



# THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2020 • VOL. 22 • NO. 7

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

## ‘VIRTUAL’ SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES: NEW DEAL POSTAL MURALS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



“Lumbering and Logging” Mural Study by Alfred C. Runquist for Sedro-Woolley post office mural

Courtesy Smithsonian American Art Museum

Image: Smithsonian American Art Museum

We missed seeing you all this summer, but we hope to “see” you online! Please join the Redmond Historical Society on August 8th for a virtual presentation by **Patricia Raynor**, museum specialist and loan coordinator at the National Postal Museum. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. See p. 4.

- President John Oftebro makes a discovery during downsizing, p. 3.
- Tom Hitzroth looks at the early Redmond-Kirkland Stage, p. 6.
- Society honors LeRoy Olson on 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, p. 9.

### Due to increased production cost and postal fees:

- We are going to paperless in September unless you request a paper copy by responding that you would like it or need a printed version.
- You can opt to receive via email or find it on the website if you prefer.

# 2020

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Our finances are public record and may be viewed at the office.

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If you don't subscribe, please sign up.  
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State your preference of email or U.S. Mail.  
The Historical Society prefers email as it's  
inexpensive and photos are enhanced online.

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### THE REDMOND RECORDER

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HOURS Please contact the office to  
schedule an appointment

## SOCIETY NEWS

### FUNDRAISER NEWS

As we continue to receive info about COVID-19, the Society has decided to postpone the "Boots & Bowties" fundraiser. Safety for our members is our primary concern, so we're scootin' the event until we're more certain we can have fun and raise funds in a prudent manner! We'll keep you posted. If you'd like to donate to the Society, please visit our [website](#) and use the "DONATE NOW" button.



**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

### Society Partners with Sotheby's International Realty

Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty brokers **Cynthia Olsen** and **Mary Sullivan** have formed a unique partnership with the Redmond Historical Society in an effort to help raise money for the Society. Sotheby's International Realty will give 10% of commissions to support the Redmond Historical Society when you or someone you refer is looking to buy or sell property. Ask Cynthia Olsen, Mary Sullivan, or the Society for details. Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty established this program as a way to give back to organizations that are committed to the welfare of our communities. For more information, contact Cynthia Olsen at [cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com), 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at [mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com), 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.

# A DISCOVERY DURING COVID-19!

By John Oftebro

Hopefully we've all been adjusting to the "new normal" and finding interesting activities while being "stuck" at home. Deborah and I had decided to move from our present home of 46 years, and the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order proved an excellent opportunity to downsize. Among the photos, books, and other items, we unearthed a copy of the July 16, 1992 *Journal American*.

Sharing the front page with a photo of Bill Clinton—celebrating his nomination for the Democratic presidential race—was another memorable photo and article with the headline, "Redmond pioneer daughter dies." It was a young **Martha White Gardner Sick** with her father, **Justice William Henry White**. Martha's mother was **Emma McRedmond**, daughter of one of Redmond's founders, **Luke McRedmond**, who deeded the land where the Hotel Redmond would eventually be built to Emma in 1891. Construction on the hotel began in 1899, and Justice White opened the Hotel Redmond in

1900, the year after Martha was born. Growing up in the hotel—known today as the Justice White House—Martha experienced early Redmond life, and the hotel was the focal point for social activities, such as baseball games in adjoining fields. Some of the first Catholic Masses were held in the hotel parlor.

Martha married **Raymond Gardner** and of their four children, daughter Diana married **Panfilo Morelli** of the Morelli Poultry Farm. Both are Society Lifetime members and significant donors. After Gardner died in 1961, Martha married **Emil Sick**, who built Sick's Stadium, was owner of the Seattle Rainiers and board chairman of Sick's Rainer Brewery. Martha was an enthusiastic supporter of the arts and helped found the Seattle Opera Guild.

The old hotel, later a golf course clubhouse, was restored by Winmar Co. in 1987 and is a beautiful reminder of Redmond's unique past.



**A young** Martha White Gardner Sick with her father, Justice William Henry White.

## Redmond pioneer daughter dies

**By Patricia Moler**  
*Journal American Staff Writer*

Even in the last months of her life, Martha Sick loved looking at real estate. She'd been to Montreux — the luxury development near Issaquah — and most of the other developments on the Eastside, and she didn't hesitate to advise her son-in-law, Panfilo Morelli, on property acquisition. "She'd say, 'Oh, no, that's not the right street,'" said Morelli, a home builder.

Sick, who died Monday at 93, came by her love of the land naturally. Her grandfather, Luke McRedmond, settled in the Sammamish Valley in 1871 and the town of Redmond was later named for him.

Sick grew up in the Hotel Redmond — now known as the Justice White House. Her mother was Luke's daughter, Emma McRedmond, who became postmistress at age 16 when some were stilling calling the town Melrose. Emma handled that by crossing Melrose off letters and writing in Redmond.

Sick's father was Supreme Court Justice William Henry White, known as War Horse Bill on account of his white horse and his service in the Union Army. White, a native Virginian, was wounded in the Civil War and walked on crutches to cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln in the 1865 election. "Mother was very proud of that," said Sick's daughter, Diana Morelli.

While some members of the family became Democrats, Sick remained a staunch Republican. She kept a picture of George and Barbara Bush on her dressing table.

*See Martha Sick on A4*

Clipping from the July 16, 1992 *Journal American*. Source: RHS Archives

# NEW DEAL POSTAL MURALS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

On Saturday August 8, please join the Society for our second virtual speaker program, 10:30 am-noon. Museum specialist **Patricia Raynor** will explore the unique history of New Deal Post Office murals by examining thematic elements of several post office murals in the Pacific Northwest and reflecting on how these pieces were tied to the history, industry, and values of the hosting communities.

These impressive works were commissioned by the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts for federal buildings. Not only did local communities benefit aesthetically from this program, it also gave artists meaningful employment during and after the Great Depression.

Ms. Raynor became aware of these murals while serving as the Collections Coordinator for the Postal Museum's inaugural exhibits in 1991. In 1997 she was asked to write an article on postal murals for *En Route*, the museum's membership newsletter. This article, "Off the Wall: New Deal Post Office Murals," was well received, and took on its own momentum. Because of continued public interest in the subject, Ms. Raynor has since performed additional research and become the museum's chief resource on post office murals.



**Patricia Raynor**

**Museum Specialist and Loan Coordinator  
Smithsonian National Postal Museum**

Ms. Raynor will present from her home in Frederick County, Maryland—the Society's first-ever long-distance speaker. As a bonus, she will be showing examples of recently issued United States Postal Service stamps depicting many of the murals.

**Registration is required.** To sign up for this free online presentation, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/y8dhgyav>. For more information, visit [www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org)

Donations to support this program may be made at [www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/donate](http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/donate).



Smithsonian  
*National Postal Museum*

## NEW DIRECTOR JOINS RHS BOARD

**Sue-Lynn Walsh** has joined the Society Board as a Director at Large. She joined the Society in 2019, and became a Society Lifetime member in 2020. She is a longtime and passionate resident of Redmond. *Welcome, Sue-Lynn!*



**Volunteer Coordinator Jo Ann Potter and Sue-Lynn Walsh at the February 8 speaker program.**  
Photo: Cheryl Strong Magnuson

## SOCIETY RECEIVES RELIEF GRANTS

By Halee Turner

Like many non-profits, the Redmond Historical Society has faced some unique challenges during the COVID-19 crisis, including the loss of revenue from cancelled and postponed events. However, we are pleased to announce the receipt of three grants!

\$5,000 in grant funding has been provided by Humanities Washington and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan of 2020.

And, we have been selected to receive two grants for a total of \$5,250 in relief funding from 4Culture — provided, in part, by the 4Culture/King County Lodging Tax.

These institutions are providing crucial support to the arts, culture, and heritage organizations in our communities. Their generosity will support our continued operation and efforts to adapt to virtual programming, as well as our preparations for moving back into the Old Redmond Schoolhouse.

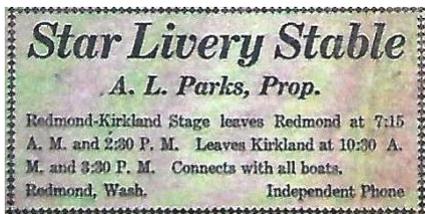


# THE FIRST REDMOND-KIRKLAND STAGE

By Tom Hitzroth

On November 7, 1911, **Bill, Alfred,** and **Charles Brown** founded the Redmond-Kirkland Auto Stage Company, but many do not know there was a stage line in Redmond before Brown's. The first Redmond-Kirkland Stage was a horse-drawn stage operated by **Alonzo L. Parks** proprietor of the Star Livery Stable, present-day location of Home Street Bank. The stage made two round trips daily between Redmond and Kirkland. The photograph below, dated 1904, shows the stage in front of Youngerman's General Store on Leary Way. Today, this is the parking lot south of the Brown Building. The route ended at the Kirkland Livery Stable, a half-block east of the intersection of Lake Street and Kirkland Avenue, where the 101 Apartments are today.

Alonzo Parks came to Washington around 1889 and lived in the Duwamish area (South Seattle) while employed as a butcher. In 1892, he was farming in Bothell and by 1900, was farming on Avondale with his wife **Elma**, son **Abner**, and daughters **Mabel** and **Mae**.



Ad for Star Livery Stable, *Kirkland-Redmond Sun*, May 1, 1907. Source: Kirkland Heritage Society. Stage in front of Youngerman's General Store on Leary Way, 1904. Source: Eastside Heritage Society.

Sometime between 1900 and 1904, Alonzo began operating the Star Livery Stable and the stage line. The stage line operated for about seven years.

In 1908, Mabel married **Alexander Ernest Adams** and she is the mother of the **Ernest Adams**, thought to be the 300th citizen thus qualifying Redmond for incorporation. Mae married **Wilson Adams**, Alexander's cousin, in 1914. Both Mae and Wilson Adams worked for Brown's Redmond-Kirkland Auto Stage. Mae also appears in two photographs, associated with Brown's stage, taken circa 1922.

Alonzo signed the petition for Redmond incorporation and appears on the voter's register in the election for incorporation.

Elma Parks passed away in 1900, Mae in 1925, and Abner in 1952 and are buried in the Kirkland Cemetery. Alonzo passed away in 1915 and Mabel in 1952 and are buried in the Redmond Pioneer Cemetery.



**Editor's Note:** This is the 60th article penned by Tom Hitzroth for *The Redmond Recorder*. Tom has been a valuable, erudite contributor to this newsletter since 2014, when Society co-founder **Miguel Llanos** agreed to let him try out a column on local history. "I kept with the articles because [Miguel] never said to stop," writes Tom. Thank you, Tom, for your contributions to Redmond's history!

## SOCIETY CELEBRATES 17 YEARS OF WALKING TOURS



Tom Hitzroth in front of Justice White House/Hotel Redmond.  
Photo: John Oftebro

Since 2003, Tom has led walking tours of Redmond's historic district. Over the years, the tour has evolved from one hour to two, with the script changing as new information is discovered. "I'm looking for the question I can't answer, which means I need to look further into a particular area."

A lifelong Eastside resident Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond development from its earliest times into the 1930s. He is currently researching the historic site of

the earlier settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond as well as the historic development of the downtown.

### 2020 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday September 6, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person with a limit of 10 people per group. You can pre-register for the event by calling our office at 425.885.2919. You can also drop by our office, or mail in a check to 8345 – 154th Ave NE, Redmond, WA, 98052. You can also pre-register on our website: [www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org). Registrations must be received by the Wednesday before the tour.

Tours include a significant amount of walking and standing, with limited opportunity for resting. We recommend comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. If you have any further questions about our tours, please call our office. Tour begins across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St.

**Note** According to City and State current health regulations, masks must be worn outside when social distancing cannot be maintained. This is an interactive venue, so please wear a mask.

# HISTORY AND THE REDMOND PIONEER CEMETERY

By Paige Norman

Not all cemeteries are equal; some are fastidiously maintained acres of lawn and granite while others are tucked away on the “outskirts of town” and mostly hidden among the weeds and earth. Every cemetery represents a story of the families remembered there and reflects the history of the town where it’s located.

Redmond is fortunate to have two cemeteries that embody the history and stories of Redmond families.

Last year on a sunny July day, local historian **Tom Hitzroth** hosted a [tour of the Pioneer Cemetery](#). Strolling through the grounds, he presented information on monument styles, errors on grave markers, and a bit of history on noteworthy people in the cemetery and their history in Redmond.

Some of our most well-known Redmondites buried at the Pioneer Cemetery include [William “Bill” Brown](#), mayor of Redmond from 1919 to 1948, and [William P Perrigo](#).

Across the street lies the Cedar Lawns Cemetery, founded by Dan Conley in the 1950s.

Mr. Conley was an active member of his community. He served on committees and boards throughout the state, helped landscape City Hall, sponsored a local soccer team and was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Redmond.

The Redmond Pioneer Cemetery was transferred to the care of Cedar Lawns in 1994, and in 1996 SCI Shared Resources, LLC purchased both the Redmond Pioneer Cemetery and the Cedar Lawns Cemetery. The properties are now part of their Dignity Memorial network.

If you are interested in discovering more about the [Redmond Pioneer Cemetery](#) or our collection of [obituaries](#) from notable Redmond citizens, be sure to check out our website.

**Editor’s Note** *The Pioneer Cemetery was designated in June 2010 as a Redmond Regional Landmark by the Redmond Regional Landmarks Commission. In the designation, the cemetery was identified as the “Redmond Community Cemetery” and “Pioneer Cemetery” is a colloquialism.*



Photos: [findagrave.com](#)

# LEROY OLSON CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

By Cynthia Edin

LeRoy Olson hit the world running on July 11, 1920 and hasn't stopped since. Born the first of seven children on a farm in Almont, North Dakota, his adventurous soul took him on a wild ride, from being kidnapped as a baby by the Mandan Indian tribe to hitchhiking around the country.

In 1943 he married **Vera Joerse** and moved out west where over the next few years they had four daughters. They recently celebrated their 78th wedding anniversary.

Working for Remington Rand, he became one of the first electronic engineers in the country.

He and Vera moved to Redmond in 1969, where he bought McPhee Realty and 12 acres on Novelty Hill. With several large buildings on the property, one "large enough to be seen from outer space," he rented out storage space to businesses like Honeywell. For years, the City of Redmond stored Christmas decorations there, and the Redmond Historical Society stored items there as well.

LeRoy began accumulating adjoining properties in the Redmond downtown area, eventually building the Cleveland Street Square shopping center, which was sold in 2003 and renamed to Redmond Center.

LeRoy and Vera were "snowbirds," traveling the country in motor homes, including a jaunt up the Alcan Highway in Alaska. In 2007 they moved to Spokane to be near two of their daughters and returned to Redmond in 2016 where, once again, they live on Novelty Hill, this time in a town house.

After 100 years, his adventures have slowed to a trickle, but the stories have not. He has three surviving daughters, seven grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren to keep his stories alive.

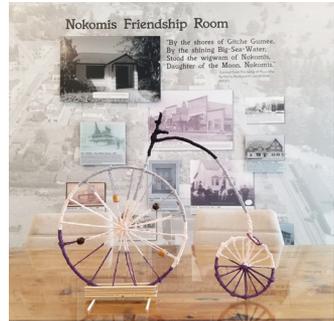
**Editor's Note:** Upon reaching the age of 100 years, Society members are named as Honorary Members.



Photo: Tony Edin

# SOCIETY PARTICIPATES IN 'REDMOND BICYCLE PROJECT'

In July 2020, as part of Virtual Derby Days, citizens were encouraged to connect with their community by taking part in the **Redmond Bicycle Project**, a VALA Eastside, "Random Acts of Art" activity by creating and sharing a Penny Farthing—a symbol of Redmond, the "Bicycle Capital of the Northwest." Several community members and artists made artwork, and shared photos on social media. To see more photos on Facebook, click [here](#).



**"Penny Farthing"**  
by Crystal A Edwards,  
162Ten Building  
in Downtown Redmond

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An asterisk (\*) indicates Family Lifetime members. A full listing of Lifetime Members, both current and in memoriam, is available at [redmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://redmondhistoricalsociety.org).



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**Redmond Historical Society**  
**Attn: Membership**  
**Vision 5 Building**  
**8525-163rd Court NE #120**  
**Redmond, WA 98052**

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit# \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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