



THE REDMOND RECORDER

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

QUARTER ONE • VOL. 26 • NO. 1

REDMOND LIGHTS: A HOLIDAY TRADITION



Redmond Lights 2023: The return of the luminary trail, from Redmond Town Center to Downtown Park. The installation runs Dec. 2nd through Jan. 3rd. Photo: Redmond.gov

Winter can be a dark and dreary season, especially in the rainy Pacific Northwest! However, there is joy abundant in the community as the entire city of Redmond celebrates the holiday season with a month-long celebration of light and art in Downtown Park. This annual event, now known as Redmond Lights, first began in 1999. First known as the "Redmond Holiday RiverWalk," the event featured a tree lighting ceremony, entertainment, and complimentary refreshments. More than 250 parkway trees were lit along the Sammamish River Trail, with stops under the bridges for "goodies and visits with several of Santa's closest friends."

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH THE SOCIETY!

Join the Redmond Historical Society for our Annual Ice Cream Social and Membership Meeting on January 13th! See pages 2 and 3.

IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Vice President's Desk, p. 2.
- Volunteer Corner, p. 3.
- The Redmond School Bell Odyssey, p. 4.
- Winter/Spring Events Calendar, p. 5.
- President's Notebook – The Four R's, Part IV, "Redmond Rockets," p. 6.
- Tom Hitzroth learns from old photographs – Part I, p. 8.
- Origin and Evolution of the King County Stockade, The Willows, at York, p. 10.
- Membership Moments, p. 11.
- Hotel Redmond/Justice White House: The History of the House on the Corner - Chapter 1, p. 12.
- Membership Birthdays, p. 14.

2024

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

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FREE NEWSLETTER

The Redmond Recorder is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter). Subscribe to our newsletter at RedmondHistoricalSociety.org or by becoming a member. You will also receive monthly announcements about RHS speaker programs, community events, and other announcements via email or postcard.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

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

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HOURS Mon-Wed @ 9:30AM-4:30PM



Laura Lee Bennett,
 VP and Program Chair

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH US!

Please join us for our Annual Ice Cream Social and Membership Meeting at the Happy Valley Grange on Saturday, January 13th, 2-4 pm. Connect with old friends, meet new people, socialize, and network while we thank you for preserving Redmond's rich heritage through your Membership with the Redmond Historical Society! The Social is free and open to all—bring a friend or two! We'll share reports of our activities and programs, raffle drawings with great prizes, and hot fudge sundaes!

WELCOME, NEW VOLUNTEER HANNAH TOZER

In November 2023, new volunteer Hannah Tozer joined our Programs team. Hannah has a Bachelors of Science in Communication Studies with a minor in Business Administration—and an interest in Marketing. Stop by the Membership table at the Social and say Hello!



Hannah with our favorite realtors, Mary Sullivan and Cynthia Olsen of Compass Realty.
 Photo: Patsy Rosenbach



Compass Realtors Partner with RHS to Assist with Fundraising

Compass Real Estate Brokers, Cynthia Olsen and Mary Sullivan, have formed a unique partnership with Redmond Historical Society in an effort to help with fundraising for the Society. Cynthia and Mary will donate 10% of their earned commissions to support the Society when members use or refer business that results in a closed transaction. This partnership was formed as a way to give back to organizations that support our communities. Choose real estate brokers who go above and beyond to help with every detail of the buying and selling process, and support the Society! Cynthia and Mary will help you plan, organize, donate, and more—they do it all! Please be sure to say hello to Cynthia and Mary at our next meeting! For more info, contact Cynthia.Olsen@Compass.com, 425 877-9904, or Mary.Sullivan@Compass.com, 425 449-2841.

COMPASS

780 VOLUNTEER HOURS!

By Jo Ann Potter

Fall 2023 saw volunteers contributing 780 hours to the Redmond Historical Society!
Thank you to all these faithful folks.



The Perfect Gift

You don't have to shop for it
You don't have to order it online
You don't have to wrap it up
You don't have to go to Fed EX
It never gets lost in the mail
You never have to take it back
It always fits perfectly
Looks great on everyone
Volunteering is the perfect gift!



YOU'RE INVITED!

Redmond Historical Society's Annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN:

Saturday, January 13th, 2024, 2 – 4 pm

WHERE:

Happy Valley Grange
19720 NE 50th St, Redmond, WA 98053

RSVP appreciated at RedmondHistoricalSociety.org
or by calling 425-885-2919

THE REDMOND SCHOOL BELL ODYSSEY

By John Oftebro with Photos by the Bell Committee

A year ago, we received the gift of the Redmond Schoolhouse bell, which may have come from a wood frame schoolhouse in Redmond. The bell curiously disappeared for several years. Then was moved to Marysville, Washington, and then Hamilton, Montana before being gifted to the City of Redmond in 1988.

After several years mounted at City Hall and the Public Safety Building, the bell was damaged and placed in storage until it was given to our Society for repair and restoration—along with funding from the City to the tune of \$50,000.

Members of the “Bell Committee” recently transported it to the Port Townsend Foundry to replicate the broken support arms, and we have now returned it to Artech in Renton for further restoration and building of a display case. It will soon be on permanent display in our hallway at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse, accompanied by a more detailed history of the bell’s odyssey.



Joe Townsend with one of the new stanchions.



At the foundry, the bell is lowered onto the truck bed via front loader.



The bell takes a ferry ride.



At Artech in Renton, the bell is transferred via forklift.



The bell with new stanchions attached.

LOVE HISTORY? ENJOY THESE SOCIETY EVENTS!

All events are free unless otherwise posted. Saturday Speaker Series is free to RHS members, suggested donation \$5 for non-members. No registration required.

Note: Recordings of the Saturday Speaker Series will be available on the RHS YouTube channel, following in-person programs, when permitted by speakers. More info: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES



**February 10 | The Lost Aviation History of Magnuson Park |
Feliks Banel, Broadcaster and Historian**

10:30 AM, Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th Street, Redmond, WA 98052.



March 9 | Data from Space | Lisa Rich, Founder and COO, Xplore Inc.

10:30 AM, Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th Street, Redmond, WA 98052.



**April 13 | Bicycling in Redmond – Past, Present, and Future |
Joe Matthews, President, Redmond Cycling Club**

10:30 AM, Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th Street, Redmond, WA 98052.

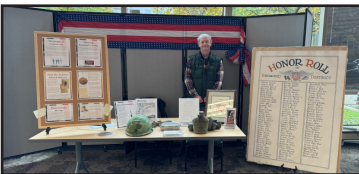


EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

**March 13 | How to Write a Family Portrait | Courtesy Humanities Washington
Kristen Morales Young, Author, Journalist, and Essayist**

English: 5:30 pm; Spanish: 6:30 PM. Redmond Regional Library, 15990 NE 85th St., Redmond, WA 98052. Registration required. www.kcls.org

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS – FALL 2023



Veterans Day at City Hall, Nov. 9th

Collections Committee member Dean Jowers was on hand to answer questions and share information about local veterans. Photo: Halee Turner



OneRedmond Winter Market, Dec. 2nd

Many thanks to volunteers Sam Mathis, Elly Parran, Pam Madison, and John Gustaveson for staffing our booth! Photo: Halee Turner

On December 2nd, the Society hosted a booth at the second annual OneRedmond International Winter Market & Children's Carnival at the Seattle Marriott Redmond. Our display explored some of the winter holiday traditions that include light, including our own Redmond Lights! Families enjoyed learning about the history of electric string lights, and making paper lanterns.



THE FOUR R'S – RIVER, REDMOND, RESEARCH, AND ROCKETS

PART IV – ROCKETS – WHERE REDMOND IS THE SATELLITE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!

By John Oftebro

Author's Note: This is the fourth and final installment in a series about Redmond's development. However, the story doesn't stop here. Stay tuned for future articles as history happens in Redmond!

note the activities of some of the 13 Redmond Space District companies.

Rocket Research/Aerojet Rocketdyne

As described in Part III of this series, "Redmond – A Research Hub," in the [Fall 2023 issue of this newsletter](#), [this company](#) was Redmond's first space company. Now with the successful Artemis 1 launch in 2022, the Artemis 2 launch planned in September 2024 will place the first humans circling the moon since we were last there in 1972. Rocketdyne's engines propel the booster, core, and second stages, and also propel and steer the Orion

space craft, getting astronauts from earth, into lunar orbit, and back to earth. By the way, the original moon mission was named after the Greek god Apollo, and his twin sister was Artemis, the goddess of the Moon.

SpaceX/Starlink

Elon Musk founded SpaceX in El Segundo, California, in 2002, with a goal of reducing the price of space launches. The successful 2008 Falcon 1 launch propelled the company into development of reusable launch vehicles and a way to resupply the International Space Station (ISS) with the Dragon 1 Spacecraft. Retired after 23

Redmond SPACE DISTRICT

Redmond Space District

Lisa Rich, a space commercialization expert, founder, and Chief Operating Officer of Xplore, coined the name **The Redmond Space District**. The phrase has a twofold purpose: it describes Xplore's location, it also serves to communicate that Xplore is among the cadre of high-quality satellite companies in Redmond growing the emerging space economy. Rich started using the term in press appearances—and when she shared the fact that **more satellites than anywhere in the world** are produced in Redmond, Washington, the significance of the term gained traction. The Redmond Space District resonated with Kristina Hudson, CEO at OneRedmond, whose collaboration with Xplore and neighboring space companies resulted in Redmond Mayor Angela Birney's [proclamation](#), and Representative (WA-01) Suzan DelBene's [resolution \(H.Res. 646\)](#), which was introduced into the Congressional record. The following sections briefly



Redmond Space District representatives showing Mayor Birney's proclamation.
Photo: OneRedmond

successful missions, it gave way to the Falcon 9. In 2015, the first recovery of the booster rocket led to the Dragon Spacecraft hauling supplies and later humans to the ISS. The Starlink division in Redmond is manufacturing small satellites to fulfill its mission of providing internet for 60 countries. It now has over 5,000 in orbit with thousands more planned. The three Starlink buildings at Redmond Ridge are responsible for research, development, manufacturing, and orbit control.

Amazon/Kuiper

Amazon is in many places, and since 2019, it is in Space after the recent successful launch of two prototype Project Kuiper satellites that paved its way for adding 3,236 more over the next several years. That number will be in a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) of 311 miles. This will set up a global broadband system network to bring low-cost transmission to hundreds of millions of people with a reliable internet connection. Although the Project Kuiper (named after the Kuiper belt around Neptune) location is in Redmond, it will begin making the satellites in Kirkland, and will have completed at least 50% of their goal in space as of July 2026.

Xplore Inc.

Xplore's decision to headquarter its operations in Redmond in 2021 was based on a few key factors: local access to professional talent from space and non-space companies, specialized testing and manufacturing businesses, and proximity to Seattle and other Eastside communities. Additionally, Xplore was able to secure a purpose-built, state-of-the-art, 22,000-sq.-ft. satellite assembly

facility to support assembly, integration and testing, and first launch of its satellites with SpaceX in 2024-2025. Xplore's uniquely engineered satellite platform will provide data products, sensors, data fusion and edge computing from the company's XCRAFT® satellites. This powerful platform delivers video, optical, and hyperspectral imagery to solve global economic, security, climate, education and science challenges. The Redmond company's mission is to provide "Space as a Service."

Kymeta Corporation

Kymeta is a company founded in 2012 which provides a unique new satellite multi-orbit antenna system using metamaterial technology that improves the connectivity quality, and offers global, high-bandwidth services to its clients, while on the move. This metamaterial technology, using a flat-panel antenna with no moving parts, makes it ideal for use on vehicles, vessels, aircraft, or from a fixed platform. Kymeta currently has 275 employees globally with their R&D and Engineering in Redmond and their manufacturing site in Woodinville.

Microsoft Azure Orbital

In 2020, Microsoft announced the launching of its Azure Orbital ground station service so clients with satellites can download data directly into its Azure cloud management system. Azure provides systems to allow customer operators to control their satellites, process, and then manage data it collects from several ground stations around the world. Among other data, satellites send back images of meteorology, oceanography, geology, and agriculture, as well as defense and intelligence. All this data from space observations assists with battling climate change and produces scientific discovery and innovations that improve our day-to-day lives.

More Info

Information for this article was gathered from correspondence with company representatives and from company websites. For more in-depth information on these space companies, look at the [Redmond Historical Society Blog](#) on our website under **About Us**.



60 Starlink satellites stacked together before deployment in 2019.
Photo: Starlink Website

LEARNING FROM OLD PHOTOGRAPHS – PART I

By Tom Hitzroth

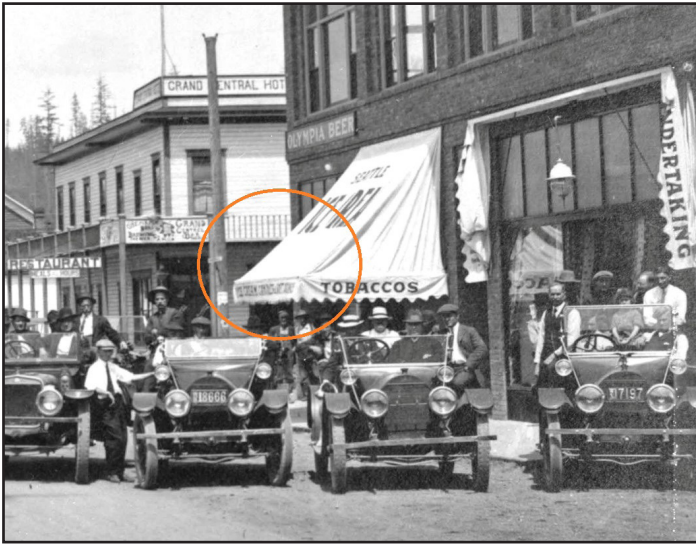
One of the more intriguing aspects of historical investigations is analyzing old photographs. When I'm working on a mapping project or attempting to date a photograph, I will accumulate all the photographs I can find on the topic and spend the first couple of days enlarging and going over every inch of the image to mine everything I can from it. I have found that looking into them is great, but when they "look back" at you, that can be even better. Let's look at two photographs that illustrate the point; both are from the collection of the Eastside Heritage Center.

This is a photograph by Winfred Wallace dated ca. 1911. It likely was assigned that date because there was no other reference point within the photograph with which to assign a date. Now, look in the reflection in the window of the front door and see what is reflecting back.

Considering the bank is facing the Brown Building kitty-corner from the bank, it turns out the object in the bank window is the awning on the ice cream parlor of Brown's building.



Redmond Bank on Leary Way, ca. 1911 redated to ca. 1913.



Awning of ice cream parlor, Bill Brown's building, ca. 1913.

Since we know that the brick building of Bill Brown was not constructed until 1913, and this photograph (also by Winfred Wallace) has a tentative date of 1915, we can adjust the date range for the bank photograph to a minimum of ca. 1913.

Now, let's look at another Winfred Wallace photograph from ca. 1910, also from the Eastside Heritage Center collection.

In trying to determine the location of the photographer when the photograph was taken, I found that you can see the front door of the Hotel Walther through the front porch of the Eagle Bar (see arrow). Doing a site survey, I found that the wording in the lower-left corner of the photo is in front of the Stone House, and the stable on the right today is Hoffman's bakery. The Eagle Bar porch and Hotel Walther front door configuration is not possible if you stand where Wallace had once stood. I sent the photo to a professional photographer and asked him if this photograph was taken with a wide-angle lens, and he said it was. Sometimes, but not always, perspective is everything.

In Part II, we will look at a ca. 1896 photograph of the Redmond Post Office. Here, the building is not the point of interest, but the people standing in the photograph are. Stay tuned.



Hotel Walther (arrow), Cleveland Street, ca. 1910.

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF THE KING COUNTY STOCKADE, THE WILLOWS, AT YORK

By Dean Jowers and Halee Turner

Collections Volunteer **Dean Jowers** is continuing his research on the King County Stockade. Please enjoy this overview, and look forward to future updates with information on prisoners, escapes, and more! When complete this research will be available in the Society office, and be the basis for a new digital exhibit in 2024.

— **Halee Turner, Manager, Admin & Archives, Redmond Historical Society**

The Progressive Era of American politics, circa 1890 to 1920, produced many innovative ideas. One idea was to change the way criminals were treated. In 1909, the City of Seattle built a stockade to house prisoners convicted of low-level crimes. They would be guarded, but not chained, and would be given work clearing land and improving roads.

In 1913, the State of Washington passed a series of laws, one of which dealt with domestic relations, entitled "Family Desertion." It was commonly, informally called the "Lazy Husbands" Act. Convicted husbands would be imprisoned and put to work on public works projects, for which his family would receive \$1.50 per day. Expecting an influx of prisoners, King County built a stockade in the Crown Hill area, north of Ballard. It operated until 1915 when a new, portable stockade was built near Bothell.

The Bothell stockade did not operate very long. By spring of 1916, the portable stockade building had been moved to Redmond, on a site southwest of Willows Road and NE 116th St.

This site was located on the County Farm, near the Willows School, about where Aerojet Rocketdyne is now located. The stockade was almost immediately closed due to expense issues, but was reopened in 1917.

The stockade housed Seattle city prisoners, county prisoners, and federal prisoners. The County Sheriff collected a per diem for the boarding of city and federal prisoners. Being located on the County Farm property, stockade prisoners acted as farm laborers. However, both the sheriff and farm supervisor wanted to control each other's operation. That battle lasted until the stockade was closed.

The stockade was in operation at the Willows site until 1932, when it was permanently closed. During that period, it had several additions and remodels. There were also several plans to move it to a new location. Among them

were Sand Point, Georgetown, Foster Island, Seward Park, and Madison Park.

The final closure of the stockade was due to several factors, including the Depression. Cost cutting was a high priority; liquor violators preferred to serve the sentence, rather than pay the \$250 fine. Then Prohibition was repealed, resulting in less funding and fewer prisoners. By the time the stockade was closed, only 6 of the 104 prisoners were "lazy husbands." Ultimately, all prisoners were transferred to the city and county jails in Seattle.

The stockade burned down on August 2, 1939. It was said that the only thing left were the iron bars from the cells. The County Farm was sold in 1942. Over the following years, several suggestions were made to reopen a stockade somewhere, most recently in 1952; but these attempts were never realized.



MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS - WINTER 2024

By Paige Norman, Membership Chair



Edmonds Snow, December 2022. Photo: Paige Norman

By the time you read this, you'll be past the rush of the holidays and ready for a new start and a new year! While you're setting your goals for 2024, don't forget to renew your Redmond Historical Society membership!

Your membership gets you first access to **The Redmond Recorder**, our incredible quarterly newsletter with articles, history, and information about Redmond. You also stay informed about our events and activities, like our upcoming [Membership Social](#) on January 13th and new **Saturday Speaker Series** programs in 2024!

We have a level for everyone, from Student to Family Lifetime. Memberships may be tax deductible (*). Consider purchasing a membership for a friend or family member, or showing your support by becoming a **Lifetime** or **Family Lifetime** member. Check page 15 of this newsletter, or renew through our [website](#).

(*) Contributions are tax-deductible, consult your tax advisor.

HOTEL REDMOND OR JUSTICE WHITE HOUSE – THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE ON THE CORNER – CHAPTER 1

By Paige Norman with Tom Hitzroth

Chapter 1

Today, when you drive into Redmond from Washington State Route 520 (SR 520), you will likely drive past one of Redmond's oldest and most historic buildings. The stately green building with white trim is known to locals as *The Justice White House*. Sitting proudly on the outskirts of Redmond Town Center and downtown Redmond, the structure is one of just [16 landmark buildings](#) in the City of Redmond and has an interesting history that began in the middle of the 19th century.

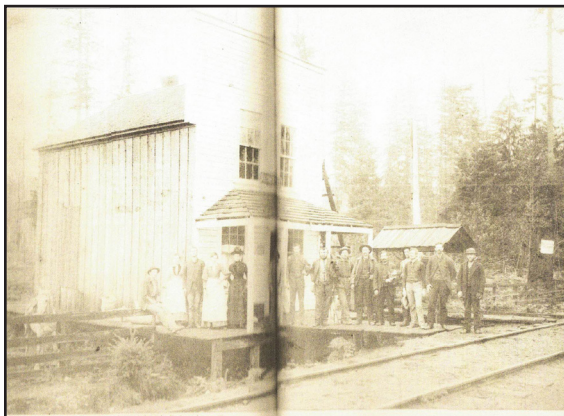


Justice White House c. 2017. Photo: Wikimedia

Luke McRedmond (see [Chapter 1](#) and [Chapter 2](#) in previous issues of this newsletter) filed a homestead claim on 80 acres stretching from present-day NE 80th to the Sammamish River, in July 1871. Moving his wife Kate and their five children to the settlement called Melrose, he built a home and began the history of what we now call Redmond.

Pioneer settler and first Postmaster of Melrose, Adam Tosh, housed the original post office on his property on the banks of the Sammamish River until operations were moved to the McRedmond home when Luke was appointed Postmaster of Melrose in December of 1882. Luke moved the post office into his newly built general store and post office, then

petitioned to change the name of the post office from [Melrose](#) to Redmond on February 22, 1883; the change was approved on March 19, 1883. The General Store and Post Office were built on 80 acres he purchased adjacent to his homestead, facing the train depot completed in 1888, which provided passenger and freight service beginning May 1888.

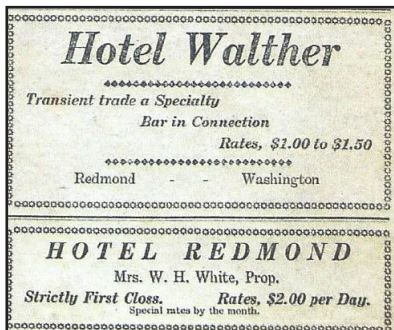


McRedmond General Store & Post Office c. 1895.
Photo: Collection of Tom Hitzroth



Detail of McRedmond General Store & Post Office c. 1895.
Photo: Collection of Tom Hitzroth

Luke "sold" a 72.60' x 120' section of his land to his daughter Emma for \$1 through a Quit Claim deed in 1891. The land was located behind the General Store building; the building was demolished by 1898, making way for the construction of the Hotel Redmond and an access road to the hotel.



Hotel advertisements May 1, 1907, Kirkland-Redmond Sun.
Photo: Collection of Tom Hitzroth



Hotel Redmond c. 1905.
Photo: Collection of Tom Hitzroth

The Hotel Redmond opened for business in 1898, a 14-room structure with private living quarters as well as rooms for paying customers. The 1938 property tax drawing illustrates the exterior of the building at that time; however, little is known of the interior design. The proximity of the Northern Pacific Railroad Redmond depot made the



Justice White House Hotel Windmill Water Tower. Photo: Collection of Diana Gardner Morelli

location a convenient stopping point for travelers and businesses. A white picket fence separated the property from the frontage road in front of the tracks; electricity was wired to connect to telegraph and light service. A windmill and water tower added to the conveniences and appeal of the distinguished structure.

A fire broke out in the upstairs of the hotel on March 22, 1898, causing \$250 in damage (about \$9,000 in 2023 dollars); Emma was in the building at the time of the fire which was likely put out using water from the water

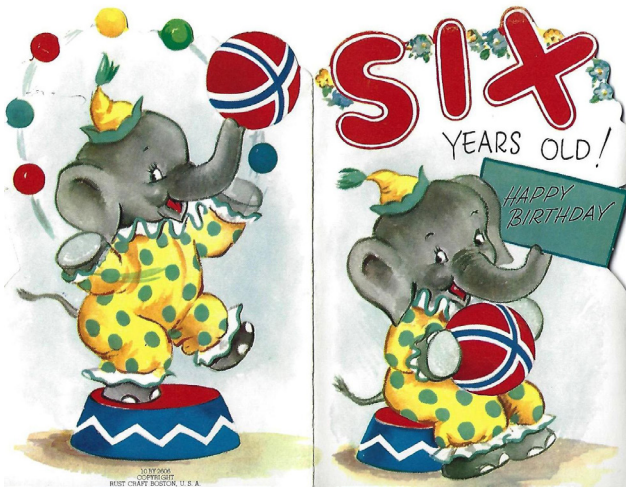
tower at the rear of the property. Newspapers at the time reported the fire started from a spark of a coal engine from the train station; however, the proximity of the station and schedules of the day prove that unlikely. A more probable cause was a spark from the electrical wiring in the roof of the structure.

Emma's father, Luke, died on May 11, 1898, just a few months before Emma married Justice William Henry White, a judge and prominent lawyer originally from West Virginia. Emma and Justice White were joined in marriage on September 24, 1898. The newly married couple took up residence at the hotel, at times sharing the living space with brother David McRedmond (1871-1905), and sister Annie (1873-1954). Judge White and Emma had three daughters, Martha (b1899), Dorothy (b1903), and Ruth (b1906).

In Chapter 2, we'll follow the building and its progression with the times between 1898 and the present day.



Hotel Redmond Fire, Seattle Times March 24, 1898.
Photo: Collection of Tom Hitzroth



If you'd like us to recognize your birthday in this newsletter, please complete the information on your membership renewal form, or email:

membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

January 2024

Barbara Armstrong Johnson	January 2nd
Fran Stray	January 3rd
Mark Tollfeldt	January 17th
Donna Bailey	January 18th
Gail Cerra	January 20th
Martha O'feefe	January 26th
Eveline Konig	January 29th
George Schaiable	January 31st

February 2024

Carol Rich	February 4th
Eric Pearson	February 5th
Ben (Bruce) Nelson	February 7th
Chris Terwin	February 14th
Edward Weiss	February 18th
Elaine Etzler	February 20th
Mary Fowler	February 22nd

March 2024

Kenneth Hahnlen	March 8th
Lorna Diesen	March 12th
Jeannine Luce	March 17th
William Wurtz	March 18th
Judy Gilbertson	March 18th
Marie Hanson	March 27th

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**REDMOND
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2024 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 Name(s): 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, STE 122, Redmond, WA 98052

You may also renew or purchase a membership through our website at

<http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org>

The Redmond Recorder, our quarterly newsletter, is available by email and viewable on our website. You may request a paper copy by contacting our office at

info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Old Redmond Schoolhouse
16600 NE 80th Street, Room 122
Redmond, WA 98052

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