



THE REDMOND RECORDER

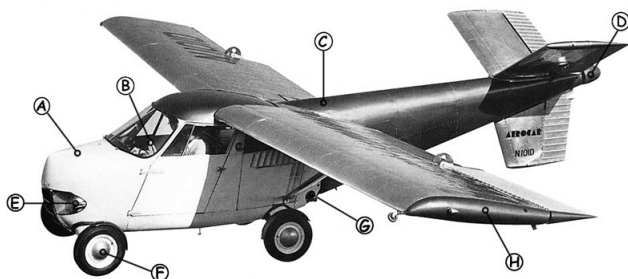
REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2020 • VOL. 22 • NO. 3

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 10:30am-noon
Redmond Public Safety Building
8701 160th Ave NE, Redmond WA 98052

WASHINGTON ON WHEELS: ODD AND INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION IDEAS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



The Aerocar.

It's "transportation month" at the Redmond Historical Society! From tribal canoe journeys to dusty wagon trails to flying cars, author and broadcaster **Harriet Baskas** explores the history and culture of travel in Washington State. Baskas is speaking courtesy of Humanities Washington. Join us on March 14 at the Saturday Speakers Series for this fascinating program. See p. 4.

- President John Oftebro digs into Redmond's past, p. 3.
- KCLS and the Society offer evening program on Seattle's first railway, p. 5.
- Tom Hitzroth looks at early Redmond merchant William Donnelly's many stores, p. 6.

2020

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

FREE NEWSLETTER

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.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

[facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society](https://www.facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society)

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8525-163rd Court NE #120
Redmond, WA 98052

WEBSITE redmondhistoricalsociety.org

EMAIL info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org

HOURS Monday, Tuesday,
and Wednesday:
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SOCIETY NEWS



It was standing room only at the Society's Saturday Speaker program last month. Seattle journalist Knute Berger gave a thought-provoking talk on Redmond's ties to fascism.

Photo courtesy of Keelin Everly-Lang



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 is looking to buy or sell property. Ask Cynthia Olsen, Mary Sullivan, or the Society for details. 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.



DIGGING INTO REDMOND'S HISTORY

By John Oftebro

While I was helping our website team review changes that will be **coming soon** to your online device, I found several compelling news items on Redmond's timeline. If I ever get on *Jeopardy*, I'll have a chance with Redmond trivia! When I logged on to the "History" section and hit "By the Decade," I got quick glimpses of each 10-year span.

Centennial Decade 1941-1950

1941 - Lookout station to watch for enemy aircraft locates at the Y—Avondale Road and Redmond Way. Nighttime blackouts severely limit community social life.

1946 - Redmond chicken farmer **Silvio Morelli** was the first in the Seattle area to use electric lights in the hen houses to regulate egg laying.

1950 - Redmond population is 573 according to the US Census. Fifteen mink ranches operate on Union Hill.

Centennial Decade 1961-1970

1963 - The US Army Corps of Engineers dredges and straightens the Sammamish River to prevent flooding. The project shortened the river from 30 miles long to 14 miles long and was completed in 1964.

1964 - Redmond makes global news with the archeology dig at Marymoor Park—once a salmon fishing site for Native Americans. Here's a [link](#) to the video, "Digging Up the Past" by Louis R. Huber and Northern Films of Seattle.

1963 - Evergreen Point Floating Bridge opens, and extends SR 520 to 148th.

1968 - Radical Minutemen members are convicted of conspiracy to rob banks by setting off bombs as a diversion in Redmond. Find the full news article under "Collections" and "SVN Archives" edition for January 31, 1968.

Centennial Decade 1981-1990

1986 - In February, Microsoft Corporation moved its headquarters from Bellevue to Redmond.

Centennial Decade 1990-2000

1999 - Redmond Historical Society holds its first meeting at the Redmond Library on May 22 with 22 in attendance. Founders are **Miguel Llanos**, **Margaret Evers Wiese**, and **Naomi Hardy**.

Try this out and learn what happened in Redmond during your years here—or before!

WASHINGTON ON WHEELS: ODD AND INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION IDEAS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

"It just might work" is the credo of innovators and inventors. Although Boeing is the best-known innovator in travel in Washington State, there are many others. On Saturday, March 14, author and broadcaster **Harriet Baskas** takes audiences on a tour of notable highlights of state transportation history, examining not just how we get around, but why we travel and where we might be going next.

Audiences will be invited to share family stories of migration, memories of first flights and unforgettable car trips, and consider a future of autonomous cars and vacations in space.

A Seattle resident, Harriet Baskas has an MA in communications from the University of Washington, has served as the general manager for three Pacific Northwest radio stations, and has created award-winning radio for NPR. Her books include *Hidden Treasures: What Museums Can't or Won't Show You*. She currently



Harriet Baskas

writes about airports, air travel, and museums for outlets that include NBC News, CNBC, and *USA Today*.

Enjoy a relaxing morning at the Redmond Historical Society Saturday Speaker Series, a monthly program that features six speakers addressing topics of local, state, and Pacific Northwest historical interest. The series is held 10:30am – noon at the Redmond Public Safety Building, 8701 160th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052. Doors open at 10:00 am. \$5 suggested donation for non-members. Speakers subject to change. For details: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

humanities | h
WASHINGTON | w

SEATTLE'S FIRST RAILROAD: THE SEATTLE COAL & TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Monday, 7 PM, March 9, 2020
Redmond King County Library
15990 NE 85th St, Redmond WA 98052
Free

Before Boeing and Microsoft, there was coal, the most significant source of prosperity for Seattle and the surrounding region during the nineteenth century. Carrying that coal from the mines at Newcastle to the harbor at Seattle was the Seattle Coal & Transportation Company, Puget Sound's first railroad. Join us on March 9 as **Kent Sullivan** and fellow members of the Newcastle Historical Society present new discoveries and rare images of this obscure piece of Northwest history and its operations.



Source: Eastside Heritage Center



kcls.org



Kent Sullivan (far left) and fellow members
of the Newcastle Historical Society

WILLIAM DONNELLY AND HIS STORES

— PART 2

By Tom Hitzroth

Continuing the reflection from last month's column on early store owner, **William Donnelly**, I will look at his four additional locations in Redmond. This information was compiled from Donnelly's obituary and supplemented by maps, photographs, tax records, census records, and property record cards.

When Donnelly left his first location on Railroad Street, he built his second store (photo #1) where Minuteman Press is today. He purchased the property from Mary Story, an early resident and neighbor, on June 18, 1908. His store replaced a house on the site, constructed in 1900, during the ownership of Mary Adair (William Sikes' mother-in-law).

On July 18, 1918, the Granger's Warehouse of Redmond was incorporated, and on July 26, 1918, the Grange purchased the lot on Gilman Street east of the railroad depot where **Cyrus Norman's** saloon was located. The Grange remodeled the saloon, and Donnelly moved his store to the new Grange Hall (photo #2). By 1930, Donnelly moved to the building (photo #3) that features Edge and Spoke today and was formerly a hotel. At that time, the building was owned by Harmony Lodge No. 60, a Masonic

lodge. Masonic meetings were held on the second floor, and Donnelly's store occupied the first floor.

On May 6, 1931, Clarence Pope purchased the property and opened a hardware store. Donnelly returned to his second location (photo #1), where he remained until his death on July 16, 1934. The store would continue at that location for a few more years.

Donnelly and his wife **Emma**, who passed away December 23, 1941, are among Redmond's earliest merchants and made a significant contribution to the development of Redmond as it was emerging from a village into a town. They are buried in the Redmond Community Cemetery ("Pioneer Cemetery").

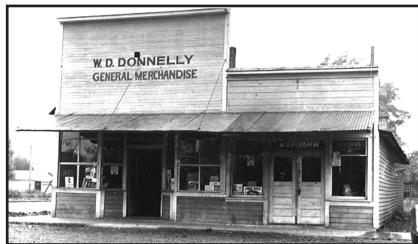


Photo 1: Sites #2 and #5 of Donnelly's store. Photograph dated to 1937.



Photo 2: Site #3 of Donnelly's store. Photograph dated to 1938.

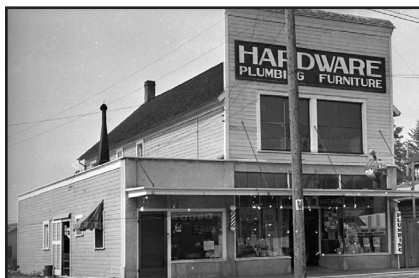


Photo 3: Site #4 of Donnelly's store dated to 1937. This is when it was Pope's Hardware.

Author's note: All photos courtesy Puget Sound Regional Archives, Bellevue College

SOCIETY CELEBRATES 17 YEARS OF WALKING TOURS



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

Since 2003, Tom 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. "I'm looking for the question I can't answer, which means I need to look further into a particular area."

A lifelong Eastside resident Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond development from its earliest times into the 1930s. He is currently researching the historic site of

the earlier settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond as well as the historic development of the downtown.

2020 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday April 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday May 17, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday June 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday September 6, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person with a limit of 10 people per group. You can pre-register for the event by calling our office at 425.885.2919. You can also drop by our office, or mail in a check to 8525-163rd Ct. NE Suite #120, Redmond, WA, 98052. You can also pre-register on our website: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org. Registrations must be received by the Wednesday before the tour.

Tours include a significant amount of walking and standing, with limited opportunity for resting. We recommend comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. If you have any further questions about our tours, please call our office. Tour begins across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT – FAMILY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Recently we welcomed our very first **Family Lifetime** members, Gene & Cheryl Strong Magnuson. This membership level is new to the Society and was designed to recognize those in our community with a life-long family commitment to our organization.

Many of our **Lifetime** members have been active in our community for many years; Gene and Cheryl are no different. Cheryl manages our Facebook page and provides countless comparisons of Redmond “Now vs. Then” in photos and historical information. Gene is a former Society Board member and a lifelong Redmond resident; both Gene and Cheryl joined the Society in its first year and have been active members ever since.

Dave & Margy Rockenbeck are **Lifetime** members and have been active in the Society; Margy is currently our Executive Vice President and Program Chair of the Saturday Speaker Series, providing fascinating speakers and rich local history.

We have two former mayors in the **Lifetime** member category, Rosemarie Ives and Chris Himes. Both ladies are also active in the community and continue to represent Redmond with their civic activities and generous support of the Society.

Family Lifetime members receive all the benefits of membership, including free entry to our Saturday Speaker Series, receipt of our newsletter, and of course, recognition on our website. They also receive two votes at our annual business meetings.

Lifetime members receive those benefits as well, but only one vote at annual business meetings.

If you're interested in making a lifelong commitment to the future of Redmond Historical Society, consider becoming a **Lifetime** or **Family Lifetime** member!

Level	#/Members	Cost	Renews
Traillblazer/Student	(1 person/Show ID)	\$5	Annually
Pioneer/Individual	(1 person)	\$25	Annually
Homesteader/Family	(2 people)	\$40	Annually
Visionary/Business		\$250	Annually
History Maker/Lifetime	(1 person)	\$1,000	
Legacy/Family Lifetime	(2 people)	\$2,000	



VOLUNTEER CORNER

By Jo Ann Potter

Twenty-seven (27) volunteers clocked 380 hours in January!

As you can see from the numbers above, we are a group that is extremely dependent on volunteers. Without them, we could not exist. Some give their time in various ways throughout the month, whether it be scooping ice cream or folding newsletters. Each job, no matter how big or small, is important; it must be done in order for us to have an active, viable Society.



AND



Boots and Bow Ties, our May 9th fundraiser, is less than three months away! Please ask the businesses that you patronize to donate items for our auction. These may be in the form of services, specific items, or gift cards. If every member located just one item, we would have more than 100 possibilities on which to bid!

Come help us with all the many preparations for this event by contacting volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.org. We need you to make our fundraiser, and the Redmond Historical Society, a success.

A Volunteer Voice...

I grew up in Redmond and went to school in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse. After college, I left the area for 50 years. I'm back and amazed at the changes to our little country town! It is a pleasure to contribute to its historical record that I recall as a kid.

- Ed O'Brien, Facilities Coordinator

HUGE HISTORIC THANK YOUS – ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Many thanks to our January 2020 volunteers for their generous donation of time and effort to ensure a successful membership event.

Ice Cream Social Volunteers

John Gustaveson
John Oftebro
Dean Jowers
Tom Hansen
Indira Krishnaswami
Judy Lang
Laura Lee Bennett
Paige Norman
Sylvia Bernauer
Russ Norman
Mary Hanson
Deborah Oftebro
Dale Potter
Rachel Davis

Patsy Rosenbach
Ed O'Brien
Cheryl Magnuson
Gene Magnuson
Sally Eberhardt
Jo Ann Potter
Halee Turner

Band Trio

Cheryl Magnuson
Lori Bilke
Jan Montgomery

Website Presentation

ChuNi Kao
Amy Cast

Newsletter Mailing Party

Patsy Rosenbach
Karla Stalwick
Jo Ann Potter
Ed O'Brien

Renewal Membership Mailing

Judy Lang
CeLinda Kotsogean
Jo Ann Potter

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sharon Freeman, Ballisty

Louise Graep Barnes

David Best

John and Jay Cogan

Marjorie Costello

John Couch

Cory de Jong

Betty L. Emmanuel

Tony Emmanuel

Don and Mary Fowler

Frank Garbarino

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Fred Stray

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Subhadra Terhanian

Doris Townsend

Joe Townsend

Roger Trepanier

Arlyn Bjerke Vallene

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.



JOIN REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

CONSIDER A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR A FAVORITE HISTORY BUFF.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only.)

- \$5.00** TRAILBLAZER (Student)
- \$25.00** PIONEER (Individual)
- \$40.00** HOMESTEADER (Family)
- \$250.00** VISIONARY (Business)
- \$1,000.00** HISTORY MAKER (Lifetime)
- \$2,000.00** LEGACY (Family Lifetime)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fill out the form below, cut out and mail with your check to:

**Redmond Historical Society
Attn: Membership
Vision 5 Building
8525-163rd Court NE #120
Redmond, WA 98052**

**RENEW
Now!**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION • Application effective for year: 2020

Membership Names: 1) _____ 2) _____

Address: _____ Unit# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Address Change

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Newsletter Delivery Preferences

☐ New to Redmond

☐ I would like to volunteer

☐ Email

☐ US Mail

How did you hear about the Redmond Historical Society? _____



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vision 5 Building

8525-163rd Court NE #120

Redmond, WA 98052

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City of Redmond



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