Using Your Phone for History

One of the great satisfactions in using high technology is when it is brought to bear on unexpected problems, such as "how can we make history more accessible to interested people?".

Digitizing photos makes it possible to easily catalog them and share them with the public - this column would be incredibly difficult without such access to early pictures and documents.

But some of the pictures become even more interesting when they can be used in comparing "then" and "now". So, the Granite Falls Historical Museum has taken another technological step.

Small bar-code designs have started appearing on the front of buildings in downtown Granite Falls. These "QR codes" are actually links to short slide shows of "then and now" pictures accompanied by an audio explanation.

How do you read these codes? Use your phone! iPhones and many "smartphones" allow you to download a bar code application you can use to translate a QR code into a link to an audio-visual display of information.

> **Note:** Usethe market place for your particular brand of telephone or telephone operating system and search for
> "bar code scanner or QR code scanner."

Point the phone camera at the code to get a short historical overview of that building or location. Try these samples to see the impact!

This one gives a little history on the Klaus Building and the Spar Tree Tavern.

This one provides insight into the history of the bank and firehouse.

This talks about the Old Robe Trail