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# THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2021 • VOL. 23 • NO. 7

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## WET, BUT FUN: SOCIETY SOLVES 'REDMOND'S GREAT ADVENTURE'



**Dry at last! The Redmond Historical Society team  
in front of Conundroom. Photo: John Oftebro**

On an exceptionally rainy Sunday in June, Society members and volunteers gathered at Conundroom—a local escape room venue—to test an outdoor puzzle hunt called “Redmond’s Great Adventure.” The game is a mix of historical questions, based on the Society’s *Historic Downtown Walking Guide*, and puzzles that require the team’s collective powers of deduction to solve. RHS challenged the City of Redmond’s team, led by **Kim Dietz**, to see who could get the best time. See story on p. 5.

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  - Historian **Tom Hitzroth** takes a second look at the Old Log School, p. 6.
  - VP **Laura Lee Bennett** passes the Newsletter Editor baton, p.10.

# 2021

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If you don't subscribe, please sign up. Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email [info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto: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

We bid a fond farewell to **Rachel Davis**, who served as VP of Collections from October 2018 to May 2021. Rachel worked with **Halee Turner** and **Dean Jowers** in designing our new museum space in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse. Thank you, Rachel, for your contributions to preserving Redmond's past!



**Collections Committee 2018: Dean Jowers, Rachel Davis, and Halee Turner**



**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. 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](mailto:cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com), 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at [mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com), 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



## HISTORIC YEARS, NOW AND BACK THEN

By John Oftebro

First, we all know how to identify the year 2020—the Year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. What a tremendous challenge for Redmond citizens, and people around the world: riddled with fear, anxiety, masks, illness and death, and finally vaccines and hope. In 2021, even as we have emerged victorious, we are still challenged by new variant strains of the virus.

Second, we will remember 2021 as the year of when a "Heat Dome" attacked the Pacific Northwest with temperatures reaching 112° in Redmond on June 29!

Not surprisingly, for the second year in a row the Redmond Bicycle Derby has been cancelled. With its community fundraising beginnings in 1939, this event has been a part of Redmond life and summer fun for decades. It turns out, though, now it's even been difficult to buy a bicycle due to increased interest in cycling during the pandemic and ongoing short supply.

Speaking of summer fun, for many years another Redmond summer highlight was the Sammamish Slough boat races that began in 1930, with fast runabouts and hydroplanes skimming the river. **Bob Waite, John Laird, Chip**



**Sammamish Slough boat races.**  
April 12, 1967. RHS Archives.

**Hanauer**, and many others would dash through the 18 miles of then-curving river from Kenmore to Marymoor, then back to Kenmore. For the less daring, the Jaycees sponsored a raft race that drew crazy entries like inner tubes lashed together and homemade rafts of every description, with winners in several fun categories. In 1964 the meandering and flood-prone "slough" was straightened out, taking six miles of curves away forever. Today, the waterway is occasionally populated with rafts, kayaks, and paddleboards and the paved trail that follows the river is always busy with walkers, runners, and cyclists! See vintage race footage on our website. [tinyurl.com/4xek8tyt](https://tinyurl.com/4xek8tyt)

We hope you can now enjoy the summer of 2021, while still healing from a rough 2020!

## **VIRTUAL SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER**

The Redmond Historical Society is pleased to announce the schedule for our 2021-2022 Saturday Speaker Series, held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Topics range from local and state to regional history. Given current restrictions, the Society will continue to host these programs virtually in the Zoom webinar format. These programs are free to members and the public.

Beginning in September, more information and registration details will be available in this newsletter and on our website under [www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/events](http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/events). Please stay tuned!

Saturday, September 11, 2021  
**The River That Made Seattle (Duwamish)**

BJ Cummings

Author, Speaking Courtesy of Humanities Washington

Saturday, October 9, 2021  
**New Findings of the Bear Creek Site**

Steven Mullen-Moses

Director of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, Snoqualmie Tribe

Saturday, November 13, 2021  
**Whiskey and Wiretaps: The Northwest's Rumrunning King (Roy Olmstead)**

Steve Edmiston

Author, Lawyer, Speaking Courtesy of Humanities Washington

Saturday, February 12, 2022  
**Catching a Map Thief: The Man Who Stole Rare Maps from 100 Libraries — Including Washington State**

Robert Lopresti

Author, Government Information Librarian

Saturday, March 12, 2022  
**Women's Lives in the Issaquah Valley, 1890–1930**

Erica Maniez

Executive Director, Issaquah History Museums

Saturday, April 9, 2022  
**History of the Panama Hotel in Seattle**

Jan Johnson

Owner, Historian

# HISTORICAL PUZZLE HUNT ENTERTAINS WHILE IT TEACHES

By **Laura Lee Bennett**

On an exceptionally rainy Sunday in June, Society members and volunteers gathered at Conundroom, a local escape room venue, to test an outdoor puzzle hunt. The game, called “Redmond’s Great Adventure,” is a mix of questions based on the Society’s *Historic Downtown Walking Guide* and puzzles that require the team’s collective powers of deduction to solve.

The Society worked with **Aleksei (Alex) Kniazev**, owner of Conundroom, to test the game for historical accuracy and pacing. The game itself consists of a mobile app and a die-cut, eco-friendly cardboard puzzle box filled with clues that takes you on a journey through the historical downtown Redmond and takes about 90 minutes to complete. The Society made a friendly wager with **Kim Dietz**, Senior Planner with the City of Redmond, to see which team would make the best time.

So which team won? The best time is 55 minutes for the City of Redmond, and 1:16 minutes for the Historical Society! “But, I want to mention that [the] Historical Society completed it under the worst rain that we ever had in this month!” says Alex. “I think that the extreme weather conditions and [a] fully wet box with materials can remove 20 minutes and make it [the competition] really tight.”



**A clue is found on the side of Bill Brown’s saloon, which today houses The Matador.**

**Photo: John Oftebro**

The Society team—**John Oftebro, Dean Jowers, Russ Norman, Joe Townsend, Christine Clark, Juan Barco, and Laura Lee Bennett**—had a great time, despite the weather. “I was really impressed with the clue trail, and that it stayed so local and used many of our Walking Guide stops for the destinations and next clues,” says John.

## **Take the Challenge!**

Visit [the Conundroom website](#) and schedule your Redmond Adventure.

# THE OLD LOG SCHOOL – PART 2

By Tom Hitzroth

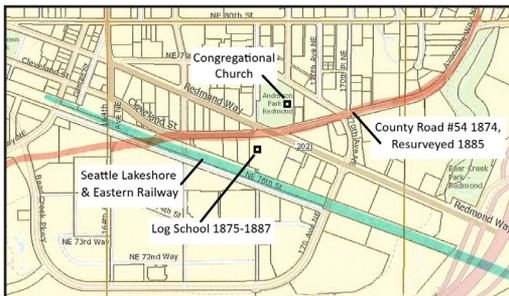
Clarence Bagley's *History of King County* states, the "Log School closed after six weeks owing to the severity of the winter." I began looking into what the 1887 winter had to do with closing of the school. There is evidence to suggest that weather might not have been the only cause.

According to the Territorial Law of 1869, "All school districts in the Territory shall maintain schools during at least three months each school year." In 1882, School District #34 was formed. The Territorial Law of 1883 established the school year as July 1 to June 30.

The temperatures for September 1887 ranged from a high of 78° to a low of 40°. In October, the temperatures ranged from 65° to 29°. The diary of **Clarissa Colman**

of Kennydale also supports this daily pattern. By December it had not snowed.

In 1874, a county road opened near the school. In May 1887, the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railway began acquiring land for laying track that would pass near the school (see map). On September 17, 1887, School District #57 was established. The boundary of the new district took 25% of School District #34. The winter may not have directly affected the Log School closure as much as the march of progress. The King County Board of Commissioner's records show the building was used as a voting place, and a statement made in 1935 by a teacher who taught in 1887 indicated that it was used as a cow shelter. However, its use as a school had come to an end.



The Log School site in relation to the Congregational Church and the railroad tracks.  
Image: Author's collection

# SOCIETY BRINGS BACK 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. "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 investigating the historic site of the earlier settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond as well as the historic development of Redmond's downtown.



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



## 2021 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday August 15, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday September 5, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled "rain or shine" and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St.

Please be advised that fully vaccinated individuals may opt to not wear a mask during this event. 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 at [Redmond Historical Society Events](#). 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.

# INTRODUCING LIFETIME MEMBERS: ROGER AND PATTI TREPANIER

By Paige Norman

**Roger Trepanier** was born in Connecticut and attended prep school and college in Worcester, Massachusetts. After college, Roger joined the Army, then joined TIAA in New York City.

At a party in New York, he met **Patti Kirschner**, a Vashon Island native and a flight attendant for United Airlines. Patti's father Don and his brother Bill owned a company that manufactured fiberglass pet cages. In the early '60s, Kirschner Mfg. evolved into the K2 Ski Company.

Roger and Patti married and moved across the country to Redmond in 1969; Roger joined the Farmers Insurance Group on Mercer Island and Patti retired from United Airlines, taking on the role of mother to their two sons. She taught aerobics at the Bellevue YMCA and has continued to volunteer at the Redmond Senior Center, including a position on the Senior Advisory Committee. She continues her commitment to the community by volunteering with Meals on Wheels.

Roger became interested in Redmond civics after attending a City Council meeting in 1971. He ran for Council and served as a Council member from 1976 until 1987 and was the Council President



Roger and Patti at a recent Mariners game

for one of his terms. He worked with three mayors during his terms: **Bud Young** (1968–1979), **Chris Himes** (1980–1984), and **Doreen Marchione** (1984–1991). After his Council years, Roger chaired the capital campaign that funded the Public Safety Building and the Senior Center.

Roger learned about Redmond Historical Society through a Redmond City Council meeting and has enjoyed the Saturday Speaker Series, which led him to becoming a Lifetime Member. Patti purchased her Lifetime Membership in April 2021.

For more of Roger and Patti's story, see our full article on the Society Blog. [tinyurl.com/wwf5ujv4](https://tinyurl.com/wwf5ujv4)

*Welcome, Roger and Patti, to our Lifetime Membership family!*

## 292 HOURS IN JUNE!

### VINTAGE 'SINGER' GETS NEW LIFE

By Laura Lee Bennett

One of the many summer projects has been the careful cleanup of a Singer sewing machine. Society member and volunteer **Patsy Rosenbach** worked with office manager **Halee Turner** to bring the machine back to life.

“We’ve worked on the sewing machine over two to three weekly shifts. Our goal was to clean for display and to prevent any further deterioration—rather than restore,” explains Halee. The sewing machine had been stored at Martin Park for several years—and gathered quite a bit of dust. They removed dust and any other debris from the storage area underneath the machine by hand, using nitrile gloves. They placed debris in a bowl, so that they could examine it for any small parts or pertinent items.

“We vacuumed the interior and exterior,” continues Halee. “Though this removed some of the dust, it still needed to be wiped down by hand. The machine has some decorative designs that are worn from use. We kept an eye on these while working—to make sure there was no additional wear or damage to the designs.” A blade was used to gently lift



**Before and after cleanup: Singer serial number G9071749, ca. 1921.  
Photos: Patsy Rosenbach**

a strip of tape on the exterior of the machine. The latches on the case had gathered dust, so they cleaned them out and placed small strips of foam in each to prevent future build up. The electrical cords were wiped down as well, and recoiled, following their existing bends. “Since the interior space is now clean, we were able to store the cords in there—to make sure they aren’t separated from the machine. “It looks a lot better now!” concludes Halee. “As always, Patsy’s been a huge help.”

## PASSING THE BATON: A NOTE OF GRATITUDE By Laura Lee Bennett

When I worked in the Society office in 2016, one of my tasks was to edit the monthly newsletter, *The Redmond Recorder*. I sat with then-editor **Jeanne Gustafson**, professional journalist and Society volunteer, who patiently stepped me through the layout process. When I returned to volunteering in 2017, the Newsletter Editor role followed me.

I am forever grateful for this experience. Working with this community has been the real deal. I've felt like I was finally "home."

Since January 2021, I've worked with a series of "Guest Editors" to see who might be the best fit for the role. I'm happy to introduce **Christine Clark** as the new Editor of the Society's newsletter, starting with this issue. *Welcome, Christine!*

Many thanks to **Sue Plahn**, **Taylor Fievez**, and **Deb Kyle** for their thoughtful contributions to the newsletter. We hope to see more of their involvement in the near future!

## OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

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 Patti Simpson Ward  
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 James Windle

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



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2021 MEMBERSHIP**

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<b>Pioneer/Individual</b> (1 member)	<b>\$25</b>	_____
<b>Homesteader/Family</b> (2 members)	<b>\$40</b>	_____
<b>Visionary/Business</b>	<b>\$250</b>	_____
<b>History Maker/Lifetime</b> (1 member)	<b>\$1,000</b>	_____
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: Member 1 \_\_\_\_\_ mm/dd/yyyy *(optional)*

Birthdate: Member 2 \_\_\_\_\_ mm/dd/yyyy *(optional)*

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New to Redmond     I am interested in being a volunteer

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