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1. Railroad & Reunion Days to start October - After weeks (and months) of planning, the Granite Falls Historical Society (GFHS) hosted the Reunion Dinner at the new Civic Center on October 5. The place was full with 95 people eating and talking and having a great time. The Class of 1969 were enjoying their 50th reunion, and GFHS member Eldon Kirstein was recognized as the earliest Granite Falls High School graduate in attendance – Class of ’42! The food provided by IGA was superb and the desserts from Hanky Pies were of course outstanding. Things were staged, so setup only took a little over an hour, and cleanup was manned so well that the building was completely cleared and cleaned by 9:00 PM. The helpers: Scott and Sara Bower, Bob and Robin Ingraham, Marcia Day, Dee Saunders, Fred and Penny Cruger, Tom Thorleifson, Ed and Thora Boede, Jeanne Moen, Catherine Anderson, and the City of Granite Falls folks (for their help in coordinating the event and assisting as needed during the event, especially at the end for cleanup) Darla Reese, Becky Aiken, and Brent Kirk. Everyone’s help made for a very successful evening!

2. Halloween to end October - From October 15 through October 24, Halloween decorations at the museum grew and grew! Robin Ingraham, Marcia Day, Thora Boede, John and Barbara Scherrer, and likely other goblins spent days gathering, cleaning, and setting out decorations! This was no easy task because decorations were scattered in different storage locations due to the building getting ready for an expansion project. These helpers made the museum ready for a fabulous event on Halloween that kids and parents would really enjoy! Decoration enhancements continued through Thursday, and the Museum looked absolutely spooktacular!

When Halloween finally arrived, an estimated 950 people stopped by the museum, possibly well over 1,000 people. We went through all of our candy and doughnuts in less than two hours and had to be resupplied to finish the evening with the games and the “dunking doughnuts”. Thanks to the
following for helping on Halloween: Tom Bergan, Scott and Sarah Bower, Ron Chew, Marcia Day, Bob and Robin Ingraham, Margie Lambert, Marilyn McEvers, Rosie Miller, Annie Ross, John Scherrer, Ray Scherrer, and Tom Thorleifson. Special thanks go to John Scherrer and Ron Chew for braving the cold while hauling people in the "Hogwarts Carriage" to and fro. Also a big thanks for their extra efforts to get the tractor and the "People Mover" to town so those rides could happen.

3. October guests, docents, and volunteers - We had over 100 people at the museum for Railroad Days, 65 people during Sunday hours, and an estimated 950+ people who stopped by on Halloween. They came from these places: Arlington, Camano Island, Ellensburg, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Seattle, Snohomish, and from Bend, OR; Copperas Cove, TX; Cumming, GA; McMinnville, OR; and Abbotsford, BC. The Granite Falls Museum is able to function with regular weekly hours and special openings because of the efforts of our volunteers and docents. Our docents are critical in this effort, and we are very thankful for all their help. For the month of October people have already been mentioned who helped at the Friday night Alumni/Community Dinner, at the museum on Railroad Day Saturday, and on Halloween. The following people helped as docents during regular Sunday hours (noon to 5:00 pm): Norma Anderson, Tom Bergan, Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Marcia Day, Robin Ingraham, Rosie Miller, Tim Quillen, John and Barbara Scherrer, and Tom Thorleifson.

4. Research and assistance -
-- GFHS continues a long trend of helping individuals and other organizations with local research. However, we needed help ourselves for this one! At the beginning of October (actually starting with the September Board/General GFHS Meeting), there was some unusual information that popped up regarding our own organization: Out of our nine board members, which three positions are scheduled for election or re-election? Since we have a 2-term limit and terms are staggered every three years, there should be three positions open every year. At the meeting only one person thought he was up for replacement. Upon further investigation, it was a different board member who needed replacing, and only one instead of three! Who were the other two? After going through the minutes and newsletters from previous years, there were a few oddities that unknowingly caused some changes. A suggested solution was developed that would satisfy our By-laws, which will be acted upon at the GFHS November meeting. And, here is other research/assistance help in October:
-- On September 30, we provided maps and homestead info to a lady researching the history of her father-in-law’s property near Lake Bosworth.
-- On October 1, we entertained the Holzapfel family from Georgia. They were researching ancestors named Criswell, who owned extensive property just south of town (now both in and out of the city limits). They found us through the online maps we’ve published.
-- On October 14, GFHS and the City received a request from Snohomish County Parks & Recreation to help in the update of tourism-related web pages on the new SeattleNorthCountry website. Fred will be acting as both the city and museum representative to the group.
-- On October 15, GFHS provided to the Stanwood Area Historical Society a copy of the maps and instructions that were created to help the Monroe Historical Society take an inventory of historic buildings inside their city limits. The Stanwood folks suggested such a map would be helpful to any community interested in such an effort.
-- On October 17, we printed two 6' x 6' maps for the city, showing recent plat changes, street names, aerial views, etc. They’ll be used in both City Hall and the Police Station.

5. County grant paperwork finalized - After the September newsletter was finalized, it was learned on September 30 that GFHS received the final agreement from Snohomish County for the 2019 grant requesting financial help for the Pride of Monte Cristo book. The delays were caused by required insurance documentation that was finally clarified. Fortunately, that same insurance documentation is readily reusable for the 2020 grant from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) for maintaining the Mountain Loop Tour!
-- From September 9 to October 12, GFHS worked with the Riverside Community Club to finalize an application for their building to be on the Snohomish County Historic Register.
On October 15, the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to approve the application, making the old school & teacher’s cottage (combined now into a single structure) the second building to appear on the register. The Shannahan Cabin in Monroe was the first building, being accepted just recently in early August.

6. History Fair at the Everett Public Library - On October 3, we received information that there would be a “History Fair” at the Everett Public Library on December 7. LOSCHO was invited to participate (and accepted), and we should decide if/how we would like to be represented. We need to respond to Chase Dermott, Public Programs Manager, directly at the Everett Museum of History. Her contact info: 417-483-6244 or email: chase@everettmuseum.org

7. Financial status update - Also on October 15, Fred, the GFHS Treasurer, sent out an optimistic notice regarding our financial position year-to-date, offering hope we would finish the year “in the black” if we did well with our regular end-of-year fund-raising letter. Apparently that announcement caused our large printer/plotter to break, setting us back $645 in repairs. We will have to keep a close eye on things for the rest of the year.

8. Mountain Loop improvements study - On October 18, we received notice that there will be a third public hearing conducted by Parametrix, sponsored by Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), about potential Mountain Loop Highway improvements. The meeting will be at the Granite Falls Middle School multipurpose room, 405 N. Alder Ave., doors open at 5:30 PM on November 6.

9. LOSCHO 4th quarter meeting - On October 19, Tom and Fred attended the meeting of League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO) held at the Marysville Historical Museum. GFHS involvement was primarily around hosting the March 2020 Malstrom Award banquet in our new Civic Center, providing historic building research maps for various communities, handling the Women’s Heritage display (currently in the Sharp House), and adding the Sauk-Suiattle Last Chance Casino and the new Sauk-Suiattle Museum and Cultural Center to the various electronic tours. They’ve been added to the downloadable “Mountain Loop Tour” and the online “SnoCo Museum Tour”.

10. LOSCHO follow-up - On October 20, Tom invited Slobodan Mitrovic (Sauk-Suiattle archeologist) to be the guest speaker in March at the Malstrom event. Slobo agreed, and looks forward to featuring some of the area women in his historical presentation (March will be Women’s History Month). Michelle Sadlier, last year’s Malstrom judge, has agreed to fill that duty again this year. We are excited to have these two people at the Malstrom in a few months!

11. Footbridge to Big Four Ice Caves closed - GFHS saw a picture on October 20 showing a section of the footbridge across the Stilly on the Big Four Ice Caves trail being carried off by helicopter. The USFS submitted three grants over a year ago, one of which was to help defray the costs of repairing river erosion on the southern bridge abutment, although no mention was made of pending bridge removal. The USFS explained that they removed the bridge section to prevent a flood event from washing out the south abutment and taking the bridge section with it. If erosion this season does not cause significant damage, they’ll replace the bridge section in the Spring. The long-term goal would be to move the abutment further south and extend the aluminum section that was removed. This was not a move to shut off long-term access to the Ice Caves, but rather a move to protect a very expensive asset.

12. Calendar
   11/3 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
   11/5 GF High School presentation to Band students
   11/10 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
   11/11 Veterans Day
   11/17 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
   11/24 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
   11/25 Monday, 7:00 PM, October monthly meeting, GenCare “The Village” on N. Alder
   11/28 Thanksgiving Day
   12/1 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
   12/7 Community Christmas Tree Lighting w/Santa
   12/7 Pearl Harbor Day
   12/8 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

13. Odds & Ends -
   -- On October 25, our still was returned from the Edmonds Museum. They said it was a popular item in their Prohibition-era display.
   -- Our fire extinguishers were refreshed for another year by AAA Fire Extinguisher Co. of Everett, and we passed our annual fire inspection by the County Fire Marshal.
   -- At our GFHS Board/General Meeting as mentioned in #4 above, it was discovered that our Board Terms/Limits are a little out of whack. A proposal is being considered to return our 9-member board to the original, 3-year, 2-term limit, with staggering years (elect or re-elect 3 people each year).
   -- Also at the meeting we had a good discussion on the current plans for the museum expansion.
-- The annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be on Saturday, December 7, at 5:00 PM, but come early to hear the High School band serenade us, and also participate in the "Crazy Hat" Contest. The Sonus Borealis choir will be at the museum, along with holiday vendors next door at the Civic Center. Santa has made time to visit us again and will let people have pictures taken with him, for free!

14. Aviation mishaps over the years (Incident #5)

The following is the last in a series on military aircraft crashes during training exercises around the Granite Falls area during World War II and the Korean War, as written by Jerry Denberger (GFHS Class of '51) with photographs provided by Ron Carpenter (GFHS Class of '51). Here is the list of military crashes in the Granite Falls area:

Incident #1: October 1943, F6F Hellcat (June newsletter)
Incident #2: February 1945, FM-2 Wildcat (July)
Incident #3: April/May 1945, P-39 Air Cobra (August)
Incident #4: September 1946, PBY-6A Catalina (September)
Incident #5: April 1948, AT-11 Nav/Bombadier Trainer

Introduction

The evidences of war and loss during World War II and the Korean War were not limited to only foreign soil. The Puget Sound basin and western Washington in general were hotbeds for military activity. Airfields dotted the map. McChord Field, Naval Air Station Sand Point, Paine Field, Naval Air Station Arlington, and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island all housed Navy and Air Force pilots who trained for their impending missions. The runways were rarely silent.

The airspace over Granite Falls, Mt. Pilchuck, Green Mountain, and the North Cascade Mountains provided the backdrop for aerial combat maneuvers and navigation and bombadier training for most of these pilots. Thousands of military planes flew over this region. Unfortunately, a small percentage of these flights resulted in aircraft crashes and loss of lives.

Air Reserve Plane Down on Mt. Philchuck East of Granite

Granite Falls was the scene of quite a bit of excitement Sunday afternoon and evening when it was learned that the wrecked plane of a AT-11 type air reserve plane was sighted close to the top of Mt. Philchuck, a few miles east of here, at about noon Sunday, which was reported missing on a flight from McChord Field to Sand Point.

Sunday evening found the Johnson Fountain Lunch filled to capacity with civilian and military members of a rescue party making plans to reach the plane which crashed late Friday about 4:45pm in the mountainside.

The plane had been on a routine flight from McChord Field to Sand Point Naval Air Station. The plane was off course and 60 miles north of Sand Point NAS when it crashed into the mountainside. The United States Air Force crash investigation stated the aircraft lost radio contact. Dense fog blanketed the area prior to the crash about 4:45pm in the afternoon. The report's conclusion was "while on an instrument flight, became lost and crashed into a mountainside. Not mentioned in the investigation was the propellers of the plane were not badly damaged and apparently had not been turning at the time of the crash, indicating the plane may have been out of fuel.

Seattle Mountaineers, Ira Spring and Bob Craig, were the first persons to reach the wreckage. Heavy snow and steep terrain prevented recovery of the bodies until 19 days later on 21 April until a team of mountain trained soldiers from Camp Carson, Colorado were able to reach the crash site.

The wreckage of this plane remains in place but has been completely flattened by the ice and snow pack over the many years since the plane's demise. This site can be viewed on a computer using the Google Earth application. The bright aluminum wreckage is directly SSE and 800 feet below the summit of Mt. Philchuck. It lies at the bottom of a gray granite rock field nestled in the green fir trees next to a vertical adjacent cliff.

"Granite Falls was the scene of quite a bit of excitement Sunday afternoon and evening when it was learned that the wreckage of a AT-11 type air reserve plane was sighted close to the top of Mt. Philchuck, a few miles east of here, at about noon Sunday, which was reported missing on a flight from McChord Field to Sand Point.

"Sunday Evening found the Johnson Fountain Lunch filled to capacity with civilian and military members of a rescue party making plans to reach the plane which crashed late Friday about 5:00 PM, but come early to hear the High School band serenade us, and also participate in the "Crazy Hat" Contest. The Sonus Borealis choir will be at the museum, along with holiday vendors next door at the Civic Center. Santa has made time to visit us again and will let people have pictures taken with him, for free!

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"Sunday Evening found the Johnson Fountain Lunch filled to capacity with civilian and military members of a rescue party making plans to reach the plane which crashed late Friday about 500 feet below the lookout station on top of Mt. Philchuck.

"Earle [sic] Monday morning two searching parties started fighting their way up the 5334 feet of snow covered mountain slopes, from the Verlot Ranger Station. Both of these parties were unsuccessful in reaching the ill fated plane.

"Fighting waist deep snow and sheer cliffs one of the parties reached the top but..."