From early plat development to the new age: A quiet but internationally known company, Aerojet Rocketdyne, is located on an interesting historical site in Redmond. The York site, as it was once known, has gone through some remarkable changes that stretch from a dead-beat dad’s prison to active involvement with spacecraft beyond our solar system. Join us on September 10 as Program Manager Jack Deboer recalls the Redmond site’s history. For details, see p. 4.

- President John Oftebro announces the return of the Saturday Speaker Series—at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse, p. 3.
- Redmond High School Class of ’71 celebrates 50th reunion, p. 5.
- Tom Hitzroth investigates a new (old) Redmond saloon, p. 6.
- Last Call! Sign up for the September 4th Walking Tour of Redmond’s historic district, p. 7.
2022

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SOCIETY NEWS

FALL SPEAKER LINEUP

The following programs are scheduled for Fall 2022. Stay tuned for more info on our website!

Saturday Speaker Series, 10:30 am, Old Redmond Schoolhouse
September 10, “Aerojet Rocketdyne: Then, Now & to the Future”
October 8, “How Audio Technology Changed the World”
November 12, “The Razor’s Edge: The Washington Razor Clam Phenomenon”

Evening Speaker Series, 6:30 pm, Redmond Library
October 12, “Redmond History 101”

MEET THE SOCIETY’S NEW MASCOT

If you visited our booth at Derby Days, you likely cast your vote to name our new mascot. Thanks to all who participated. Meet Henrietta the Chicken!
Stay tuned for family-friendly activities on our website and on these pages.
Click here to download a coloring sheet: https://tinyurl.com/HelloHenrietta
Our last in-person Saturday Speaker Series at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Auditorium was on February 10, 2018. That’s 55 months! And on September 10, 2022, we will welcome you back to the Schoolhouse for our Revival, Reunion, and Revisit!

While the Schoolhouse was closed for three years, we gathered at the Senior Center until it closed, and then the Public Safety Building until COVID-19 struck in March 2020. Since then, many of you have joined us on Zoom to witness an array of fine speakers, and participated with thoughtful questions and your own anecdotes. We appreciate your loyal support!

Our first program back in-person will feature Jack DeBoer, Program Manager for Aerojet Rocketdyne, who will give us the history of Rocket Research that took over the York site (“dead-beat dads prison”). Now, as Aerojet Rocketdyne, the company is providing the rockets sending satellites—and people—into space. Learn about the Artemis I (“Back to the Moon”) program and much more!

You will also have a chance to visit our new Office/Museum in the Schoolhouse. Since moving back into larger space in March 2021, Administrative Manager Halee Turner, the Collections team, and other volunteers have turned the Home Economics classroom into a rich and unique display of Redmond’s past. Check out Redmond’s settlement timeline since 1871, wall hangings, paintings, artifacts from early homes and businesses, and exhibits of Redmond’s economic history and culture—including recognition of indigenous peoples, who were here long before the pioneers.

We will also be offering a Zoom webinar connection for those of you electing that choice, but we hope to see most of you in person to help us Revive our dynamic programming, have a Reunion with our Society friends, and Revisit the Old Redmond Schoolhouse and our Museum.

Welcome back!
ROCKETEERS IN REDMOND:
HISTORY OF THE AEROJET
ROCKETDYNE SITE

Note: This is a HYBRID program. Join us online or at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th St., Redmond, WA 98052. If you do join us in person, masking is recommended but not required.

Date and Time: Saturday, September 10, 2022
10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Registration is required for Zoom component.
To register for this free online presentation:
https://tinyurl.com/RHSAerojetRocketdyne

Join us on Saturday, September 10 as Jack Deboer, Program Manager at Aerojet Rocketdyne, recalls the Redmond site’s history, starting with the York plat in 1889 to the King County Stockade in the 1920s, transitioning to site development in the late 1960s, finally to what the company does today.

“Rocketeers have been on the Redmond site since 1968,” notes Deboer. “Back then it was known as Rocket Research company. We became part of the larger propulsion community through the acquisition by Aerojet in 2001.”

Aerojet Rocketdyne is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader, providing propulsion and power for space, missile defense, and strategic systems. Aerojet was called the “General Motors of United States Rocketry” by Time magazine in 1958. Five years later, the company employed 34,000 people working on missiles such as the Polaris, Minuteman, Trident, and Titan.

Eastside resident Jack DeBoer is a Program Manager at Aerojet-Rocketdyne who leads teams that develop and support the fabrication of propulsion systems and rocket engines for launch and space vehicles. He holds an MS in Program Management, an MS in Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jack has been involved with rocket engines for 38 years in the space industry.
REDMOND HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF ‘71 CELEBRATES 50TH (+1) REUNION

By Paige Norman

Fifty-five graduates, along with friends, spouses, and guests attended a 50-year reunion for the Redmond High School Class of 1971 on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

The weekend began with a no-host celebration at Sam’s Tavern in Redmond on Friday night, continuing Saturday night with a catered meal at the Redmond Ridge Community Center.

Deb Olson presented memories including first jobs, first cars, and a walk down memory lane on an overhead screen, while Ken Miner provided hours of music from the 1960s through the ‘80s. Lyle Hendrickson and Dean Sander guided attendees through more class memories and events, while a “memory table” displayed school newspapers, yearbooks, photos, cheer and gym uniforms, and other class memorabilia.

Congratulations to the Redmond High School Class of 1971 for 51 years!

Jan (Allen) Speed models a gym uniform from RHS circa 1971. Photo by Colleen S (Colvin) Kemp

Memory Table from Redmond High School Class of ’71 50th Reunion. Photo by Paige Norman
Identifying a New (Old) Saloon

By Tom Hitzroth

Last month, Dean Jowers wrote a nice article on the Redmond Saloon and how it had taken 50 years to get an answer to Mr. Sheldon’s question. Dean sent me the 1972 Redmond Saloon article to establish where the saloon was located. As I looked at the article, I felt sure I knew where it was located, but prudence still required that I follow the process I always use in making such a distinction.

First, I enlarged the photograph to get more clarity. I made a grid over the photo and then reviewed the photograph with a magnifying glass from right to left, square by square, making notes of everything I saw. I studied the signage, construction materials, construction characteristics, position of surrounding buildings, and character of the road and grading. I noticed there was a building on the right margin, located partially behind the saloon. I had seen this building before. I had also seen the building on the left margin. After an hour, I had made 17 notes on my observations.

Dean was also able to work up an image with improved clarity, so I repeated the entire process. Seeing more definition gave me more points to examine, compare, and note. I then compared a ca. 1897 photograph of Theodore Youngerman’s store and a ca. 1901 photograph of Theodore Westby’s store located on the same lot. Comparing those characteristics to the Redmond Saloon photo confirmed that the saloon in the article was on that lot, earlier than Youngerman’s ca 1897 store. I was then able to identify on the survey in the Redmond Mapping Project (see image below) where the saloon had been located.

I am now rethinking the timeline of the early growth of Redmond, as it developed from a village into a town.
Every town has a history. Discover ours. • SEPTEMBER 2022

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2022 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. This year, the tour will incorporate the site of a newly discovered hotel and the site of a 1905 homicide.

A lifelong Eastside resident, Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond’s development from its earliest time into the 1930s. He is currently investigating the historic site of the settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond, the land claim area of Redmond, and the historic development of the downtown.

2022 Walking Tour Schedule
Sunday September 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St. Tours will not be conducted in the rain.

Please be advised that proof of vaccination or a negative test result is not required for this outdoor tour, but masks are encouraged. 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 on the Events page at RedmondHistoricalSociety.org. 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.

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

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alexi Girsh  September 14
Cecilia Bordenet  September 14
James Wilhoit  September 22
Joy Blake  September 25
John Bordenet  September 27

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

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Louise Graep Barnes
Laura Lee Bennett
David Best
John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
John Couch
Cory de Jong
Sally Jo Eberhardt
Betty L. Emmanuel
Tony Emmanuel
Elaine Sween Etzler
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Peggy Garbarino
Madeleine Roberts Hagen
Mary Hanson
Jerry Hardy
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Duane Isackson
Rosemarie Ives
Patricia Weiss Jovag

Barbara Weiss Joyce
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John Oftebro
LeRoy Olson
Dale Potter
Jo Ann Potter
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Fred Stray
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Subhadra Terhanian
Doris Townsend
Joe Townsend
Patricia Trepanier
Roger Trepanier
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.
MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

By Paige Norman, Membership Chair

As summer comes to a close and the days begin to cool, we begin to focus on other changes: the beginning of school, trees changing color and dropping their leaves, plans for holidays, and time with family and friends.

We at the Society are looking forward to some old favorites like the return of our Saturday Speaker Series, and, in case you haven’t heard by now, our Museum space is open for visits by appointment. Please contact Halee Turner at 425-885-2919, or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org to set up a time to go through our collections and take a look around! You can also book a meeting online.

Leaves changing color at Keep It Simple farm on Avondale. Photo: Paige Norman

It’s also time to start thinking about renewing your membership in the Redmond Historical Society! We’ve got an exciting gift for everyone who joins or renews for the 2023 membership year. Consider purchasing a membership for a friend or family member or showing your support by becoming a Lifetime or Family Lifetime member. Check page 11 of this newsletter, or renew through our website.

We’re so thankful for all of our volunteers, members, donors, sponsors, and our community! I’m looking forward to seeing you soon!

Editor’s Note: Want to know more about Society members and their family histories? Check out the Lifetime Membership profiles on our blog: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/blog
Volunteer Corner

253 Hours Volunteered!

Just a heads up about this Fall...

Our first Saturday Speakers Series will be in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse on September 10th. This means we will need two volunteers to be our “Hospitality” people to make coffee and tea and set the table. I will get you all the details if you are willing to do this. And you will be so appreciated by all those coffee and tea drinkers on a chilly autumn Saturday.

Next, we need volunteers to help staff our booth at the Redmond Saturday Market on October 22nd. Market hours are 9-2, and we’re asking people to sign up for a hour or longer per shift. Please let us know if you can join us!

Contact:
volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.com

Volunteer Deborah Oftebro at Society booth, July 2022.
Photo: John Oftebro

Volunteer Voice
Volunteers do not necessarily have the time—they have the heart. – Elizabeth Andrew
## LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

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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 1 ______________ 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:

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