GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
109 E. Union Street, Granite Falls, WA 98252
(360) 691-2603 http://www.gfhistory.org

To our friends and members
throughout the community, state, and across all borders:
"Thank you for your support!"

August 2016 NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2016

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1. Fire Marshal visit - On Monday, August 1, the Fire Marshal visited the museum, found no problems, but he did remind us to get our extinguishers checked when the city does their mass testing this Fall.

2. Show 'n' Shine - On Saturday, August 6, the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce "Show-n-Shine" event brought hundreds of collector cars and visitors to town. The museum was open all day, and we made about seven gallons of ice cream (both chocolate and vanilla). People were very generous as there were significant sales and donations. The ice cream batches were quickly eaten, despite the cooler weather, and we estimated over 100 visitors attended from a large geographical area.

3. Magneto mayhem - On August 9, we discovered that the odd-sounding behavior of the hit-and-miss engine that runs the ice cream maker was apparently due to a gradual failure in the magneto. Unfortunately, we were committed to making ice cream for an event at the **Scherrer** homestead, so we broke out the hand crank to complete the task. The magneto is destined to visit the magneto doctor in Arlington later this week. It's nice to know the hand crank works, but it's so much better to relax and watch the engine do the work!

4. Annual picnic at the Foxley farm - On Saturday, August 13, the annual Historical Society Picnic was held at the **Foxley** residence. It was great to see **Stan Hjort** visiting all the way from Alaska, since he spent much of his childhood on that very farm! We had enough ice cream left from the earlier event at Sherrer's that we didn't have to crank at all – just eat the ice cream and the delicious pot-luck items brought by all. **Bob & Rosie Miller** and **Dean Steinke** were given special recognition for their years of service and contributions to the museum, with engraved nameplates for the museum "Distinguished Service" plaque. They were approved last year, and the engraved plates made it in time for this year's picnic. Congratulations!

5. Festival of the River - Also on Saturday, August 13, GFHS was represented by **Fred** at the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce table during the Festival of the River in Arlington. This was a great chance to meet and greet people in attendance at Snohomish County's River Meadows Park.

6. Map training - On Monday, August 15, **Tom** and **Fred** delivered a mapping seminar in Snohomish to the Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce, with help from intern **Emily Cannon** – multiple Sky Valley folks brought their own PCs, so extra help was needed to provide them with hands-on experience in using the mapping system.

7. Historic Asset Inventory RFP results - On Tuesday, August 16, the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission met to discuss two proposals received for creating a county-wide historic asset inventory. As of September 1, nothing has been heard regarding the choice between an offer from a Portland consultant and from our League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations.

Northwest Genealogical Conference - From Wednesday, August 17, through Saturday, August 20, the Northwest Genealogical Conference was held in Arlington. GFHS had a full table of sample documents and a two-screen display of our research capabilities, staffed throughout the week by **Emily**, **Tom**, and **Fred**. Attendance was good, we shared general overviews and specific research, and we received a lot of positive feedback from participants.

9. Model T Club of America - On Saturday, August 20, over 20 members of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Model T Club of America visited the museum after driving

the Mountain Loop Highway from Arlington to Darrington to Barlow Pass and to Granite Falls, with lunch at Big Four on the Granite Falls side of the Loop. Museum hosts **Bob and Robin Ingraham**, and **Marcia Day** got to see some great looking vehicles!

10. Granite Falls voted "the best" - Granite Falls was voted the "Best Outdoor Adventures" community in an online contest by "Live the SnoCo Life" blogger Jessica Coronado (AKA Your SnoCo Gal). City Manager **Brent Kirk** invited Mayor **Matt Hartman** and **Fred** to join in a photograph taken at the museum to celebrate our contribution to Snohomish County tourism.

11. Emily the Intern - **Emily** has been helping tremendously around the museum. The main work involves the historic asset inventory and is very detailed. She and **Fred** have almost finished creating 450 forms for historic items across the county. Each comes with address, parcel number, aerial map, date built, etc., and are ready for completion by local historians, should **LOSCHO** win the contract for the historic asset inventory. Should **LOSCHO** not get the contract, the forms will be organized and ready for completion by anyone interested, but without the year-end deadline of the contract. **Emily** and **Fred** have been making weekly field trips to take current pictures of about 100 of the items, exploring "old" and "new" areas of Snohomish County (old to **Fred**, new to **Emily**).

12. Refreshing rain - The minor lawn setbacks experienced due to Wabash Avenue improvements have been patched by hydro-seeding. The lawn has been watered, but just enough to keep it from turning brown. Hopefully this recent rain will help us reclaim the lush, green lawn we started back in the spring. The trees have been trimmed and the DOC (Department of Corrections) folks are scheduled for weeding and cleanup. They did great work for us several months ago.

13. Wi-Fi a no-go - A recent Windows 10 update caused us to "lose" the WiFi hardware inside the main museum PC. For a quicker, temporary remedy, **Tom** spent multiple days verifying the Ethernet connections originally strung through the building nine years ago (only one had a loose wire!), so we're running on hard-wired connections now. This includes new connections in the back room as well as the main computer. **Tom** also brought in a WiFi unit to connect in the back room, so WiFi is now available at full strength throughout the entire building (but our main PC still can't find its internal WiFi hardware).

14. Centennial Trail History Day - Centennial Trail History Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, and GFHS is earmarked for displays at the Machias trailhead, which is an ideal location for us. An additional display area will be set up this year at the intersection of the Centennial Trail and the Whitehorse Trail. The Index and Darrington groups at that trail head would like to borrow the GFHS tent cover for the day, in the event of inclement weather.

15. Railroad and Reunion Days - An **Alumni Happy Hour and Comfort Feed** is schedule for Friday, September 30 at the Museum – that's Friday evening of Railroad Days weekend (September 30 - October 2). Come prepared to eat, drink, and be merry while exchanging stories with Granite Falls alumni! This year's alumni will be the first to benefit from our recently scanned set of Granite Falls High School yearbooks. Electronic (and searchable) copies of your yearbooks will be available! Help for Friday evening and throughout the day Saturday (parade day) is needed.

16. August visitors and helpers - Many thanks to these members who helped as docents or in other ways during August: **Norma Anderson, Catherine Anderson, Tom Bergan, Ed and Thora Boede, Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Marcia Day, Ryan and Liz Foxley, Stan Hjort, Bob and Robin Ingraham, Elsie and Eldon Kirstein, Rosie Miller, Ted and Lonnie Peddycord, Tim Quillen, Dee Saunders, Barbara and John Scherrer, and Tom Thorleifson** (and omissions not intentional).

In addition, there were 209 visitors from these places: Arlington, Bellingham, Bothell, Burlington, Darrington, Ferndale, Indianola, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Monroe, Seattle, Snohomish, Spokane; Boise, ID; Belgrade, MT; Elizabethtown, PA; Gooding, ID; Petersburg, AK; and Finland.

17. Coming events and odds & ends - Mark your calendar for these coming events:

•Docents needed Sundays noon to 5:00 pm (September 4, 11, 18, 25, and October 2, 9, 16, 23). Call the museum or email **Marcia** (marciad@irgpt.com) with the dates you can help. Rumor has it that **Seahawks** games just might be available for viewing at the museum.

• GFHS at Machias Trailhead, Saturday, September 10 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. See Fred or Tom, or email "mailto:info@gfhistory.org" if you would like to help.

• Railroad and Reunion Days Open House at the museum 5:00 pm, Friday, September 30 - parade on Saturday.

Our next board and general meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 26, at the Village (6pm and 7pm).

The plants sale concluded on June 1, but there are still a few plants at the museum waiting for someone's garden.

Do you know anyone interested in becoming a member? It's only $15 for a single, or $20 for a family membership!

Check out our website: gfhistory.org

Check out our Facebook page at: Granite Falls Historical Museum

Check out this blog about the museum: SnoCoBlogspot