



GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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To our friends and members
throughout the community, state, and across all borders:
"Thank you for your support!"



October 31, 2022

(Editor's Note: The July, August, and September 2022 newsletters only made it to an initial rough draft. Thanks to the many queries about "missing" those newsletters. Time marches on, and possibly the rough drafts might be completed some day. During these last several months, we have been as busy as ever fulfilling our organization mission and purpose. By the late completion date of this October newsletter, the November newsletter will need to be started. December's events have been in the planning stages for weeks/months and are almost here. Please note the calendar that includes the start of December.

Our mission: to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region to foster better understanding and appreciation of the values that built our city and contributed to our County's rural heritage.

Our purpose: to locate and identify appropriate material, to protect and interpret that material, and finally to make it available to the greatest possible extent.

Community Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday, December 3, 2022 Granite Falls Museum Everyone is welcomed!

4:00 pm, Granite Falls High School Band
4:30 pm, Granite Falls Middle School Choir Club
4:45 pm, Crazy Hat Contest (with prizes!)
4:55 pm, Santa arrives
5:00 pm, Santa lights community Christmas tree
5:05 pm, "Sonus Boreal" women's chorale inside the museum
5:05 – 6:30 pm, pictures with Santa!

1. November and December Calendar
2. Amazing Railroad Days!
3. Researching and sharing info (A - J)
4. Taking care of business (A - G)
5. Docents/helpers/volunteers
6. Visitors
7. Books on local history

1. November and December Calendar -

11/6 Sunday, 2:00 AM, "Fall Back" one hour, Daylight Savings Time ends (and Standard Time begins)

Replace batteries in all detectors and check functions

11/6 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

11/11 Friday, Veterans Day

11/13 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

11/20 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

11/24 Thursday, Thanksgiving Day

11/27 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

11/28 Museum meeting 7:00 PM Civic Center

12/3 Saturday, Christmas Tree lighting events from 4:00 to 6:30 pm at the museum

12/4 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

I said there's a Granite Falls Special Holiday Event Saturday, Dec 3rd! (Week after the Thanksgiving weekend)



Tree-lighting 5 PM
at the Granite Falls Historical Museum
Great prizes for the best Holiday Hats
(kids and adults)

12/7 Pearl Harbor Day

12/11 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

12/18 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

12/25 Sunday, Christmas Day

2. Amazing Railroad Days! - On October 1, Granite Falls witnessed the largest **Railroad/Reunion Days** celebration on record. There were 90 vendors participating, with a half dozen



Part of the 2-block-long crowd after the Railroad Days Parade

great food trucks. Entertainment ranged from petting zoo to axe throwing to pie and watermelon eating contest! **Catherine Anderson** did a spectacular job of planning the event, and the City crew did an outstanding job of setup and teardown.



Ron Chew and the "People Mover" in the Railroad Days Parade

The museum was open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, and hosted a tremendous group of visitors. **Ron Chew** pulled our "people mover" (covered farm wagon) in the parade with



Museum members who kept Granite Falls history alive for decades

his tractor, and we took the opportunity to provide a banner as a remembrance of the museum members we lost over the past year. Hundreds and maybe a couple thousand people along the parade route saw the poster remembering **Tom**

Bergan, Penny Cruger, Shirley Curtis Hall, Eldon Kirstein, Margaret McGillivray, and Ted Peddycord. After the parade it was on display in the alley between City Hall and the Museum.

3. Researching and sharing info (A - J)

A. "The History of Newsprint" - On October 1, a museum visitor who had spent a career working in the newspaper business asked if we had any information on early newspaper publishing. We just happened to have a digitized copy of "The History of Newsprint", and provided the document to the visitor electronically through Dropbox.

B. P-39 aircraft crash near Granite Falls - Also on October 1, we received a request for information on a P-39 that crashed in the hills outside Granite Falls in early 1945. **Tom Thorleifson** provided documentation, newspaper articles, and pictures to the requestor.



C. Climax locomotive - On October 2nd a museum visitor provided a great picture of a local Climax locomotive with **Charles Whipple, Lee Charon, and Percy Miller** standing next to it.



3. Researching and sharing info (A - J) (continued)

D. Red Bridge - On October 5, we received a request from **Julie Kuntz**, communication specialist with **Snohomish County Public Works**, for pictures and/or stories about **Red Bridge**. They will soon start a large maintenance project on the bridge and she wanted information to gather public interest. We provided pictures, along with a great newspaper editorial about a final ride across the original railroad bridge in 1936.

E. Denver visitors - On October 6, we received a request from **Guy Payne** for a weekday visit to the museum. **Guy** and his wife visited on October 8th along with their son, who was returning home to Denver the following morning (hence the special visit request). They all enjoyed a long visit.

F. Rosario Archeology LLC - Also on October 6, we received a request from **Mark Hovezak**, an archaeologist with **Rosario Archeology LLC**, regarding historical data on property just east of Arlington. **Mark** has been a user of our online maps for several years, but was hoping we might have something pertaining to the property of interest that wasn't posted online. We provided both an additional historical map (a 1911 topo map with relevant information) and some documentation and history of property owners.

G. Wool production - On October 8, we received a request for how our collection could be searched for information on sheep and wool production in our area, combined with an offer to create a display on that subject (and potentially return our spinning wheel to working condition!). We provided **Heather Songstad** with appropriate instructions and links, and she will get back to us with any ideas they sow.

H. Old Robe Trail geocache - Also on October 8, we received a visit from a gentleman involved in geo-caching, who was in search of the cache outside the museum. He recently placed a new geocache on **Old Robe Trail**, and was fascinated to find out about our online maps. He specifically requested map/directions for finding access to **Tunnel #1**, and subsequently started exploring the history of the area in which he lives, **Alderwood Manor**.

I. Old railroad map - On October 13, we received a request to identify a segment of a map, and successfully identified it as a portion of a **Washington State Railroad Commission** map ca. 1910. It shows the **Great Northern** through **Everett**, the **Northern Pacific** that is now the **Centennial Trail**, the **Monte Cristo** and **Whitehorse (Darrington)** branches of the **N.P.** along with old local names along the routes.

J. Where did Grandma live? - On October 16, we received a call at the museum from an individual searching for his grandmother's (**Hannah Wicklund**) place of residence near **Granite Falls** at the time of her demise in May 1921, and for her burial location. The property upon which her family lived was part of the property once occupied by the **Swedish** commune near **Outlook**, and both she and her husband were **Swedish** immigrants. Their exact home location was determined, but not her burial location. **Snohomish GAR Cemetery** lists a "**Hannah Wickland**" buried in May 1921, and that burial location is supported by newspaper articles and death certificate, but there is no marker or any further information. The requestor visited the museum on Saturday October 22nd from 10AM to 7PM to discuss our research results and to physically visit the property on which his ancestors lived.

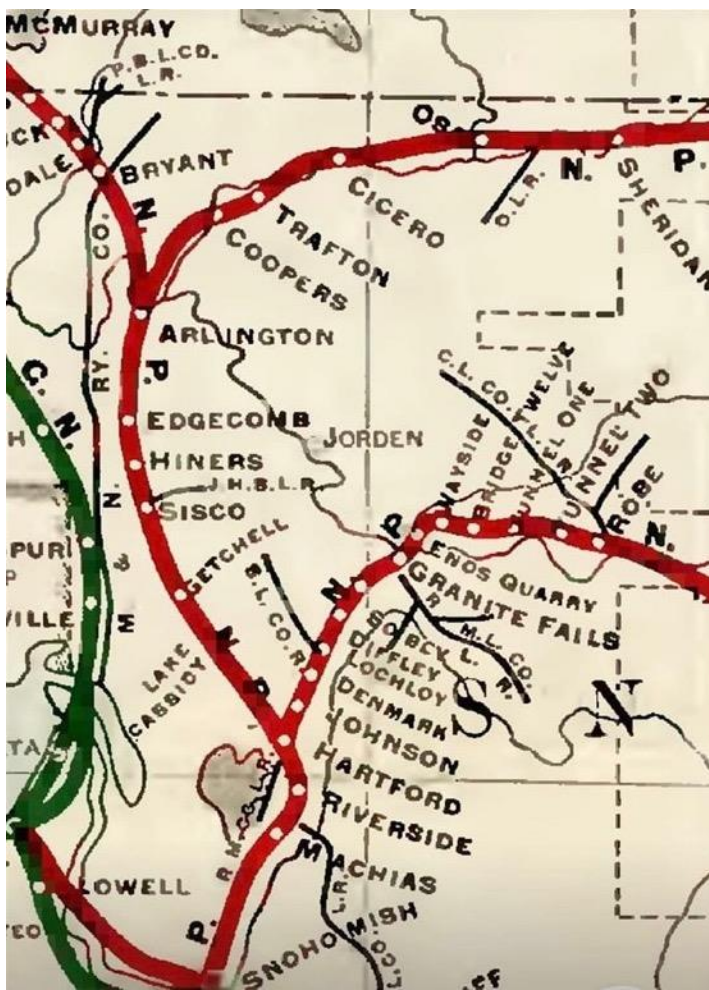
4. Taking care of business (A - G)

A. Railroad Days to Halloween - From October 3rd through October 8th, **Marcia Day** and **Robin Ingraham** stored away items from **Railroad Days** and decorated the entire museum for Halloween. It looked great, with spooky sounds and



mysterious lights! There are even evil cat eyes staring out from inside the old bank safe . . . **Marcia** continued to add extra touches throughout the month to enhance the overall Halloween effect!

B. Hiking guide storage - On October 4, we got a request to help store a few boxes of the new **Snohomish County** hiking



Old Great Northern and Northern Pacific train routes
in Snohomish County ca 1910

guide that is being released soon. We provided information earlier to be incorporated in the guide, and **Debbie Cople** of **Sultan** has been the focal point for publishing. They expect 125 boxes but unfortunately, they do not have the room to store all of them until next year's hiking season begins. They will let us know soon how much help they need.

C. Student volunteers - On October 9, we were visited by two high school students (sisters) interested in garnering community service hours by volunteering at the museum. They'll start work at 10AM on October 23rd. A third new docent, **Eliana Lamar**, will be training on that day, as well, after having visited the museum on **Railroad Days**. They all showed up as promised on October 23, with **Eliana** and sisters **Lolly** and **Tia** receiving training on the CZUR scanner and **PastPerfect** software. They did a great job scanning new materials and pictures. With their help we are making serious inroads in all of the boxes of material gathered during the COVID shutdown.

D. ESRI, the mapping gurus - On October 12, we received a complete listing of videos from the ESRI National Conference (the folks who provide all of our cool mapping tools). There were many sessions offered on the myriad of uses now being addressed by digital mapping. [Click here for the link](#) to some interesting ideas.



E. Supporting the U.S. Forest Service, Darrington District - On October 14, we received a request from the **USFS** for letters of support to enhance their chances of garnering three different grants for 2023 seasonal labor that would support trail and trailhead maintenance around the **Mountain Loop**.

F. SnoCo HPC meeting - On October 18, **Fred Cruger** attended the monthly meeting of the **Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)**. The three main items on the agenda were: 1) the final MOA for the **Arlington Fish Hatchery** (replacement of an original historic residence with a prefab unit, and the associated mitigation); 2) discussion of how **HPC** could support the Halloween activities in **Granite Falls**, and; 3) the presentation for the October 28th **Washington Trails Conference**, at which **Fred** and **Gretchen Kaehler** (county archaeologist) will be presenting efforts in using electronic cyber-tours on county trails.

G. Halloween - October 31 was the big downtown Halloween celebration, and the museum was surrounded with activities.



Almost everyone came in costume. We had some friends from the **SnoCo HPC** visiting to help us and to pass out some "history-oriented" buttons. **Scott Bower** previously brought in six bags of Halloween vitamins, in preparation for the big night. **Robin** and **Bob Ingraham**, along with **Marcia Day**, planned for lots of fun.

5. Docents/helpers/volunteers - We started the month with the best Railroad Days ever, and ended with an amazing Halloween community event. We had lots of helpers and volunteers with the planning, setting up, hosting, and cleaning up for these events, as well as our regular Sunday docents, with most of them involved several times throughout the month. Many thanks go to the following: **Scott** and **Sarah Bower**, **Ron Chew**, **Fred Cruger** and **Duffy**, **Marcia Day**, **Jamieson Haverfield**, **Bob** and **Robin Ingraham**, **Steve** and **Regina Jones**, **Gretchen Kaehler**, **Franklin Ng**, **Tim Quillen**, **Angie Rosenkranz**, **John Scherrer**, **Lisa Schmidt**, and **Tom Thorleifson**.

6. Visitors - In-person visitors for October totaled over 290 for Railroad Days, more than 130 for Halloween, and about 48 for the regular Sunday openings, totaling over 468 people. Guests came from **Arlington**, **Everett**, **Granite Falls**, **Lake Stevens**, **Mt. Vernon**, **Rice**, **Seattle**, **Snohomish**, and **Yucaipa, CA**. Our online visitors totaled 238. Within Washington there were 49 locations with 154 visitors. There were 74 more visitors from 29 different places in 16 other states. We also had 10 visitors from these countries: **Canada**, **China**, **Finland**, **France**, **Germany**, and **Mexico**.



The items above are extracted from dated email contacts with outside organizations, but there are other museum activities that don't necessarily involve email (or involve too many emails). The porch on the **Sharp House** is much improved with the new flooring that has been installed and painted, and the posts and railings that have been replaced and also painted. We are waiting for the final materials to finish the porch. Special thanks go to **Bob Ingraham** and **Scott Bower** for the repairs, and to **Robin Ingraham** for painting the railings. The **Sharp House** re-opening will be as soon as we manage to finish cleaning out the material collected and moved during construction and COVID. The plantings have continued to be watered and weeded once or twice a week (they need to be trimmed), so the yard actually looks pretty good despite the hot and very dry weather this summer. The little yellow flowers scattered about the lawn have been mowed, so the overall look is truly one of civilization, albeit dried civilization! The weather is finally changing, with hopes that the rain will quickly green things up a little!

Remember the Christmas Tree Lighting 12/3!