Have you taken the survey yet? The Mountain Loop survey is open until September 14, 2020

We need your opinion! The Washington Trails Association (WTA) and the U.S. Forest Service, Darrington District (USFS) are seeking folks to respond to a survey on how the Mountain Loop (the Verlot side on the south) is used and how it can be improved. The entire Loop is steeped in history. For us it is very important not to forget any of the historical aspects while having such easy access to the remote natural beauty and many recreational opportunities of this area. What improvements would you like to see for places like Old Robe Trail, Gold Basin, Youth on Age, Camp Silverton, Big Four, Monte Cristo, and every place in between? They want to hear from as many people like you as possible. Tell them your thoughts through the survey! It doesn't matter if you only visit 1-2 times per year, 100+ times per year, or if you've never even had the opportunity to start exploring "The Loop." Your opinion still matters. Funding is available to make some of the improvements that are suggested through the survey. The survey is open now to everyone, but will be closing on September 14, 2020. Please share this with everyone you know. If you do not have online access, find a friend, neighbor, or a family member who can help you. It will only take about 10 minutes, depending how much information you provide.

wta.org/mountainloopsurvey
for the middle name of one of the Klaus daughters (b1915 in Granite Falls). We confirmed a middle initial, but never found a “for certain” middle name.

b. Mountain Loop survey released - Also on July 28, the survey created by Washington Trails Association (WTA) in conjunction with the US Forest Service was released. All involved people and organizations were asked to promote the survey in order to ascertain the priority assigned to funding various Mountain Loop improvements (focused on the south side of The Loop). The survey is to remain “open” through September 14. Tom immediately started sending electronic invitations to the entire GFHS contact list. (See the reminder below this newsletter’s header.) So, have you taken it yet? wta.org/mountainloopsurvey

c. Sonus Boreal Women’s Choir - Also on July 28, The Sonus Boreal Women’s Choir in Marysville contacted us to make sure we keep them in mind for Christmas celebrations, should such be possible. They are penciled in if conditions have improved. We love having them perform, and we are hopeful for the chance to have a community Christmas tree-lighting event the first Saturday in December.

d. Zoom tour of the Evergreen Cemetery - Finally, on July 28, Tom and Fred participated with 60 others in a Zoom-based video tour of the Evergreen Cemetery put on by Historic Everett, led by historian Gene Fosheim. One of the featured sites was that of Martin Comins, whose gravesite was found and marked through the efforts of GFHS. You can still watch the tour here: https://youtu.be/yEJbcRFszJQ

e. Pilchuck Reflections - On July 29 we picked up 35 copies of Pilchuck Reflections by Dorothy Shroeder, who donated those to us and a like number to the Lake Stevens Historical Museum. It’s a wonderful history of Machias and Monroe Logging – hard to put down once you start to read it! She tells about the Gemmer and Thomas families, who came to Machias when Washington was still a territory. The book is available at the museum. You can find out more in the July 2020 newsletter #2e.

f. More than just an animal trap - Also on July 29, Bryce Jubb called to say he had a hot find at a yard sale. The homeowner allowed him to crawl around in the attic of his shed, and he found two old traps, small but still in excellent condition. It had the original owner’s name on it, so he thought we might want it. The name: “Solon Roesiger”! Solon was the son of Richard Roesiger, the original homesteader around the lake named after him. Richard kept detailed journals for decades and his book, On the Trail of Richard Roesiger, is available at the museum. What a great local treasure. Our answer: "Yes! We want it!! And thank you!"

g. Original razor straps - On July 31 we were given two razors and four razor straps from Mr. Erickson's barber shop in Granite Falls which were found at a garage sale over the weekend. He was the town barber for years. It turns out that it was at this same garage sale the Roesiger animal traps were also discovered!

3. Museum work party - On August 3 a museum work party crew tackled two big projects at the museum. One was the removal of the ramp to the Sharp House, which had become unsafe due to some dry-rot issue and general wear and tear over the last couple of decades. The other was painting the newly enclosed north gable of the Sharp House which
was part of the Phase I plan for the main building expansion. In addition, the lawn was mowed (to include the north side of the museum next to the new City parking lot), and pulling out or at least strangling every weed on the property. Afterwards a special weed-reducing treatment was applied, which appeared to be working very well four weeks later at the end of the month. Throughout this months-long closure the grounds have been maintained by a dedicated crew as the needs arise for mowing, weeding, watering, sweeping, and any other general outdoor care. For the work party, special thanks go to Marcia Day, Robin Ingraham, Fred Cruger, Dennis Henshaw, Thora Boede, Tom Thorleifson, Scott Bower, and Bob Ingraham for their efforts to make the necessary improvements to our facilities.

4. Centennial Trail History Tour - Also on August 9, GFHS started testing a new Centennial Trail History Tour, designed for the SnoCo Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Normally, the HPC has a one-day event during when the museums from across the county set up displays on the trail. Unfortunately, the current COVID situation this year makes that untenable (can't draw crowds), so instead there are six groups of small signs on the trail that contain local history “factoids” along with questions. Participants merely point their phones at the QR codes on the signs to see the facts, pictures, and listen to the audio. They then attempt to answer one question to gain a virtual “badge”. Anyone getting five or more badges during the month of September will be entitled to a nice gift. The signs and “tour” became active on August 29 when Tom and Fred placed them on the trail. Look for them near these trailhead locations, starting at the south end: Snohomish, Pilchuck River, Machias, Arlington, Bryant, and Nakashima Farm. You have to check four (4) “factoids” at each site in order to answer the quiz question correctly. Click on this sign (which is located along the trail in Arlington) to receive one of the actual “factoids”.

5. U.S Forest Service Grant Program - On August 17, Dan Kipervaser of the USFS published an announcement of a grant program. Proposals are now being accepted by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for projects that qualify for funding under the authority of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act. Over $150,000 will be distributed to support projects in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties that will improve Forest Service lands and the rural economies of local counties within the boundaries of the MBS. Projects should focus on the enhancement of forest ecosystems, restore and improve land health and water quality, and improve the maintenance of existing facilities within the forest. Deadline for submittal is October 16.

6. James Dorsey honored - On August 19, Penny and Fred attended an event in Trafton, where a group from the Stillaguamish Tribes offered some songs and prayers in acknowledgement of the beautiful wood carvings now located on the original homestead of James Dorsey, a tribal leader in the early 20th Century. The current owner contacted us a few months ago to determine the history of their property, and when we discovered it had been homesteaded by a Native American, we arranged a meeting between the homeowner and the tribal cultural center. The tribe presented the homeowners and Fred some beautiful blankets as gifts.

7. Promoting the WTA/USFS survey - On August 21, Tom distributed flyers he created to promote the Mountain Loop Survey from the Washington Trails Association (WTA) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Armed with the approval of the USFS, he ran out of flyers before reaching Barlow Pass, so he had to print more and make the final push to Barlow on August 22. He met plenty of interested folks along the way, but gave up counting cars after realizing there were likely 150-200 at both Lake 22 and Barlow Pass! If anyone needs a toilet or bulletin board recommendation along the south side of The Loop, Tom has now visited all of them, posting notices as he went. Two days later Tom sent out email reminders to all GFHS contacts about the Mountain Loop Survey from the WTA/USFS. It’s important to complete it before the deadline of September 14, particularly if you have any interest in preserving access to historic sites around The Loop. If you need to jog your memory about some specifics before/during the survey, you can use the Mountain Loop Tour app found at this URL here. The Everett Herald ran a full page article on the app last year on August 11 and can be found here. This app is downloadable to a smart phone and can then be used while visiting the Mountain Loop even though there is no cell reception about a mile past the Falls.

8. Museum building expansion progress - On August 23, we received a corrected estimate from Travis Van Overbeke for the construction costs of the proposed museum expansion. He added the pull-down stairs, and included some “buffer” for COVID-related costs. Hopefully, we can garner some in-kind donations to reduce the overall direct expenses. Travis
said that armed with the appropriate flyer, he would be very happy to ask various contractors and businesses.

9. Own it! - On August 18, we finished the process of making GFHS the “owner” of the Mountain Loop History Tour. The effort started back on July 27, and now it’s now in the hands of OnCell (now STORY) to move all the material to our account. The Apple App Store still has not shown the app during this process, but the last word is OnCell and Apple will make it happen the first week of September. In the meantime, you can view the app on any device here. It is still downloadable for Android devices on Google Play, but iPhone users have to be patient for a few days.

10. There’s a new marshal in town - On August 26, Scott hosted Deputy Fire Marshal Chad Davis from the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office for our annual inspection. He asked that we mark our power panel more clearly (large red and white letters), since it is generally hidden behind a picture of John Bockmier pulling the switch on the original Granite Falls Electric Company.

11. Research, sharing, and learning continues
   a. Donating history - (in addition to the traps and straps…) On August 14, we were contacted by Eric Sundby, whose grandparents once owned the Canyon Creek Lodge, and who has a number of pictures and articles he’d love to donate to the museum. He’ll be visiting when time and COVID permit.
   b. Camp Silvertown (Waldheim) - On August 5, we were contacted by Dylan Rodvik, Resource Assistant for the U.S. Forest Service in Verlot. He is assigned to prepare some recreational projects in tandem with their non-profit partners along The Mountain Loop. He is particularly involved in the Silvertown-Waldheim School Camp and the possibility of converting it to a fee campground. He met with Tom and Fred on August 14, then toured the campground site with Tom on August 15. Dylan is a Granite Falls High School alumnus, Class of 2014. He also was a student at Monte Cristo Elementary in Mr. McNeill’s classroom, which was next door to Tom when Tom was still teaching. He vividly remembers the field trip up the Mountain Loop to Big Four as a 3rd-grade student.
   c. U.S. Forest Service District Ranger - Also on August 5, we received a response from Greta Smith, the U.S. Forest Service Ranger for the Darrington District of the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, saying she had a meeting scheduled with the county the following week to see if clarification of the long-term plans for the Mountain Loop could be achieved. She promised an update after that.
   d. Lake Goodwin and Lake Stevens - Also on August 5, we completed historical research on two properties, one near Lake Goodwin and the other near Lake Stevens.
   e. Pilchuck Dam - On August 11, we provided historical details on the original construction of the City of Snohomish Pilchuck dam to a local resident who was photographing its removal. It is now completely gone!
   f. Pilchuck (the town) - On August 15, we provided extensive information on the people, products, and history of the town of Pilchuck to Robert Ruth, who has been researching the area. Pilchuck is located about 6 miles north of Arlington right on the Northern Pacific tracks, which is now the Centennial Trail. The Bryant trailhead is just south of the Pilchuck townsite. You can see in the image below of Hotel Pilchuck that it was situated right next to the railroad tracks.

Those tracks are now the Centennial Trail! You can find out more with our "Back in the Day" article titled "Where the Heck is Pilchuck, WA?"

g. Research in Pierce County - On August 16, Shirley Prouty (from the Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum in Arlington) asked if we could perform some map research on her ancestors’ property in Pierce County. It turned into a fun project for a couple evenings and produced the information Shirley was seeking.

h. Johnson-Dean Lumber - Also on August 17, Bill Rawlins, Didrik Voss, Daryl Jacson, and Fred combined forces to ferret out some details of the Johnson-Dean Lumber rail route that bypassed Robe Canyon. Although perfect details seem to be lost in time, Didrik ended up with enough to serve the need on the virtual E&MC Railway on which he is working.

i. Jordan Road - Stanley Street intersection - On August 20, we provided detailed maps to the city, showing the early routing of Jordan Road and Stanley Street, needed for some legal transactions occurring now. The City Manager and City Attorney were pleased.

j. USFS “Ranger Talks” - Also on August 20, we provided permission for the USFS to use some of our pictures as supporting material in some upcoming “ranger talks” they are planning.

k. Annual AASLH Conference is virtual (and free!) - Also on August 20, we requested and received a “free” admission to the online 2020 AASLH Conference (normal cost $55) from the Washington State Historical Society. The conference will be held September 24-30, and WSHS offered a few free tickets on a first-come first-served basis, and we scored!

l. Washington State Historical Society survey - On August 5 Fred responded to a request to verify our participation in the Washington State Historical Society survey. They launched a project in January to survey every heritage organization in the state to collect basic details and identify areas of need. Information gathered from this survey will inform the development of new services and support for the heritage sector.
in Washington. They are in the home stretch and needed our help to ensure they have ample data to move forward with planning for the future.

12. August guests, docents, and helpers -

Last year in August we had over 170 people at the museum, which includes the Saturday Show ‘n’ Shine, traditionally making August one of the top three months of the year for visitors. Because of COVID this year, we had our first regular visitors in almost 6 months - 23 physical guests from Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, Seattle, Arlington, Tulalip, Olympia, Puyallup, Bothell, and Oakland, CA. We are glad to provide a website with access to an extensive research base of information. This allows our online presence to be continually strong, with the August count at 245 total virtual visitors from 59 different locations (including 16 other states and 6 different countries). Our board members, docents, and helpers made it possible to keep the museum functioning despite the physical closure for the last 23 weeks. Many thanks to board members Ron Chew, Ted Peddycord, Regina Jones, Scott Bower, John Scherrer, Tim Quillen, Robin Ingraham, Fred Cruger, and Tom Bergan, as well as helpers Dennis Henshaw, Marcia Day, Ed and Thora Boede, Tom Thorleifson, and Bob Ingraham.

13. September calendar

9/6 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
9/7 Monday, Labor Day
9/13 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
9/11 Friday, Patriot Day (remembering the attacks in 2001)
9/14 WTA/USFS survey deadline (refresh your Mt Loop memory by looking over the free app here)
9/20 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
9/27 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
9/28 Museum meeting 7:00 PM Zoom or "GenCare"
10/3 Railroad Reunion Days cancelled
10/4 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours (waiting for GenCare to open for our meetings)
(waiting for the Civic Center to open for the Malstrom)

14. A Short Story

Cedar Shake Bolts - 1939
by Carl Hemstrom, GFHS Class of 1938

The hay barn roof here on the farm was shot in about 1939. I believe the barn was built about 1890.

I told Jake that there were some cedar snags and some logs upriver just a bit above where Worthy Creek dumps into the Pilchuck. At that time there were thousands of acres of land round about - - bought and logged by the big companies and then left. A few years later there were some sales by the County as it was taxable. The large companies purchased most of it and started their so-called tree farms. The left over timbers on these lands were salvaged by one and all where ever they could be reached.

One morning Jake and I set out up the trail upriver. We had along an 8-foot crosscut saw, 9-pound sledge, 8-pound wedge, and a double-bit axe. We cut 34-inch shake blocks for two days near the river. We felled a couple of the burned-out snags and there were some logs that were dry laying up high and dry. It rained and the river was up a bit, but we bravely dumped the bolts in the river. We had hoped to get by the Menzel Lake Bridge above Lories, but about a half mile up from the dam I hollered at Jake. We had to go home. The water was swift and when you tried to pike pole a bolt the current would lift you off your feet. Jake had cork shoes and my dad had put some hobnails in my boots. We, of course, had heavy underwear on but from hour one, had no feeling from our knees down to the rest of our body. Also, on none of these days did we carry a lunch.

So next day at dawn we were at it again. Most of the bolts overnight had gone by Madden's and we caught up with them at about the Menzel Lake Bridge where we didn't want to be seen. Overnight it had cleared and turned cold. Icicles 3-feet long were hanging on the hardpan bank above the bridge. The WPA crew was down the road, huddled around a dinkey fire. Jake was under the bridge and I was down below when one of the men on WPA came down and asked Jake from the bridge if it was cold down there.

About this time my Dad showed up. He had in his younger days driven shingle bolts in the Stilly for Spithill Shingle and for Chapell's in the Canyon Creek. We had no pike pole for him. He went up and borrowed one from Frank or Bob. They couldn't find it but to show what neighbors were in those days Bob came down the pipeline trail with a pike pole for my dad. Everything went smoothly from then on. Dad had cut eight or ten cedar poles about 30-feet long and made a slide that reached into the deep hole near the orchard. We pulled bolts like mad onto the gravel bar and I doubt that we lost any. Then we hauled them up into the orchard and piled them between the cherry trees. Jake and my dad split shakes all winter, enough for Jake's new barn, our hay barn and a bunch left over which I loaded on the flat bed Model T Ford and hauled up to Louie Lyons, who had a manual feed horizontal shingle saw. Had them cut - - cost $32.00. There was enough to side the house in the 1930s and a few bundles left over. Since these shingles were not kiln dried, on a warm day you could readily smell the fragrance of the cedar oil. So it was - - - long ago.

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Remember, the Centennial Trail History Tour was activated on Saturday, so tell your friends who like to hike/bike/walk/horseback/skateboard . . .