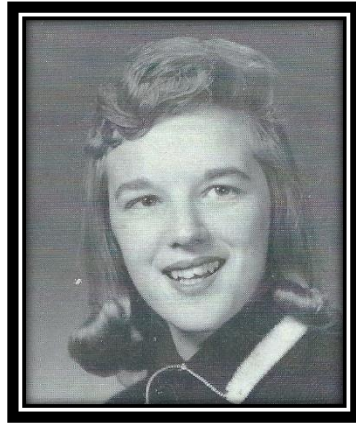


## Beverly Elshire Mayer Class of 1960



Beverly “Bev” Elshire graduated with Ephrata High School Class of 1960, the first class to be held back in order to form a three-year junior high school. Once she entered high school as a sophomore, she found herself to be an involved student, as well as, became employed at two Ephrata businesses.

Bev was elected three times to serve as a cheerleader, back when there were only four cheerleaders to cover all of the boys’ varsity sports. She was on the “Tiger” annual staff for two years, serving as the business manager. She was a member of Pep Club, Girls’ Club and KOVE.

Clerking and stocking at the Minute Drug were Bev’s evening jobs. While participating in the school’s vocational program, she worked in the office of the Grant County Journal where she contributed a weekly “Tigerville News and Views” column, reporting school news to the community.

Bev was the envy of the boys at Ephrata High School. She drove a shiny black 1951 hard-top “Chevie” to school and while cruising on Basin Street.

### **After graduating from Ephrata High School Bev:**

...married Richard Mayer and went to live 12 miles northwest of Ephrata on the Mayer dry-land wheat farm where she was the farm’s bookkeeper and helped wherever she could. Bev was fortunate to be a stay-at-home mother until her three children were all in high school. At this point she went to work outside the home in order to help fund college educations.

...began utilizing her self-taught skills working for Grant County Assessor in 1977 as a deputy; assessing personal property and converting personal property files to computer. Next, became a travel agent with daughter at Pioneer Travel in Ephrata; providing travel services and enjoying the perks of the job including leading travel groups nation-wide and abroad. In 1998 retired to the farm and the good life.

...received Community Leadership Award from Washington Association of School Administrators in 2013. Over three generations she has served Ephrata Schools in many ways; from room mother, athletic supporter, to creating cheerleader and tiger mascot costumes, providing costumes for grade school and high school plays and musical performances, and now, creating pillows for granddaughter’s first graders at Grant School. Bev serves as secretary and is a life-member of Ephrata Alumni Association.

...has collected, recorded, and shared family and local history through the writing of books and by giving historical presentations. Bev received the Heritage Award from the Quincy Valley Historical Society for writing two commissioned books. She has a particular interest in studying and celebrating the history of women and their accomplishments.

...always has a “project” in the works. Bev was instrumental in planning the centennial celebrations of Washington State (1989) by neighbors, Mayer Farm (2001) by family, Grant County (2009) by county residents, and Ephrata High School (2014) by Tiger alumni. Bev’s current project is sharing the interesting stories of the alumni of Ephrata High School.

## ***Secretary of the Ephrata Alumni Association***

Submission initiated by the Ephrata Alumni Association Board of Directors; story from various sources.

Beverly Mayer and her husband Richard, Ephrata High School class of 1958, are members of a five-generation dry-land wheat farming family. The centennial farm is located in an early day-community known as Sagebrush Flats, 12 miles northwest of Ephrata. The Mayer's are parents to three children with spouses (Brian and Nancy, Dave and Carol, Lisa and Cliff) and five grandchildren (Jenna, Jared, Connor, Hunter, and Garner). All members of their family are 12-years Ephrata Schools students.

A stay-at-home mother until all three of her children were in high school, Beverly went to work outside of the home to help finance their college educations. She began utilizing her self-taught skills working for Grant County Assessor in 1977 as a deputy; assessing personal property and converting personal property files to computer. Her daughter Lisa started the Pioneer Travel agency in Ephrata and soon Beverly was working with her providing travel services and enjoying the perks of the job. She liked interacting with Ephrata citizens that she had known for years and the experiences she had leading travel groups nationwide and abroad created lasting memories. In 1998 Beverly retired to the farm and the good life in retirement with her husband.



Beverly is a busy woman who is usually working on a "project". She enjoys collecting, recording, and sharing family and local history and is oftentimes called upon to present programs at local groups and organizations. She is a creative seamstress and, at times, combines her two interests.

Beverly has been involved in a number of book projects. In 1989, in recognition of the Washington State centennial year, she organized a collection of the history of twenty-eight area home sites. It was named "The Sagehens – Homesite Stories". Beverly is a member of the Sagehens, a 48-years-long group of rural women living in a farming area outside of Ephrata. This group of women celebrated the centennial by entertaining former residents and families of early-day area homesteaders at a large community potluck. Each Sagehen's home was decorated with a specially designed banner depicting their homesite's major farming interest and created by Beverly. She was a founding member of Sagehens and greatly values the friendship of the ladies.

For the Mayer Farm centennial in 2001 Beverly edited a family manuscript and produced "Pioneer Portrait" which related the life of early Grant/Douglas county pioneer woman Josephine Mayer. For the farm centennial she wrote and published a story for her granddaughter about the life of a pioneer girl, "Jenna – Sagebrush Flats Pioneer Girl". On a weekend in July 2001 the Mayer's hosted over 200 family and friends at the homestead farm. The attire for the weekend was old fashioned clothing and the entertainment was horseshoe pitching, antique car rides, horse and buggy rides, puppet show and lots of family history sharing. A flapjack breakfast and barbeque dinner were served and the Schwann man showed up to serve old-time ice cream cones.

In 2004 grandsons Hunter and Garner involved Beverly in a two-year project with the Grant Singers of Ephrata's Grant Elementary School. The Grant Singers presented a program, "Songs of the Journey", celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. She created thirty-two authentic costumes for the members of the Corps of Discovery and, in addition, she assisted with the dialog and wrote a keepsake book of imagined interviews of each of the corpsmen which she then presented to the participating singers. Beverly was greatly gratified when the last of these singers graduated from high school in 2014 and chose to share a picture of themselves as they appeared on the expedition in the high school annual. It created a good feeling knowing that the students had been positively impacted by this experience.

In celebration of the 2009 Grant County centennial celebration Beverly and her neighbor friends created the Prairie Rose Style Show. The women modeled Beverly's especially designed creations which depicted the attire of the early-day women of the Big Bend Country. The show's commentary, written by Beverly to honor pioneering women from all walks of life, was the inspiration for her book "Prairie Rose". The book honors women of the Big Bend country who lived ten years prior to and ten years after the creation of Grant County, Washington in 1909. Through 80 brief historical sketches, readers meet these courageous women. Whether homesteader, entrepreneur, career woman, or community activists, each woman is evocative of all women who helped tame this region.

Beverly was a member of the 2009 Grant County Centennial Planning Committee. She toured the County giving historical presentations, riding in parades, setting up pioneer-day displays, and, in general, promoting the year-long celebration. During this time, her sewing machine was humming... she created

vests for men and dresses with complementing hats and satchels for women. Younger people weren't left out; she created bonnets, dresses, vests, and knickers.

In 2014, due to the efforts of the members of the Ephrata Alumni Association and the reunion committee, Ephrata High students from the last 100 years were able to come together for one giant-sized reunion – "EHS-100". The committee, led by Beverly, later joined forces with Mike Lehmann and the alumni association to create the association as it is at this time. Reports of the reunion, as well as, historical information of the school and community, written by Beverly, can be found on the association's website under 100-year reunion. Beverly, Michael, Jerry, Gail, John, Linda, Roberta and other members of the association board have worked hard to establish [EphrataTigersAlumni.com](http://EphrataTigersAlumni.com) and [Facebook.com/EphrataTigersAlumni/](https://Facebook.com/EphrataTigersAlumni/).

### Centennial Celebrations Planner



Washington State



Mayer Farm



Grant County



Ephrata High School

During 2010 centennial celebration of Washington State Women's right to vote Beverly gave several presentations to local groups relating the struggle in Washington State, as well as throughout the nation, in obtaining this "right". She took on the persona of an early day woman, relating the trials and tribulations of gaining equal rights in the election process. Ten years after suffrage was adopted in Washington State, the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. constitution was passed which required all states to adopt female suffrage. You can bet Beverly is gearing up for that 2020 celebration.

In 2011 Beverly was presented the Heritage Award by the Quincy Valley Historical Society "in recognition of her tireless work to document and preserve the history of the Quincy Valley". From 12 interview tapes Beverly organized and collected the thoughts of the Quincy Valley residents who shared their stories in order to insure that future generations would have the opportunity to be informed and inspired by the people who pioneered the dry-lands of the early 1900s, the irrigated lands of the 1950s and agriculture businesses. The book was "The Rain Has Gone Around, Water in the Quincy Valley". Beverly also participated in another project of the historical society, the "Children of the Quincy Valley Series". "Ruby, Town Girl" was written by Beverly about a fictitious girl who moves to Quincy during the 1930s depression and becomes involved in the town. The other characters, events, stories, and historical information are based on fact.

Beverly received the Community Leadership Award from Washington Association of School Administrators in 2013. For over three generations she has served Ephrata Schools in many ways; from room mother, athletic supporter, to creating cheerleader and tiger mascot costumes, providing costumes for grade school and high school plays and musical performances, and now, creating pillows for granddaughter's first graders at Grant School.

Beverly does have a life other than working on a "project" but, it is these projects which have brought joy to others and provided her with a great deal of satisfaction and happiness.