1. Happy 2020 from your Board of Directors! - The Board wishes you a very happy and prosperous new year, with hopes that you can stop by the museum an extra time or two this year. The following is your Granite Falls Historical Society Board, voted in at the January 27, 2020 meeting:

   President Ron Chew (serves through 2021)
   Vice-president Tim Quilen (serves through 2022)
   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)
   John Scherrer (serves through 2020)

   Special thanks go to John Scherrer for serving 2 years as president, to Bob Ingraham for serving 5 years on the Board including 1 year as president, and Tom Thorleifson on the Board for 6 years including 1 year as secretary. (Note: Terms are for 3 years, with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. A person must sit out at least one year to be eligible to return.)

2. Visitors, Helpers, and Docents - We have wonderful docents who 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 they can. For the 30 different people who helped in 2019, you can continue to be a part of this for 2020. New docents are always wanted, too. All you need to do is call Marcia Day at (360) 691-2378 or leave a message on the museum’s phone (360) 691-2603. A big thank you to the following who helped in January: Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Bob and Robin Ingraham, Tom Thorleifson, Tom Bergan, Norma Anderson, Rosie Miller, Ed and Thora Boede, John and Barb Scherrer, Tim Quillen, Marcia Day, Steve and Regina Jones, and Ted Peddycord.

3. Web visitors - We have had a website for years, but only recently in November activated the webmetrics that has been available. For the month of January our virtual visitors numbered 278, compared to 104 live visitors inside the building. The virtual visitors came from 10 places around Snohomish County, 21 more places around Washington State, 16 more states with 28 more places, and 7 other countries. For the curious, here are all of the locations: Arlington, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Lynnwood, Marysville, Monroe, Snohomish, Stanwood, Bellevue, Bellingham, Bothell, Camano Island, Clinton, East Wenatchee, Ellensburg, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Mount Vernon, Oak Harbor, Olympia, Puyallup, Redmond, Sammamish, Tacoma, Tahuya, Wenatchee, Woodinville; Laguna Niguel, CA; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; Alpharetta, GA; Brunswick, GA; Cumming, GA; Chicago, IL; Wichita, KS; Louisville, KY; Allendale, MI; Granite Falls, MN; Minneapolis, MN; Olivia, MN; Rushford, MN; Saint Louis, MO; Great Falls, MT; Hickory, NC; Grand Forks, ND; Hillsboro, ND; Buffalo, NY; Ashland, OR; Boardman, OR; Depoe Bay, OR; Portland, OR; Scio, OR; Millington, TN; Murfreesboro, TN; Ashburn, VA; Cheyenne, WY; Beijing, China; Leeds, United Kingdom; Munster, Germany; Paris, France; San Cristobal De Las Casas, Mexico; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Toronto, Canada. Our historical focus is Granite Falls and extending to all of Snohomish County, but our research is available worldwide!

4. The Malstrom (the what?) - On January 3 GFHS received confirmation that the new Granite Falls Civic Center is reserved for our use on Saturday, March 14, when we host the annual LOSCHO Malstrom Award luncheon. The League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations...
(LOSCHO) conducts an annual awards program in an effort to encourage and honor heritage projects representing all of Snohomish County. The award was named after county volunteer and local history writer Helmer Malstrom who passed away in 1985. The event will again be a potluck starting at 11:30 AM and is open to everyone (RSVP requested). The guest speaker will be Slobodan Mitrovic, museum manager and senior archaeologist with the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe. You can find the nomination form for the award here. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, February 21, 2020. The new Civic Center is located at 215 S. Granite Avenue, Granite Falls WA, next door to the Granite Falls Museum.

5. OnCell and the Mountain Loop Tour app - On January 2 GFHS received notice from OnCell that the expenses for the "Mountain Loop Tour" app were now assigned to us. That same day we received the draft copy of the Hotel-Motel Tax grant to be used to pay those expenses. In less than two weeks on January 13, the approved Hotel-Motel Tax grant contract was received! The "Mountain Loop Tour" charges were paid, the brochure design submitted to the county for approval (then printed), so now we are awaiting the final receipt from OnCell to submit all of the expenses for reimbursement. Click here to learn more about this app in the Everett Herald article from August, 2019.

6. Pack it up! - On multiple days throughout the month, two huge tasks were undertaken. Ron and Scott started the "undecorating from Christmas" process one weekend (January 4-5), with Thora, Ed, John, and Barbara boxing up things the following weekend (January 12). Meanwhile, Bob and Robin spent several days moving things out of the rear wing of the Sharp House (into the front room, bedroom, and bathroom) to allow for the dismantling of the rear wing, that started on January 27. The work by Bob and Robin solved three problems all at once: 1) Where were we going to store everything? 2) When would it get done (and could it get done in time)? 3) Who would do it? Well, thanks to them, it was accomplished without fuss or muss! The three large pieces of furniture that remained were taken later to storage at Steve and Regina Jones's place. Consequently, the Sharp House kitchen and pantry are the only places available to see until the new construction is finished. The rest of the interior is packed with all of the storage items from the back room of the Sharp House. Read more on the storage and workroom developments in item #18.

7. Hey! That's my mug! - On January 8, we provided a set of 13 personalized coffee mugs to the City Staff, along with a 13-peg mug rack for use in the break room. This was our “thanks” to them for their ongoing support and collaboration.

8. The Pride of Monte Cristo - On January 10, we received a check from the County for the full amount requested in last year’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) grant to support the creation of The Pride of Monte Cristo. This historical novel is set in the mining town of Monte Cristo at the end of the 1890s when the folks were isolated from the rest of the world due to flood-caused washouts of the Everett and Monte Cristo Railway. The places, people, and events were carefully researched by the author, and the only thing fictional is the dialogue that ties it all together. The check was deposited and then a check made out for the same amount to author JD Howard.

9. LOSCHO annual meeting - On January 12, Tom and Fred went to the Waltz Building in Snohomish to attend the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO) annual meeting. Fred provided a presentation of what we’ve accomplished with "Archive-in-a-Box" (AIB) during this last year. Our entire database was successfully uploaded to the AIB website. Now anybody can search our pictures, newspapers, articles, yearbooks, textbooks, and other...
10. Historical request for a grant - Also on January 13th, we agreed to be the non-profit sponsor for a $750 HPC 2020 grant request, to pay for a lift truck to mount 3 barn quilts. Once those are mounted, the Snohomish County Barn Quilt Trail can be added to the national list.

11. Historical images displayed - On January 14th, GFHS provided City Hall with a selection of Granite Falls pictures, one or more of which will be hung on the office walls of County Council Chair Nate Nehring. We received a similar request on January 23 for the office of Representative Carolyn Eslick. Pictured below are an old and current view of the previous city hall building in Granite Falls.

12. Heritage Grants for 2020 - On January 21, Tom and Fred attended the monthly meeting of the Snohomish County Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The primary topic was a preliminary discussion of the 20 grant applications received for 2020, requesting a total of $241K. There is only $100K available to be distributed. Final discussions will be held at the next meeting in February, with recommendations then made to the County Council. The presentations were made at the December 2019 meeting on most of the grants. Listed below is a sample of the efforts:
- League of Women Voters, Suffrage Movement explained to 2500 county students;
- Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Association, digitizing the Arlington Times and 100 Years of Arlington WA Vol 4;
- Jim Cuthill, Pride of Monte Cristo historical fiction;
- Sky Valley, Chief Sultan statue renovation and Startup Event Center continued renovation efforts;
- HistoryLink, 15 articles posted in 2019 about Snohomish County (such as King Tut and guitars made in Monte Cristo);
- Stanwood Area Historical Society, floor refinishing at the Floyd Nygaard Cultural Center.

13. Mountain Loop Highway Visioning Process - GFHS received an invitation on January 22 from the US Forest Service to participate in a planned "Mountain Loop Highway Visioning Process" to be held on February 7 in Everett. The USFS hopes to envision a future for the Mountain Loop Highway that will take into consideration the needs of all current users, Snohomish County's current and projected growth, the needs of local economies, and the area's potential for recreation of all types in the future.

14. Community Fund of Snohomish County - GFHS received year-end statements from Community Fund of Snohomish County on January 23 enabling us to complete our 2019 Financial Report. Bottom line, we finished "in the black" again, spending some money in December for long-term materials such as foam backing board, paper, etc. We are very glad to see that there is money available for high school scholarships for the Class of 2020.

15. Snohomish County Historical Asset Survey - GFHS received all the .PDF forms describing the individual assessments from the 2019 Historic Asset Survey (the survey covered 203 buildings in the County). The consultant recommended 64 of them as potential candidates for State and National Historic Registers, with an additional 54 eligible for the local County Register. When we have the mapping files associated with these entries, we will create an online map that shows the location of each candidate and links directly to the .PDF file description of the details for each one.

16. MCPA meeting - The MCPA (Monte Cristo Preservation Association) will hold their annual membership meeting on February 1 at Jennings Park in Marysville, and GFHS will provide a presentation covering the online maps and the research material now available through our website and the addition of Archive-In-a-Box.

17. Drainage - Different members have different talents, with one member keeping a diligent eye tuned to potential problems during the heavy rains after the melting snows. A slight slowdown in the plumbing drain line was diagnosed and resolved, but not without some serious searching for the closest plumbing line cleanout. We happily report that water continues to run downhill, but not without the skilled applica-

18. Museum expansion Phase I - In 2016 the ball started rolling. After months (years?) of informal talking about the building of an addition to the museum, the first mention showed up 4 years ago in the February 2016 newsletter,
item #15 - Possible Museum expansion: "Why expand? We do not have enough storage space and we do not have enough work space. The proposed remodel/addition would roughly double the current used space (that would get removed) and would consolidate the entire new space more efficiently for our current and future needs." A variance was approved, plans were drafted, contractors were solicited, and a strategy for facilitating the work was developed. Phase I would be the removal of the back part of the Sharp House (an addition from decades ago), to include the closing in of the original north gable. This back room was the main storage area for files, books, documents, artifacts, and other donations to the museum that did not yet have a display place. Some office supplies are also stored there. The last week of January saw work beginning for the removal of the Sharp House back room. JR Shelton's crew worked in a constant downpour to finish things as this newsletter was going to press Saturday, February 1.

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A Fun Adventure for Four 14-year-old Girls
by Lorna (Selden) Lowenthal, 1953

During the Granite Falls High School Winter Break in 1948 I had a chance to spend a snowy three days at the Big Four Inn near Monte Cristo with my friend Nancy Turner who lived in Silverton. Because the road wasn’t plowed beyond Silverton, the Big Four Inn Caretaker “40 Watts” picked us up in Silverton with a horse and sleigh. Nancy’s father, Ted Turner, was a U.S. Forest Service Ranger at the Verlot Ranger Station and knew William Petraborg, the owner of the Big Four Inn who lived in Seattle. It was arranged that Mr. Petraborg would bring his daughter Nancy Petraborg and her friend from Ballard High School in Seattle to Big Four Inn, and the four of us girls could have the run of the entire 53-room Inn all to ourselves! Well, almost, as Mr. Petraborg and the Inn caretaker “40 Watts” would be there also.

We explored all the rooms in the Inn going to the top floor where there was a lookout on the roof. We had fun having pillow fights, listening to music, dancing in the lobby, playing outside in the snow, and just being silly. The Caretaker “40 Watts” fed us well and I especially remember the melt-in-your-mouth pancakes he made for breakfast every morning using lots of butter. He was always known as “40 Watts”. We never knew his real name.

In 1949 Big Four Inn was closed as a result of road construction in the area. In September 1949 a fire broke out and destroyed the 3-story lodge “like kindling,” that was just over a year and a half after we four girls had such a memorable experience staying there.

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And ending with a big “Congratulations” to Granite Falls Historical Society Board President Ron Chew, Class of ’65, for his induction into the Granite Falls High School Hall of Fame during halftime on Friday, January 24, 2020.