



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2019 • VOL. 21 • NO. 9

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Saturday, October 12, 2019, 10:30am-noon
Redmond Public Safety Building
8701 160th Ave NE, Redmond WA 98052

COAL MINING AT COUGAR MOUNTAIN



“Mayor” Fred Rounds, coal miner and gatekeeper for the company-owned lands on Cougar Mountain. Photo: Federal Office of Surface Mining, c.1981

This month’s program highlights 100 years of local coal mining starting in 1863. Within 25 years, 200 men and 21 mules were working the Newcastle mines, along Coal Creek, south of today’s I-90 Freeway. In fact, exporting coal to San Francisco for 50 years helped turn Seattle into a major seaport! See historic photos and hands-on artifacts. Come and learn what is underneath a mountain that is older than venerable Mt. Rainier. See p. 4.

- President John Oftebro talks about the Society’s latest move, p. 3.
- Tom Hitzroth solves the case of the “unknown building” on Leary Way, p. 6.
- Evening Speaker Series brings “Seattle Now & Then” author Paul Dorpat to Redmond, p.7.

2019

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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:

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

SOCIETY NEWS



Halee Turner at OneRedmond Tradeshow

On September 5, the Society participated in OneRedmond's "OneEastside Small Business Tradeshow" at the Seattle Marriott Redmond. Over three dozen businesses and organizations were represented. "It was very worthwhile networking," notes VP **Margy Rockenbeck**.



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.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

By John Oftebro

Sounds like a title for a nice song, and it's one we're whistling again at the Society office. After many years tucked in the corner of the Old Redmond Schoolhouse, we were asked to vacate for 18 months so the school district could revamp the building and make use of the majority of space for preschool early education.

This is a wonderful project and worth the temporary move until we could move back into larger space there this month, with room for exhibits and displays of our fine history. We have been very fortunate to be gifted space in the Vision 5 building by **Robert Pantley**, and the **City of Redmond** has generously given us space in the Senior Center for our Saturday Speaker Series programs and our Dinner Auction fundraisers.

Recently the Schoolhouse calendar moved us a year out (September 2020) due to discovery of issues that needed

additional time for repair. And last month, we learned that the Senior Center is closed indefinitely to determine what structural issues need to be addressed. Again without a "home" for our Saturday Speaker Series, the City's Parks Department came to our rescue and found us space in the **Public Safety Building** adjacent to the Senior Center. It's a wonderful space, so convenient for parking and access for our attendees.

Our next move for the office needs to happen by March 31, since we need to find new temporary space prior to the anticipated August move back to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse.

See what I mean? On the Road Again. If anyone knows of suitable temporary space for our Society in March, please contact me or Hallee at our office. In the meantime, we'll keep you posted of our travel itinerary!

COAL MINING AT COUGAR MOUNTAIN

The discovery of coal in Washington State in 1863 had a huge impact on the local economy. Within 25 years, 200 men and 21 mules were working the Newcastle mines along Coal Creek, south of today's I-90 Freeway. In fact, exporting coal to San Francisco for 50 years helped turn Seattle into a major seaport.

"By 1900 we were shipping nearly 23 percent of the West Coast coal—powering trains, steamships, factories, and businesses," says **Steve Williams**, a research volunteer for the Eastside Heritage Center, board member of the Newcastle Historical Society, and past manager of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. "Coal provided jobs and income, and Seattle became a major port city. The population of King County went from 303 in 1860 to well over 43,000 by 1890."

Williams talks about the environmental impact of 100 years of coal mining on Cougar Mountain—a mountain that is older than "venerable Mount Rainier"—at the [Redmond Historical Society](#) Saturday Speaker Series on October 12 at the **Redmond Public Safety Building**.

In the 57 years since the last Newcastle mine closed, two towns housing over 1,000 people have



Researcher Steve Williams

disappeared. Today, trees and shrubs cover the lands that were logged; rail grades have become walking trails; and adjacent areas are now covered by housing developments. Cougar Mountain Park and the Newcastle Golf Course preserve the areas where the mines came closest to the surface. Over 250 depressions at Cougar Mountain are monitored by Parks, and when old shafts do open up, they are cemented shut by the Federal Office of Surface Mining.

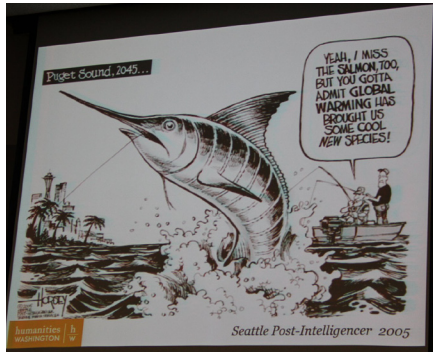
"Probably the biggest environmental impact was the release of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane that contributed to our current climate change problems," adds Williams. "What we did not know then has become an issue of global importance now."

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER PROGRAM DRAWS DISCUSSION

On September 14, Humanities Washington speaker **Nick Bond** gave a lively talk on the plight of salmon, climate change, and what “citizen scientists” can do to help improve salmon habitats. Bond, a self-proclaimed “weather nerd,” is the Washington State Climatologist. This was the first program of the Society’s Saturday Speaker Series at our new venue, the Public Safety Building, since the Redmond Senior Center closed for structural repairs.



Climatologist Nick Bond



**Op-Ed cartoon on “invasive species,”
Seattle P-I, 2005**

Huge Historic Thank Yous

Many thanks to our September Saturday Speaker Series volunteers for their generous donation of time and effort to ensure a smooth program day. A special thanks to **Selena Wiehr** at City of Redmond for her assistance.

Press release – **Laura Lee Bennett**

MC – **Margy Rockenbeck**

Setup – **Tom Hansen, Dave Rockenbeck**

Snacks – **Cynthia Olsen and Mary Sullivan, Sotheby’s Realty**

AV – **John Gustaveson**

Membership – **Linda McCrystal, Paige Norman**

Coffee – **Judy Lang**

Greeters – **Sylvia Bernauer, Patsy Rosenbach, and Dale Potter**

Photos – **Cheryl Magnuson**

Volunteers – **Jo Ann Potter**

THE CASE OF THE UNKNOWN BUILDING

By Tom Hitzroth

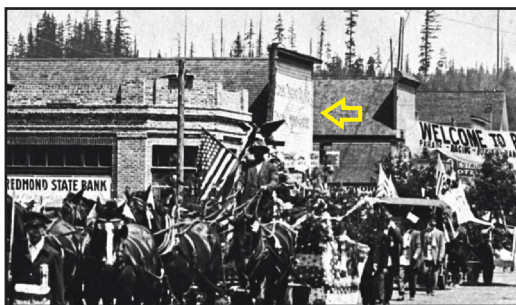
While studying photographs of early Redmond, I noticed a building located along Leary Way that I did not recognize. Looking further, I found it only appeared in three photographs, two circa 1911 and one circa 1913. It was also not described on maps or documents in my collection. The more I considered this structure, the more I became intrigued. The building was not there in 1908, and gone by 1915.

The building was located next to the Redmond State Bank when the bank opened for business in 1911. I identified it in Block 4 Lot 1 of the Redmond plat—the present-day location of Homegrown deli, El Toreador, and Palmers East. Originally, the lot had been divided into three lots, then four, then back to three, each change establishing different lot dimensions. After physically measuring the lots, mapping, and studying photographs from 1905 to 1938, I finally realized what had most likely occurred.

The key came when I determined that the sign on the building was temporary. Its lettering was moderately identifiable in one of the 1911 photographs. I sent the image to a professional photographer, who enhanced and filtered it through a “blind test.” His findings on the lettering echoed my hypothesis. During the 1910 demolition of the Redmond Trading Company, for reconstructing the previous wooden structure with a brick building, the Redmond Trading Company appears to have temporarily moved to this building. Later, the unknown building also featured a drug store and an ice cream parlor.

By 1915, the building currently occupied by El Toreador had taken its place. Finally, I have the answer to a question that has been nagging me for some time, and a new piece to the early Redmond puzzle has fallen into place.

Redmond State Bank and the unknown building, 1911.
Photo: Eastside Heritage Center



SEATTLE NOW & THEN: THE HISTORIC HUNDRED

Monday, October 7, 2019, 7:00 pm
Redmond Regional Library,
15990 NE 85th St.
Free



The Redmond Historical Society and Redmond Regional Library present the first program of the 2019–2020 Evening Speaker Series. Please join us at the Redmond Library on Monday, October 7, 7 pm for an author's talk and booksigning.

Be inspired by the anthology celebrating the lifetime documentation of Seattle's heritage by Seattle historian **Paul Dorpat**, and photographer **Jean Sherrard**. See photos and hear history from their new book *Seattle Now & Then: The Historic Hundred*. Photo views in all directions in Seattle, highlight Seattle's native roots and earliest days as a city. Dramatic images comparing "then" and "now" explore the city's regrades,



Co-authors Paul Dorpat
and Jean Sherrard

bridges, thoroughfares and countless Seattle landmarks. The Great Seattle Fire, the Gold Rush, Pike Place Market, the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, and the 1962 Seattle World's Fair— and breathtaking panoramas—are all part of Seattle history.

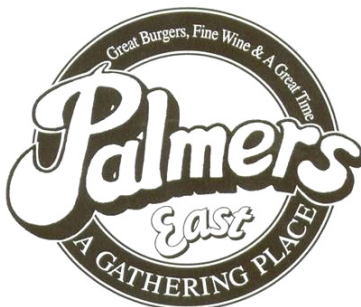
Dorpat is widely recognized for his "Seattle Now and Then" photo-history columns he produced since 1982 for the Sunday Magazine of *The Seattle Times*. Sherrard has been the photographer of the "now" photographs for the last 12 years.



kcls.org

WELCOME, NEW BUSINESS MEMBER PALMERS EAST

Palmers East is "A Gathering Place" located in historic Downtown Redmond. Palmers East is the place where everyone knows your name, where you can have a great time, make lifelong friends, and have an amazing experience.



Palmers East is the only bar on the Eastside to offer Karaoke seven nights a week. We have FREE Wednesday night trivia: first game at 6:30pm, and second game at 7:30pm. Come on down for one of our weekly food specials!

Palmers East Weekly Food Specials (All specials only valid with the purchase of a drink)	
Daily	Full Breakfast Menu until 2:00pm
Tuesday	Burger Day-1/2 Price Burgers
Wednesday	Wing Day-10 Wings for \$6.99
Thursday	Taco Day- 2 Tacos for \$3
Friday	Prime Rib Dinner \$11.99
Saturday: Biker Special	1/2 Price Appetizers. Come in on a bike and get a cheeseburger, fries, and a pint of any domestic beer for \$8.99 (no substitutions).
Happy Hour	\$1 off ALL Drinks every day, 2:30p-6:30pm

Thomas W. is the amazing man behind the scenes and on the front line of Palmers East. He has owned Palmers for the past 15 years, and any regular of Palmers East will tell you that he is one of the friendliest and hands-on business owners around. He is greatly loved by customers, employees, and fellow business owners in and around the Redmond area. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting him, come on down today, it is likely he'll be there!

AROUND THE OFFICE

By Halee Turner

The Redmond Historical Society receives many research requests throughout the year. We use our archives and collections to answer questions from folks around the world. Here are a few highlights from the past month.

We provided resources to a Senior Lecturer from UW Bothell, to aid in his work in tracking the history of salmon in the area.

A high school student in Honolulu, Hawaii contacted our office as part of her research for a National History Day Project. We identified and reproduced photos of an orchestra teacher in the 1927 "Redwing" Redmond High School yearbook, who had previously taught one of the musicians the student is researching.

A gentleman working to fulfill an outstanding request on the popular website and genealogical resource "Find a Grave" contacted the office. We provided a copy of an obituary from 1934, along with other records and information.

Are you researching something? Have you checked our website or digital archives of *Sammamish Valley News*? Our staff and volunteers can help with your projects. Email manager@redmondhistoricalsociety.org for assistance or to schedule a research appointment.

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 'GOES GREEN'

Help the Society do its part for the environment. Help us go green! If you would like to receive the Redmond Historical Society newsletter by email, contact our office at (425) 885-2919 or email manager@redmondhistoricalsociety.org. You can also sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter on our website, www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org.



VOLUNTEER CORNER



Jo Ann Potter

Twenty-five (yes, 25) volunteers clocked 290 hours in August!

Thank you to **ChuNi Kao, John and Deborah Oftebro, Mara Kealey, Halee Turner, and Brian Burck** for staffing our booth at the So Bazaar on August 15. A very special thanks to **Elizabeth Carroll Hayden** of the Redmond Association of Spokenword (RASP), who graciously volunteered six hours showing men, women, and children that it is, indeed, fun to create poetry! Historical pictures of Redmond were used as inspiration.

We need you! The Membership Committee needs more members to meet the Society's needs. This group is involved in membership, fundraising, community outreach, and planning Society events. Contact Paige Norman, Membership Chair: membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

**Sharon Freeman, Ballisty
Louise Graep Barnes
David Best
John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
John Couch
Cory de Jong
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A full listing of lifetime members, both current and in memoriam, is available at redmondhistoricalsociety.org



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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)
\$200.00 _____ ENTREPRENEUR (Supporter)
\$250.00 _____ CORPORATE (Business)
\$1,000.00 _____ HISTORY MAKER (Lifetime)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

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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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