



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!"



November 2017 NEWSLETTER

November 30, 2017

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1. **Pre-beta testing continues** - On November 1, pre-beta testing continued on the [SmallTownPapers](#) (STP) online system for small museums. Our test results and feedback have been incorporated into the user interface, but several months of additional testing are needed as we continue to test specific types of data to be presented. STP has enlisted an entire team of programmers to complete the project, intended to provide low-cost, easy-access online presence for small museums across the country. This newest addition to STP's ["Archive in a Box"](#) project will be another wonderful online asset for us.

2. **Waldheim - Camp Silverton** - On November 3, **Fred** and **Tom** conducted a conference call with the **USFS** to further refine a grant application idea targeted at the re-opening of the **Silverton-Waldheim** school campground



as a public camping facility. Several organizations (which include GFHS, [City of Granite Falls](#), [Snohomish County Search and Rescue](#), etc.) have expressed an interest in partnering in the effort. A grant from the [Lodging Tax Advisory Committee](#) (LTAC), or "tourism" grant, would be a significant help in this effort. **Adrienne Hall** (a retired **USFS** employee from the **Darrington/Verlot** area) has stepped forward to champion the grant application effort. **Camp Silverton** is unique in this area of the **Mountain Loop Highway** because there is running water, electricity, and a telephone land-line on site. Pictured is "**Glacier**", an open-ended A-frame cabin that was recently demolished by the **Everett School District** before returning the camp to the **USFS**.

3. **Goldfinch Brothers to the rescue** - On November 2, [Goldfinch Bros](#) in Everett was contacted about the erratic behavior of the front entry museum door. After a couple visits, the tumbler has been replaced and control of the door has been returned to the owners.

4. **100-years young - Babe Scherrer!** - On November 4, **Babe Scherrer** celebrated his 100th birthday at the **Granville Grange** with about 80 friends, and a host of pictures! Shown here are 5 generations of **Scherrers**. What an incredible local family heritage!



5. **What shoe size is that Spar Tree?** - On November 6, **Mike Veatch** had two strapping young men drop off a very old "tree shoe" at the museum. Simple, heavy, rusty, and apparently long-lived, it was an artifact found on Mike's property.

6. **PastPerfect Online webinar** - On November 7-8, **Tom** and **Fred** attended an online training course for [PastPerfect Online](#), the software we use to present our collection online. The software has undergone significant

updates, so the training will be useful as we update our content at the end of this year. It has been two years since the last update occurred.

**7. New Christmas Tree lights** - On November 7, **Scott** started the quest for new LED tree lights, armed with the solicitation letter used each year. After many conversations and trips, **Fred Meyer** (Marysville) ultimately offered us a significant discount on 50 strings of C9-sized lights (large) and **Lowe's** (Everett on Pacific) donated 10 strings of C7-sized bulbs (medium). We are very appreciative of the generosity of these two businesses. Pictured here are



several of the boxes/reels of lights that were provided for us. Shopping local is always great, but if you have a chance, thank the Everett **Lowe's** and the Marysville **Fred Meyer** by purchasing something from them this season.

**8. '57 Granite Falls aerial available online** - On November 7, GFHS uploaded the aerial photos of 1957 Granite Falls given to us by Kevin Andringa of the Marysville Historical Society (see [October 2017 newsletter, item #12](#)). He is immersed in digitizing hundreds of large-format negatives in the MHS collection. Interesting details are very visible.

**9. Online maps announced** - On November 9, GFHS sent out announcement to all **League of Snohomish County Historical Organizations** (LOSCHO) members of the new online maps called "[Exploring Early Snohomish County](#)" and "[Snohomish County First 100 Years](#)", including some examples and instructions for use.

**10. Parking lot on north side of museum** - On November 9, the [City of Granite Falls](#) confirmed the lot adjacent to the north side of the museum would be used for parking for the new City Hall and community building, although at this time access from only the alley is planned for that parking. Final plans are coming together. Soon there will be a new look in the neighborhood!

**11. ESRI ArcGIS glitch (what?)** - On November 12, some glitch in the [ArcGIS](#) licensing caused certain updates to our online maps to fail right before the hours-long process was completed. As of November 26, the issue has yet to be resolved, but the [ESRI](#) experts are engaged. **ArcGIS** is the name of the software that we use for our online mapping system. **ESRI** is the name of the company that is the developer of **ArcGIS** and other related mapping software. **ESRI** stands for "**Environmental Systems Research Institute**" and was founded in 1969. It is headquartered in **Redlands, CA**.

**12. Christmas Tree lighting announced** - Normally **GFHS** makes the first announcement about the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony once the details have been established. However, this year the announcement of the event was first posted to **Facebook** by the **Senior Class Parent Group** on November 15. They plan to participate by selling hot beverages and snacks during the evening to raise

money for the **Class of 2018's** safe and sane graduation party. Since then, there has been lots of interest in the



event! When you come by on Saturday, make sure you support the **Class of 2018** by buying something from them or donating to them.

**13. HPC and RFP for HAI (again, what?)** - OK, so on November 21, the [Snohomish County Historical Preservation Commission](#) (HPC) met, the two primary discussion items being the final approval of the 2018 grant guidelines (now awaiting **County Council** approval to be distributed) and the upcoming **Request for Proposal** (RFP) for completing an initial **Historic Asset Inventory** (HAI). The HAI is needed to keep track of all historical buildings, sites, structures, and objects in the County-governed areas. **GFHS** provided a set of questions to be addressed before attempting to create the RFP, and the commission discussed each item in detail, reaching consensus on every answer. This should result in an inventory that can be utilized for historic preservation, education, and tourism.

**14. Year-end thank you letter** - On November 24, the year-end "thank you" letter and an addressed return envelope were packaged for mailing to 240 museum contacts. The



effort included printing almost 500 envelopes with updated names and addresses (many taken from the sign-in book on the museum counter), along with stuffing and stamping the full set. The letter summarizes what has happened during the past year and serves as a reminder to all that we operate solely on donations and maintain sound financial habits, while serving both the

local community and a wider heritage audience. If a letter did not come in the mail by December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day), you can find a copy by clicking on the image.

**15. New lights!** - On November 24, dry weather and a boom truck donated by [Kemp West](#) combined to remove all the old tree lights and install over 3100 new LED lights on the tree outside the museum. **Rick Weaver** was the **Kemp West** operator who gave over four hours of his own

time to help us refresh the tree, and joined a small group at 5:00 PM that evening for a quick "test lighting". The bottom of the tree has also been trimmed to allow for better visibility during the event from the street/sidewalk. This is a much-needed improvement, since the old lights are 10 years old and were failing or mostly hidden by the growth of the branches. The new lights are bigger and brighter.

**16. Always helping other history buffs** - On November 26, **GFHS** provided detailed **Hartford Eastern Railway** maps to **Hugh Fuller** and received a nice thank-you note from a museum in **Quebec** to whom we provided some Powerpoint presentations for use with their Board of Directors. They are planning to follow a technology path similar to the one **GFHS** has been on for some years..

**17. Furnace maintenance** - At one point during the month, the main gas furnace started it's all-too-familiar "start up and immediately shut down" routine. Fortunately, **Scott** found the "tool" (bare wire) stored on the furnace and identified the appropriate hole to shove it through to unclog the air blockage. Problem resolved (for another two years . . .) without the need to spend money for a repairman.

**18. Swapping decorations** - The Halloween decorations were removed, boxed, and returned to City Hall for temporary storage last week, but official City work prohibited us from accessing the Christmas decorations at that time. **Fred** and **Tom** were able to pick up the Christmas decorations on Tuesday, November 28. **Ron Chew** and **John** and **Barb Scherrer** began decorating the interior of the museum shortly after. The prunings from the big tree were picked up and hauled off. Work continued on Wednesday, November 29 with the lights on the buildings and smaller bushes and trees. The new strands on the big tree needed to be repositioned after the wind came through last weekend. It's looking pretty good for the Christmas Tree lighting on Saturday!

**19. Jorgensen estate update** - The "One-Spot" property on Stanley Street was purchased by the City of Granite Falls the first week of October. No funds have been transferred to GFHS as of yet. It appears that the property along the Mountain Loop past Blue Bridge has been sold (not official yet). There is still one other property in Granite Falls.

**20. November monthly meetings** - At the November meetings, among other things, we covered three main items: Board member voting, Christmas Tree lighting, and Christmas Party plans.

- **The Christmas Party** will be a potluck held Saturday, December 16 at John Scherrer's place, with a 5:00 PM arrival time and a 6:30 PM eating time. There will be no gift exchange.

- **The Christmas Tree lighting** is Saturday, December 2, starting at 4:00 PM. Helpers are still needed to prepare exterior and interior lights/decorations  
greeters (2-3 people)  
hot cider and cookies (2-3 people)  
Crazy Hats (Scott and helper)  
mittens/glove giveaway (1-2 people)  
Santa pictures (Danyel and a helper).

- **The Board and General membership confirmed Regina Jones** as one of three new Board members to start 2018. There are two more opportunities for someone to enjoy the company of the current Board members as decisions are made to guide our museum into the next year. Let someone know by calling 360.691.2603 (leaving a message) or by emailing us at: [info@gfhistory.org](mailto:info@gfhistory.org)

**21. Docents and helpers** - For the month of November, we had 65 people visit the museum. A big "thank you" is in order for these helpers and docents, some who helped more than once during the month:

**Norma Anderson, Tom Bergan, Ed and Thora Boede, Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Marcia Day, Bob and Robin Ingraham, Shaun and Kendall Ingraham, Eldon and Elsie Kirstein, Rosie Miller, Ted Peddycord, Tim Quillen, John and Barbara Scherrer, and Tom Thorleifson.**

Our 65 visitors came from these places:

**Arlington, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Monroe, and Seattle**

**22. Mark your calendar:**

- **Christmas Tree Lighting**, Saturday, December 2, 4:00 - 7:00 PM; tree lighting at 5:00 and museum open from 5:00

- **GFHS Christmas Party (potluck)**, Saturday, December 16, 5:00 PM (eat at 6:30 PM), John Scherrer's place (no gift exchange, BYOB). John lives 3.5 miles out of town on the Menzel Lake Road. Turn right into the driveway with the wooden motorcycle. Stay on the main driveway for a few hundred yards until you come to a single electric fence strand of wire across the driveway. John and Barbara's place is up the hill to the right. His address: 5300-A Menzel Lake Road, Granite Falls, 98252

- **Docent scheduling** for Sundays, noon to 5:00 PM, is now ready for January-March signups. Call the museum at 360.691.2603 (the voicemail is not customizable) or email **Marcia** ([marciad@irgpt.com](mailto:marciad@irgpt.com)) with the dates you can help. You don't need to be an "expert" on things in the museum, and where else can you get a chance to meet wonderful people from around Granite Falls, the county, the state, the nation, and the world in one afternoon?

- **League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO)** annual meeting, Saturday, January 20, 2018, 10:00 AM, Hilibul Cultural Center, Tulalip, WA

- **Next Board Meetings** - There will be no Board nor General Meetings in December. The next meetings will be on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM respectively, held at **GenCare "The Village"**.

Great stories at "[Back in the Day](#)"

Check out our website: [gfhistory.org](http://gfhistory.org)

Like us on Facebook at: [Granite Falls Historical Museum](#)

Check out these two links for the initial online mapping:

[Explore Snohomish County ca. 1910](#)

[Homesteads and maps from the first 100 years](#)

Invite your neighbors and friends to stop by the museum