



GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 109 E. Union Street, Granite Falls, WA 98252
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To our friends and members
 throughout the community, state, and across all borders:
 "Thank you for your support!"

August 2017 NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2017

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1. August starts with "Show 'n' Shine" - On Saturday, August 5th, the museum participated in the annual Chamber of Commerce [Show-n-Shine](#) celebration, and enjoyed brisk foot traffic for the day. We sold more raffle



tickets for the Treasure Chest, and we had the hit-and-miss engine cranking the ice cream maker. Over 120 people were served some of our special vanilla ice

cream with toppings! It was a good day. It's always fun to see people checking out the old mechanics (the machines, not the operators!).

2. Grant Valentine, a student at Lake Roesiger School - Not only was Grant a student at the Lake Roesiger

School, he graduated from there with the eighth-grade class in 1928! How do we know this? Grant himself made a special trip from the Portland area to the museum on August 6 along with some family members. The 99-year-old carries many memories of the local area and its citizens. He also happens to be a multiple-time published author, having written his auto-biography, his wife's biography, and a great book on how-to-make-a-variety-of-long-forgotten items. He even found a so-called "error" in the Richard Roesiger book! (item #13)



3. Museum annual picnic - The annual museum picnic was held on August 12th, with plenty to eat and drink! There were some great desserts (pie, brownies, etc.), usually topped off with ice cream from the hit-and-miss



ice cream maker, and some great conversations! The museum's Distinguished Service Award plaque was on site, but the new names remained covered. Until the official announcement at our next meeting in

September, you can only see the names at the museum with special glasses (not provided). Everyone had a



wonderful time. Many thanks go to the **Desrosiers** for an absolutely beautiful venue!

4. **Lloyd Lindberry and his North Carolina brother** - On August 7th, **Lloyd Lindberry** visited with his brother from **North Carolina**, looking for a large, older panoramic shot of the **Big Four Glacier** that once hung in the **Verlot Ranger Station** (they believed it had come to the museum). We've never had it and do not know where it could be, but a week after their visit, **Lloyd** mailed us an electronic copy of the picture. Now we can print it and display it in the museum!

5. **HPC** - The **Heritage Preservation Commission** (HPC) cancelled its August 15th meeting due to the extreme staff workload associated with the opening of the **Evergreen Fair**. A draft has been created for the grant guidelines to be used for the 2018 round of heritage grants, and it will be modified/approved at the September meeting. In 2017, HPC is funding 13 grants to various organizations throughout the County. We are completing our grant to make our map layers more easily accessible online, and **LOSCHO** is working on their grant to make a digital/virtual Museum Tour Guide for Snohomish County.

6. **Evergreen State Fair historical banners** - On August 23rd, just one day before the **Evergreen State Fair**, **Tom** and **Fred** answered a call for help from the Fairgrounds and hung up the six-foot banners associated with 13 of



the heritage organizations across the county. The banners for three more organizations showed up that afternoon back in **Granite Falls**, so after some prep work, **Tom** and **Fred** returned to the fairgrounds to hang those three, plus all 16 of the eight-foot banners. It's surprising how small an eight foot banner looks, once it's installed in a big fairground. But, they were all up in time

for the opening of the Fair on August 24th! The banners are great advertising for each of the organizations which, on such short notice, were able to provide images and text that could be formatted to fit the banner template. Kudos go to **Hal Gausman**, director of the Fairgrounds, for the idea and for funding them.

7. **Where was Mr. Robinson?** - A number of online requests have been handled in August, perhaps the most interesting one of which was a question from Monika's book: "Although **Richard Roesiger** mentions the **Robinson** family many times (he stayed with them when originally settling in this area), their homestead or property doesn't show on the maps anywhere in the book (or on the cover). Do you know where they lived?" It turned out that their property did show on some ca1890 township surveys to which we had access, so we could provide that info to the requestor.

8. **May 12, 1911 Robe, Wash** - Another online experience was discovering a postcard written by **Bob Miller's** grandmother **Laura**, mentioning his granddad by name (**Austin Miller**) and showing the mill in **Robe** at which he worked. It was postmarked May 12, 1911 from Robe, Wash. **Austin's** sister, **Mina Sharp**, was the early resident of the museum house.



9. **Big Four must wait** - An event by the **U.S. Forest Service** to celebrate **Big Four** on August 25th was cancelled due to staff shortages caused by sickness, retirements, and vacations. They intend to reschedule it for a later date and will include our museum as one of the presenters of stories, pictures, maps, etc.

10. The saga continues... - The probate attorney associated with **Lois Jorgensen's** Last Will hosted a conference call on August 22nd with the [Alumni Association](#) (**Gordon Day**) and the **Historical Society** (**Fred Cruger**). On the line were three other folks, two of whom were executors of the will, and one of whom was a real estate agent. The probate attorney had several questions regarding the potential sale of the property by the Estate. Both the **Alumni Association** and the Historical Society would prefer that such sale be handled locally (by the two organizations), but there seemed to be some question in the attorney's mind if that was appropriate. There was a lengthy discussion regarding "asking price" for the properties, because it was clear the folks in **Olympia** had little appreciation for local **Granite Falls** land values. The attorney asked that we provide her with the document **Lois** signed giving the City and the Historical Society the right to use the property indefinitely as a "visitor center" (it was immediately emailed to her) and promised to get back with us "as soon as possible". We just heard the estate plans to continue with their efforts to sell the properties, but changed the asking price on one parcel per our request.

11. CFSC - On August 28th, the [Community Foundation of Snohomish County](#) (CFSC) was represented by **Maddy Metzger-Utt** in a meeting held at the **Granite Falls Museum**. The [Pilchuck Foundation](#), the [City of Granite Falls](#), and the [Granite Falls School District](#) were all represented in a discussion of how **CFSC** might help bring further focus to some of the social service efforts in **Granite Falls**, potentially unite some of the diverse organizations, and (ideally) help them to gain access to additional funding. **CFSC** is willing to help coordinate a meeting between the various groups to find the best way to leverage City help when building long-term plans for social services such as the Food Bank(s), [Family Resource Center](#), etc.

12. The last of the first batches of the Roesiger book - After months of planning, scheduling, reordering, and moving boxes and boxes of **On the Trail of Richard Roesiger** books, we sold the "last" **Roesiger** book on August 29th, bringing the total to 334. In the early planning stages we were hoping for maybe 100, but knew there was potential for many more. The book signing event with author Monica Teuscher-Schramm brought in quite a few people to the museum who were very generous with donations. With the book sales we were able to cover the costs of the printing, shipping, and hosting the event. GFHS was astounded with the donation we received from Monika, and other donations plus sales allowed us to stay "in the black" even while ordering previously known expenses related to two new and very-much-needed computers and paying for the Fair banners. The computer expenses are reimbursed through an HPC grant we received earlier this year, and [County Parks & Rec](#) will pay us back for the banners. Financially, 2017 is set to be another solid year.

13. ERROR!? In the Roesiger Book!? - Sure, enough, there are perhaps only two people in the entire world

who would spot the specific "error". They each bought the book . . . and they saw the "error"! A picture provided by the museum for the book was mis-labeled when it was donated to the museum years ago. We trusted the picture donor. Even Monika, the author, said that "it must have been taken after-the-fact", because **Richard** and his wife didn't wait until they had wedding finery before they got married. The so-called "wedding picture" wasn't **Richard** and his wife, after all! The picture was one taken of a different couple – the parents of **Grant Valentine's** wife! The same picture appears (along with other pictures and documentation) in his wife's biography! Only **Grant** and his daughter could possibly have spotted that – The picture was of **Grant's** in-laws and his daughter's maternal grandparents! How that picture came to be in the collection of **Roesiger** papers is unexplained – but what a great way to have a good laugh between new friends! He was happy to help us fix



this so-called "error". Oh! **Grant** also enjoyed a picture we had in our collection that he'd never seen before, one that shows him with his brother and sister and dog **Nippy** in front of a friend's house on **Lake Roesiger**!

14. Treasure Chest raffle -The "treasure chest" raffle at the museum is doing well as a fund raiser for our all-volunteer, not-for-profit, award-winning, and nationally acclaimed local museum. All items have been personally donated by individuals or businesses just for this raffle. This beautiful old piece of furniture contains some

mysterious antique items and other valuables and will continue to be on display at the museum through September. Some "teasers" have been published each week on Facebook to give people an idea of what "treasures" to expect. Tickets are still available, but the raffle ends on [Railroad and Reunion Days](#). Tickets are only \$1.00 each (or 6 for \$5.00, or 25 for \$20). Get your tickets Sundays from noon to 5:00 PM, and encourage your friends and neighbors to support their local museum by participating.

15. Docents, helpers, and visitors for August - We kept busy during the month of August. A hearty "THANK YOU!" goes to all our volunteers and docents who help in various ways throughout the month. Without intending to leave anyone out, here are our August helpers: **Catherine Anderson, Norma Anderson, Tom and Olivia Bergan, Scott and Sarah Bower, Ron Chew, Jeff Craggs, Fred and Penny Cruger, Marcia Day, Bob and Robin Ingraham, Elsie and Eldon Kirstein, Rosie Miller, Ted and Lonnie Peddycord, Tim Quillen, John and Barbara Scherrer.** Including "Show 'n' Shine" we had over 150 people at the museum this month. They came from these places: **Arlington, Bellevue, Bothell, Burien, Everett, Granite Falls, Kirkland, Lake Roesiger, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Mill Creek, Monroe, Snohomish, Woodinville, Stanwood, Seattle; Annapolis, MD; Fayetteville, NC; Fullerton, CA; Potlatch, ID; Ranson, WV; Surrey, B.C.; and Tigard, OR.**

16. No August Board or General meetings - Even though the August 28 meetings were cancelled, there are a few things to consider during the next days and weeks for planning purposes:

a. Railroad and Reunion Days - It's just around the corner! Plans are underway, and volunteers are needed for the parade, apple cider press, docents, hands-on activities (railroad spike driving, misery whip sawing), ice cream servers and cashiers, and other helpers. We are looking for a low trailer for the parade so the ice cream maker can be seen by everyone on the parade route. Ron is looking into getting an old tractor to pull the trailer. The new banner might be available for display.

b. Rewards programs & money for GFHS - If you shop at [Fred Meyer](#) (#91551), [IGA](#), or online with [Amazon](#), please register **Granite Falls Historical Society** as your non-profit of choice. It's easy to do, and a little effort by many will add up to significant amounts. We already have received money by just a few people who have already signed up.

c. Board member nominations - Nominations are needed for 2018. Current board members for the **Granite Falls Historical Society** serve a 3-year term and can be re-elected once. After taking a 1-year break, a previous board member can once again be elected to the board. With a total of nine board members and staggered 3-year terms, **GFHS** will need to elect three board members every year. **Robin Ingraham**, our current secretary, and **Scott Bower**, our current treasurer, have to leave because of term limits. Another position became vacant and also needs to be filled. This

is a perfect opportunity to step up and help out. The board meets monthly, right before the general membership meeting.

d. Christmas Tree lights - We need to start thinking about how, when, and cost to restring the lights on the big tree out front. It's been quite a few years, and the top of the tree has grown way up past the top of the lights. Suggestions have already started with swapping out for LED lights and possible boom/lift equipment that can get someone to the top without sending **John Scherrer** up going hand-over-hand through the branches carrying a string of lights in his teeth.

e. 10th Anniversary! - Did you know the new museum building will be 10 years old at [Railroad and Reunion Days](#) this year? What can be done to make this special? Email your ideas to: info@gfhistory.org or leave a message at the museum phone: 360.691.2306

f. Grounds/interior maintenance - This should be a regular thought every time we drive past our museum, stop by to visit, for docent duty, or for other volunteer help. As an all-volunteer organization, we do not hire a maintenance or custodial person. We all are volunteers to do maintenance/custodial work, but only when a task is noted. If you see something, tell someone or write a note. Better still, if you can fix it, go ahead! View the museum as your second home, and it will continue to shine for another 10 years!

g. Ending August with our special docents - If you ever stop by the museum on the last Sunday of the month, you will see these two wonderful ladies there ready to assist you with your visit. **Rosie Miller** (left) and



Norma Anderson have been doing this tirelessly for years! On August 27 **Marcia Day** presented each of them with a card on behalf of the GFHS Board and a special basket designed for the "dog lover" they are. Thank you, **Norma and Rosie!**

17. Mark your calendar -

September 3, Sunday - - Museum open noon - 5pm, to help as a docent for any Sunday, just call or email **Marcia Day** at (360) 691-2378 or marciad@irgpt.com
September 10, Sunday - - Museum open noon - 5pm
September 11, Monday - - 9/11 Patriot Day
September 17, Sunday - - Museum open noon - 5pm
September 24, Sunday - - Museum open noon - 5pm
September 25, Monday - - GFHS Board/General mtgs
October 7, Saturday - "[Railroad Days](#)" - museum open, and volunteers needed as docents, helpers, parade, etc various ways throughout the month.

Visit our [Research link](#) to see old photos and newspapers.