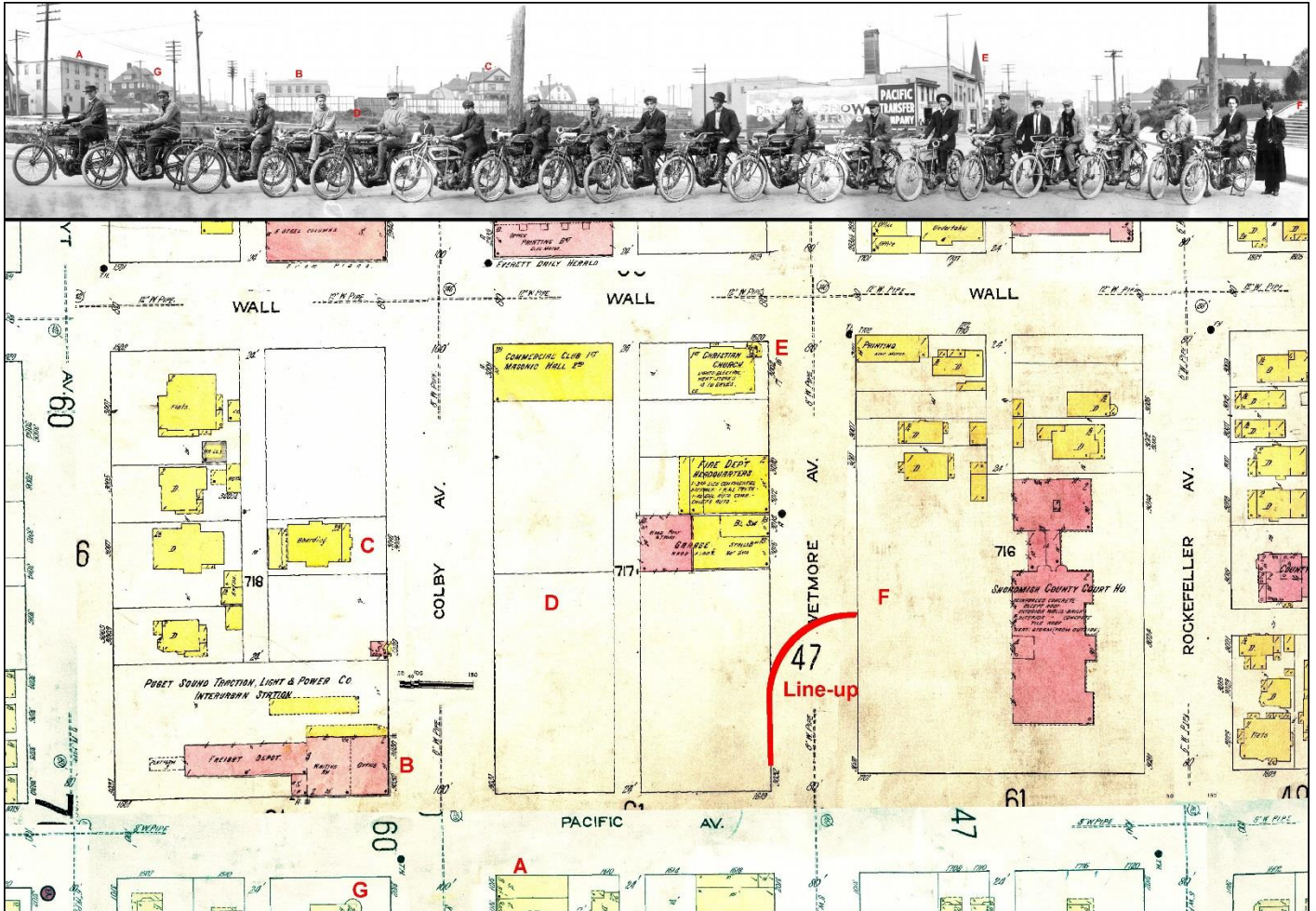


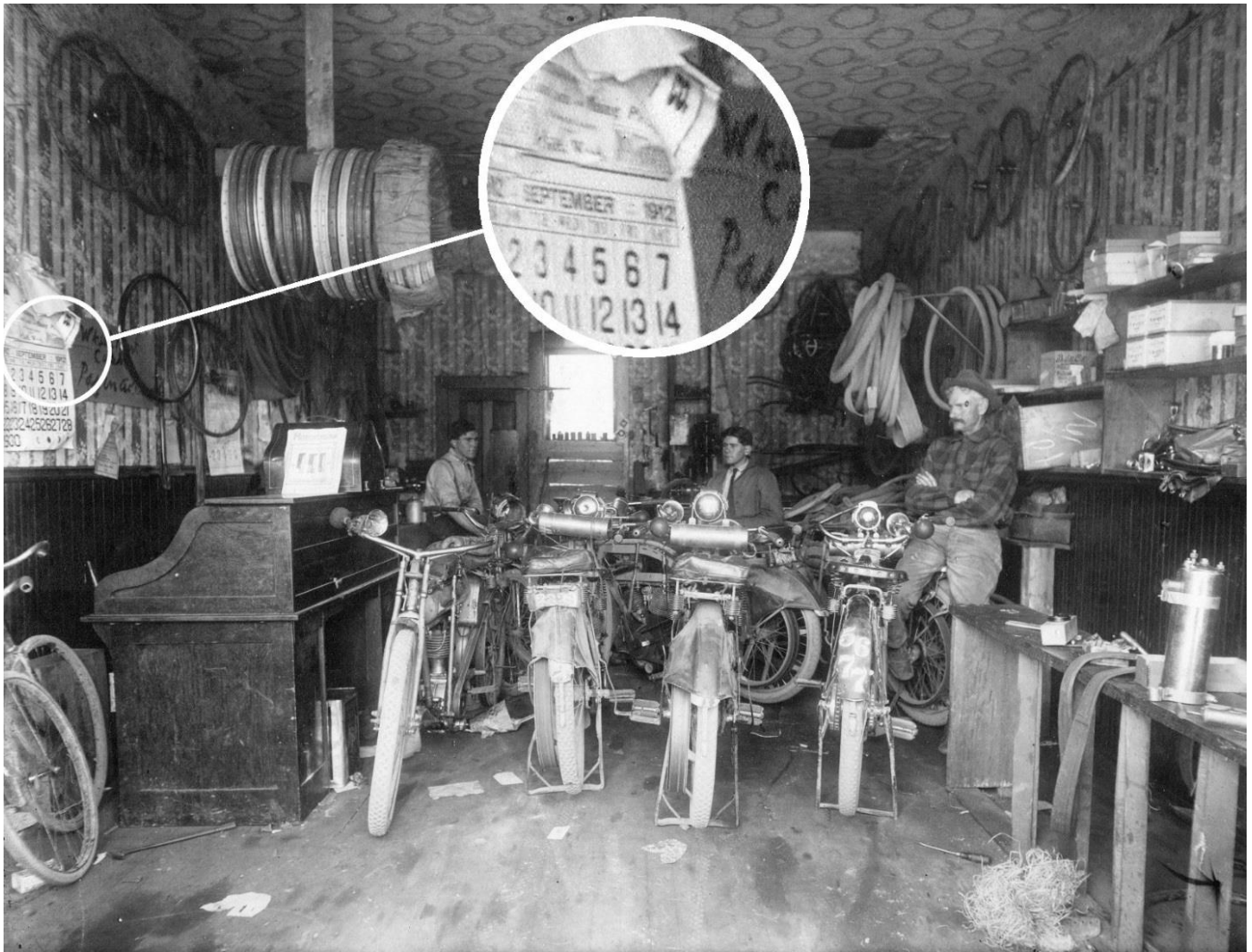
Photo Forensics Phenomenal Fate

About a year ago, we related a story about a panoramic picture found in our archives, showing a large group of early motorcycles (mostly Indians and Excelsiors). With a little sleuthing and a little help from our mapping system, we determined that the picture had been taken with the participants spread across the intersection of Pacific Ave and Wetmore Ave in Everett, right next to the courthouse steps. It was possible to confirm all the background scenery in the picture with the detailed 1914 maps we have.



Just by coincidence, a small smudged version of the picture was in the window of a shop in Snohomish, and when the shopkeeper said he wasn't sure exactly where the picture had been taken, we were able to offer the precise location and, since he was personally interested in antique motorcycles, offered to print a much larger, clearer version of the picture.

He gladly accepted, and promised to stop at the museum later that afternoon, after closing the shop. When he did, we were also interested in showing him the other motorcycle pictures we have in the museum. Most of them involve the Excelsior motorcycles that were sold in Granite Falls by the Ashe brothers. We even have a few photographs that show the Ashe brothers inside their garage/shop, working on a variety of vehicles, including Excelsior motorcycles. Our small "garage" display includes a "window" through which visitors can gaze into the shop to see the projects underway.



The scene is detailed enough that the calendar on the wall is quite readable, and says "September 1912". When our guest saw that, he exclaimed, "Unbelievable! My favorite personal motorcycle is my 1912 Excelsior!" With that said, he asked if we'd be interested in borrowing it from him for display in the museum. Of course we were interested, and the motorcycle now sits as part of the Ashe brothers garage display . . . a real-life example of the bikes pictured in the shop!

Talk about coincidences . . . identifying the original picture location, seeing the picture in a shop, offering to print a picture, and then finding out the shopkeeper actually owned a 1912 Excelsior as pictured in the museum!