

Report from the Archive, January 2024:

Open to Public, regular posted hours Wednesdays, 9:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Several staff members have taken time off due to Christmas, New Years, Gas Main damage and weather.

Staff have been present throughout working the following:

Collating and cataloging donated collections and entering data into PastPerfect. Responding to requests from the public.

Notables:

Accomplishing online requests, research, and responses, seems to be more Genealogy than historical.

Working with The Whitman County Library and the Washington State Library in the posting of scanned photo and photos of historical artifacts to be posted on the Rural Heritage site:

Preparing approximately 44 ea. files per month for eight months starting October 1, 2023, through June 1, 2024, for a total of 350 items or more.

Rural Heritage Digital Collection managed by Kathy Buchholtz of the County Library in Colfax has started posting photos Whitman County Historical Society photos with the Washington State Library Rural Heritage site online,

View current:

<https://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/digital/collection/whitman/search/searchterm/whitman%20county%20historical%20society>

Each photo contains the following information:

Example:

- * Contributing institution: ... Whitman County Historical Society Archives
- * Donated:Whitman County Gazette
- * Accession Number:2021-02-007

Bunchgrass 3 left in 2024, with Ed Garretson as Editor. He's stated "three Bunchgrass's left before he's done" 2024 will be Ed's last year as editor of the BGH. Just shooting up a caution Flair here!

Dan Hall at the Whitman County Department of Public Works: Conversation with Dan that materials that he has shared with me are considered "public information and needs no permission to share", I stated that the WCHS will state on all shares that these reside with the county.

* County Aerial photos of county, 28 each 40" x 48" 1/4" pressed chip boards with 1936 Aerial photo of the township of Whitman County. These items still need to be moved from the County building, Note: I Spoke with Dan a few days ago.

- * Railroad map scan's

* Highway 26 from North end twin bridges toward the rock quarry (~1936)

* Early Colfax maps

Conversation with Mary Romero, Curator of Nez Perce County Historical Society. Mary stated that with her training and experience, any and all items where we don't receive a signed acquisition form, we should not be received, or even opened, such as materials dropped off at the Perkins House, or delivered by drop offs. I have a fairly frequent and good relationship with Mary, due to her training (4 year Museum and Curator at U of W with post degree training) and experience with Nez Perce. We currently do not response with this recommendation, but it is something we surely need to consider.

Lease at Gladish is down to 19 months remaining, 9/1/2025 is when new lease should be in place. Current lease agreement review:

Gladish Lease (Current)				WCHS	WCGS
Year	Mthly Rent	Yearly	Yearly	Monthly Rent	
starts	per Yr	increase	Increase		
9/1/2020	\$497.50			\$331.66	\$165.83
9/1/2021	\$513.42	3.20%	\$15.92	\$342.28	\$171.14
9/1/2022	\$529.85	3.20%	\$16.43	\$353.23	\$176.61
9/1/2023	\$546.80	3.20%	\$16.96	\$364.53	\$182.27
9/1/2024	\$564.30	3.20%	\$17.50	\$376.20	\$188.10

Regards,

Alex

Palouse Museum – Janet Barstow

We are happy to have WSU student volunteer Serena Beltramo helping with some window displays!

The Coffee Club meets one day a week now instead of six.

Will Smiley is tutoring a local resident in the art of letterpress printing, and others have signed up. It's a pleasure to have that activity again in the museum. A youth group is coming in February for a project with Janet Barstow.

Alex Otero and Don Myott continue their dedicated research and indexing projects. They rarely miss a Saturday!

St. Ignatius – Austin Storm

We are still doing projects. We are restoring the windows in the chapel area. We got our parking lot cleaned up. People kept leaving abandoned cars. With help from the police, we got them towed off. We now have signs up that say private property, no parking. Our

tours are still going strong. Since we had a mild December we sold out every weekend. In January we only do private tours. We give our volunteers a break and it is cold.

Depot Report for January 2024

The Events Committee hosted our 3rd annual Holiday Bazaar on three Saturdays in December. A total of \$733.75 was raised from the sale of various homemade items.

The first day, December 2nd from 4pm until 6:30pm was the Festival of Lights, put on by the Civic Trust & The Pullman Chamber of Commerce. Santa arrived by train and was met by PDHC elves who escorted Santa and the families to Pioneer Square for the tree lighting.

Upcoming Palouse People - tentative

February - Trevor Bond, Ida Anderson House

March - Kathy Meyer, Women Homesteaders

April - Francis Benjamin, Quilt

Other upcoming events

April - Tea party to support Palouse Prairie Project

May - Quilt Show

August - Depot Days

The Restoration Committee met December 28, 2023, with Design West to review the 3 bids received for soffit upgrades. After discussion the committee voted to recommend the low bid from JK Greystone, Viola, ID – total with taxes - \$129, 063.45. The recommendation was then to unanimously approved by the Steering Committee and forwarded to WCHC for consideration.

Design West has been directed to prepare another windows bid package to go out before the end of January, hoping to attract more favorable bids and a few more contractors with the prospect of working during good weather.

The Steering Committee discussed plans for the addition of an historic “Cougar Special” platform for the passenger car. It will be constructed by the McGregor Company at an estimated cost of \$10,419.90. The Rolling Stock Committee will be investigating means to finance this project and the associated repair of the existing entry platform. A donor has offered support and the Pullman Chamber grant remains a possibility.

A total of \$113,465.91 was donated to the depot in 2023. Recognition of those donors plus those who contributed in December 2022 are being acknowledged in a February Community Update ad.

The annual report is being planned for distribution in February.