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# THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2022 • VOL. 24 • NO. 1

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Every town has a history. Discover ours.

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON JANUARY 15



### I love Redmond!

Ice Cream Social &  
Membership Celebration

January 15th ♥  
2:00 - 4:00 PM

In person at the Happy Valley Grange!  
19720 NE 50th St, Redmond, WA 98053

Connect with old friends, meet new people,  
socialize, and network while we thank you for  
preserving Redmond's history through membership  
in the Redmond Historical Society. Open to All!

The year 2021 was met with ever more challenges as we learned to live and work in place, and we continue to navigate health and safety best practices for everyone. But the Redmond Historical Society, our members, and our community persevere. Please join us at our first live event of 2022, an Ice Cream Social and Membership meeting at Redmond's Happy Valley Grange. For details and to RSVP, see p. 4.

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- President **John Otebro** reflects on Estate Planning, on p. 3.
  - Attorney and filmmaker **Steve Edmiston** brings "Good Bootlegger" **Roy Olmstead** to life, p. 5.
  - **Tom Hitzroth** concludes investigation of 1898 Hotel Redmond fire, p. 6.
  - Society welcomes new Marketing Chair, **Janie Bube**, p. 7.
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# 2022

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

John Oftebro • President  
Laura Lee Bennett • Senior Vice President  
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Jo Ann Potter  
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### ADMINISTRATIVE & COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Halee P. Turner

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

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Open

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Teresa Potter • Urban Dakota Creative

### PROOFREADERS

Tom Hitzroth, Taylor Fievez

### 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:

**<https://www.facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society/>**

### THE REDMOND RECORDER

is published ten times annually.

PHONE 425.885.2919

ADDRESS 16600 NE 80th Street #122  
Redmond, WA 98052

WEBSITE [redmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://redmondhistoricalsociety.org)

EMAIL [info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org)

HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

## SOCIETY NEWS

The Society would like to thank RHS Board member **Judith Simpson** and attorney **Charles Diesen** for their years of service. Also, many thanks to **Christine Clark** for her contributions as Newsletter Editor.

### SOCIETY SEEKS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Society seeks a volunteer to organize and edit content for this newsletter, published 10 times a year. Time commitment is 25 hours per month. Interested? Please contact [newsletter@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@redmondhistoricalsociety.org).



**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](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.



## YOUR LEGACY TO SUSTAIN OUR SOCIETY'S FUTURE

By John Oftebro

At our Ice Cream Social and Annual Membership meeting on January 15, we'll be announcing a Legacy Program to encourage giving through Estate Planning with a bequest through a Will or Living Trust, and other giving options such as IRA Rollover or Asset Gifts. We hope to give our members and supporters an easy way to help sustain documenting the history of this little town. First settled in 1871, Redmond continues to undergo rapid changes with Light Rail and downtown high-rises.

Over the 22 years since the Society's founding, we have been the grateful beneficiary of significant financial and volunteer giving to sustain our mission. Our founding members established a passionate legacy of donating their precious time to create the constitution, bylaws, and mission statement—laying the groundwork to carry the organization forward. In addition, several of the founding members collectively donated over \$30,000 to underwrite the Society while we

established our home in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse, a space provided by the City of Redmond.

Over the years, the City has continued to contribute to our mission through financial support, as have numerous other sponsors and donors: Nelson Legacy Group, Happy Valley Grange #322, Microsoft, Humanities Washington, Natural & Built Environments, and 4Culture.

Annual membership renewals, along with volunteer hours ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 annually, keep our "engine" running smoothly. Over these 22 years, we have received \$86,000 in Lifetime Memberships. Fundraising since 2018 to support our paid office staff and our \$45,000 annual budget, we've also covered moving expenses three times, and funded museum displays and exhibits in our new space back in the Schoolhouse.

Thank you for all your interest and support in making it possible to preserve Redmond's rich history!



REDMOND  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



 **WE LOVE REDMOND!** 

Please join us  
*Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>*

for an IN-PERSON Membership Meeting!  
Happy Valley Grange  
19720 NE 50th Street, Redmond, 98053

**Time: 2-4 pm**



**Renew your membership**

**Society updates for 2021 & 2022!**

**Donate to our Giving Board**

**Art Contest**

**Ice Cream**



Connect with old friends, meet new people, socialize, and network while we thank you for preserving Redmond's history through membership in the Redmond Historical Society. Open to All!

Please RSVP to [membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org)  
OR [manager@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:manager@redmondhistoricalsociety.org)  
By Saturday, January 8th

*Washington State COVID-19 restrictions apply*

# ATTORNEY AND INDIE FILMMAKER BRINGS ‘GOOD BOOTLEGGER’ TO LIFE

By Laura Lee Bennett

On Saturday, November 13, 2021, Humanities Washington speaker **Steve Edmiston** gave a lively talk on “Whiskey and Wiretaps: The Northwest’s Rumrunning King.” We had a chance to interview Steve about this project.

**RHS: How did you come to investigate Roy Olmstead?**

SE: I learned about **Roy Olmstead** from Ken Burns’ *Prohibition* documentary. Episode 2 features a segment on Olmstead. I’d never heard of him; and wanted to learn more in part because I knew my own community of “Woodmont,” in Des Moines, had a bootlegging history. I discovered the actual detailed history and infamous connection between Olmstead and the Woodmont Dock.

**RHS: How has this story affected your own views of local politics?**

SE: I’m fascinated with how a highly controversial law regulating social behavior (18th Amendment and Volstead Act) passed, became unpopular so quickly, and so easily integrated with a predictable rise in criminal activity facilitated by the collaboration with—you guessed it—politicians that didn’t believe in the law, and law enforcement that often didn’t want to enforce the law. Our local history is so rich, and perfect for “micro-historians” to



Steve Edmiston displays a bottle of Glenoldroy. Photo: John Oftebro

take a single event or person and take a deep dive. [Mine] started with the Woodmont Dock raid on Thanksgiving Day, 1925.

**RHS: How does being a lawyer and screenwriter work together?**

SE: Both pursuits underscore the value of storytelling. That seems self-evident in screenwriting, but over my career as a lawyer, I’ve found that successes are increasingly predicated by being able to tell a persuasive, compelling story—a true story that the audience connects to emotionally and wants desperately for it to be true.

Missed the program? Find future dates for Steve’s presentation at [www.humanities.org/events](http://www.humanities.org/events). Want to know more? Visit Steve’s website at [www.quadrant45.com](http://www.quadrant45.com).

# FIRE AT THE HOTEL REDMOND – PART TWO

By Tom Hitzroth

In the November issue, I shared the genesis of my investigation of the fire at the Hotel Redmond on March 22, 1898. I began by searching railroad timetables and weather reports. From the timetables I was able to determine when the train would come through town, and from the distances between stations calculated the speed of the train. If the train stopped at the station, I could tell how far the engine was from the hotel. The weather reports were the most revealing.

If the train had to stop in Redmond going eastbound or westbound, the engine would have been about 265 feet from the hotel. If it did not stop, it went through town at about 22 miles per hour or 31 feet per second. The wind that day was blowing from the *southeast* at 6 miles per hour, so the wind was blowing away from the hotel, not toward it.

So, what was the cause of the fire? Since the hotel was a relatively new building, it was more likely an electrical fire than a chimney fire. The electrical system common in those days was knob and tube. This wiring had a

hot wire and a neutral wire, but no ground wire, and it was so prone to igniting fires it was finally discontinued by the 1930s.

If the bucket brigade extinguished the fire in an hour, there had to be a water source close to the hotel. The ca. 1907 photo (see below) shows a water tank and wind pump within 50 feet of the south side of the building, which suggests it was part of the original hotel water system.

One thing we know is there was a fire in the hotel, but the wind direction alone lets the train off the hook.



**Redmond Hotel ca. 1907, showing water tank on the south side.**

**Source: Eastside Heritage Center**

## SOCIETY WELCOMES MARKETING AND BRANDING CHAIR JANIE BUBE

The Redmond Historical Society is pleased to announce **Janie Bube** as a new Director at Large in charge of Marketing and Branding. Janie is a planner, a community builder, and event orchestrator, able to communicate with diverse audiences and lead collaboratively to create “exceptional experiences and measurable results.” She is currently earning a certificate in Museum Studies from UW.



**Janie Bube**

Janie has several ideas for engaging the local community, using their networks to expand the Society’s network, and showcase Redmond’s history—such as an artist event in front of a beautiful historic building, such as Bill Brown (Matador) — with a robust and engaging online presence through a series of videos, featuring dancers or a live event featuring “urban sketchers.”

“As a designer and entrepreneur, I find designing a narrative both in-person and virtually is vital for input from the community,” notes Janie. “My ideas, ultimately stretch not just in print, but in physical spatial design, exhibit design,

virtual experience, and audio experience, to create compelling holistic branding and experience of the Historical Society.”

After a recent visit to Redmond, Janie observes, “I see even more the need to preserve what is left and to showcase what was once there.”

You can reach out to Janie at [Marketing@Redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Marketing@Redmondhistoricalsociety.org).

*Welcome, Janie!*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



We at Redmond Historical Society are THANKFUL for our members! Members are the heart and soul of any organization, and even though 2020 and 2021 presented challenges to meeting in person, our membership never wavered in their commitment to the Society!

It's renewal season, and if you haven't renewed your membership for the 2022 year, we encourage you to do so through one of our many convenient methods. Renewing or joining is easy!

- Complete the application online (via PayPal)
- Print a form from the website
- Mail in your completed form from the newsletter to our office at 16600 NE 80th St., #122, Redmond, WA 98052
- Call the office at (425) 885 – 2919 (processed through PayPal)



Don't forget to complete your birthday information so we can recognize you in our newsletter! We want to recognize our members in every possible way; each newsletter issue will list the name and birthdate for our members for that month!

Members achieving their 100th birthday become “Honorary Members” of the Society, receive a special announcement in our newsletter and may have an article posted similar to LeRoy Olson’s in our August 2020 issue (page 9) and on our website.

We have levels for every budget; if you're not a member, **JOIN NOW** to receive updates on all the terrific happenings for 2022! If you're currently a member please **RENEW** and consider purchasing a membership as a gift for a family member or friend who would enjoy the Redmond Historical Society!

<b>Trailblazer/Student</b> (1 member)	<b>\$5</b>
<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>
<b>Legacy/Family Lifetime</b> (2 members)	<b>\$2,000</b>

And don't forget to **join us Saturday, January 15th**  
**for our IN-PERSON Membership Meeting and Ice Cream Social!**  
**Happy Valley Grange**  
**19720 NE 50th Street, Redmond**

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Barbara Armstrong Johnson - January 2  
 Fran Stray - January 3  
 Mark Tollfeldt - January 17  
 Gail Cerra - January 20  
 George Schaiable - January 31

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](mailto:membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org)

## OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

<b>Sharon Freeman, Ballisty</b>	<b>Barbara Weiss Joyce</b>	<b>Margy U. Rockenbeck</b>
<b>Louise Graep Barnes</b>	<b>Allen Lang</b>	<b>William Rockenbeck</b>
<b>David Best</b>	<b>Judy Aries Lang</b>	<b>Doris Bauer Schaible</b>
<b>John and Jay Cogan</b>	<b>Judith M. Lankford</b>	<b>Dick Shinstrom</b>
<b>Marjorie Costello</b>	<b>Miguel Angel Llanos</b>	<b>Frederick Springsteel</b>
<b>John Couch</b>	<b>*Cheryl Strong Magnuson</b>	<b>Beryl Standley</b>
<b>Cory de Jong</b>	<b>*Gene Magnuson</b>	<b>John C. Stillin</b>
<b>Sally Jo Eberhardt</b>	<b>Jon M. Magnussen</b>	<b>Sherry B. Stillin</b>
<b>Betty L. Emmanuel</b>	<b>Dorothy Matsui</b>	<b>Fred Stray</b>
<b>Tony Emmanuel</b>	<b>Diana Morelli</b>	<b>Larry O. Sundholm</b>
<b>Don and Mary Fowler</b>	<b>Panfilo Morelli</b>	<b>Subhadra Terhanian</b>
<b>Frank Garbarino</b>	<b>Allison Reed Morris</b>	<b>Doris Townsend</b>
<b>Peggy Garbarino</b>	<b>Edward O'Brien</b>	<b>Joe Townsend</b>
<b>Madeleine Roberts Hagen</b>	<b>Deborah Oftebro</b>	<b>Patricia Trepanier</b>
<b>Suzanne Hall</b>	<b>John Oftebro</b>	<b>Roger Trepanier</b>
<b>Mary Hanson</b>	<b>LeRoy Olson</b>	<b>Sue-Lynn Walsh</b>
<b>Jerry Hardy</b>	<b>Dale Potter</b>	<b>Patti Simpson Ward</b>
<b>Chris Himes</b>	<b>Jo Ann Potter</b>	<b>Donald Glennister Watts</b>
<b>Duane Isackson</b>	<b>Bobbie Graep Rettig</b>	<b>Joanne Westlund</b>
<b>Rosemarie Ives</b>	<b>Dave Rockenbeck</b>	<b>James Windle</b>
<b>Patricia Weiss Jovag</b>	<b>Laurie M. Rockenbeck</b>	

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).

## HOURS VOLUNTEERED: 272



To All Our Redmond History Buffs...

May you have a Blessed New Year!

Use that brand-new  
2022 calendar and record our first in-person gathering

### Ice Cream Social & Membership Meeting

January 15, 2022

2-4 pm

Happy Valley Grange

We can't wait to see our Redmond friends and  
neighbors, up close and personal!

We always need willing volunteers to help with this event.

Contact Jo Ann Potter at

[volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.org).



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JOHN YEO, PRESS RELEASE WRITER

By Laura Lee Bennett

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, **John Yeo** has always been fascinated with history, and it was one of the subjects that he excelled at during school. John graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a BA in History and a concentration in American History. His current occupation is Billing Coordinator for a healthcare consulting company. "During my free time, I try to follow my interests, which include studying historical topics," writes John. "This was a big reason why I joined the Redmond Historical Society in August 2021."



## 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 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](mailto:info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org).



**REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Old Redmond Schoolhouse  
16600 NE 80th Street  
Room 122  
Redmond, WA 98052

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