



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!"



February 2017 NEWSLETTER

March 4, 2017

1. February docents, helpers, and visitors
2. Museum bequeath update
3. LOSCHO Historic Asset Inventory update
4. Museum tours by appointment and other openings
5. Cybertour (OnCell) workshop
6. Energizer bunny vs the printhead
7. "Granite Falls Museum, come on down!"
8. More maps!
9. Historical Preservation Commission
10. GFHS grant request to the HPC
11. GF Historical Society board/general meetings
12. Malstrom Award
13. Odds & Ends

1. **February docents, helpers, and visitors** - In February we had these people helping as docents or as volunteers, some more than just one time: **Norma Anderson, Tom Bergan, Thora Boede, Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Penny Cruger, Marcia Day, Sharron Harper, Bob Ingraham, Robin Ingraham, Eldon and Elsie Kirstein, Audrey Kristofferson, Rosie Miller, Dee Saunders, Barbara Scherrer, John Scherrer, Ted Peddycord, and Tom Thorleifson.**

In February we had 106 visitors from these places: **Arlington, Darrington, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Robe Valley, Shoreline, Snohomish, and Parnish, Florida.**

We always are looking for museum docents to help on Sundays. New docents are welcomed, with on-the-job training available. Right now there are a few Sundays still available in May and June as we look forward to filling the sign-up calendar into July.



2. **Museum bequeath update** - One of the three parcels donated to the **Granite Falls Historical Society** (item #3, January 2017 newsletter) has an issue with easement and encroachment (by a neighbor, not us). On February 1, we confirmed with the City that the best solution for all parties would be for the owner of the property adjacent to the lot on West Stanley to extend the sewer stub up that 10' wide portion (that is illegally fenced in) and to buy that strip. Part of the price is to install the sewer line and grant permanent utility easement - the dollar amount is negotiable, but all those lots along there sold for about \$200K in the last couple years. Since the strip is 10% of one of those, seems like the high end is \$20K, and then some discount for installing the sewer . . . or he can move the fence

(along with a lot of trailers and vehicles) . . . or he can buy the entire parcel!

3. **LOSCHO Historic Asset Inventory update** - Also on February 1, **Elsie Mann**, a long-time historian living in the **Maltby** area, starting submitting corrections and additions to the historic data inventory for buildings around **Maltby**. This **League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations** inventory can easily and accurately be updated by local historians who know their own area very well. A few have started research in their areas, but **Elsie** is the first to submit her results. With over 13,000 buildings identified in **Snohomish County** during the 2015 historic asset inventory project, it seems reasonable that a local historian can easily determine which of the hundreds or maybe even thousands in their own communities should be included, deleted, or even find something that was missed. An inventory for the County must be accurate and include items appropriately recognized as historically significant (includes farms, civic sites, industry, and infrastructure).

4. **Museum tours by appointment and other openings** - Two folks from **Arlington** visited the museum for over two hours on February 1 for training with our historic mapping system. They received hands-on learning while following the customized presentation given by **Fred**. On February 2 **GFHS** hosted a number of moms and home-schooled children at the museum. They enjoyed the visit and learned a few things that can help them in future projects. The next week on the 9th, **GFHS** hosted a group from the **Lake Stevens Assembly of God Church**. They made a visit last fall and wanted to stop by again. They had another great time discovering even more hidden treasures throughout both buildings.



- Did you know that there are at least 5 extra museum openings each week, either for guests by appointment such as mentioned here, an event (e.g. **Railroad Days**, and **Show 'n' Shine**), or by one of our several museum members for a variety of duties such as research, administrative/financial tasks, maintenance, or security?
- Did you know that our museum has been staffed for 471 consecutive Sundays since it was opened on **Railroad Days** in 2007, with just one exception - - two months ago for **Christmas 2016**? Take a moment to sign up as a

Sunday docent -- it's fun and you get to meet interesting people from around the county, state, nation, and world!

- An organization cannot exist without the people who help. We are always grateful for our volunteers.

5. Cybertour (OnCell) workshop - On February 7, **Tom** and **Fred** attended a cybertours workshop at the **Courtyard by Marriott** in **Everett**, sponsored by the **Snohomish County Tourism Bureau** and presented by **Tom Dunne**, the CEO of **OnCell**. Later in the



afternoon **Mr. Dunne** drove to **Granite Falls** for a tour of the museum and dinner in town at the **Buzz Inn**.

6. Energizer bunny vs the print head - On February 8, after finally getting a knowledgeable person who knew the difference between an ink cartridge and a print head, a new print head for our large 42" printer was ordered. It must have shipped immediately because it arrived in **Granite Falls** the very next day. **Fred** installed it and it tested perfectly. The large printer is used extensively, but that's just the first print head replaced in 10 years!

7. "Granite Falls Museum, come on down!" - We received a request on February 9 from **ESRI** (the **Environmental Systems Research Institute**) asking that we attend their national **GIS in Education Conference** in **San Diego** this July so we can provide a short paper and presentation. The "Education" part takes up the first three days of their conference, which expects about 16,000 attendees. **ESRI** software has become the industry standard for all **GIS** projects (**Geographic Information System**). The historic mapping system used by **LOSCHO** (League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations) within Snohomish County was produced using **ESRI's ArcGIS** software. While at the conference, more "how to" information about an online presence with our historic maps will be learned.

8. More maps! - Speaking of maps, on February 10, **GFHS** received a request from **Steve Fox**, a customer of the **Everett Library**, asking if we could add the earliest available topographical maps to the historic mapping system. Those maps are available as free downloads from the government, so they're now on our "to-do" list. All but one are pre-1905. Currently we only have one relatively new topographical map in the mapping system.

9. Historical Preservation Commission - Fred and Tom attended the **Snohomish County Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)** meeting on February 21. The purpose of the **HPC** is to provide grants for appropriate historical preservation efforts within the County. The primary topics of discussion at this meeting were the grant proposals for 2017 and the next steps to be taken in the historic asset inventory. Two revelations were: 1) There's about \$568K in the county fund for heritage preservation, and pressure is mounting from the Council to spend faster, and 2) there is no money in the 2017



budget for the historic asset inventory, because either folks thought it was already done or thought no one cared. Because of our experience with the inventory, **GFHS** was asked to summarize data from the 2015 survey and then forward that to the Commission for analysis. That task was completed on February 23.

10. GFHS grant request to the HPC - And, speaking of grants, on February 23 (the deadline), **GFHS** submitted a grant request to the **HPC (Snohomish County Heritage Preservation Commission)** in support of a project designed to put much of the historic mapping system online. The benefit to our patrons will be to achieve simple online access. The biggest benefit to **GFHS** will be two new computers that are needed to make the project happen (our newest one we have is now 7 years old!). **LOSCHO** also submitted a grant request for a museum tour project which will include all the museums in Snohomish County.

11. GF Historical Society board/general meetings - Our meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at **"The Village" (GenCare)** on N. Alder. The Board meets at 6:00 PM in the **"Vitality Room"** (north hallway, ground floor) and the General meeting is at 7:00 PM in the main dining hall. You can get a copy of the minutes by emailing or leaving a phone message:

info@gfhistory.org or (360) 691-2603

12. Malstrom Award - We belong to **LOSCHO**. In their efforts to encourage and honor heritage projects in the county, an annual awards program began over 30 years ago, named after county volunteer and local history writer **Helmer Malstrom** who died in 1985. The **Malstrom Award** has been given for historical publications, the preservation/rebuilding of historic structures and sites, the creation of new museums, various special exhibits and digital projects. **GFHS** has received three of these awards. This year's celebration will be held at **"The Floyd"** in **Stanwood** on Saturday, March 18, starting at noon with a potluck. All **GFHS** members and friends are invited. There will be a special program by **Dr. Jesse Kennedy** on the **North Cascades**.



13. Odds & Ends -

- calendar alerts for 2017:
 - 3-5/12/19/26 - Sundays, Museum open, noon - 5PM
 - 3-12, Sunday - Daylight Savings begins at 2:00 AM
 - 3-20, Monday - Spring begins at 3:29 AM
 - 3-27, Monday - GFHS Board/General meetings
 - 4-16, Sunday - Easter; docent needed noon - 5PM
 - 4-22, Sat - "Spring Cleaning"/potluck, 9AM-noon
 - 5/12, Friday evening - Dessert Auction
- Donations and dues can be paid online using our **PayPal** account. Dues for the **GFHS** are only \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family, and free for those students in high school and above.