



MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3

OUR MISSION:

To Discover, Recover, Preserve, Share and Celebrate Redmond's History

HISTORY IS HAPPENING IN REDMOND!

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16600 NE 80th Street, Room 106
Redmond, WA 98052 ~ Tel 425.885.2919

website ~ www.redmondhistory.org
e-mail ~ redmondhistory@hotmail.com

HOURS: Tuesday through Thursday 1-6 p.m.,
Friday, 4-6 p.m. and by appointment

The Spotlight

A glossy new Eastside magazine in town, titled simply "425," asked us about Redmond for its May/June issue. While we don't know exactly what they'll use, **Nao Hardy** really summed up "Our Town Redmond." Here's her response to the question, "How do you think Redmond has changed over the last 10 years?"

"We are still a small town at heart, where civic involvement is encouraged, even expected, and traditions are held dear. Redmond's Nokomis Club is the oldest women's service group in the state, and newcomers are always welcome. Our modest little public library founded in 1927 is now a regional library with one of the highest circulations in the country, and serves as a busy meeting place for many organizations and activities.

"Each summer since 1939, we celebrate a tradition that's provided us title to being the Bicycle Capital of the Northwest: Redmond Derby Days, the oldest continuous bike race in North America. Our small town hospitality and longstanding traditions haven't changed, and neither has the natural beauty of river, valley and lake that have provided recreation, landscapes and inspiration since the first pioneers settled here in 1871." ●

Traveling the Klondike



This Klondike Gold Rush tent city sprung up on the shores of Canada's Lake Bennett, and drew at least one Redmond resident, a W.P. Wilson. (Photo courtesy of the Canadian Government)

Get ready for a trip back in time—when going for a hike meant efforts like the 33-mile-long, and often steep, Chilkoot Trail.

At our next general meeting on March 8th, we'll be hearing about and seeing images from the brief, but intense Klondike Gold Rush that drew folks from around the world

—including at least one

Redmond resident, a **W.P. Wilson**, according to a database search.

That search also turned up some Kirkland residents: **A.A. Couture**,

H.B. Whittemore,

T. Cavanaugh,

A.G. Erickson and

E.L. Erickson. ●

NEXT RHS MEETING:

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH
10:30 TO 12 NOON**

at the
**REDMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
15990 NE 85th, Redmond**

**Speaker:
RUTH KERR**
Guide with the Klondike National
Historical Park in Seattle

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2008 RHS
GENERAL MEETING**

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10:30 to Noon**

**at the
REDMOND PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

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Our finances are public record and may be viewed at the office.

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If you don't already subscribe, please sign up. Call the office at 425.885.2919 or e-mail mew@nwlink.com. State your preference of e-mail or U.S. Mail (e-mail is cheaper for the city and the photos look better on-line).

THE REDMOND RECORDER

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Miguel Llanos *Editor*
Patti Simpson Ward *Newsletter Graphic Designer*

MAJOR SPONSORS



Les LaBrie's orchestra plays at the Odd Fellows Hall in 1946. The Odd Fellows' three-linked rings emblem adorns the raised stage at left and right, as well as above the stage. (Photo courtesy of Euc LaBrie collection.)

New Life for Odd Fellows Hall

One of Redmond's landmarks is opening its doors once again. After years as "Edwardian Antiques," a successful business run by **John Anderson**, the Odd Fellows Hall is about to be reopened as a restaurant. What's so special about the Odd Fellows Hall? Below is its history, written by **Nao Hardy** for the "Historic Redmond Walking Tour" brochure:

"Built as a community gathering hall in 1903 by **Herman S. Reed**, this two-story building was made of lumber hand-selected for perfection at **John Peterson's** sawmill at Avondale, and hauled into town by **Gottfried Everson**, who was well-known as an honest horse trader.

"This steep-roofed landmark became Redmond's first movie house, with the front gabled dormer over the door housing the projectionist. Before electricity came to Redmond, a generator was set up on the sidewalk and when it failed, patrons were entertained by the improvising pianist **Daphne Rosford Foss**, who drew patrons from Seattle just to hear her accompany the silent movies.

"Before 1914, the Eagles Lodge held meetings here, and in 1926 the Independent Order of Odd Fellows purchased the building for Lodge No. 325, which **George B. Martin** had instituted three years earlier. The Odd Fellows occupied this building until 1973, and the IOOF's original three-links symbol still hangs on the building's façade.

"When Prohibition closed **Bill Brown's** saloon, the town's regular Saturday night dances moved north on Leary to this hall, where Les LaBrie's orchestra played big band sounds on a raised stage, couples polkaed,

(Continued on page 5)

Century-Long Saga of Our First School Bell

With a grant from 4Culture, the City Planning Department is preparing to restore Redmond's first school bell. In storage for the last years, the 350-pound, iron bell was cast in Cincinnati. It was probably manufactured in the late 1880s, as it is seen in this photo of The Redmond School, c.1892, located in today's Anderson Park. The bell



was publicly displayed in front of the old City Hall and has been in storage the last few years, but earlier the heritage icon was the topic of a lost-and-found mystery, researched extensively by Doris **Schaible** at the City's request. Here are a few excerpts from Doris's files that show this was no ordinary stay-at-home bell:

Helen Johnston recalled seeing the bell atop the one-story high school built in 1915 where today's Anderson Park is. **Norma Jean (Tosh) Schmidt** said her father, **Art Tosh**, was a "hell-raiser," and in 1920 or 1921 he "took the bell" because the school district didn't let him graduate with the rest of his class due to his antics. Norma had no idea where he took it, but it resurfaced on property owned by **Al Hollingsworth** between 1944 and 1948 on the north side of the Redmond-Kirkland Road, abutting the large ravine just across from 148th Avenue NE. This property is now Scarborough Townhomes. Al sold the property to **Lester Jones**, who owned it from 1948 to 1955.

Diane (Hollingsworth) Harder and **Dave Harder** said the bell was still on the property in 1952 because Lester held a rally there when Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president in 1952, and "everyone at the party rang the bell." **Bob Bailie** was also at that rally and rang the bell.

Floyd and **Jeanne Messer** said the bell was on the property when they bought it in 1955. Floyd's niece, **Barbara Feldman**, stated the bell was mounted on top of what she called the studio, in a small, slatted cupola. A commemorative plaque mounted on the studio described the bell as the original Redmond school bell, she said. When the Messers sold the property in 1964, they took the bell with them. After Floyd's death, Jeanne Messer gave the bell to Barbara Feldman's sister, **Susan Bates**. Susan had it cleaned and took it to her home in Marysville where it sat in the yard for years. Susan and her husband, **Bill Bates**, moved to Montana about 1981 and took the bell with them. Later, the Bates were encouraged to give the bell to Roger and Barbara Feldman. "We decided that since it was the original Redmond school bell, it belonged in Redmond," Barbara said, "so we had it brought back from Montana and presented it to the City of Redmond and Chamber of Commerce in a ceremony in July 1988, attended by **Mayor Doreen Marchione**." ●

In Memoriam: Boyd Kinney

Redmond has a history of folks dedicated to community service—and Boyd Kinney was a leader among them. He passed away peacefully on January 31st in Enumclaw, at age 84. Here's part of the notice his family placed in the *Redmond Reporter*:

"Born July 13, 1923, in Woodruff, Kansas, he moved to Redmond at the age of six. He served in WWII as a U.S. Navy Seabee. He married his long-time sweetheart **Barbara Orr** in 1944. They were married for over 50 years before her death in 1995.

"He was a barber in Redmond before accepting a position with the Lake Washington School District, where he remained for 27 years as a bus driver and custodian at Redmond Elementary and Redmond Junior High."

"He was among the first members of the Redmond Fire Department, a volunteer for over 25 years. He coached Little League Baseball, and was instrumental in development of Hartman Park.

(Continued on page 6)

Were You at Our February 9, 2008 Meeting?

These folk were! First time attendees are noted in **BOLD TYPE!**

Anspach, Ray	Magruder, Joan
Bartley, David	Marrs, Carl
Bartley, Elsie	Marrs, Pat
Bresolin, Tami	Martin, Daryl
Campbell, Sally	McCormick, Elma
Coward, Liz	McCoskrie, Eileen
Davies, John	McHatton, R. J.
Emmanuel, Tony	Mercer, Betty
Fowler, Joyce	Miller, Larry
Garland, Lillian	Montgomery, Mary
Gilbert, Evelyn	Pickett, Virginia
Goetschius, Millie	Rosenbach, Patsy
Goetschius, Russ	Salmi, Anne
Goetschius, Sandra	Schaible, Doris
Hahnlén, Charlotte	Scott, Claudia
Hall, Suzanne	SERRES, BILL
Hall, Tom	SERRES, NANCY
Hammersberg, Clara	Standley, Beryl
Hammersberg, Jerry	Stensland, Don
Hansen, Tom	Stoneback, Phyllis
Hanson, Marge	Stray, Fran
Hanson, Mary	Stray, Fred
Hanson, Roy	Swanson, Kris
Hawkinson, Dale	Tollfeldt, Anne
Hawkinson, Loita	Tollfeldt, Harvey
Himes, Chris	Torell, Jerry
HOLLINGSWORTH, MATT	Townsend, Joe
Ingersoll, Jo Ann	Turner, Judy
Isackson, Duane	Vallene, Arlyn
Isackson, Joanne	WALSH, WENDY
Jaton, Linda	Ward, Patti Simpson
Jaton, Wayne	Watkins, JoAnn
Johnson, Mary Ann	WATKINS, MIKE
Johnson, Roger	WATT, ROMAYNE
Jovag, Pat	Weiss, Rose
Keeley, Elaine	Westlund, Joanne
Kuhl, Betty	White, Bob
Kuhl, Howard	Williams, Audrey
Lang, Judy	Williams, Larry
Llanos, Miguel	Williams, Lois
Magnuson, Cheryl	Yoder, Bob

Our Newest Lifter

A few years ago, **Rose Weiss** bought lifetime membership for her two daughters, **Barbara Weiss Joyce** and **Pat Weiss Jovag**. Well, now she's gone and bought herself one! Thank you, Rose, and thanks for being one of the regulars at our Saturday meetings! ●

River Race Photos

Got any stories, photos or home movies of the Sammamish Slough races? If so, please contact us at **425. 885.2919** or at **redmondhistory@hotmail.com** as we hope to do a Saturday program on that tradition. ●

Bellevue Lumbermen's Hospital?

Tom Weber of Kearns, Utah, sent us the letter below. If anyone has any info please contact Nao Hardy at **nhardy12@comcast.net** or **425.883.3866**.

"I do hope you will answer this letter. So often I write to historical societies and receive no response.

"My father, Dr. John Pewter Weber, worked at a hospital in the Bellevue, Washington, area during 1923-1924. It was a lumbermen's hospital owned by Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, also known as Potlatch Lumber Company.

"The lumber company also owned similar lumbermen's hospitals at Acme, Washington; Potlatch, Idaho; Elk River, Idaho; and Bovill, Idaho. His association of company hospitals was sometimes referred to as the Western Hospital Association.

"With all my heart, I want to find out where the lumbermen's hospital at or near Bellevue was located. I would like to visit that area and see where it was. I am deeply interested in my father's life.

"Any help you can give me on this will be greatly appreciated." ●

Walking Tours Are Back

The popular walking tours along Leary Way are back, with guide Tom Hitzroth lining up four Sundays

- **APRIL 20**
- **MAY 18**
- **JUNE 22**
- **SEPTEMBER 21**

as long as it doesn't rain!

Reserve your spot via **425.885.2919** or **redmondhistory@hotmail.com**. The cost is \$6 per person and proceeds will go to purchase a bench for the walking route. The 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. tour starts at the Justice White House across from Half-Priced Books. ●



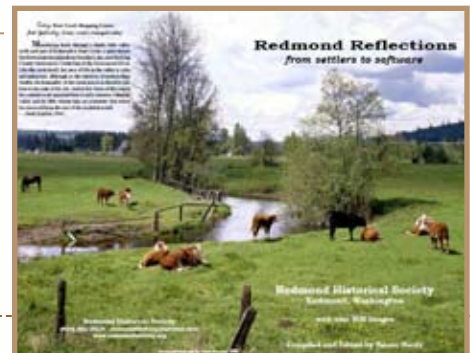
New Life for Odd Fellows Hall (Continued from page 2)

waltzed and did the schottische. During intermissions, many an-otherwise-law-abiding individual discretely imbibed in the darkened parking lot.

“While the building’s face has been remodeled, it still retains many original details and all its charm of a hundred years ago.” ●

Order *RedmondReflections*

Also available at the Redmond Library



REDMOND REFLECTIONS ORDER FORM

We ship free for current members, so if you haven't joined or renewed, there's a form on the last page of this newsletter that you can send in with the book order form below.

Price per book: **\$21.78 (\$20.00 + \$1.78 Washington Sales Tax)**

(Non-Members, please add postage: \$3 for one book, \$5 for two and \$8 for three or more)

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

No. of Books Ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

ADDRESS TO MAIL BOOK(S) TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

Mail completed form (please print clearly) and check or money order to:

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16600 NE 80TH, ROOM 106
REDMOND, WA 98052

In Memoriam: Boyd Kinney

“He worked at Overlake School as caretaker of the property for 15 years.

“In 1996, he married longtime friend Irene Reil, Together, they contributed historic detail to the Redmond Historical Society. Irene passed away in 2000.

“In 2001 he moved to Omak and joined a fun-loving community with companion **Ethyl Forsythe**.

“A trusted pillar of the Redmond community, he could be found making morning coffee at Bud’s Drive-In before even the owner arrived. Steadfast and fun-loving, his passion was being of service to others. If you didn’t ride his school bus, then he probably fixed your toilet, filled your swimming pool, pumped out your basement, or beat you at cribbage.

“A memorial to his life will be held on March 15, 2008, at The Old Redmond Schoolhouse. Donations in memory of Boyd Kinney may be made to Redmond Fire Department Aid Car Fund. ●



Join the Redmond Historical Society AND HELP DISCOVER, RECOVER, PRESERVE AND SHARE REDMOND’S HISTORY!



LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (✓ Check one only.)

- \$5.00 TRAILBLAZER (Student)
 - \$20.00 PIONEER (Individual)
 - \$35.00 HOMESTEADER (Family)
 - \$200.00 ENTREPRENEUR (Supporter)
 - \$250.00 CORPORATE (Business)
 - \$1,000.00 HISTORY MAKER (Lifetime)
- All Contributions are tax deductible.*

Please make checks payable to:

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

✉ Fill out the form below and mail it with your check to:

Redmond Historical Society

Attn: Membership

ORSCC, Room 106

16600 NE 80th Street

Redmond, WA 98052

✂ (PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR CHECK.)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME EXACTY AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAME TAG FOR GENERAL MEETINGS.)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Birth Date (Month/Day/Year): _____

If Family Membership, other names to be included: _____

How would you like our complimentary newsletter delivered to you: E-Mail: _____ U.S. Mail: _____