



WHITMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 50, No. 6 – December 2023

WCHS Officers and Board Members for 2024

Director: Valoree Gregory, Steptoe

Officers:

President: Mark Clinton, Colfax
Vice President: Jeff Pietela, LaCrosse
Treasurer: Jon Anderson, Port Townsend
Secretary: Janet Barstow, Palouse

Board Members:

Krista Jones Boyd, Colfax
Pat Flansburg, Palouse
Linda Hackbarth, Pullman
Carol Larsen, Almota
Denise Mahnkey, Pullman
Kathy Meyer, Pullman
Greg Partch, Garfield
Donna Potts, Pullman

Other Project Leaders:

Ed Garretson, Uniontown
Alex Otero, Colfax
Greg Partch, Garfield
Rebecca McGee, Pullman
Ronda Penwell, Colfax
Debbie Sherman, Pullman
Austin & Laura Storm, Colfax

Additional Volunteer Involvement:

Grants, Wilson Siding Project
Roy Chatters Newspaper & Print Museum

Jones Schoolhouse, Annual Meeting
Holy Trinity Chapel
Pullman Depot Heritage Center (PDHC)
Membership, Perkins House, WCHS Archive
Oral History, Jones Schoolhouse
PDHC, Jones Schoolhouse, Newsletter
Cashup Davis Exhibit, Wilson Siding Project
PDHC, Membership

Bunchgrass Historian
WCHS Archive
Wilson Siding Project
Lost Apple Project
Perkins House
Newsletter
St. Ignatius Hospital

2023 Annual Meeting

Some 30 members attended the WCHS Annual Meeting, which was held on Sunday afternoon, October 8, at the historic Steptoe School. Tours of the building, now 115 years old, preceded the meeting. (Steptoe is the oldest school in continuous use in the state of Washington.) The main business of the meeting was electing officers and board members for the coming year (see page 1 of this newsletter). The afternoon's program, which was presented by **Kathy Meyer** (Pullman), was entitled "Early Schools and Teachers in Eastern Washington." A big thanks to **Krista Jones Boyd** (Colfax) and **Valoree Gregory** (Steptoe), who organized the meeting, and to the staff of the Steptoe School, especially Principal **Eric Patton**, who rescued the PowerPoint show.



Halloween at the Depot

Partnering with Downtown Pullman Vibes, the Depot celebrated Halloween on the Saturday before the holiday, October 28. Between 1:00 and 6:00, at least 25 trick-or-treaters stopped by, most in costume, to pick up a candy treat and/or have their photo taken with the Depot's "conductor." Many were first-time visitors, who were so impressed that they promised they'd be back!

Veterans' Day Program Postponed

Due to the recent natural gas line crisis—which affected southern Whitman and Asotin counties in Washington, as well as parts of Latah and Nez Perce counties in Idaho—the "Fallen Cougars" program planned for November 9 at the Pullman Depot has been postponed. WSU history professor **Raymond Sun**, who is in charge of the project, has tentatively rescheduled the program for Thursday, May 23, 2024.

New Lights on the Passenger Car and the Caboose!

New lights trim the caboose and passenger car at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center. The Pullman Civic Trust purchased the lights and strung them just in time for Pullman's upcoming Holiday Festival on Dec. 2. Special thanks to **Bobbie Ryder**, **Kalvin Johanson**, and **John-Mark Mahnkey** (Pullman).





Christmas Villages

The Freight Room at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center is decorated for the holidays and this year is featuring an extensive Department 56 Christmas Village collection on loan from **Kara Whitman** (Pullman). The display is available for viewing on Saturday afternoons (except Dec. 23 and 30) from the first week of December to the end of January. Shown at right is part of the North Pole Village.



The Perkins House During WinterFest

Although most of Colfax's Winterfest activities will be held on Friday, Dec. 1, the Perkins House is hosting an Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. Come see the house, which is beautifully decorated with Victorian-style ornaments.

Thanks to **Jill Gfeller** (Thornton), outreach coordinator for the Perkins House, a rare set of "Original Dickens Dolls," handmade in the 1940s and 1950s, will be on display. The dolls tell the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and Charles Dickens' famous tale, *A Christmas Carol*.

Pullman Holiday Festival

This year's Holiday Festival in Pullman will be Saturday, Dec. 2. It starts with the **Kiwanis Pancake Feed** at Lincoln Middle School (7:00 to 11:00 a.m.), which will feature a delicious breakfast, music, and a silent auction.

The **Depot Train Car Bazaar** (see next page) will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the passenger car at the Depot. While you're there, be sure to take in the decorated Freight Room.

The **children's Yule Jog Fun Run** will start at 4:00 p.m. Runners should meet in the parking lot next to the YMCA. The run will end in the parking lot at the Depot, where Santa will be arriving "by train" at 4:30.

After holiday carols led by men from several WSU fraternities, the group will march to Pine Street Plaza to watch the **tree-lighting ceremony** at 5:00. Afterward, free s'mores will be available at Paradise Creek Brewery.



The Train Car Bazaar

Come to the Depot on Saturday, Dec. 2, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., for the PDHC's annual Train Car Bazaar! For sale will be handmade and vintage items—perfect for gifts—such as Christmas ornaments, kitchen items, candy-filled cordial glasses, jewelry, and other locally made crafts.

Children can play with the Depot's Polar Express electric train, and adults can appreciate an eclectic Christmas tree made of electric trains!

Upper left: botanical Christmas ornaments made by **Jennie Carlson** (Pullman).

Lower left: ceramic Santas made by **Debbie Sherman** (Pullman).

If you can't make it on December 2, the bazaar will also be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Dec. 9 and 16!



Jamie Whitman (Pullman) has been chairman of the Education and Events Committee at the Depot for the last three years. She excels at creating interesting exhibits and displays in the Freight Room and Passenger Car. As chairman, she is also in charge of Depot Days, Halloween at the Depot, the Christmas Train Car Bazaar, and she supervises WSU interns each semester, along with her other duties. Her enthusiasm and hard work ensure that there will be something new to see at the Depot almost every time you stop by.



A native of Pullman, Jamie and her husband Bill have been married for 53 years, have 2 sons and 7 grandchildren. Many members of the Whitman family take part in volunteer work at the Depot in one capacity or another. Jamie also volunteers for the Pullman Civic Trust and worked with Boy Scouts when her boys were young. She retired after 25 years with the Pullman School District.

When asked why she donates so much of her time to the Depot, she said, "The Depot has always been a part of my life—It's very important to me! It's a place where I can be creative—I love putting together exhibits and displays, often loaning items from my own collection of vintage items. Besides, it's fun!"

Please Renew Your Membership

If you haven't already done so, please take a minute 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 great Christmas gift for a friend or relative who loves local history! Use the form on the next page, download it from the WCHS website (whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org). Thank you!

If you have information for the January/February 2024 newsletter... please call either **Debbie Sherman** (509) 334-7389 or **Kathy Meyer** (509) 432-1336, or email them at jdjsherman@msn.com or klemeyer@gmail.com. We can't print your news if you don't send it in!

2023 Calendar

December 2	Pullman Holiday Festival (Santa Comes to Pullman via the Depot)
December 2	Colfax WinterFest (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

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 |

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

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|--|---|
| <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