

FREE YOUR glee

A three-week Newspapers In Education program in partnership with The Puyallup Fair. This is the final chapter. Thanks for joining us!



CHAPTER THREE glee past and present



Timeline: 100+ years of glee

Think about a time in your past when you felt **glee**, or happiness. What were the circumstances surrounding your experience? Take a moment to reflect upon your memory, then consider this: People have been looking for ways to experience glee since the beginning of civilization. Sharing music is one way that people express themselves and help to perpetuate glee in their communities. Another way is coming together to share accomplishments and learn from each other. Both music and learning have been a part of The Puyallup Fair since its inception in 1900 (well over a century ago!) and are still going strong today. This timeline shows how glee has been celebrated over the past 110 years — throughout the United States as well as in our neck of the woods.

1900 – 1909

- » In June 1900, a group of local businessmen, farmers and residents got together to discuss the idea of a fair in the Puyallup area.
- » Admission to the first "Valley Fair" was one dollar per family for all three days.
- » The Western genre of music spread through the western United States, featuring steel guitars, large bands and singing cowboys.

1910 – 1919

- » Earl Douglas brought the first carousel to the Fair on a horse-drawn wagon in 1923. The carousel was steam-powered and featured a Wurlitzer band organ. Today, the restored carousel has its own building at the Fair — and is valued at 1.3 million dollars!
- » Jazz music became popular throughout the United States.
- » During the Fair, Native American leaders lived in tepees on the grounds, offering pony rides, performing war dances and telling stories of Indian history in the Northwest. By 1925, 50 members of the Umatilla, Yakama and Nez Perce tribes were present at the Fair.

1920 – 1929

- » Special attractions at the Fair included horse racing, auto polo (drivers of Ford Model T's tossed a rubber ball between them, pushing it toward a goal), vaudeville acts, three-ring circuses, high-wire acts, logrolling and fiddler contests.

1930 – 1939

- » In 1912, Charlie Chaplin performed at the Empress Theater in Seattle.
- » During the 1918 World Series, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played at a Major League Baseball game for the first time.

1940 – 1949

- » Swing and jazz music continued to be popular, helping people at home take their minds off the war. Music played a role in the war effort as well, lifting troops' morale and reminding them of home.
- » The first postwar Fair took place in September of 1946. People who were eager to get out and enjoy themselves again helped the Fair set a record for single-day attendance with 100,000 guests.

1950 – 1959

- » A key feature of the Fair in the '30s was the Dance Hall. Each dance cost five cents — and when the dance was over, a braided rope gathered all of the dancers and led them out of the hall.
- » Benny Goodman, a jazz musician whose band was featured on the radio program "Let's Dance," helped popularize swing music (also known as "hot jazz") in the United States.

1960 – 1969

- » Some popular attractions at the Fair in the 1960s included The Flying Wallendas (a famous aerialist family), circus acts, Fred Smart's Fireworks Show, the Osmond Family Singers and Frank Sinatra, Jr.
- » The Beatles became an overnight sensation in the United States with the hit "I Want to Hold Your Hand."

1970 – 1979

- » The roller coaster at the Fair cost thirty-five cents to ride.
- » In 1955, Elvis Presley became the first "rock star" when his self-titled debut album became the first rock 'n' roll album to top the charts.

1980 – 1989

- » In 1989, The Puyallup Fair expanded to cover 125 acres and brought glee to 1.3 million visitors. Free entertainment stages and strolling performers were a highlight, along with unusual events like mud wrestling.
- » Compact discs begin to replace vinyl records.

1990 – 1999

- » In 1978, the Fair expanded from ten to seventeen days. At this time, the Fair occupied 46 acres.
- » The 1977 movie "Saturday Night Fever" popularized disco music. Popular disco artists included the Bee Gees, Gloria Gaynor and Diana Ross.

2000 – 2010

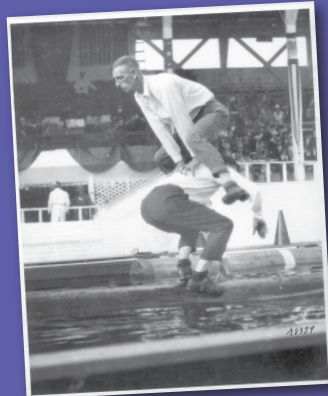
- » The new century marked the perfect time to celebrate the Fair's 100th anniversary. This celebration of the century drew 1,312,332 guests.

- » Music great Frank Sinatra was the opening day headliner on the grandstand stage at the 1993 Fair. He sang to a sold-out crowd.
- » Grunge rock, born in Seattle, spread across the country.

Early 20th century glee

Vaudeville

At the beginning of the 20th century, vaudeville was a very popular form of entertainment in America. A vaudeville show might feature comedy, singing, plate-spinning, ventriloquism, dancing, music, acrobatics and animals. Many performers began their careers at an early age, and many families went on the road to bring their traveling vaudeville acts to communities around the country.



Logrolling

Also known as birling, this sport is still around today, though you might not know about it. Lumberjacks began the tradition of logrolling (as well as

ax-throwing and tree-climbing) competitions. In the early 20th century, logrolling was an event you might see on a nearby river after lumberjacks brought logs down the mountains. The competition measures who can balance longest on a log rolling on top of the water. It might sound easy, but imagine the other person on the log walks as fast as they can to try to make you lose your balance! It takes a great deal of concentration to become a master logroller.

Fiddling Contests

"Fiddling" can be performed on any bowed string musical instrument, usually a violin. Much of traditional American fiddle music was passed down from generation to generation and not written down, as classical music played on the violin might be. Today, you can still find artists who continue the great tradition of fiddling, bringing songs and styles from all over the world and passing their knowledge to future generations of fiddlers. What is the difference between a violin and a fiddle? It has been said: "The violin sings, the fiddle dances."

try this!

- » After reading through the timeline, decide which decade you would most like to visit and why. Write a one-page story about visiting that decade and what you think your experience would be like.
- » Choose one of the decades featured in the timeline and research other events or cultural changes that took place during that time. Create a new timeline of that decade, including at least three additional items that you think are important or interesting to share.
- » What makes music a popular way for people to share glee with each other? Think about the importance of music for people in the past, present and future, then write a journal entry sharing your thoughts on this topic.



Inspiring Students To Learn

Find the Free Your Glee Teacher's Guide and learn about other NIE programs at seattletimes.com/nie

glee that's truly free!

For students, gate admission to The Puyallup Fair is FREE! The Fair offers tickets to most schools in Western Washington, so if you're a student all you have to do is ask your teachers or principal for your ticket.

The glee calculator

One dollar for a whole family to get into the Fair in 1900? It may seem too good to be true, but that's because you haven't adjusted for inflation. \$1.00 in 1900 would be the same as paying \$25.45 in 2009. And forty cents for a scone in 1961 would be \$2.87 today — a 617.5% rate of inflation! To learn more about why things cost more now and to try using an inflation calculator, visit usinfationcalculator.com or westegg.com/inflation.