



WHITMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 53, No. 2 – March/April 2026

| AT THE DEPOT |

Vintage Quilt Show

Saturdays
April 18, 25 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm
May 2, 9 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm

330 N. Grand Ave. Pullman in the Freight Room (next to the train cars)

The 4th Annual Vintage Quilt and Handwork Show at the Pullman Depot ended Saturday, May 9, after running four consecutive Saturdays. It was somewhat smaller this year, as the passenger car was still partially tented and pretty much unusable, but there were still many gorgeous old quilts to see. Thus, the ticket price was reduced—what a deal, right? A \$5 donation was suggested—all proceeds supported events and exhibits at the Depot. All in all, \$?? Was raised, only slightly down from past years

As in past quilt shows, the quilts featured histories and, if possible, photos of the women who made the quilts. And, back by popular demand, the Palouse Lacemakers were there demonstrating their craft.

Thank you to everyone who loaned their precious and unique vintage quilts for the show! The freight room committee appreciates the sharing of your family history.

Lease Holders at the Depot, by Linda Hackbarth

The operations at the PDHC are sustainable because monthly rents cover its overhead expenses. We appreciate our tenants and thank them for putting up with the inconveniences of our ongoing projects. Cheers to **Cornerstone Properties, Dom's Donuts, Root to Rise Psychological Services, Three Forks Unlimited,** and the **Washington Idaho Symphony Association.**

Rolling Stock Restoration, by Debbie Sherman

It's time to complete the rolling stock restoration at Pullman Depot Heritage Center! With your help, tarps will soon come off, and remaining exterior work will be completed by removing the existing paint, followed by primer and paint. The original Northern Pacific color scheme will return to the passenger coach, with the Burlington Northern caboose returning to its yellow and green palette. The coach's RV-style windows will be replaced by vintage style windows to complete the exterior.

This project is more than a restoration, as it reinforces Pullman's identity, reminding us that our name derives from railroad magnate George Pullman. The Depot once played a vital role in the growth of the community growth, Washington State College (now University), and Whitman County. A transportation hub, the Depot welcomed students, faculty, families, and visitors to Pullman beginning in the 1800s. Your gift honors generations of Cougs who arrived mostly on trains, often referred to as "Cougar Specials." The Depot served as a cornerstone of the community's business and agricultural development as well.

Time and weather have ravaged the exteriors of the passenger car and the caboose, but the Depot and its rolling stock remain central to Pullman's downtown core as tangible reminders of our past.

If you wish to donate to the rolling stock restoration, contact Debbie Sherman at jdjsherman@man.com or 509-334-738. Your donation directly supports the railcar restoration, preserving not only its history but also that of the community for decades to come. Join us and be part of the change as we transform these eyesores into showstoppers!



WCHS Endowment Funds

by Linda Hackbarth and Kathy Meyer

Endowment funds are important because they grow over time through a blend of donations and investment returns, while the principal is maintained permanently to ensure long-term financial stability. WCHS has two endowment funds. There are many ways to give to them, including tax-free distributions from IRAs, gifts of real estate or stock, and designations from your estate.

The larger and older WCHS Endowment Fund was created in 1980/81. Dues from life members and memorial gifts to WCHS always go to this fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. It currently has \$\$\$\$ and generated \$\$\$\$ in 2025. It is overseen by three individuals: **Tom Kammerzell**, **Bob Lothspeich**, and **Ryan Hamilton**. Funds are invested with Edward Jones. To support this fund, contact **Valery Gregory** at ...

In 2024, the Pullman Depot Steering Committee established a second endowment fund—specifically to support the Pullman Depot Heritage Center—with a \$10,000 gift from an

anonymous donor. Additional donations to this fund are encouraged. If you wish to contribute, email Linda Hackbarth at lindahackbarth39@gail.com or contact the Innovia Foundation at (509) 624-2506.



Thank you for your support of the Whitman County Historical Society in 2025! Our many worthwhile projects—which include the Boomerang Print Museum, *the Bunchgrass Historian*, the Perkins House, the Pullman Depot Heritage Center, Trinity Chapel, and the WCHS Archive—would not be possible without your donations.

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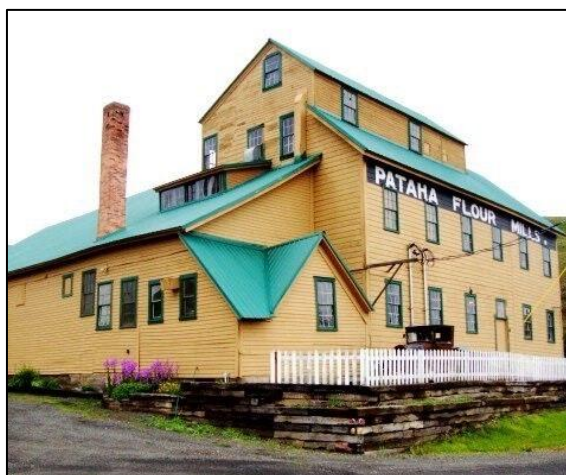
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To continue supporting WCHS in 2026, contact **Val Gregory** at 509-397-2555 or wchsdirector1@gmail.com

Featured Museum: Pataha Flour Mills

(Museum and Restaurant, privately owned)
50 Hutchens Hill Road, Pomeroy WA 99347
509-843-3799
Hours: Wed.-Sat., 11:00-2:00

Formerly known as the Houser Mill, the Pataha Flour Mills building in neighboring Garfield County was constructed in 1878. It is one of the oldest intact grain mills in Eastern Washington. Visitors can see antique machinery spread across its four stories, accessible through a ramp system. The mill provides a unique experience for groups that book tours in advance or for individuals who stop by for a self-guided tour during regularly scheduled hours.



The mill has a restaurant on its main floor. Go to <https://patahafLOURmills.com/menu> to see its menu. According to the web-site, "As a non-profit organization, Pataha Flour Mills is committed to serving the community and offers meals and tours on a donation-only basis."



Ken Casavant has been volunteering at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center for ? years, since he retired in 202?. He is currently serving a second term on its Steering Committee, and he is a member of the Fundraising Committee and the Building Restoration Committee, as well.

Other area nonprofit groups also benefit from Ken's volunteer work, including Pullman Regional Hospital.



After earning a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University in 19??, Ken spent over fifty years researching and teaching for the university. His work explores how policy affects the movement of goods that power the economy, which has helped develop more effective

transportation systems of rails, roads, and ports. He has written several books and over 100 articles. In 2019, he was the recipient of the WSU Alumni Achievement Award.

He and his wife Dorothy have been married for ?? years and are the parents of...

When asked why he devotes so much of his time to volunteer work for WCHS, he said, "...

Send us your Stories! Newsletter editors Debbie Sherman and Kathy Meyer sometimes get complaints that some WCHS projects don't get as much coverage in this newsletter as others do. This is true—but keep in mind that neither of us is Lois Lane. We do not, and cannot, run around Whitman County trying to hunt down stories about WCHS. If you want us to print something about your project or activity, contact us! Debbie: jdsherman@man.com or (509) 334-7389. Kathy: klemeyer@gmail.com or (509) 432-1336.

2026 Calendar

Apr. 18, 25, May 2, 9	PDHC Vintage Quilt Show, Freight Room at the Depot, Pullman
May 20	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
May (date TBA)	PalousePeople, Pullman Depot: "Fallen Cougars," 7:00 to 8:00 PM
June 5-6	Battle Days, Rosalia
June 17	Board Meeting, Archive, Pullman, 7:00 PM
June 20	Slippery Gulch Days, Tekoa
July 4	Pioneer Days, Endicott
July 15	Board Meeting, Perkins House, Colfax, 7:00
Aug. 19	Executive Meeting, Pullman Depot, 6:00
	Board Meeting, Pullman Depot, 7:00
Aug. 22	National Lentil Festival, Pullman
Aug. 22	Depot Days, Pullman, all day
Sept. (date TBA)	Board Meeting, Print Museum, Palouse, 7:00
Sept. 10-13	Palouse Empire Fair, WCHS will be staffing the Jones Schoolhouse and the Blacksmith Shop
Oct. (date TBA)	Annual Meeting (location TBA)
Nov. 18	Executive Meeting, Pullman Depot, 6:00
	Board Meeting, Pullman Depot, 7:00
Dec. 16	Board Meeting, ZOOM, 7:00
Dec. 5, 12, 19	PDHC Train Car Bazaar (times TBA)

Please Renew Your Membership! If you haven't done so already, please respond to the membership renewal request you may have recently received in the mail. Or, consider membership as a gift for a friend or loved one—perhaps as a Mother's or Father's Day gift. Fill out the form below and mail it to the address below, or go to the WCHS website (whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org).

MEMBERSHIP: Become a part of the exciting future of Whitman County Historical Society!



- | | | | |
|--|--------|---|-----------------|
| ☐ Individual Membership | - \$30 | ☐ Sustaining Membership. | - \$ 75 |
| ☐ Family Membership | - \$50 | ☐ Patron Membership | - \$100 or more |
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|--|---|
| ☐ Greatest Need | ☐ Roy Chatters Newspaper and Printing Museum |
| ☐ Holy Trinity Chapel | ☐ Pullman Depot Heritage Center |
| ☐ Perkins House and Cabin | ☐ 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