, - 25c

Street Cars leave 9th Street beginning at 10 a. m., hourly service until 8 p. m.

Sept 15-19, 1904

As hop-picking time approached, thousands of pickers converged on the hop-growing areas. Native Americans from both local areas and far away were the backbone of the workforce. As in all of farming, getting the crop harvested in a timely way was crucial to success.

Native American hop pickers camped in a variety of ways near the hop farms. Some used traditional cattail mats to provide temporary shelters.



Hops were grown on poles 10 or more feet tall, sometimes with wires strung on the poles. The cutting of hop poles employed many local residents.

As far as the pickers were concerned, the pole pullers and the wire men were the most important figures in the field, as they controlled the pace of picking.

At harvest time, the pole could be pulled up and set against a prop, as shown below, so the hops would be easier to pick. Or, as shown at right, the “wire man” would unhook the wires at the top of the poles and let the vines down for picking.



Many kinds of containers were used to gather the picked hops. A variety of basket types were used by Native Americans.



A standard hop box was used to quantify the volume picked and was the basis for payment of pickers.



Box No.....

Check No.....

4803

GOOD FOR 4803
One Box of Hops

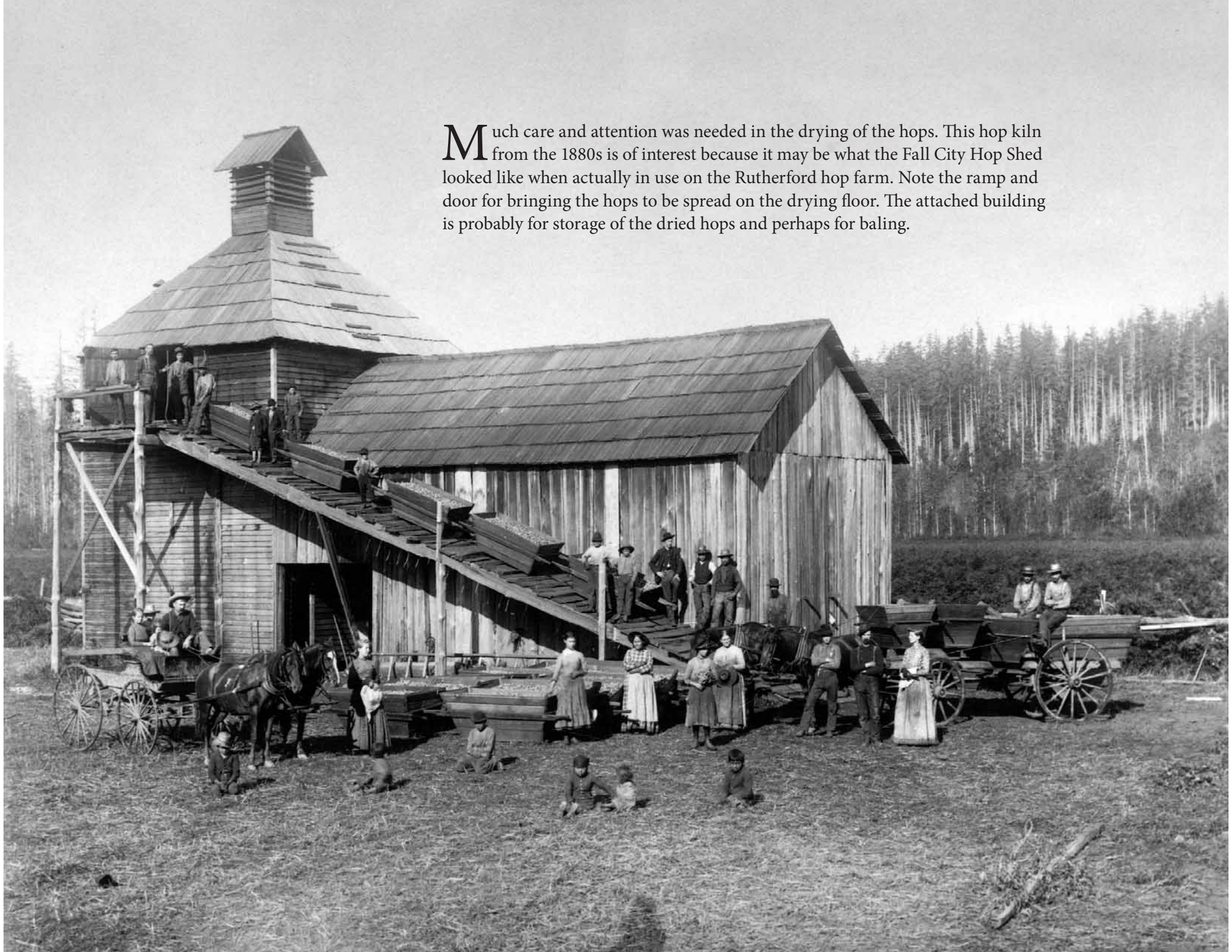
*Check must be returned with ticket.
No tickets cashed until picking is done.*

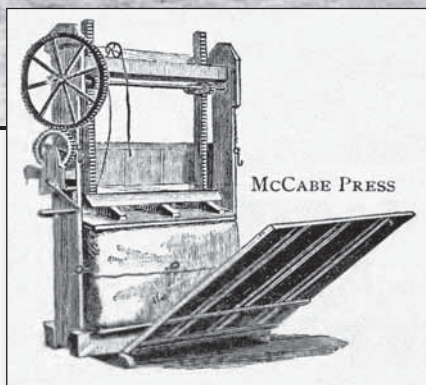
L. A. WOLD.



The full hop boxes were commonly hauled to the drying kiln on wagons, which meant that the farmer needed a large number of boxes. Some farmers, however, preferred to transfer the picked hops to burlap bags, as shown here, for transport to the kilns.

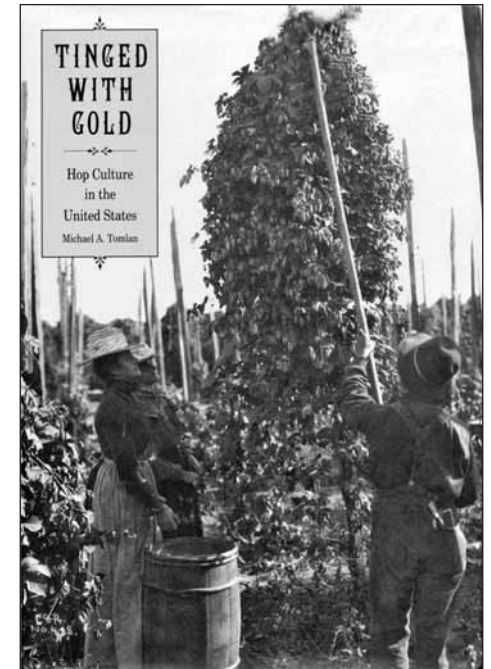
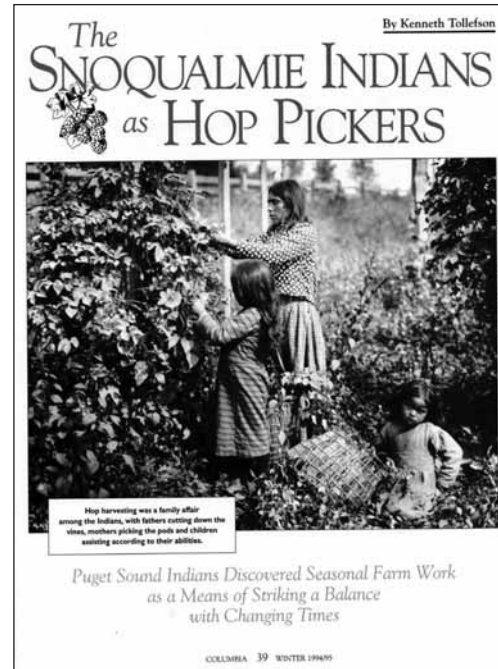
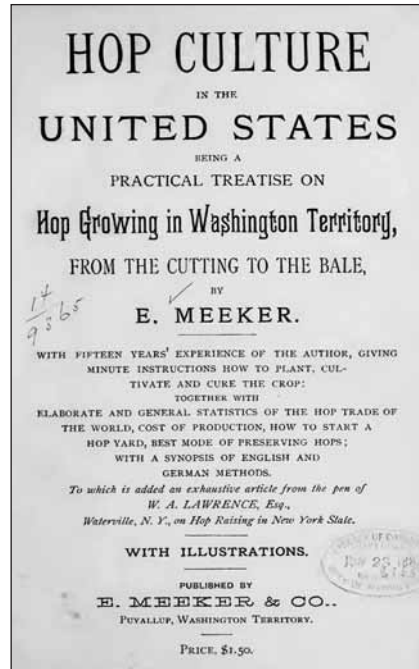
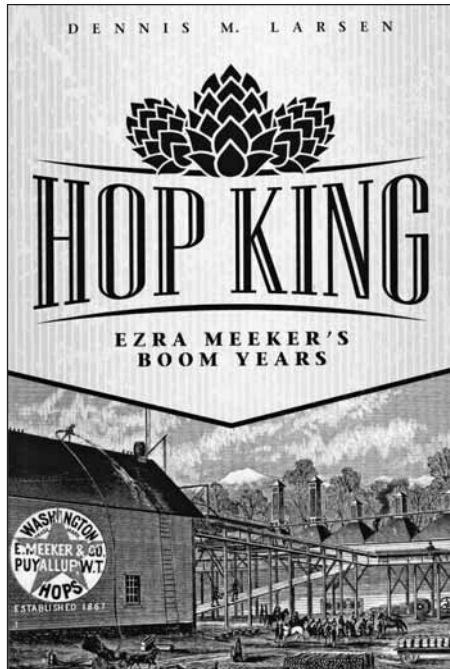
Much care and attention was needed in the drying of the hops. This hop kiln from the 1880s is of interest because it may be what the Fall City Hop Shed looked like when actually in use on the Rutherford hop farm. Note the ramp and door for bringing the hops to be spread on the drying floor. The attached building is probably for storage of the dried hops and perhaps for baling.





After drying, the hops were compressed into burlap-covered bales, then weighed and loaded onto wagons, such as the one seen above. An early method of baling the hops was to trample them down in a simple frame to compress them. Later, a variety of mechanical presses were invented to make the process more efficient, such as the McCabe Press shown at left.

Read more about this interesting period in our history!







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