



## WHITMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. 51, No. 1 – January/February 2024

### Barn Exhibit at the Library in Colfax

By Savannah Martin

Photographer **George Bedirian** has partnered with the Colfax Library to create an exhibit for January. “Barns of the Palouse” will be featured at the Center until the end of January, from Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and Saturdays, 1:00 to 5:00 PM.



### Lost Apple Virtual Propagation Fair

Featuring apple scions supplied by mail and custom grafted apple trees for pick-up in person, as well as apricot, cherry, pear, and plum scions.

Are you planning to start an orchard, expand an existing one, or simply plant a unique fruit tree in your yard? Until February 10, apple scions and newly grafted apple trees can be ordered from the Lost Apple Project, via The Fruit House. If you are interested, go to <https://thefruithouse.weebly.com/apple-scions-2024.html>.

Scions are \$6 and newly grafted trees are \$35. Unless your order is over \$100, payment will not be required until your scions are mailed (mid-March) or until you pick up your grafted trees (circa July 10), in Pullman or Spokane. Many “lost,” rare, and heritage varieties are available.

According to their website, they will work with you to make sure you get the tree(s) you want. For example, if you want a really good early apple, order the Sary Sinap, which ripens in late July or early August. Would you like to know what the best August apple is? The Pristine apple is incredible! Excellent September apples are the Fall Jeneting and Arkansas Beauty. Most

formerly “lost” apples ripen in October. Five cider apple trees are also available. Fall apples always keep longer in your cellar or refrigerator than early season apples.

Look forward to giving your taste buds a treat by placing your order now! Explore the variety of these once lost but now rediscovered heritage apples.

---

## **Next BookTalk at the Depot: “Ida Lou Anderson and the Architecture of the WSU Pullman Campus,”** **by Trevor James Bond and Phil Gruen**

Join us at the Depot on Thursday, February 29, for a pair of illustrated presentations on *The Ida Lou Anderson House: A Personal, Social, and Architectural History*, by two of its three authors. The program will begin at 7:00 PM in the Freight Room on the northwest end of the building.



The first, by Dr. Trevor Bond, will examine the life of a remarkable Washington State College faculty member and graduate of Colfax High School who taught at WSC from 1926 to 1939. She trained and inspired a generation of broadcasters, including Edward R. Murrow—perhaps WSU’s most famous alumnus.

The second, by Dr. Phil Gruen, will explore the growth of the Pullman campus under the Holland administration and the embrace of the Gregorian revival style in creating a new identity for Washington's land grant college.

---

## **A Successful Christmas at the Depot!**

A large crowd (below left) turned out to welcome Santa Claus to Pullman on December 2. He and Mrs. Claus (**Bobbie Ryder**) arrived via the passenger car (below center), which was all decked out for the Depot’s annual Holiday Bazaar. They were assisted by four WSU reindeer (below right): **Cordy Whitman**, **Trent Anderson**, **Sophie Hill**, and **Olivia Whitman**. Holiday songs in the parking lot were led by the WSU Greek Men’s Choir, after which the crowd marched down to Pine Street Plaza on Main Street for the lighting of Pullman’s Christmas Tree.







**Louis Vyhnanek** has been volunteering at the WCHS Archive, located in the Gladish Building in Pullman, since shortly after his retirement in January of 2015. He spent 31 years as a Reference and History Specialist with the WSU Libraries, so it seemed natural to him to volunteer at the Archive, where he can be found

Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:30.



Lou has a master's degree in History from the University of South Florida, as well as a second master's in Library Science and a PhD in History from Louisiana State University. He has also served on the WSU Press Editorial Board for many years—longer than any other board member, he suspects. Lou and his wife Kay, who also retired from the WSU Libraries in 2015, have two daughters and one grandson.

His main duties at the Archive are processing and organizing donations and collections. He numbers and places materials into Past Perfect, a computer program that allows researchers to search the WCHS collections—which are grouped by families, areas in Whitman County, and books on particular subjects or by the same author. He also works with historic photographs. Collection materials are usually limited to Whitman County.

When asked why he devotes so much of his time to WCHS, Lou said, “I have a background in history, lots of reference experience, and I am particularly interested in local history, so the Archive is a good place for me to spend time in retirement. I especially enjoy helping people do research on their families.”

---

### Can You Identify Either of Us?



We worked in the old wooden Northern Pacific Depot in Pullman in the summer of 1912. (It was replaced in 1917 by the brick NP Depot, now the Pullman Depot Heritage Center at N. 330 Grand Ave.) We were food service workers in the lunchroom inside the Depot. Please contact Kathy Meyer ([klemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:klemeyer@gmail.com) or 509-432-1336) if you know either of our names and/or can tell her something about either of us!

---

### *Please Renew Your Membership*

If you haven't done so already, please take a minute or two to respond to the membership renewal request you may have recently received in the mail (batches are sent to different members every month). Membership would make a wonderful Valentine gift for a friend or relative who loves local history! The form can be found below, or you can download it from the WCHS website ([whitmancountyhistorical.society.org](http://whitmancountyhistorical.society.org)). Thank you!

---

**If you have information for the next newsletter or an event to place on the calendar**, please call either **Debbie Sherman** (509) 334-7389 or **Kathy Meyer** (509) 432-1336, or email them to [jdjsherman@msn.com](mailto:jdjsherman@msn.com) or [klemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:klemeyer@gmail.com).

## 2024 Calendar

February 21	WCHS Board Meeting, PDHC Freight Room, 7:00 PM
February 29	BookTalk: <i>The Ida Lou Anderson House</i> , by Trevor Bond and Phil Gruen, PDHC Freight Room, 7:00 PM
March 20	WCHS Board Meeting, Perkins House, Colfax, 7:00 PM
March 21	Palouse People: "Woman Homesteaders on the Palouse," by Kathy Meyer, Pullman Depot, 7:00 PM
April 17	WCHS Board Meeting, Print Museum, Palouse, 7:00 PM
April 19	Palouse People: Mayor Francis Benjamin will speak about his mother's quilts at the Pullman Depot (time TBA)
April 19-21, 27, May 4	Antique Quilt Show at the Depot, Pullman
May 15	WCHS Board Meeting, PDHC Freight Room, 7:00 PM
May 23	Palouse People: "Fallen Cougars," Pullman Depot, 7:00 PM
June 19	WCHS Board Meeting, WCHS Archive,
June 23	Ice Cream Social, Colfax, 1:00 to 4:00
June 29	Summer Dayz Car Show, St. John, 9:00 AM
July 18	WCHS Board Meeting, Perkins House, Colfax, 7:00 PM
August 16-17	Lentil Festival, Pullman
August 16-17	Depot Days, Pullman Depot
August 21	WCHS Board Meeting, PDCH Freight Room 7:00 PM
September 14	Palouse Days Antique Car Show
September 5-8	Palouse Empire Fair, Jones Schoolhouse & Blacksmith Shop
September 18	WCHS Board Meeting, Print Museum, Palouse, 7:00
October (date TBA)	Annual Meeting
November 20	WCHS Board Meeting, PDHC Freight Room, 7:00 PM
December 7	Christmas Open House at the Perkins House, Colfax
December 7, 14, 21	Train Car Holiday Bazaar, Pullman Depot
December 18	WCHS Board Meeting, ZOOM

**MEMBERSHIP**: Become a part of the exciting future of Whitman County, or share its history with a friend or relative! Join, renew your membership, or give a gift membership.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership - \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership - \$ 75     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership - \$50     | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership - \$100 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership - \$60   | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership - \$500 or more   |

Name of continuing or new member, or gift

Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of giver, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**I'd like to make an additional donation:** ☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$100.00 ☐ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please direct my donation to:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Need           | <input type="checkbox"/> Roy Chatters Newspaper and Printing Museum |
| <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                               |

Note that WCHS is a 501c 3. Your gift is tax deductible. Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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