



WHITMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 52, No. 2 – March/April 2025

Annual Pullman Depot Vintage Quilt Show!

April 26, May 3, and May 10 – noon to 5:00

Pullman Depot Heritage Center (330 N. Grand Ave.)

The fourth annual Pullman Depot Vintage Quilt Show begins next month in late April, which is just around the corner! If you have a vintage quilt or handwork item that you would like to loan to the Depot for the quilt show, contact Freight Room Director **Jamie Whitman** at 509-332-1005 (or jwhitman97@yahoo.com) or **Kathy Meyer** at 509-432-1336 (or klemeyer@gmail.com). Quilts and handwork should be at least 40 years old.



Visitors to the Freight Room and Passenger Car on the above days can look forward to seeing handmade quilts and comforters that are normally unavailable for public viewing. Information on quilt patterns and the creators(s) of the quilts will be displayed with each one. A number of other handwork items—such as embroidered pillowcases and crocheted doilies and lace—will also be on view. Additionally, the quilt show will feature demonstrations of bobbin lace making by the Appaloosa Lace Guild of Moscow, and attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the quilting of an actual quilt, pieced together by **Debbie Sherman**. It will be raffled next December during the Holiday Train Car Bazaar. Several other raffles and a contest for “Favorite Quilt of the Show” (with prizes for lenders) are also planned.

Pullman’s mayor, **Francis Benjamin**, will open the quilt show, speaking on his mother’s remarkable enthusiasm for quilting. **Garnet Benjamin** did not start quilting until she was 50; but in the following 35 years, she completed over 220 quilts and over 380 quilted wall hangings and minis. A number of her works will be part of this year’s quilt show. The mayor’s talk, entitled “A Quilter’s Legacy Continues,” will be held on Saturday, April 26, in the Ladies’ Waiting Room at the Depot (on the Kamiakin Street end of the building). It will start at 10:00 AM, and the quilt show itself will begin afterward.



Tickets to attend the Quilt Show are \$3.00 for WCHS members and \$5.00 for non-members. Lenders will be admitted to the quilt show at no cost. Mayor Benjamin’s talk is free to the public.

After Dark Tours at the Perkins House

by Val Gregory

Join us for a captivating night at the historic Perkins House as the sun sets, immerse yourself in intriguing tales from the past and experience the charm of this remarkable location. You never know what sights and stories await you in the shadows of history. Come and discover the mysteries that linger after dark!



Public and private tours are available. Public tours are \$50 per person for a two-hour tour. Private tours are \$350 for a three-hour tour for six people. Tickets are available online at whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org. Proceeds are used for operating funds and special projects at the Perkins House.

New Exhibit at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center: “The Palouse Prairie”



Jenny Carlson, co-ordinator of the Palouse Prairie Project at the Depot, is currently creating a new exhibit in the Freight Room, which will open in March. The exhibit’s theme is biodiversity in the Palouse and why it is important.



The project began three years ago, in response to the problem of unsightly invasive weeds on the bank on the north side of the parking lot at the Depot. Landscaping and watering it would have been costly and very labor intensive, and “the Depot does not have an army of young, fit gardeners to take care of the grounds,” said Jenny. Native plants, however, are low maintenance and use water very efficiently. In addition, they are locally historically relevant as examples of what grew in the Palouse before the arrival of European pioneers and the first tilling of the land.

Native plants also benefit local species of butterflies and birds, some of which eat only one kind of plant. These species will die out if they do not have access to particular plants that are native to the Palouse. Thus, refamiliarizing the public with these plants is an important goal.



Partnering with the Palouse Prairie Project and the Phoenix Conservancy, volunteers planted the first seeds in 2023. Thus, the coming growing season will be the third—a turning point for seeded native plants, said Jenny. “Year one sleep, year two creep, year three leap!” She explained that after a new plot of ground is seeded, plant roots will grow more quickly below the ground than vegetation will appear above the ground. During the second year, subtle growth appears above ground; and in the third year, the plants will leap into bloom.

Come learn about the Palouse Prairie Project in more detail. Postcards and bookmarks depicting native plants, birds, and butterflies are also available for purchase at the Depot.

Left: Sticky Geranium, Snowberries, and a Western Meadowlark. Right: a Western Tiger Swallowtail.

Did you know that the Palouse was once an extensive prairie covered by mid-length perennial grasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue? Today 90 percent of the Palouse Prairie is devoted to field crops or pasture; non-native species such as cheatgrass have overrun the rest.





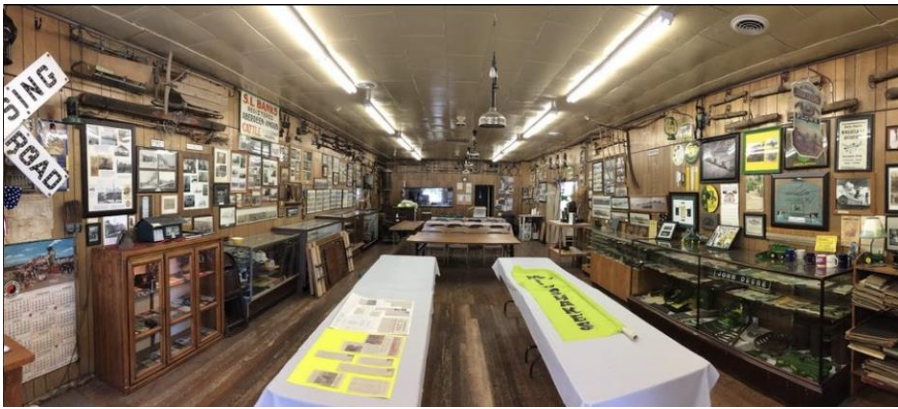
Meet **Olivia Whitman**, whose name was drawn from our jar of volunteer names for this issue of the WCHS newsletter. She is the granddaughter of **Jamie Whitman**, the director of the Freight Room at the Pullman Depot, and has been volunteering there since she was 18.



Olivia has done a wide variety of work at the Depot, including participating in seasonal outdoor cleanup days and volunteering at holiday events—such as Depot Days, Bike Week, Halloween, and the Holiday Train Car Bazaar. She often recruits her friends to help, too. While she was in college, she regularly cleaned the interior of the Depot. Her grandmother says, “Olivia always comes when I need her help. She’s awesome!”

A 2020 graduate of Pullman High School and a 2024 graduate of Washington State University, Olivia has a degree in Elementary Education and is currently doing substitute teaching in Pullman.

When asked why she enjoys volunteering at the Depot, Olivia said, “I grew up in Pullman so I enjoy being part of the community. Volunteering is one way I can do that.” She added, “And I wouldn’t be able to do it without the help of my grandmother!”



**FEATURED
MUSEUM:
THE MCCOY
VALLEY MUSEUM**

107 N. First Street,
Oakesdale, Washington

Founded in 1988, the 100th anniversary of the founding of Oakesdale, the mission of

the Oakesdale Historical Society is to celebrate area’s railroad and agricultural history. A community project, all of its contents have been donated or loaned by local residents.

Oakesdale was once the junction of three major railroads: the Great Northern, the Northern Pacific, and the Union Pacific. Not surprisingly, the museum features many artifacts from the early years of the railroads, as well as from early businesses and the people who founded the town. A small library contains books, journals, and pictures that depict the history of the area and Steptoe Butte State Park.

The museum is open on Saturdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or by appointment. For further information, call 509-285-4209.

NOTICE: The Dee Harrison Museum has closed—probably permanently—due to its location on the second floor of the Albion Community Center. The Guy-Albion Historical Society, which originally created the museum and then maintained it for many years, has been informed that access to it does not meet requirements stipulated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Charles & Gwen Oldenburg
P.K. O’Lear
Robert & Marsha Olsen
Arvid Olson
A.D. & Sheila O’Rourke
Sara Perino
James & Jamie Peters
Annette Pettenger
James Pettenger
Mary Pettenger
Kjel Pettenger-Willey
Barbara Petura
Bruce & Chris Pinkleton
Carolyn Priest
Mona Reaume
Darl & Star Roberts
Nancy Rothwell & Jim Fitzgerald

Kathleen Ryan & Jeff Vervort
Gary & Karen Scheer
Gary & Sue Schell
Mark & Ann Schumaker
Mary Schweitzer
David Seamans
Luanne Semler
John & Debbie Sherman
Barbara Simpson
Sarah Sims
Monique Slipher
Richard & Sandra Sloan
Peter Smith
Debbie Snell
John Snowden
Michael & Chris Sodorff

L.J. & Sandra Spoonemore
Jan Stewart
Linda Stone
Amy Tull
Ernest Vogel & Barbara Billings
Kathryn Vogel
Sally Vogel
Al & Jane Von Frank
Louis & Kay Vyhnanek
Lee & Donita Walker
Randall & Cynthia Wallenberg
Norman Warnick
Kathleen Warren
Steve Watson
Jason & Katherine Watts
Diane Weber

If you have information for the May/June newsletter, please call either **Debbie Sherman** (509) 3347389 or **Kathy Meyer** (509) 432-1336, or email them at jdjsherman@msn.com or klemeyer@gmail.com. We can’t print your stories unless you contact us!

2025 Calendar

Mar. 19	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Perkins House, Colfax
Apr. 16	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Print Museum, Palouse
Apr. 26, May 3, May 10	PDHC Vintage Quilt Show, Pullman Depot, noon to 5:00
May TBA	Palouse Prairie Tea Party, PDHC
May 21	WCHS Executive/Depot Meeting, 6:00 PM, Pullman Depot
	WHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Pullman Depot
May, TBA	Palouse People, “Fallen Cougars,” by WSU History graduate students, 7:00 PM, Pullman Depot Freight Room.
June 18	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Pullman Archive
July 11-12	Old Mill Days, Oakesdale
July 16	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Perkins House, Colfax
Aug. 15-16	Pullman Lentil Festival PDHC Depot Days, Pullman
Aug. 20	WCHS Executive/Depot Meeting 6:00 PM, Pullman Depot WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00, Pullman Depot
Sept. 4-7	Palouse Empire Fair – come see us at the Jones Schoolhouse and the Blacksmith Shop
Sept. 18	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Print Museum, Palouse
Oct. TBA	WCHS Annual Meeting, time and place TBA
Nov. 20	WCHS Executive/Depot Meeting 6:00 PM, Pullman Depot WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Pullman Depot
Dec. 7	Perkins House Christmas, Colfax
Dec. 7, 14, 21	Train Car Holiday Bazaar at the Pullman Depot
Dec. 18	WCHS Board Meeting, Zoom

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. Membership would be a thoughtful Mother's Day gift! The form can be found below, or you can renew your membership or buy one as a gift on the WCHS website (whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org). Thank you!

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