



# WHITMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 50, No. 3 – June 2023

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL RETURNS!

The Perkins House Ice Cream Social, on COVID hiatus since 2020, returns this June with some exciting new features, as well as some old traditions. The Social has been held nearly every summer since the founding of the Whitman County Historical Society in 1972, on the last Sunday in June. This year's Social, however, will be held on Saturday, June 17, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Its theme will be "Sundaes on Saturday."



*Models in vintage clothing waiting to go on "stage"*



Theresa Dale, a member of the ICS Committee, said that attendees will be able to pick from three basic types of ice cream, which they can then garnish with a variety of toppings. WCHS is not asking, as in past years, for donations of home-made pies and desserts, nor is it selling hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides.

Traditional activities will include tours of the house and cabin, as well as craft demonstrations and a style show of fashions from the Perkins House Vintage Clothing Collection. Special guests at this year's Social will include descendants of James and Jennie Perkins (the founders of Colfax and builders of the Perkins House), who are having a reunion in Colfax that weekend.

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**If you have information for the next newsletter...** Please email either Kathy Meyer ([klemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:klemeyer@gmail.com)) or Debbie Sherman ([jdjsherman@msn.com](mailto:jdjsherman@msn.com)), or phone one of them at (509) 432-1336 or (509) 334-7389. Likewise, if we contact you asking for information on one of your projects, *please* return our call or email. Several planned articles had to be deleted from this newsletter because people couldn't be bothered to spend a few minutes talking to one of us.

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**Greetings from WCHS Vice President Jeff Pietela** will be featured in the next newsletter because a death in the family prevented him from writing it.

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### **Lost Apple Project Update**

**Dave Bencoter** reports that his Lost Apple volunteers have finished grafting pre-ordered apple trees. They always graft extras, so in July they'll announce what is available. WCHS members receive a 20% discount (\$28 for trees, normally \$35). The Lost Apple Project is also two weeks away from revealing two rediscoveries. Stay tuned for the announcement in the next newsletter! Above are some of the trees they have grafted.



Meanwhile, take a look at “On the Hunt for America’s Forgotten Apples,” an excellent feature on the LAP by Andrew Zaleski, in *Outside Magazine* (18 May 2023). [Here's the story](#) on *Outside's* website.

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### **Parnell Ceremony**



About forty people attended the Memorial Day dedication of the monument for Sheriff Levi Morton “Pete” Parnell (1888-1949) in the Colfax City Cemetery on Monday, May 29, including a large contingent of law enforcement officers. Parnell was killed in Pullman by sniper George McIntyre on Easter Sunday in 1949. Funding for the granite monument (center of photo) was provided by **Gary and Trudy Libey** of Colfax, and by **Pat and Norm LaPalme** of Jacksonville, Florida.

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### **Roof Restoration Springs Forward at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center**

Big changes have been taking place at the Depot! Although it has appeared to have been lying dormant since its purchase by WCHS in 2018, its volunteers have been working tirelessly to raise funds and secure grants. That work is coming to fruition, thanks to numerous generous donors.





The building, which sits on the north bank of the Palouse River, was slowly deteriorating. Changes made in the past 18 months have included repointing many of the building's bricks and replacing of some of the original foundation stones. Tiles for the roof arrived earlier than expected, on April 3, and work started immediately. Layers of decades-old roofing were removed and are now being replaced by green clay tiles identical to those that graced the structure between 1916/17 and the early 1950s. Further exterior work will include gutter and soffit additions, restoration of window casements, and the return of the exterior doors to their original green color.

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### Successful Vintage Quilt Show at the Depot

Over 125 people attended the second Annual Vintage Quilt Show at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center, which ran weekends from April 21 to May 6. Some 40 quilts—all between 50 and 120 years old—filled the Freight Room and the Passenger Car, along with examples of crocheted lace doilies and other vintage handiwork. A big thank-you to each of the volunteers who set up and took down the show, to the Appaloosa Bobbin Lace Guild for demonstrating their art, to Doug Meyer and Greg May for making new quilt display frames, and to the following county residents who generously loaned their heirloom quilts and handwork items:

Francis Benjamin, Jennie Carlson, Cathy George, Val Gregory, Teri Hansen, Holly Hein, Vivian Hudson, Nancy Mack, the McCoy-Oakesdale Museum, Kelly McGee, Kathy Meyer, Heather Morgan, Suzanne Myklebust, Theresa Myott, Sheryl Nelson, Greg Partch, Mollie Ressa, Mary Schweitzer, Debbie Sherman, Jane Sielkin, Helen Thompson, Jamie Whitman, and Carolyn Wyatt.

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The spotlight for June/July 2023 is on **Don and Teresa Myott** of Palouse, who started volunteering at the Roy Chatters Boomerang Print Museum 15 years ago. At first, they helped with exhibits, advertising, and a variety of other things, such as the permanent display on the remaining pillar that supported the trestle for the Spokane and Inland Empire electric train that once ran through Palouse. More recently, since his retirement after 34 years with the city of Palouse, Don has been going through old newspapers every Saturday, making note of items such as obituaries, wedding announcements, and local events that might be of interest to genealogists and historians. For example, in April he found an article in the *Palouse Republic* that described a game that the Harlem Globetrotters were playing against the Palouse town team. At least two books and several journal articles have been written by authors who have made extensive use of Don's research.



Teresa is also retired. She taught special education K-12 and in grades 1-4 for 33 years in Idaho and still does a lot of substitute teaching. A long-time community volunteer for numerous organizations, in particular she has spent 21 years with Needful Things Thrift Shop in Palouse, which supports the Community Center and various activities and events that take place there. For the Print Museum, Teresa photographs Don's finds and often prints them or emails them to people who are interested in them.



## 2023 Calendar

June 17	Ice Cream Social, Perkins House, Colfax
	Summer Dayz Car Show, downtown St. John
June 21	WCHS Board Meeting, WCHS Archive, Pullman
June 23-25	LaCrosse Farmers' Festival
July 14-15	Old Mill Days, Oakesdale
July 19	WCHS Board Meeting, Perkins House, Colfax
August 16	WCHS Board Meeting, Pullman Depot Freight Room
August 17-19	Depot Days, Pullman Depot
August 19	Pullman Lentil Festival
September 7-10	Palouse Empire Fair (mini-lessons at the Jones Schoolhouse, and exhibits and/or demonstrations at the Blacksmith Shop)
September 16	Palouse Days
September 20	WCHS Board Meeting, Print Museum, Palouse
October 20, 21, 27, 28	Haunted Palouse (new horrors at the Print Museum)
November 15	WCHS Board Meeting, Pullman Depot Freight Room
December 2	Pullman Festival of Lights (Santa Comes to Pullman via the Depot)
December 2	Winter Fest, Colfax (Christmas Open House at the Perkins House)
December 2, 9, 16	Christmas Train Car Bazaar at the Pullman Depot
December 20	WCHS Board Meeting, Zoom

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Trinity Chapel     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pullman Depot Heritage Center              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perkins House and Cabin | <input type="checkbox"/> WCHS Archive                               |

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**Send to:** WCHS Membership Chairman PO Box 67 COLFAX WA 99111