



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2021 • VOL. 23 • NO. 10

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

VIRTUAL SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES: 'WHISKEY AND WIRETAPS: THE NORTHWEST'S RUMRUNNING KING' (ROY OLMSTEAD)



New York City Deputy Police Commissioner John A. Leach, right, watching agents pour liquor into sewer following a raid during the height of Prohibition.
Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

On Thanksgiving Day, 1925, **Roy Olmstead** was trapped by federal Prohibition agents and their Tommy guns on a lonely Puget Sound dock. His reign as the Northwest's most prolific bootlegger had ended. But big questions—political, cultural, and legal—remained. Join us on November 13 as attorney and screenwriter **Steve Edmiston** shares the story of the infamous 1920s-era Seattle-area former cop-turned-rumrunner—known as the “Good Bootlegger.” Edmiston is speaking courtesy of Humanities Washington. For details and to register, see p. 4.

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2021

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

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Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.
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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

RHS OFFICE STILL CLOSED

Reminder: The Society's Office is still closed and can only be accessed by prior arrangement.

NO DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

There will be no December newsletter. We resume publication in January 2022. Safe and Happy Holidays to all!



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, 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com, 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

By John Oftebro

Having moved to Trilogy a little over a year ago, we are now meeting more people in our community, and a common theme when we hear their story is, where they are from. Many residents have moved here from across the country following their children or grandchildren. They are often surprised when I tell them I am a native Washingtonian.

Our last two Speaker Series programs have featured the **REAL** native Washingtonians. BJ Cummings gave a wonderful presentation on the 'Untold Story' of the Duwamish River and how development transformed Seattle's only river and changed the home of the indigenous people who thrived there for thousands of years. Reading her book gave me a new perspective into what life was before settlement by white settlers. Visiting the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center in West Seattle revealed even more poignant history of our region.

October's program presented by Steven Moses, who is the Director of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the Snoqualmie Tribe, took us back in time over 13,000 years of local history and reminded us of tribal culture and customs over the millennia. Steven provided samples of the Lushootseed language and descriptions of the many longhouses that dotted local lakeside and rivers and family life within them. He also described fishing techniques and other means of subsistence living in the days when there was no land ownership, but a sharing of the abundant resources by the many local tribes.

If you missed Steven's presentation, I urge to view it on our YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/m6JevSv6vBo>. Having viewed that, or if you attended the program, going on our website blogs, or in the recap in this newsletter, you will see related links and find ways to learn more and support important movements of local tribes.

‘BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID’ MEETS ‘THE UNTOUCHABLES’

Why did **Roy Olmstead**, the youngest lieutenant in Seattle Police Department history, form a secret gang to take over Prohibition bootlegging in the Northwest? What can we learn today from “The Good Bootlegger’s” story of whiskey-driven politics, culture wars, criminalization of popular social behavior, illegal surveillance, spies, sensational trials, and Constitution-bending trips to the Supreme Court?

Join us on November 13 as attorney and screenwriter **Steve Edmiston**—using photographs, documents, newspapers, and court cases—breathes life into Olmstead’s story by exploring historical context, his entrepreneurial brilliance, his code of conduct, and the profound impact of his legal battles today.

“Roy Olmstead’s story presents an amazing counterpoint to the violent reign of his contemporary, Al Capone,” notes Edmiston. “Our story is essentially ‘Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid’ meets ‘The Untouchables’, and is just a stunning, all-true story, that starts with the spectacular 1925 Thanksgiving Day Woodmont Dock Raid, a little black book with missing pages, and reaches to the United States Supreme Court and President Roosevelt.”



Steve Edmiston,
Attorney and Screenwriter

Steve Edmiston (he/him) is a business and entertainment lawyer with Bracepoint Law, an indie film screenwriter and producer, founder of Quadrant45, and co-founder of The Good Bootlegger’s Guild. He lives in Des Moines, near the site of Olmstead’s final arrest.

Time and Date: November 13, 2021
10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Registration is required.

To sign up for this free online presentation, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/RHSWhiskeyAndWiretaps>

For more information, visit www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org

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TRIBAL ARCHEOLOGIST SURVEYS HISTORY OF THE SAMMAMISH AREA

By **Laura Lee Bennett**

On October 9, **Steven Moses**, Director of Archeology and Historic Preservation for the Snoqualmie tribe, presented a brief history of the Sammamish area to more than 100 attendees.

The talk started with origin stories—such as the retelling of “return of the two sisters,” who were taken to the land of the Sky People—and whose child (Sluk^walb) became Duk^wibel (Moon the Transformer), the creator of “the various people and all of the rivers as they are now. He placed all of the fish in the rivers and made the wild game good to eat.” Village sites referred to in the stories included today’s towns of Fall City, Carnation, Redmond, Issaquah, North Bend, and Sammamish.

Steven’s young daughter, Skyla, chimed in on the story about the People of the Moon, lending a special endearing quality to the presentation.

Steven talked about recent archeological discoveries in Bear Creek, such as tools and arrowheads, and the waterway’s significance as a salmon habitat. He also shared some fascinating family history (his grandmother was a midwife to white settlers) and his own personal memories of growing up in Redmond and attending Lake Washington High School.

A recording of the program, followed by a lively Q&A, is available at <https://youtu.be/m6JevSv6vBo>

Many thanks to Steven and Skyla for sharing “a bit of our history and culture.” Thanks to **Halee Turner** for hosting the webinar, and program committee member **Margy Rockenbeck** for moderating the Q&A.

Questions, comments? Please submit them to manager@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

Further information

To learn more about the Snoqualmie Tribe: <https://snoqualmietribe.us/>

Snoqualmie Tribe Ancestral Land Movement: <https://snoqualmietribe.us/snoqualmie-tribe-ancestral-lands-movement/>

To learn more about Lushootseed and its regional dialects: <https://tulaliplushootseed.com/>
<https://www.puyalluptriballanguage.org/>

Take Action - Support the Snoqualmie Tribe

Through direct support, self-education, and by supporting Native-owned businesses. The following are Snoqualmie Tribe owned businesses: <https://www.snocasino.com/>
<https://www.salishlodge.com/>
<https://eighthgeneration.com/>

FIRE AT THE HOTEL REDMOND – PART ONE

By Tom Hitzroth

Last spring, I had the opportunity to work with the King County Historic Preservation Program in expanding the content of the previous Hotel Redmond Landmark Registration Form. I worked with the program's Landmarks Coordinator to expand the document from its original 10 pages in April 2010 to 35 pages in April 2021, making the narrative more comprehensive than before.

During this process, a newspaper article surfaced from *The Seattle Daily Times*, dated March 24, 1898. According to the article, a fire had occurred at the Hotel Redmond on March 22. From this article came some new information about the hotel. We now know that the hotel was constructed sometime in 1897 suggesting the hotel was in operation at least three years earlier than originally thought. We know that the hotel was in service six months before **Emma McRedmond** married **Judge William White**. We know what buildings were on the hotel property when it was first constructed, and that the post office building where Emma conducted her postmistress

duties was still standing, though she had left office on January 26, 1898.

The fire was first noticed by **William E. Sikes**, likely from the area of the Valley Hotel on Gilman Street. Although Emma was in the building at the time, she was apparently unaware of the fire. The fire began on the roof and was into the second floor when first seen by Sikes. It was believed at the time the hotel caught fire from the sparks of a train.

This put me on a two-month investigation into the fire and the determination that the train was not responsible for the fire. How that determination was made will be examined in the January newsletter.



Hotel Redmond, ca. 1905. Source: Eastside Heritage Center Archives

SOCIETY APPOINTS NEW VP OF COLLECTIONS

The Redmond Historical Society is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mary Horabik** as Vice President of Collections. Mary brings to the Society a wealth of museum education and interpretation experience. She is passionate about “bringing untold or unheard voices into museums through lesson plans and public programs.” She writes, “My primary interests are museum education and public programming. At my past jobs, internships, and in graduate school, I have had experience in all areas of education by giving tours, leading programs, creating and researching new content, and training others.” All of this experience contributes to her goal to be a Director of Education at a museum or non-profit.

“I moved here from Huntingtown, Maryland in July after graduating with a Master’s in Museum Studies in May. I work at KidsQuest Children’s Museum in Visitor Services but want to one day transition to a leadership position in an Education Department at any museum,” notes Mary. “I’ve always loved history, starting with checking out dinosaur and mummy books in preschool and ending up with a bachelor’s degree in



Mary Horabik

Archaeology! I love to bring history and collections out to all ages of the public.”

What does Mary have planned—especially for the days beyond COVID? “In the new role as VP of Collections, I want to bring more connections to the local schools and visiting public. I’m excited for this opportunity and can’t wait to learn about all things Redmond!”

She adds, “But here’s a secret: I live in Woodinville! I love dogs, so if anyone stopping by needs a pet sitter outside, I’d be more than willing to help out!”

You can reach out to Mary at Collections@Redmondhistoricalsociety.org.
Welcome, Mary!

HOURS VOLUNTEERED 274

A VOLUNTEER VOICE

WHY Be a Volunteer? “If you don’t know, then you should try it! Not only can you enhance, influence, and contribute, but at the same time you can learn new things, get experience, and be appreciated for ‘showing up’ to help! Another benefit of being a volunteer is that you become part of a team, a community, a cog in a big wheel. Turns out, it’s rewarding to participate.

And WHY choose the Redmond Historical Society? It always needs volunteers and funding. What it is, or does, is not exactly an essential service. It doesn’t draw attention to itself, and everyone will live without it. But, without it we won’t be able to look back very far, or find where we fit into Redmond’s history. Is it something you want your children or grandchildren to know about?

Like ANY museum it runs on donations and volunteers, and hopefully people are interested enough to keep it going. For me it was a chance to spend a couple of more quality hours with my husband while he has taken on several Redmond Historical Society board positions. When he mentioned they needed a Secretary, I winced at the chance! I am enjoying learning more about how a historical society is run, and how what’s done is directly related to the membership, community interest, and donation dollars. I have learned a lot. As I said before, you should give it a try and we would love to have you!”

-Deborah Oftebro, RHS Secretary



Jo Ann and Dale Potter and Joe Townsend volunteer at the Redmond Saturday Market RHS Booth. Photo by Cheryl Strong Magnuson.

If you are interested in helping support our mission, please visit [RHS online](#) or contact our Office.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Dale Potter – October 19
 Laura Lee Bennett – November 11
 John Gustaveson – November 16
 Pauline Rice – November 16
 Russ Norman – November 19
 Sue Stewart – November 23
 Rachid Erekaeni – December 30

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	Allen Lang	William Rockenbeck
Louise Graep Barnes	Judy Aries Lang	Doris Bauer Schaible
David Best	Judith M. Lankford	Dick Shinstrom
John and Jay Cogan	Miguel Angel Llanos	Frederick Springsteel
Marjorie Costello	*Cheryl Strong Magnuson	Beryl Standley
John Couch	*Gene Magnuson	John C. Stilin
Cory de Jong	Jon M. Magnussen	Sherry B. Stilin
Sally Jo Eberhardt	Dorothy Matsui	Fred Stray
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Mary Hanson	Dale Potter	Patti Simpson Ward
Jerry Hardy	Jo Ann Potter	Donald Glennister Watts
Chris Himes	Bobbie Graep Rettig	Joanne Westlund
Rosemarie Ives	Dave Rockenbeck	James Windle
Patricia Weiss Jovag	Laurie M. Rockenbeck	
Barbara Weiss Joyce	Margy U. Rockenbeck	

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



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR BECOME A NEW MEMBER!

Paige Norman, Membership Committee

Current Redmond Historical Society memberships expire December 31, 2021 so it's time to renew!

If you're not already a member, this is the year to JOIN!
New members joining in November receive 2 FREE MONTHS of membership (now through December 2022)!

Memberships also make great gifts! Share your passion for history and Redmond by purchasing or gifting a membership to the Redmond Historical Society!

We have a level for everyone, from Student to Family Lifetime, and Memberships are tax-deductible (*).

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 member)	\$2,000

You can join by visiting our [website](#), or completing the form in this newsletter on page 11, or contact our staff during regular office hours at 425.885.2919

(*). Contributions are tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021 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 2 _____ 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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