



STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

March - April 2025



Linda Anderson, Newsletter Editor

(360) 435-7289

Hours of operation: Saturday, Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

For Pioneer Hall Rental call Caretakers Austin & Shannon Myrick at (360) 435-7289



It's been a busy time around the museum during the winter closure and to date. Our Busy Beavers have hung out of a boom lift bucket trimming trees; they've built displays, cleaned, organized, shuffled paper, painted, strung wire throughout the museum for updated technology, made signs; they've spent countless hours in the winter cold shining, polishing, and repairing Fire Engine #2 and getting the 1934 Arlington Hardware pickup road-ready and safe for driving in parades, etc. They've even made faux cookies and hamburger, sausage and bread. There's just no end to the talents of our volunteers.

Leading the charge in the revamping of the downstairs exhibit area, President Roy and his troops (can we call them the busy beavers?) are in the process of creating a newly reorganized downstairs exhibit area. It is being given an overhaul and when finished will be a new artful set of displays that will be simpler and easier to enjoy. You will enjoy the refreshed space that is cleaner, lighter and brighter, and will be fun to explore.

Terry Legare, Karen Dale, Rex Martin, Myrtle Rausch and Shannon Myrick have been the key contributors, lending lots of elbow grease, artistic talent and, of course, opinions.

Spring Potluck at Pioneer Hall

Come celebrate the changes taking place at our Museum!

Sunday, April 27, 2025

1:00 PM

As always, coffee, tea and punch will be provided.
Bring your own table service.



Annual Dues \$20.00; Lifetime Membership \$200.00

We often ask if you have information or pictures on one thing or another. The best way to let us know is to call the museum at **360/435-7289** and leave a message for the person and they will get back to you; or you can email the museum with reference to the subject at hand. The museum email is info@stillymuseum.org

UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT ROY

Can you believe it is already the 1st of March? Time is just flying by at the museum these days. We have many ongoing projects as you can see from Linda's summary on page 1. I will be updating these projects in upcoming newsletters.

Today we would like to review the Wi-Fi Project that is nearing completion. The project included installing a computer network system, security cameras, and extending the Wi-Fi throughout the museum and Pioneer Hall. Each of these components will need operating procedures on how we implement each of these areas and safeguards to protect people's privacy.

The Governance Committee will start working to develop these procedures on Mondays, during working sessions between 11:00 and 12:00, to present the draft processes to the Board in the future.

Key issues with the networking portion will be the development and management of secure access to our computer files, while keeping some files general and open to more uses. The security and accessibility will include identifying who is currently accessing which files, and the security level needed for each file. Volunteers that need access to the computers will have their own sign-in password. Computer files will be set up so that access will be accorded through the security level assigned to a user's password.

It will take the committee some time to identify what programs people currently access and what programs we need to develop to expand general office computer access that may include public access.

Key issues associated with security cameras will be the development of processes and procedures to identify to all members the camera locations, acceptable uses, administration of the recordings, both audio and video; when the data can be accessed and by whom.

Key issues with the extension of the Wi-Fi connections throughout the museum, Pioneer Hall, and outside of the building will be the development and management of current uses of the Museum Wi-Fi, and research technology that will enable visitors to use the Wi-Fi system to expand their visit into the digital world as well as the visual world within the museum.

A special thank you to Bill Pritchard for sharing his time and expertise and helping us to get our technology up to date.

If you would like to be involved in the development of any of these programs, please let us know. All members are welcome to attend any committee meetings or the board meetings.

Hope you and your family are doing well, we look forward to seeing you all around the Museum.

Roy

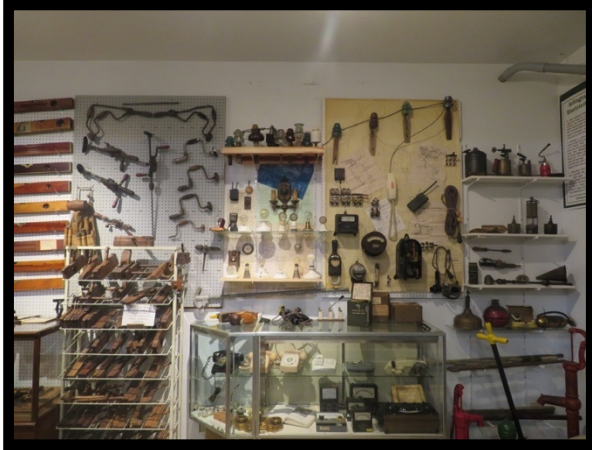
Roy and Bill Pritchard lacing wire throughout the museum for our updated technology needs.



On the next page are a few 'sneak-peek' pictures of ongoing work in the downstairs exhibits. Plans are coming together and overall things are starting to take shape.

It's a work in progress...

More accessible displays with better visual appeal



Are they real or not?
Cookies, cupcakes, hamburger, sausage???
No calories! And they won't go bad!
Just need a little dusting once in a while.

Veterinary:
Dr. Unrau's desk
all polished up.



WE HAVE HAD SOME VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS AND A GRANT WHICH HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS POSSIBLE.

THE FOLLOWING ARE **FULLY FUNDED:**

- Updating of our technology; which is being done in phases. Phase 1 is nearing completion and has included wiring and hardware to upgrade Wi-Fi, networking and replacing and/or upgrading software and computers, and installing cameras. Phase II will be upgrading technology at Pioneer Hall and Phase III will be adding cameras outside for additional security.
- The construction of the new building to display our fire engines has been fully funded and will be a beautiful way to display these beauties making them more accessible for the public to enjoy. (City permitting is a slow process!)
- Enclosure of the covered porch area of the basement.



DONATIONS

**THOUSANDS! OF DOLLARS
HAVE BEEN DONATED!**

MICHELE HEIDERER, our research librarian continues to receive inquiries about properties, families and, yes, a missing gun (page 5).

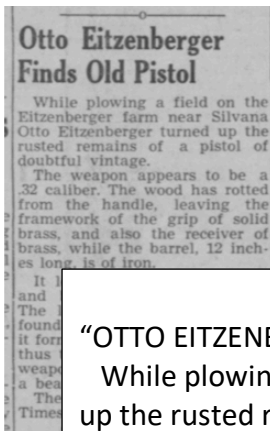
Danya, a homeowner inquired about the history of her property on Burn Road. Michele was able to provide information on most of the previous owners and how the land was used.

David was interested in his Condit family who he thought settled in the Kent's Prairie area. Michele was able to verify that they most certainly lived there near Frank Kent and other early families in that area. She also provided him with stories from the *Arlington Times* about his ancestor who was a minister in the area and other early relatives.

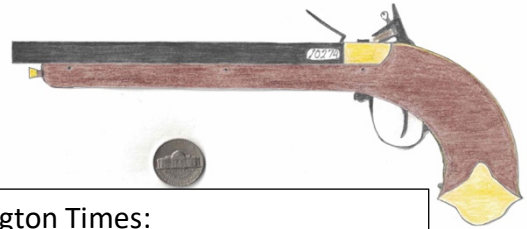
Michele, with the help of Ralph Knutson and Loren Kraetz, has provided pictures and information about the earliest bakeries, hardware stores and other businesses for the new downstairs exhibits. She has provided historical research for several of the new displays that existed in the early years. Some of the *Arlington Times* ads for these business are truly unique and will be enlarged and framed, and added to the displays.

Research continued on Page 7

Our latest mystery...do you have the answer? We're looking for a pistol!



"Eitzenberger-Kraetz pistol, ½ scale, in firing condition"



Transcribed from May 31, 1951 Arlington Times:

"OTTO EITZENBERGER FINDS OLD PISTOL"

While plowing a field on the Eitzenberger farm near Silvana, Otto Eitzenberger turned up the rusted remains of a pistol of doubtful vintage.

The weapon appears to be a .32 caliber. The wood has rotted from the handle, leaving the framework of the grip of solid brass, and also the receiver of brass, while the barrel, 12 inches long, is of iron.

It looks like a breach loader, and bears the number 10,274. The land where the relic was found was cleared in 1916 and it formerly was a beaver swamp, thus the supposition is that the weapon might have belonged to a beaver trapper.

The relic is on display in The Times window."

Michael "Tug" Buse has contacted the SVM. He is trying to unravel the mystery of where this gun might be now. While Mr. Eitzenberger never married, Michele Heiderer, our research librarian has been able to locate a living relative and has given that information to Mr. Buse. Also, he has been able to spend time with Loren Kraetz who remembers seeing the pistol in 1951 and with his help, Mr. Buse has created a drawing of the pistol.

Mr. Buse says his research suggests that the pistol was an expensive, rare, custom made gentleman's personal defense weapon, probably made before the year 1790. He theorizes the pistol may have been carried up the Stillaguamish River in 1803 by an officer aboard the *Guatamozin*, an American fur trading vessel.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THIS PISTOL OR WHERE IT MIGHT BE CURRENTLY LOCATED? If so, leave your contact information with the Museum and Michele Heiderer will get back to you.

And, another request....



Do you have any old records or information pertaining to the Vasa Order of America, an early fraternal organization in Arlington supporting Swedish immigrants? They promoted Swedish culture and Scandinavian heritage through events and fellowship. There was a two-story building on the southeast corner of 67th and 172nd (that corner in Edgcomb where the two streets cross. Today that corner is a protected wetlands area. The main floor was a church, possibly the 7th Day Adventist Church, and the second story was a dance hall where the Vasa group met a held meetings and various functions.

From the Vasa archives: The Vasa group in Arlington, #394, was founded on November 10, 1920 and disbanded in 1969.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the Vasa group? If so, leave your contact information with the Museum and Michele Heiderer will get back to you.

UPDATE ON OUR PHOTO COLLECTIONS SUE WALDE

Thousands of negatives and slides were found in storage. With a goal of doing another video project about Arlington's history; Sue has digitized approximately 16,000 slides and negatives of pictures taken over the past 75 years with most being in the Arlington area. Despite their age, many of the images are in good condition. However, some show wear from time and are now preserved before further deterioration occurs. As we move forward, the next crucial tasks of this project are cataloging the 16,000 images and scanning and cataloging another 1,000 pictures that have been donated over the past three years. Many of these photos are over 100 years old and scanning them will preserve them forever.

Please share your historical pictures to help tell North Snohomish County's history:

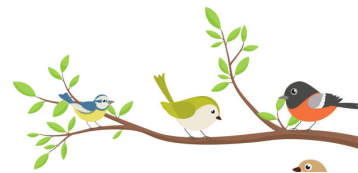
- Downtown Arlington
- Smokey Point
- Island Crossing
- Evergreen tree that grew on Division at the north end of Olympic Avenue
- Entertainment at Terrace Park
- The Opera House and its entertainers
- Drag racing at Arlington Airport
- Firefighters putting out fires in the Arlington area
- Military veterans who once lived here
- Historic photos of Terrace Park and downtown Arlington – era 1920 - 2000

- **OR**, anything else you have: a story, a photo(s) or item that speaks to our history.

Please share anything that will help us tell the history of the greater Arlington area.

Don't want to part with your photos? We will scan your photographs and promptly return them to you.

You can call or email the museum; leave a message for Sue and she will get back to you.



People gather at the north end of Olympic Avenue on E. Division Street for a parade. From left to right are the Assembly of God Church with one of the first neon signs in the city that read, "Jesus Saves,"; the Okay Rubber Welders Tires store and the Methodist Episcopal Church that was built about 1928 with mission-style architecture.

LIBRARY TABLE HAS TAKEN ON A NEW SHINE!

There is a long, oblong table in the Library that was looking pretty rough. Michele Heiderer took it on and refinished it. Lots of elbow grease and several coats of stain and finish later, we now have a beautifully restored table. The table came from the Jackson family in the Silvana area and is well over 100 years old. THANK YOU, MICHELE, YOUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED!



Welcome

NEW MEMBERS and VOLUNTEERS:

**SETH ADAMSKI
JEREMY HARRIS
RICHARD HARRIS
CHRIS KNUDSEN
CATHY CLARK-SMITH**

Passage

In memory of:

Jeff Rusko (11/2024)

Anne Tillman

Tim Teague

MEMORIALS

JULIA BUSSERT

from
Joann Gray

ANNE TILLMAN

and

TIM TEAGUE

from
Loren & Pat Kraetz

MICHELE HEIDERER, (research inquiries continued)

The new secretary of the Loyal Heights Community Club visited the museum to look through the original records of the Club. There was more than she had time for so she will visit again.

Sharron Nelson donated four scrapbooks of early family photos and was able to identify almost every single person in those photos.



Does anyone know the first name or other information of a teacher named 'Mrs. Bollinger' who taught kindergarten from 1957 through 1959.

2024 – 2025 OFFICERS

President: Roy Harris
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Sally Shinstrom
Pioneer Treasurer: Sharron Knutson
Museum Treasurer: Myrtle Rausch
Past President: Sue Walde

BOARD MEMBERS:

- 1: Loren Kraetz 2025
- 2: Linda Anderson 2025
- 3: Rex Martin 2025
- 4: Cathy Clark Smith 2026
- 5: Terry Legare 2026
- 6: Ralph Knutson 2026

FEBRUARY

Winter's on the wane,
even though it's hard to see.

But soon through all the
gloom, we'll see a bud
upon a tree.

So, take heart, oh heart
of mine,

Soon spring will spring
with glee.



IMPORTANT DATES:

SPRING POTLUCK

APRIL 27, 2025

1:00 P.M.

BOARD MEETINGS

2ND Monday of month

12:30 PM

Museum Library

Pioneer Day

July 19, 2025

Pioneer Picnic

August 17, 2025

COMMITTEES:

Advisory Program Committee
Advisory Governance Committee
Advisory Acquisition Committee
Advisory Financial Committee

Stilly Stitchers

2nd & 4th Tuesday ~10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Pioneer Hall ~ Coffee & Tea provided
Bring your project, your lunch and invite a friend.



Stillaguamish Valley Museum
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Arlington, WA 98223-4214
Email: info@stillymuseum.org