



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2022 • VOL. 24 • NO. 6

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

SEE YOU AT DERBY DAYS!



Avondale Derby Float at the 1954 Derby Days Parade.
Source: Opie Hartman Collection, RHS Archives

Join the Redmond Historical Society this summer! Our office is open for scheduled visits and museum tours. We'll see you at Saturday Market, Derby Days, or one of our Walking Tours! See pages 4 and 7.

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 - Society acknowledges Lifetime Members **Duane and Joanne Isackson**, p. 9.
 - Sign up to walk (or ride) in the Derby Days Grand Parade, p. 10.

2022

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

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If you don't subscribe, please sign up.
Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.
State your preference of email or U.S. Mail.
The Historical Society prefers email as it's inexpensive and photos are enhanced online.

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HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIETY WELCOMES YOUNGEST LIFETIME MEMBER!



**New Lifetime Member
Thaddeus Norris
and RHS President
John Oftebro**

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, President John Oftebro presented a Lifetime Membership certificate to **Thaddeus Norris**, grandson of **Jackie Norris**. The membership was a surprise 18th birthday present. Jackie also purchased her own Lifetime Membership. Both are descendants of **William and Matilda Perrigo**.

NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY

Our next issue of this newsletter will be the Special Summer Edition in August.



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Society Partners with Sotheby's International Realty

Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty brokers **Cynthia Olsen** and **Mary Sullivan** have formed a unique partnership with the Redmond Historical Society in an effort to help raise money for the Society. Sotheby's International Realty will give 10% of commissions to support the Redmond Historical Society when you or someone you refer buys or sells property. Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty established this program as a way to give back to organizations that are committed to the welfare of our communities. For more information, contact Cynthia Olsen at cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com, 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com, 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



WHEN LOGGING WAS KING!

By John Oftebro

When my Grandpa Henry immigrated from Norway in 1894, he joined a logging crew east of Arlington. First as a *feller* cutting down the big first-growth firs and cedars, he was given a pay-raise to \$2.00 a day to become the *spar rigger*, climbing the tallest tree in the area to cut off the top and rig the spar pole to yard in the fallen logs so they could be moved to the sawmills.

Several years ago, our Society was treated to a presentation on logging and the sawmill industry in early Redmond by **Eric Erickson**. Eric grew up in Issaquah, where his grandfather was a partner in one of the many sawmills on Lake Sammamish. While Eric didn't follow in his family's footsteps, he has devoted his life to recording this important part of Washington state history.

I recently recorded Eric's oral history of the industry in Redmond and surrounding areas, and I was amazed at his vast knowledge and storytelling skills. Eric told of challenges of clearing land in the late 1800s as Redmond was being developed for farming and settlement. He described the logging techniques and



Spar rigger. Source: *This Was Logging*, Darius Kinsey

transportation of logs to the sawmills along Lake Sammamish by horse, oxen, trains, and trucks. The Campbell Mill, whose piles are still visible at the north end of the lake, had its own railroad, and the Siler Logging Company had a vast network of rails on Novelty and Union hills from Woodinville to Issaquah.

By the 1940s, most of the timber was gone, and the mills had been closed or burned down. But Eric's oral history now lives in our [Oral Histories Collection](#). Treat yourself to his story!

Note: Contact our office at info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org to arrange a time to review Eric's story or one of many others.

JOIN THE SOCIETY THIS SUMMER!

Look for us at one of the following events in Redmond. Better still, consider volunteering to staff our booth at the Saturday Market, or march with us in the Derby days parade. Contact our office, info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org, or call 425-885-2919. Our office hours are Mon.-Wed., 9:30 to 4:30.



Judy Lang and Cheryl Strong Magnuson at RHS booth, Derby Days 2016.



Jo Ann Potter and John Oftebro, Derby Days 2019. Our parade theme was the Eighteenth Amendment and the Suffrage Movement. We won the Most Community Spirit Award for our entry!



Tom Hansen and Gene Magnuson at the market, August 2021.

Redmond Derby Days

City Hall Campus

Saturday July 9

Grand Parade 11 a.m.

This annual city-wide festival brings out the crowds with bicycle races, parades, food, music, and more. Stop by and say Hello!

Redmond Saturday Market

9900 Willows Rd, Lot D

9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We'll be at the Market on the following days:

- Saturday, July 16
- Saturday, September 17
- Saturday, October 22

SOCIETY SEEKS BOOKKEEPER/ ACCOUNTANT



The Redmond Historical Society is looking for pro bono services from a bookkeeper with accounting experience in QuickBooks. We are seeking candidates with a passion for history who are highly organized, analytical, detail-oriented, able to juggle multiple priorities, and work both independently and as a member of a team.

Responsibilities include:

- Process monthly accounting activities, payroll, bank reconciliations, maintain accounting financial files
- File 990 and other tax documents
- Prepare monthly report for Board of Directors meeting (2nd Tuesdays)
- Assist with budget as requested for grant applications and/or other needs

Also, we are modernizing the manner in which donors, members, and volunteers are accounted for. Integrating this change into our financial reporting system will be an exciting challenge. The Society would welcome the Bookkeeper's input in the process. That input would be critical to our success going forward.

Skills

- Reporting & Dashboards
- Cost Analysis
- Accounting
- Bookkeeping
- Compliance Checklists

Requirements

- Background Check
- Must be at least 21
- Orientation or Training
- Hybrid role with a blend of onsite service and virtual work
- QuickBooks experience
- 3 years Accounting and/or Bookkeeping experience, 1-year commitment

Time commitment

- 10-12 hours per month; 5-7 hours per month once process is streamlined
- 1 year of service

Interested? Please contact john.oftebro@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

A MURDER IN REDMOND By Tom Hitzroth

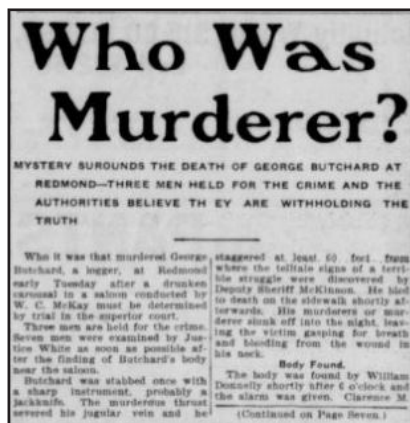
At approximately 6:00 a.m. on November 22, 1905, **William Donnelly**, a local merchant, walked to his store in the downtown. Since there were no streetlights in town at that time, and it would not be daybreak for another hour and a half, he presumably had a lantern to light the way. He passed the railroad depot, then turned north on Leary Way. In 1905, the lot along Leary Way—today occupied by Home Grown, El Toreador, and Palmer's East—was vacant. It was along that lot he discovered the body of **George Butchard**, a logger, dead from a stab wound. Donnelly woke **Clarence Stitham**, a local butcher, occasional bartender at McKay's Saloon—where Edge and Spoke is today—and deputy sheriff serving under the King County Sheriff Lou Smith.

Deputy Stitham was reluctant to begin the investigation or locate those who had been at the saloon the previous evening. This prompted **Justice William White** to inform King County Sheriff Lou Smith who would, in due course, revoke Stitham's deputy sheriff's commission.

Dean Jowers and I have been looking into this case to coax out details from the limited documentation that has survived.

Part of the concern here is that this homicide was not investigated with the same level of attention as it would be today. I obtained a copy of the coroner's inquest, which provided valuable background on the case and the extent of the investigation conducted at that time. The newspaper coverage of the crime is interesting (see below), but of limited use.

The investigation is in its beginning stages. We will continue to review and develop this case to determine if any conclusions are suggested, or can be reached to shed more light on this early Redmond crime.



Article in *The Seattle Star*,
November 22, 1905

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2022 WALKING TOURS

Since 2003, Tom Hitzroth has led walking tours of Redmond's historic district. Over the years, the tour has evolved from one hour to two, with the script changing as new information is discovered. This year, the tour will incorporate the site of a newly discovered hotel and the site of a 1905 homicide.

A lifelong Eastside resident, Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond's development from its earliest time into the 1930s. He is currently investigating the historic site of the settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond, the land claim area of Redmond, and the historic development of the downtown.



Tom Hitzroth in front
of Justice White House/
Hotel Redmond.
Photo: John Oftebro



2022 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday June 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday August 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday September 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St. Tours will not be conducted in the rain.

Please be advised that proof of vaccination or a negative test result is not required for this outdoor tour, but masks are encouraged. These events also include a significant amount of walking or standing, with limited opportunities for resting. We recommend wearing comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bringing a water bottle.

Tickets are available for \$10 per person on the Events page at [RedmondHistoricalSociety.org](https://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org). Registration is required by the Wednesday prior to the tour, and tours are limited to 10 participants. To ensure the group maximum is not exceeded, please make sure your registration includes every member of your party. For further questions, please call our office at 425-885-2919.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Donald White	June 5
Jan Harris	June 14
Tony Usibelli	June 22
Sylvia Bernauer	July 2
Robin de Regt	July 15
Faye Kerrigan	July 16
Othman Erekaeni	July 22
Paige Norman	July 30
Tsong-Jhy Kao	August 1
Jane Mecke Wood	August 3
Larry Miller	August 21
Doris Schaible	August 25
John DeYoung	August 18

If you'd like us to recognize your birthday in upcoming newsletters, please complete the information on your renewal form or email: membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sharon Freeman, Ballisty
Louise Graep Barnes
Laura Lee Bennett
David Best
John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
John Couch
Cory de Jong
Sally Jo Eberhardt
Betty L. Emmanuel
Tony Emmanuel
Elaine Sween Etzler
Don and Mary Fowler
Frank Garbarino
Peggy Garbarino
Madeleine Roberts Hagen
Mary Hanson
Jerry Hardy
Chris Himes
Duane Isackson
Rosemarie Ives
Patricia Weiss Jovag

Barbara Weiss Joyce
Allen Lang
Judy Aries Lang
Judith M. Lankford
Miguel Angel Llanos
*Cheryl Strong Magnuson
*Gene Magnuson
Jon M. Magnussen
Dorothy Matsui
Diana Morelli
Panfilo Morelli
Allison Reed Morris
Jackie Norris
Thaddeus Norris
Edward O'Brien
Deborah Oftebro
John Oftebro
LeRoy Olson
Dale Potter
Jo Ann Potter
Bobbie Graep Rettig
Dave Rockenbeck

Laurie M. Rockenbeck
Margy U. Rockenbeck
William Rockenbeck
Doris Bauer Schaible
Dick Shinstrom
Karen Snapp
Frederick Springsteel
Beryl Standley
John C. Stilin
Sherry B. Stilin
Fred Stray
Larry O. Sundholm
Subhadra Terhanian
Doris Townsend
Joe Townsend
Patricia Trepanier
Roger Trepanier
Sue-Lynn Walsh
Patti Simpson Ward
Donald Glennister Watts
Joanne Westlund
James Windle

An asterisk (*) indicates Family Lifetime members. A full listing of Lifetime Members, both current and in memoriam, is available at redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

DUANE AND JOANNE ISACKSON: LIFETIME MEMBERS

By Paige Norman

The Isackson family history in Redmond begins when John and Johanna (Jonsson) Bengston arrived in Redmond in 1887, homesteading in Happy Valley with her husband John. Johanna's brothers Charles, Isaac Gust, and Albert Jonsson followed in the 1890s during the Gold Rush, changing the family name to [Isackson](#) and staying with their sister on the homestead.

Duane's grandfather, Charles Isackson married Anna Carlson and built a cabin for his family of 10 on 80 acres gifted to him by John and Johanna. Duane's father, Henry was one of Charles and Anna's children, and Duane's aunt, Edith, married George Magnuson.

Joanne's father Donald Meier came to Washington state during the Depression, and moved from Seattle to the west side, north end of Lake Sammamish in 1942, with his bride Mary (Nelsen). Don worked at the Houghton shipyards, and along with Mary and several other families, were founding members of [Faith Lutheran Church](#). Four generations of Joanne's family have been active at the Happy Valley Grange, beginning in the 1940s, with her grandmother, [Elizabeth Green](#).

Joanne and Duane celebrated 60 years of marriage in May 2022 and are still an active part of the Redmond community through their continued involvement in the Happy Valley Grange and Redmond Historical Society. Joanne gifted a Lifetime Membership to Duane, who was presented with his certificate by Society President, John Oftebro, at the March 2022 meeting of the Happy Valley Grange.

Redmond Historical Society appreciates all our members! We have a level for every budget and memberships make great gifts for the history lover in your family!



**RHS President John Oftebro
with Joanne and Duane Isackson.**



**Johanna Isackson Bengston in front
of her cabin six miles east of town,
north of Redmond Fall City Highway.
Source: RHS Archives**



**Duane Isackson receives Lifetime
Membership certificate from John
Oftebro at Happy Valley Grange.**

*Editor's Note: A longer version of this article appears on the RHS website:
www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/post/duane-and-joanne-isackson-lifetime-members*

270 HOURS VOLUNTEERED!



DERBY DAYS PARADE JULY 9TH

Walk with us in the Parade!
Our Theme: History & Harvest

Dress up like a farmer, a fruit, a vegetable, or a farm animal (or a honey bee or a butterfly). We will also have items for you to carry, but your creative ideas are always welcome.

Volunteer to staff our Redmond Historical Society booth. This is always an enjoyable way to be part of the community. There are two-hour shifts available from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Meet and visit with your fellow Redmond residents. Craft projects will be available for the kids.

Let me know how you will be volunteering at this fun event.

Email me at: volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.org

VOLUNTEER VOICE

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." —Sherry Anderson, Author



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

Trailblazer/Student (1 member)	\$5	_____
Pioneer/Individual (1 member)	\$25	_____
Homesteader/Family (2 members)	\$40	_____
Visionary/Business	\$250	_____
History Maker/Lifetime (1 member)	\$1,000	_____
Legacy/Family Lifetime (2 members)	\$2,000	_____

☐ I'd like to be a Sustaining Partner through annual donations in addition to my membership.

Membership Names: 1) _____ 2) _____

Address: _____ Unit# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthdate Member 1 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

Birthdate Member 1 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

- ☐ Address Change
 ☐ New Member
 ☐ Renewal
 ☐ Gift membership
☐ New to Redmond
 ☐ I am interested in being a volunteer

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16600 NE 80th Street • Redmond, WA 98052

You may also renew or purchase a membership through our website at
<http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org>

The Redmond Recorder is available via email and viewable on our website. You may request a paper copy by contacting our office at info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.



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