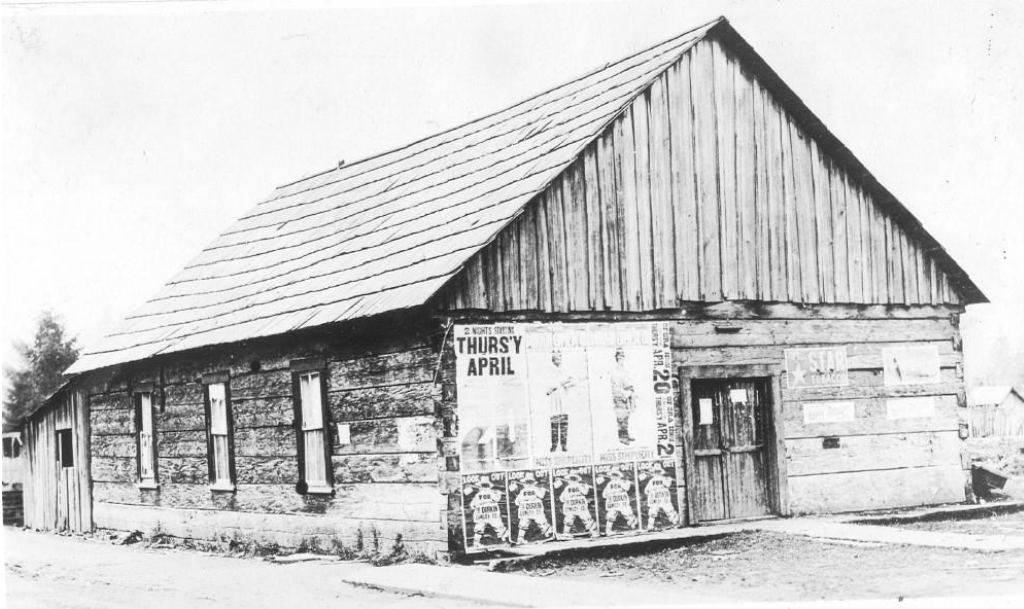


The Sno-Isle Libraries organization is striving to make more material available to its patrons, in the form of digital images portraying the history of Snohomish and Island Counties. The "Digitize Our Community History" program is an organized effort to collect 75 or more pictures from each community and to make them readily available online through the Sno-Isle website. In 2013, pictures were collected from five different communities, the collection and presentation processes were refined, and applications taken for additional communities to participate. With the sponsorship and leadership of the Granite Falls Library and librarian Jude Anderson, Granite Falls was one of the communities selected to participate in 2014.

Fortunately, the Granite Falls Historical Society had already digitized thousands of local pictures, so providing them to Sno-Isle was perhaps slightly easier than for other communities. The process of selecting the specific pictures, however, could be considered quite "random", so we've decided to present the nominees a few at a time, in the Mountain Loop Express, that our readers could suggest additions that might be of particular interest, or ask questions if some picture raises questions or piques curiosity.

Ultimately, about 130 pictures were submitted to Sno-Isle, with no particular priority or sequence. We plan to simply start at the beginning of the list and see what catches your eye! Please feel free to ask questions or add information.



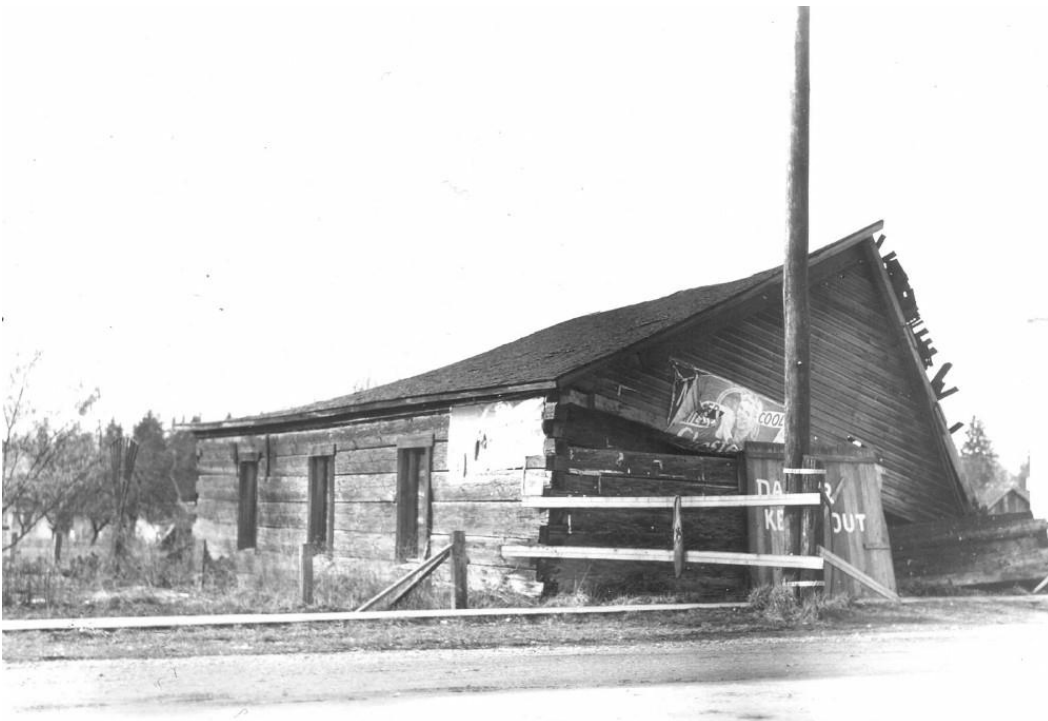
The Union Hall was the first public building to be built in Granite Falls, and was used for many public meetings. It was also used as a schoolhouse in the early days, providing extra space even after the first downtown schoolhouse was built.



Constructed of heavy timbers, each squared-off log dwarfed the students. It was located just south of the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall, which for decades was Konnerup's Store, and in 2014 is Our Father's House Church.



A fair was held in 1917 at the south end of Granite Falls, to help with military recruitment. You can see Union Hall at the lower left in a picture taken from the top of the ferris wheel, which was erected in the intersection of S. Granite Ave and Wallace St. Just beyond it is the IOOF Hall, while further north on Granite Ave is the white two-story building that is Legion Hall today. Notice the newly-installed pavement on S. Granite Ave (main street in town) and Pioneer St (leading to Waite Mill, largest area employer).



Union Hall was later used for storage, abandoned, and finally collapsed in Feb 1946.