

“ . . . to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region . . . to protect and interpret that material . . . to make it available to the greatest possible extent”

Time flies when you're having fun!

Another year has passed, with hundreds of Museum visitors spending hundreds of hours looking at artifacts and browsing our electronic collections of pictures, maps, and newspapers. There's a story behind every visit, and after reviewing them, we wonder if Museum life is governed more by **coincidence**, **statistics**, or simply **fate**.



Building, and left with pictures of the Klaus store (burned down ca 1920) and its brick replacement. I promised to put the couple in touch with Rosie Miller, who would know for sure how to reach Judy Fielding.



been unable to find the graves of Marie and Henry Klaus when they explored the GF Cemetery on their way to the airport. I promised to take a look, and on Saturday, found them, photographed them, and emailed them the photos and a cemetery map. At the same time, I realized I had forgotten to designate which girls in the photos we had scanned were Klaus girls, so I asked. [Coincidence #3 - the lady with the pictures couldn't find her album, and realized she might have left it in the Seattle rental car! She called them, they had it, and we got credit for the "save" - they throw away lost items after a week!]

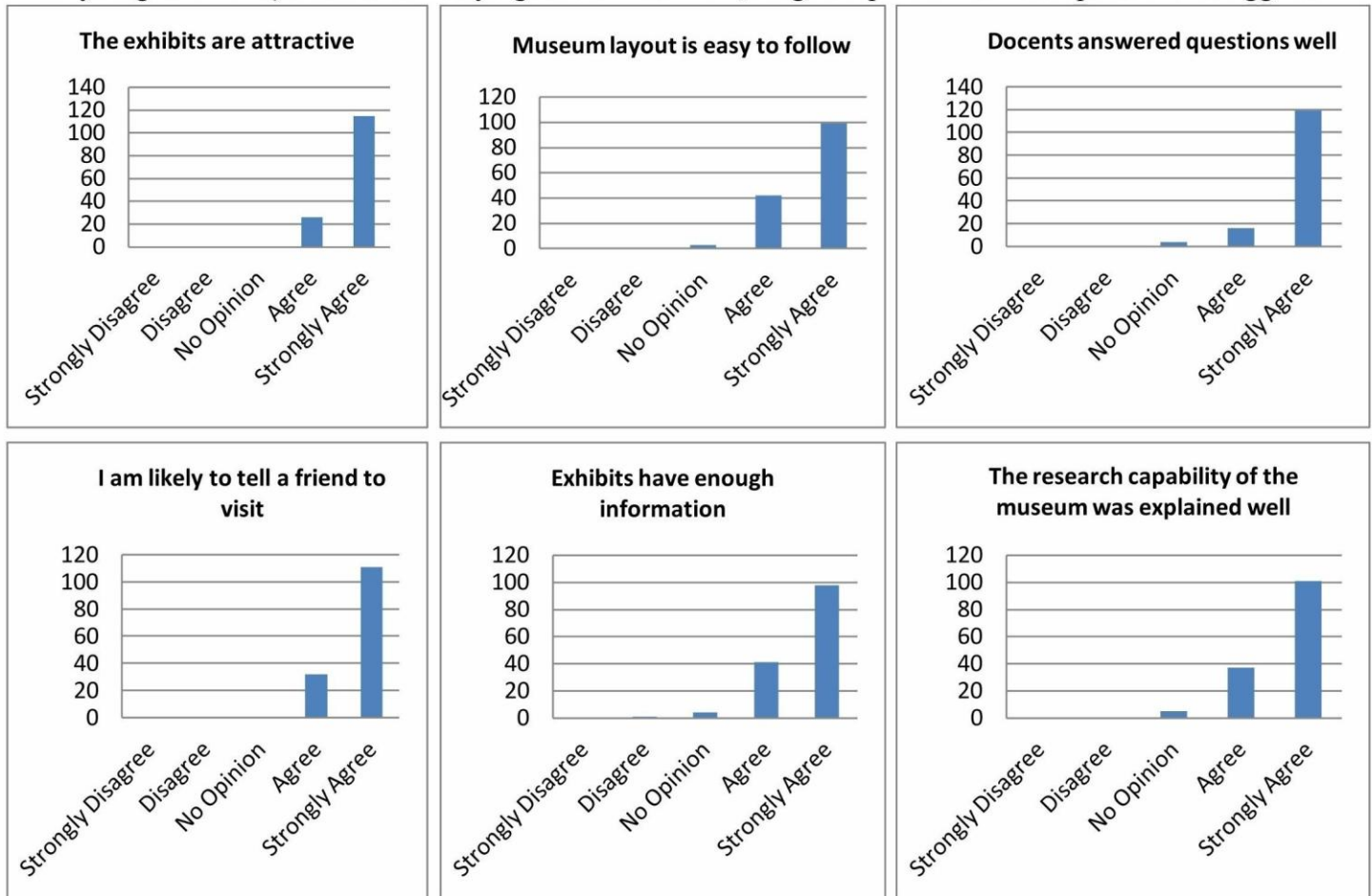


Without the questions, she would not have discovered her missing album, and it would have been lost.

Sunday came, and a granddad came in with two grandkids, cousins who were visiting. The kids were talkative, and when asked where they were from, said "Chelan" (not too far) and "Irrigon, Oregon" (where?) "Irrigon, Oregon" (spell it for me?). "I-R-R-I-G-O-N" It's just a wide spot in the road, according to their granddad. It sounded more like a name made up to fit into a poem about Oregon.

When they left, the phone rang, and it was the couple who wanted to get in touch with Judy Fielding. I told them I'd call Rosie right then, and have her call them. So I called Rosie, explained what they wanted, and she said "Sure, Judy would be excited to talk to them!". I asked where Judy lived, but I never saw it coming . . . "Oh, they've lived for years in a little town just across the Columbia, called Irrigon, Oregon." [OH, COME ON!]

Three Months of Statistics: Part of our involvement in StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) involved surveying museum visitors, to get impressions and improvement suggestions.



From July through September, we had visitors evaluate us in a variety of categories, while we also collected data on age, gender, distance traveled, use of mobile technology, and improvement ideas. This data will form the basis for changes and plans for the coming year. Lots of compliments and useful comments were recorded.

Maybe it was Fate: Our digital collections were built upon the labor and love donated by a number of high-school interns, some of whom donated hundreds of hours (well beyond their public service requirement for graduation). We had the pleasure this summer of attending the wedding of “our” Samantha Walker to Neil Hollo. With the experience she gained working with us, Mrs. Hollo is now the site manager for the Appelo Archives Center in Naselle, WA. She was destined for a career of historic preservation – and it started here!

We Can't Say “Thanks” Enough: Your support has enabled us to finish another year “in the black”, while still keeping the museum an all-volunteer effort, open free to the public. We ask again, as the year nears its end, for you to consider the Granite Falls Historical Society if you are thinking about charitable donations. Every dollar goes into our mission, making our organization a much-appreciated community asset.

Please accept a heartfelt “THANKS” from your 2012 Board of Directors!

Paul Peddy *Caroline R. Turpley* *Eldon J. Airstein*
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Please visit us at www.gfhistory.org or live at 109 E. Union St, Granite Falls, WA