Marching to the Beat of a Different Drummer

During regular museum hours on June 30, Tom Bergan walked through the door carrying a bass drum, pictured below. This is not just any drum. It's obviously old, and it has "Granite Falls School Band" lettering on the right-side skin (genuine calf skin, by the way). A quick look at our digitized yearbook collection revealed the 1939 Granite Falls High School had a drum just like it, but without the side showing to see the lettering. The next year, 1940, three pictures with the drum were in the yearbook, with the drum shown in the marching band with the lettering illegible but in the correct layout. There is no mention of a band in the earlier yearbooks 1930, 1924, 1923, and 1919 (probably because there was no band program established). The last yearbook shown with the drum is 1959 with the lettering plainly visible. The next band picture doesn't show up until 1962, and the drum is a different size and shape. This drum might be older, but it is safe to say that it is at least 80 years old. It finally has returned home to Granite Falls after being absent because of unknown reasons for up to 60 years! Thanks, Bill McGee (Class of 1958) for spotting it at a neighbor's in Cle Elum, and Tom Bergan (Class of 1965) for bringing it back!
Image from the 1939 Granite Falls Yearbook

The Drum (same size and shape)

Image from the 1940 Granite Falls Yearbook

The Drum (with lettering showing)
Image from the 1959 Granite Falls Yearbook

BAND


Image from the 1958 Granite Falls Yearbook

BAND