



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2021 • VOL. 23 • NO. 2

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

VIRTUAL SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES: “OVERCOMING ADVERSITY: A CONVERSATION WITH KNUTE BERGER”



The theme of this month’s program is “overcoming adversity.” Join us on February 13 as Seattle journalist **Knute Berger** talks about the 1918 epidemic in Puget Sound and its lessons for today’s health crisis. Then, he takes a look at the story of Tugboat Annie, a fictional character based on a real historical woman—and the first Hollywood movie to be filmed in Seattle. For details and how to register, see p. 4.

- President John Oftebro looks at growing the Society through gifting memberships, p. 3.
- Tom Hitzroth looks at early Redmond saloon keeper **Cyrus Norman**, p. 6.
- Sotheby’s ‘Angels’ help Society member sell mother’s home, p. 7.

2021

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FREE NEWSLETTER

If you don't subscribe, please sign up. Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org. State your preference of email or U.S. Mail. The Historical Society prefers email as it's inexpensive and photos are enhanced online.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

[facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society](https://www.facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society)

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HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

SOCIETY NEWS

LIFETIME MEMBER HONORS PARENTS



Lifetime Member **Bobbie Rettig** purchased a Family Lifetime Membership in honor of her parents,

former **Mayor Gerhardt "Gary"** and **Florence Graep**. The certificate was presented by Lifetime Member **Sally Eberhardt** and delivered by President **John Oftebro**.



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, 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com, 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP FREE?

By John Oftebro

Membership (*Merriam-Webster*): The state or status of being a member. Examples include an organization, Congress, political party, church, family, team, club, volunteer, bible group, committee, advisory board, or even a historical society.

Everyone has different ideas of what it means to be a member, and the financial cost can be huge in terms of annual or monthly dues, or it can be FREE! Memberships can range from \$500/month at the country club to \$0 to join a bible group or garden club.

The Redmond Historical Society depends on a portion of our operational costs being supported by our modest membership fees, which cover only 17% of our \$30,000 annual budget. The balance comes from support from several sponsors, grants, and fundraising. While we have over 1,000 persons receiving our newsletter, as of October 2020 our membership stood at 180. Subtracting 74 Lifetime members, that leaves 106 memberships generating less than \$5,000 toward our expenses.

As you can see, renewing your membership is vital to our organization. If you are enjoying our programs, and if you value the resources, time, and care we put into our community contributions, please consider asking friends or neighbors to join, or even gift them with a membership. I gifted several friends when I joined the Board, and most are continuing their membership. You can help us double our membership!

We have had wonderful support during our dinner/fundraisers when we could have them, and several Lifetime memberships and Sustaining pledges each year have been wonderful support. Now with increased costs returning to the schoolhouse, we will need to rely on increased donations to cover utilities, personnel, and other operational costs.

Our membership is not FREE, but we think it's a good value, and we value your membership. Please help us grow!

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY: A CONVERSATION WITH KNUTE BERGER

By Margy Rockenbeck

During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, well-known Seattle journalist **Knute Berger** was on assignment researching the events in the greater Puget Sound area surrounding the 1918 flu epidemic. What similarities does he see to the present-day crisis? What mistakes did people make then, and what can be learned? What happened locally, during the 1918 epidemic, and what longer-lasting results did it have? Berger's short video about the 1918 epidemic will lead off our conversation. Then we'll take a look at the story of *Tugboat Annie*, the first Hollywood movie to be filmed in Seattle. What did it take to make it happen? How does it compare to the real historical woman on whom the story was based?

Berger's television show, "Mossback's Northwest," is seen throughout the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia on KCTS 9 television. His historical research focuses on Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. Each episode provides viewers with the "hidden backstory" behind each historical or "cultural nugget"—and why it's still relevant today.



Knute Berger,
columnist for *Crosscut* and host of
KCTS 9's "Mossback's Northwest"

Photo: Matt McKnight,
Cascade Public Media

Time and date:

Feb, 13, 2021 10:30 AM in
Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Registration is required.

To sign up for this free online presentation, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/y3qlj7yn>. For more information, visit www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

SOCIETY'S FIRST VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING A SUCCESS

Despite technical issues on Saturday morning, January 9—no internet at the office, and Halee driving 20 precious minutes to run the slides from home—our first virtual membership meeting was a success. Up to 48 attendees enjoyed the program.

We received positive feedback from a number of members and a few requests for the recorded program! In case you missed it, the recording is up on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/y68dgb3b>

This year's theme was "I Love Redmond," and included video clips of a few local celebrities. The Board reports—some prerecorded, some live—were interspersed with raffles for prizes donated for our May fundraiser that couldn't happen due to COVID-19, ranging from a gift certificate for Kringles Bakery to four passes to the Museum of Flight, to the Grand Prize, an autographed copy of the book, *Dudley Carter: Tales of the Legendary Wood Carver* by **Lyn Lambert** and **Mary Sikkema**.

Thank you to the following people who purchased memberships: **Joy Blake, Sue Stewart, and Tony Usibelli**. And thank you **Isamu Watson** for your \$100 donation! An especially huge thanks to the Planning Committee: **John Oftebro, Deborah Oftebro, Paige Norman, Laura Lee Bennett, and Halee Turner**.

Thank you to our local celebrities and members who shared what they love about Redmond: **Judy Lang, Joe Townsend, Chris Himes, Rosemarie Ives, Lyn Lambert, and John Couch**. Redmond Mayor **Angela Birney**, shared an inspiring presentation of the "TOP 10 Things She Loves About Redmond"—a wonderful summation of how we all feel about our city!

Did You Know?

The Society's toe-tapping, opening jingle is "St. Ouen" by the Gypsy Swing Allstars.

Let's Continue the Conversation

What do *you* love about Redmond? Let's continue the conversation on the Society's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society.

CYRUS NORMAN – SALOON KEEPER AND EARLY LAND OWNER

By Tom Hitzroth

As Redmond was coming of age in the first decade of the twentieth century, **Cyrus Norman** arrived on the scene. While he is almost totally unknown today, he made a significant contribution to the development of the downtown. Along with **Orson Wiley** and **Bill Brown**, Cyrus Norman was one of the earliest saloon owners and operators in Redmond. He was born in Quebec, Canada on March 1, 1864. Cyrus Norman came to America in 1883. He settled in Thurston County by 1892 and by that year's end had married **Christina Harper** and gained his citizenship. In 1900, they resided in Everett, and by 1905, they relocated to Redmond.

Cyrus Norman opened a saloon at the far southeast end of Gilman Street – today this is the entrance to the Elan building's parking garage at 16325 Cleveland Street. On April 20, 1906, Cyrus also purchased property from

Theodore Youngerman, divided the lot into three parcels, and sold them to Redmond State Bank (Homegrown Cafe), **Etta Boddy** (El Toreador), and **Adile Lampaert** (Palmer's East). At the same time, he purchased three of the four lots on the south side of Cleveland Street between 164th Ave NE and Gilman Street.

When Prohibition came to Washington in 1916, Cyrus was forced to close his saloon. He relocated to Lewis County and retired. He later moved to Seattle where he passed away on May 5, 1925. He is buried in the Kirkland Cemetery with his wife, Christina, who passed away in 1967.

Cyrus Norman was a significant land owner in Redmond and a contributor to early business growth in the downtown. He has rightfully earned a place as one of the early founders of the Redmond business community.



Cyrus Norman's Saloon, 1910. Source: Eastside Heritage Center.
Cyrus Norman's gravestone at Kirkland Cemetery. Source: Author's collection.

SOTHEBY'S 'ANGELS' HELP SOCIETY MEMBER SELL MOTHER'S HOME

For years, **Cynthia Olsen** and **Mary Sullivan** of Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty have provided tasty treats at our Saturday Speaker Series programs. Their homemade cookies, other confections, and clever table décor delighted us all. For years, they have run an ad in this newsletter offering 10% of their commissions to support the Society when a member refers a buyer or seller to the agency.

Recently, Society member **Fran Stray** had a very positive experience with Sotheby's. When her mother passed away unexpectedly in April 2020, Fran was pursued by many agents who wanted to list or sell directly her mother's Cedar Ridge condominium. "No sooner had the lawyer filed the papers in probate court, when the phone started ringing," Fran says.

Then Fran remembered "the girls" from Sotheby's, and she decided to give them a call. To her relief, Cynthia and Mary were ready, willing, and able to help with the tasks of preparing the condo for listing on the market: sorting, cleaning, packing, hauling boxes by the carload to the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Bellevue, and painting and bringing in new carpeting. "They rolled up their sleeves and went to work," recalls Fran. "They kept saying, 'This is what we do.'"



Fran had contacted them in April, and by December the house was listed. By end of December, the condo had sold for a price well above the listed value—and to someone who had fallen in love with the home: Cynthia's daughter, who had been helping with the cleaning and preparations.

When it was all over, Cynthia and Mary stopped by with flowers and a thank-you note. "It was a very positive experience," notes Fran. "They were my precious girls—my angels."

And as a result, the Redmond Historical Society will receive \$1,600.



HERE'S TO THE NEW YEAR!

The year 2020 is a year we're happy to have behind us for a variety of reasons, but here's to 2021 being a year of new insights, beginnings, and accomplishments!

On January 9 we hosted our first virtual Membership Drive, which was well attended and received! On behalf of myself and the other members of the Board, I would like to thank you for being a member of the Redmond Historical Society!

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2021, please make sure to complete your renewal through our website under the "Get Involved" tab, using the "Become a member" button. You can also mail your renewal into our office! Society memberships make great gifts—don't you know someone who would benefit from being a part of the Redmond Historical Society? **Annual membership dues will be increasing Spring 2021, with continued value and terrific benefits to you!**

While you're on the website, make sure you stop by our Virtual Giving Board! As we move forward in 2021, there are a number of ways you can help keep Redmond's history



alive! With our move back to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse coming up, we'll need moving supplies; or maybe you'd like to help with displays, storage, or signage for our museum space! We are also continuing to digitize the *Sammamish Valley News* (the precursor to *The Redmond Reporter* and a vast collection of Redmond's history for decades!). Donations can be made easily through the website under the "Get Involved" tab. Using the "Donate" button; you can donate any amount that fits your budget!

The Redmond Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and our tax ID number is **91-1994957**; your membership and donations may be tax deductible

LOVE THE SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES? JOIN THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE!

Since 2014, the Redmond Historical Society has held its popular Saturday Speaker Series at various venues in Redmond—from the auditorium at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse to the Redmond Senior Center to the Public Safety Building. Although the current health crisis keeps us from meeting in person—and we do miss seeing everyone in person—we continue to meet via Zoom, and develop and offer our virtual speaker series. We host six programs a year, of regional, statewide, and local interest.

We're looking for a few good hands to help us develop an all-star roster of topics and speakers for the Fall 2021-Winter/Spring 2022 season. In the coming months, we'll meet and discuss ideas. Care to join us? We'd love to have you!

For a complete job description and to apply, visit [VolunteerMatch.org](https://www.volunteermatch.org) and search on "Redmond Historical Society." Questions? Email programs@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

SOCIETY SEEKS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Love history? Do you like to do research? Do you like to write? Does it bother you when there's a typo or a misplaced comma?

The Redmond Historical Society is looking for someone to take on the role of Editor of this newsletter, *The Redmond Recorder*. Published 10 times a year, it is the primary means of communicating with our membership and the community.

- Time commitment: 15-20 hours per month
- Journalism degree or equivalent
- Training/mentoring provided

For a complete job description and to apply, visit [VolunteerMatch.org](https://www.volunteermatch.org) and search on "Redmond Historical Society." Questions? Email newsletter@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

LOCAL HISTORIAN ACHIEVES PRESERVATION MILESTONE

For **Tom Hitzroth**, 2021 marks 30 years of involvement in historic preservation activities. He served on the King County Landmarks Commission 2007–2016, as chair 2013–2014. In addition, he served on the City of Redmond Landmark Commission 2005–2019, as chair 2008–2019.

He has participated in approximately 40 landmark designations, more than 100 Type 2 Certificates of Appropriateness (rehabilitation of landmarked properties), and three Type 3 Certificates of Appropriateness (demolition in the interest of safety).

He also served on the following boards: Marymoor Museum of Eastside History 1991–1998 (President 1992–1998); Issaquah Historical Society 2001–2004 (Treasurer 2003–2004); Eastside Heritage Center 2002–2003; Redmond Historical Society 2003–2008; Kirkland Heritage Society 2004–2009 (Treasurer 2006–2009); and Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) 2011–2016 (Vice President 2015–2016). *Congratulations, Tom!*

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sharon Freeman, Ballisty
Louise Graep Barnes
David Best
John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
John Couch
Cory de Jong
Sally Jo Eberhardt
Betty L. Emmanuel
Tony Emmanuel
Don and Mary Fowler
Frank Garbarino
Peggy Garbarino
Madeleine Roberts Hagen
Suzanne Hall
Wayne Hansen
Mary Hanson
Jerry Hardy
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Frederick Springsteel
Beryl Standley
John C. Stilin
Sherry B. Stilin
Fred Stray
Larry O. Sundholm
Subhadra Terhanian
Doris Townsend
Joe Townsend
Roger Trepanier
Sue-Lynn Walsh
Patti Simpson Ward
Donald Glennister Watts
Joanne Westlund
James Windle

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



**REDMOND
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**REDMOND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
2021 MEMBERSHIP**

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LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

Trailblazer/Student (1 member)	\$5	_____
Pioneer/Individual (1 member)	\$25	_____
Homesteader/Family (2 members)	\$40	_____
Visionary/Business	\$250	_____
History Maker/Lifetime (1 member)	\$1,000	_____
Legacy/Family Lifetime (2 members)	\$2,000	_____

I'd like to be a Sustaining Partner through annual donations in addition to my membership.

Membership Name(s): 1) _____ 2) _____

Address: _____ Unit #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthdate: Member 1 _____ mm/dd/yyyy *(optional)*

Birthdate: Member 2 _____ mm/dd/yyyy *(optional)*

Address Change New Member Renewal Gift membership

New to Redmond I am interested in being a volunteer

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8345 – 154th Avenue NE • Redmond, WA 98052

You may also renew or purchase a membership through our website at

<http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org>

Beginning September 2020, *The Redmond Recorder* will be available via email and viewable on our website. You may request a paper copy by contacting our office at

info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org



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