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1. "Welcome to Granite Falls" - On February 1, Chris Green of Priceless Granite stepped up to offer the city help in repairing the large granite "Gateway to the Mountain Loop, Granite Falls, WA" sign that had been knocked over in the roundabout. They repaired the sign by the end of the month and it will be re-erected sometime in early March. The original design came from the Granite Falls Historical Society and one of our student interns.

2. A correction to start the month... - The Granite Falls Historical Society Board roster listed in the January 2020 newsletter needs to be corrected. For some reason, the vice president was listed incorrectly and should be John Scherrer instead. It was noticed that the newsletters sent by email had a strange symbol amidst the reported election results. Since no such variation was found in the original print or uploaded versions, we can only assume that some Russian hackers were attempting to influence GFHS election results. So, let it be known that any error in the reported results is NOT due to the editor's mistake or poor memory, but rather to undue foreign manipulation. Nevertheless, the editor has voluntarily stepped down rather than to be "fired" for the indiscretion of reporting this obvious fraud. His resignation was not accepted by the Board. So, the corrected 2020 Board Members are as follows:

- President Ron Chew (serves through 2021)
- Vice-president John Scherrer (serves through 2020)
- Secretary Robin Ingraham (serves through 2022)
- Treasurer Fred Cruger (serves through 2022)
- Tom Bergan (serves through 2021)
- Scott Bower (serves through 2021)
- Regina Jones (serves through 2020)
- Ted Peddycord (serves through 2020)
- Tim Quillen (serves through 2022)

3. Presentation to Monte Cristo Preservation Association - On February 1, Fred presented our online technology to the Monte Cristo Preservation Association (MCPA) at their annual winter social, covering the maps and the historical research information available online. MCPA made a very nice donation to GFHS as a result.

4. Tour of the Sorgenfrei residence - early in February Tom and Fred visited the home where Elsie Sorgenfrei lived and worked as an area historian. After Elsie passed away, the home was sold to Andy Loch by the estate. Many of Elsie's papers and pictures were stored in boxes, along with many duplicate papers from Richard Roesiger, all of which Andy donated to the Museum. There will be lots of scanning to do! A phone call by Bob and Joanne Miller (residents living at Lake Roesiger) a few days earlier started the whole process. Andy had given Joanne and Bob a box containing some copies of handwritten diaries of Richard Roesiger. The originals were the backbone for On the Trail of Richard Roesiger, the book Monika wrote about her great uncle. Tom was called by the Millers, then they delivered the...
box to the museum on the following Sunday. The visit to Andy's place (the Sorgenfrei home) came a few days later during one of the downpours in February. Fred Cruger and Tom were given a lovely tour of the home by Andy, then worked together to consolidate some of the boxes in the heated workshop where they had been stored. The 18 boxes were then tightly packed inside the truck with no bad effects from the rain and delivered to the museum. With the current expansion project underway, there is no room for storing everything, so they were all stacked high on the tables in the back room. Initial viewing did not discover anything original from Richard Roesiger. Had there been something original, it would have been locked in the safe with the other Roesiger diaries. We are pleased to add this information from Elsie, and we'll be anxious to look through everything that was donated.

5. "The Decline and Demise of Monte Cristo" - GFHS received an insightful white paper from Daryl Jacobson titled "The Decline and Demise of Monte Cristo", a very detailed explanation of why the mining operations ultimately ceased, including some of the incredible financial manipulations performed during Snohomish County's early growth. It's available on the GFHS website by selecting "research" then clicking on "ArchiveInABox" text, and then search for "Daryl " or "demise" or you can click here or on the logo for the link.

6. Phase I of the expansion project completed - During some of the worst weather of the season, the demolition of the rear wing of the Sharp House was completed by Shelton Finish. JR and his crew were amazing, tackling the work in the continuous downpours yet carefully protecting the integrity of the original house and its contents while it was "open to the elements." The house is now essentially in its original exterior configuration, and (when the weather improves) in need of paint, which we will do. The old block foundation has been cleared, the waterline beneath it was located and protected, so we're ready for some sand fill before new construction begins. Further inspection revealed that the waterlines were not active, so they were removed prior to the back fill of sand. It was interesting to note that all of the active wiring in the rear portion of the house was still knob-and-tube wiring! Kudos also go to Blue Sky Electrical for their removal of old wiring and the associated electrical modifications. The cost of the Sharp House rear wing demolition was paid in full, an expense from our operating funds. As we track expenses and budgeting for the remainder of the year we'll need to evaluate our operational situation knowing it will appear to be "in the red" if we perform the rest of the year in a break-even manner. The next step is to get blueprints drawn so bids can be requested. Funding for the construction part will be substantial, and various options have been discussed. For more information on the expansion, see item #18 in the January 2020 newsletter.

7. USFS Mountain Loop Visioning - On February 7, Fred, Tom, and City Manager Brent Kirk attended the first meeting of a group of citizens asked by the United States Forest Service (USFS) to help set priorities for Mountain Loop improvements. The USFS announced at the meeting that they have decided to focus investments on that portion of the Mountain Loop Highway stretching from Barlow Pass to Granite Falls! Members of the group include folks interested in hiking, biking, camping, historic preservation, and environmentalism. Although the first meeting was purely an in-
1. Introduction and an announcement of the overall investment focus (south side of The Loop), a number of ideas were mentioned as potential action items. They ranged from better trailhead parking, more toilets, more campsites at Silverton-Waldheim, etc., to preservation of Monte Cristo access and protection of wildlife. Months of meetings will follow.

8. Waldheim weathers the weather, again - On February 10, Tom met with Ashley Ross of the USFS at Camp Silverton (Waldheim) to provide an orientation tour for her focused on how protected that site is, and how inviting it would be to visitors as a campground (potentially year-round)! Even during our rainy season, it stayed surprisingly dry. The river stays within its banks and away from the camp’s “plateau” because there is such a drop in the riverbed elevation from above the camp. The creek has shown some minor erosion since the County installed the fish habitat tree rootballs, but there was no standing water within the campground. The only damage was an older alder tree that fell over in one of the windstorms, nicking the corner of the Recreation Hall.

For years the camp has withstood high water while other areas immediately upstream and downstream have often experienced serious damage.

9. GIS assistance from SnoCo PUD - On February 10, Tony McDonald (GIS tech at the SnoCo PUD) sent us files for our mapping system that can be used to display the results of the 2019 Historical Asset Survey sponsored by the Historical Preservation Commission. Tony offered recently to help our mapping efforts after seeing our maps online. The 2019 survey covered 203 homes and civic buildings in the county. Those files have been finalized and incorporated into our mapping system, and should be in our online maps sometime in March.

10. Mountain Loop Tour brochures - On February 11, we received full reimbursement from the County LTAC (tourism funds) for the “Mountain Loop Tour” app and the associated brochures. We now have 2500 brochures to distribute as best we can.

11. Keep the Sand Point National Archives! - On February 12, we were copied on a request to LOSCHO to express position to the closure of the National Archives facility at Sandpoint. The government is planning to close the facility and distribute the contents between facilities in California and Missouri. They include a million boxes of Northwest documents including original tribal, property, tax, military, and census records used by local researchers and history buffs. Little or no public comment has been sought, and tribal officials have had only one meeting with the planners. It is hoped that the powers that be will understand the importance of keeping the Seattle archives here in the Pacific Northwest.

12. PastPerfect or Catalogit? - On February 13, we received an offer to change from PastPerfect software to a new web-based product from Catalogit. The database technology behind PastPerfect is no longer sold or supported by Microsoft, so a change is mandated sometime in the future. Further investigation is needed. Catalogit has entered the realm of Archive-In-A-Box and will have a hard time competing!

13. 1912 City Hall Phone booth updated - On February 18, the antique phone booth in the Civic Center (donated by GFHS) was equipped with a motion detector to automatically illuminate the old light. The original crank phone was also hung, and the booth floor repaired. It looks very nice.

14. Eggert - On February 20, Fred was invited to tour the large old Eggert house on 84th Street near the Centennial Trail. The current owner has been emptying the house of many antique items and gave GFHS an extensive array of smaller items and papers/pictures pertaining to the Eggert family. Our 1910 maps show that the Egberts originally owned 400 acres in the Getchell area, including each side of the railroad. The Getchell Fire Station #68, situated on 99th Ave NE, is part of the 80-acre parcel that Eggert had back in the early 1900s. The Eggerts owned the mercantile store in Granite Falls for years, as well as stores in Lake Stevens and Getchell.

15. SmallTownPapers "Adventures with Archive-in-a-Box" - Also on February 21, we were copied on an advertising announcement from SmallTownPapers titled “See How This Small Historical Society Transformed Itself Online”, featuring GFHS and our adventures with Archive-in-a-Box (AIB). Free publicity! Here’s a great quote: “The Granite Falls (WA) Museum was the first in the country to use the free platform to host its historical archives. The museum’s Fred Cruger, who tested the platform during its development, is outspoken about its benefits for local museums, historical and genealogical societies.” You can check it out yourself by clicking here or on the image.

16. United NW Model Railroad Club - On February 22 - 23, LOSCHO had a table at the model railroad extravaganza at
the Fairgrounds in Monroe, distributing museum flyers, Mountain Loop Tour brochures, and other heritage-related materials. Tom represented Granite Falls Historical Society, and Nathan Proudfoot and Gretchen Kaehler represented the Snohomish County Historical Preservation Commission. There was a reported 1,790 tickets sold, and probably about 150 (or more) vendors/exhibitors. Several visitors at the booth had unique historical insights about some county locations, based on 1st-hand experiences or by stories from family or friends. Kathy (Engebretsen) May stopped by with her husband Larry May.

17. Malstrom revisits - The Malstrom Award, named for local historian Helmer Malstrom who passed away in 1985, is an annual award given by the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations for a project or publication that recognizes outstanding contributions that preserve our heritage in Snohomish County. Arrangements have been made to have this awards luncheon again in Granite Falls this year. Instead of The American Legion Hall that was used last year, we are anticipating another wonderful luncheon, but in the still new Granite Falls Civic Center for our potluck and program. The confirmed speaker will be Slobodan Mitrovic, senior archaeologist and museum manager for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe in the Darrington area. The judge is Michelle Sadlier from Olympia, an architectural historian working for Cardno. Anyone interested in area history is welcomed to attend and enjoy the food and festivities of this free event. Please let Tom know if you’d like to attend by sending an email to: snocoheritage@gmail.com

18. Visitors, docents, and helpers in February - Our museum functions when people donate their time and energy to make things happen. Our docents faithfully keep the museum open Sundays from noon to 5:00 PM on a regular basis, by making our visitors feel welcomed, and by answering as many of the questions as they can. Don’t forget to sign up with Marcia (new docents are welcomed). All you need to do is call her at 360.691.2378. A big thank you to the following who helped in some way during February: Scott Bower, Norma Anderson, Travis Ames, Bob & Robin Ingraham, Fred Cruger, Tom Bergan, Tom Thorleifson, Jamie Ross, Tim Quillen, Ron Chew, Marcia Day, and John Scherrer. We had 67 people at the museum during February from these places: Arlington, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Bothell, Mill Creek, Lynnwood, Pullman, Yakima, Seattle, Marysville, and Boise, ID. Our online presence had 233 visits from 23 places around the state, from 35 places in 19 different states, and from 6 countries on 2 other continents.

19. Mark your calendar
3/1, Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
3/8, Sunday, 2 AM - Daylight Saving Time begins, turn clocks forward to 3 AM and lose an hour of sleep!
3/8, Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
3/14, Saturday, Malstrom Awards Luncheon, 11:30 AM at Granite Falls Civic Center
3/15, Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours,
3/19, Thursday, 10-11:00 AM, 5th graders from MCE visit
3/19, Thursday, 8:49 PM, Spring Equinox
3/22, Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
3/29, Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
3/30, Monday, 7:00 pm, General/Board meetings at GenCare "The Village", open to all

20. Things That Stick in Your Mind
by Eldon Kirstein, Class of 1942, Granite Falls High School

In my early school days the Depression was going on and money was tight. I started school in 1930 in the old church building with Mrs. Davis as a teacher. Often people had only enough money to buy the basics, like flower, sugar, salt, etc. For most people it was much the same. My dad bought his groceries from Eggert Mercantile on credit during those times and when a payday rolled around dad would always pay what he owed. Mr. Eggert would give my dad a little sack of candy for us kids.

The clothes and shoes you wore to school were what you had and if you were younger the clothes were probably hand-me-downs. The Dornings lived south of Granite on a farm, and Harry would always come to school with his shoes filled with cow poop.

At school, especially grade school, most of us very often brought our lunch from home. Some of these lunches looked pretty good and kind of interesting, but Roger Kellogg's lunch was almost always the same -- he would eat a large piece of cabbage and some goodies.

Our mail carrier loved his drink and after his route was done he would drop in at the Corner Tavern to quench his thirst and often stayed too long. Poor Roy would have to use the light poles to hold himself up on the way home, and often was heard carrying on a conversation with the pole.

Eldon Kirstein, Granite Falls High School Class of 1942, was the oldest GF High School alumnus at the 2019 Alumni Dinner at Railroad and Reunion Days. Eldon was one of 18 seniors who graduated in 1942. He is 94 years old and is still living about one mile west of the current Granite Falls High School. He has been an active member of the Granite Falls Historical Society for many years.