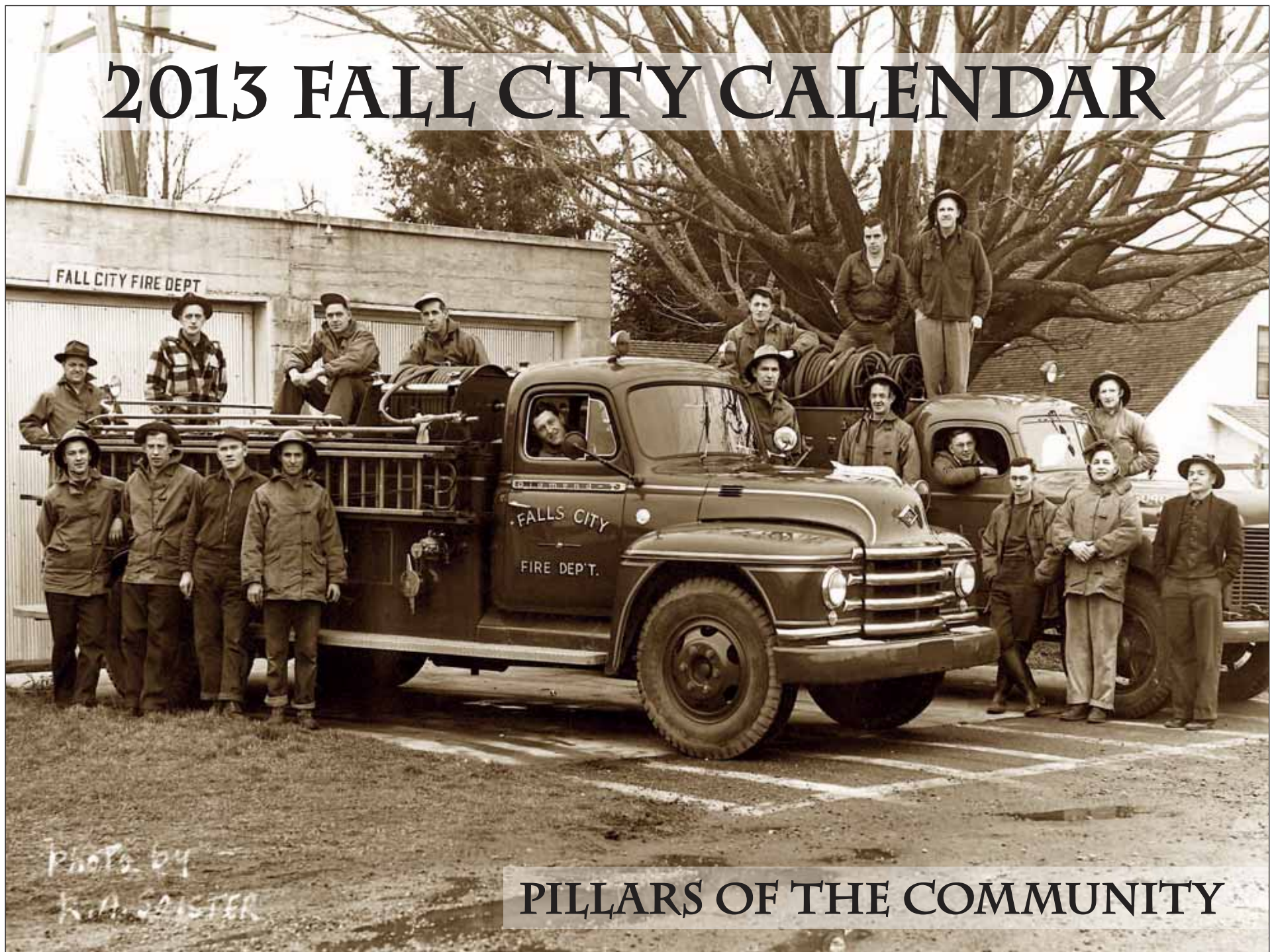
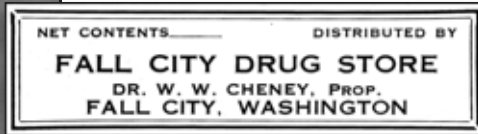
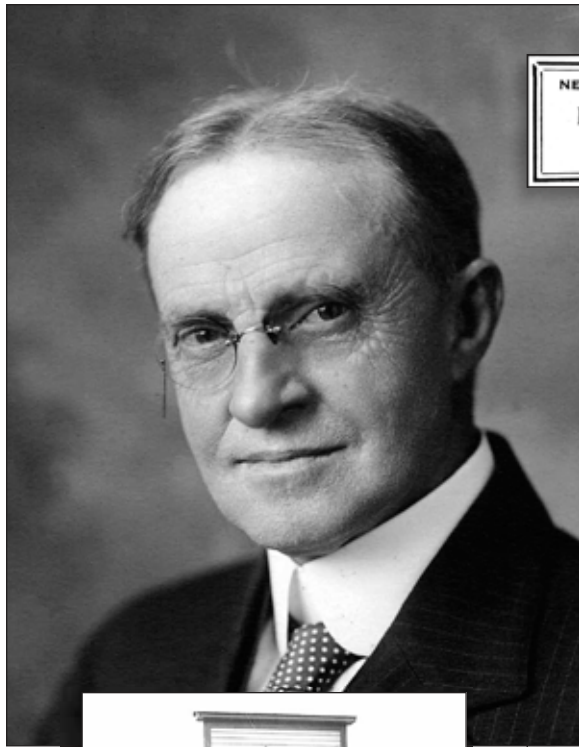


# 2013 FALL CITY CALENDAR



PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY





## Valley Pays Homage To Its Dr. Cheney

By HERMIA OPSTAD

Honor was paid Dr. William W. Cheney Nov. 5 by his friends, some of them his friends for well over twoscore years, that was as spontaneous and genuine as any that man can pay to his fellow man. Since 1905 Dr. Cheney had lived, worked, and served as an

example of fine American citizen in Fall City, the town he chose to call his home. So on Sunday afternoon the folk of his own countryside gathered to express some measure of their sincere affection and appreciation.

*Excerpts from  
Valley Record articles:  
1953 (left), 1959 (right)*

## W. W. Cheney, M.D.

William Whittlesey Cheney, better known as "Doc Cheney" in these parts, received his M.D. degree in Michigan in 1892. Around 1903, he headed west and settled in Fall City in 1905. He built a small frame building on River Street, with drugstore space in front, surgery in the back, and a small lean-to where he and his wife lived for three years until they could afford a house. At that point, the small living space became his office, his place of refuge and contemplation for the next 50 years.

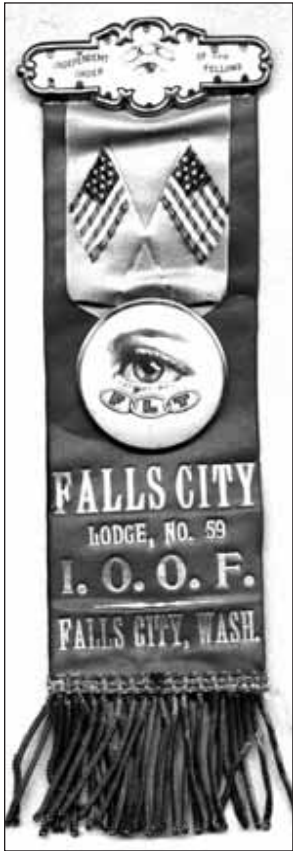
Doc Cheney traveled throughout the Valley, ranging in the early days as far as Redmond and Monroe, first by horse and buggy, then by mastering a 1912 Model T Ford. He established a second drugstore and office in Carnation. In later years, he practiced at the Snoqualmie Falls Hospital and Nelems Hospital in Snoqualmie.

In 1953, Fall City organized a special event honoring Doc Cheney and his second wife, Edna. Close to 500 people attended, hundreds of whom had been born under Doc Cheney's attendance. Doc died at age 91 in 1959, much mourned by his community.

## With Dr. Cheney There Ends An Era

BY HERMIA OPSTAD

Sunday, February 15, Fall City lost in death its long-time physician, surgeon and pharmacist, Dr. William Whittelsey Cheney. Although he retired five years ago the town continued to see his familiar figure trudging the route between office and home until illness brought the decision to remove to a nursing home in Redmond. It was there that he died; funeral services were held at Issaquah with interment at the Fall City cemetery.



## Fall City Lodge No. 59, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF)

The Fall City IOOF was chartered in 1889, and the familiar building (at right) in early River Street photos was completed the following year, with rental space on the ground floor and meeting hall upstairs. The Lone Star Rebekah Lodge, affiliated with IOOF, was chartered in 1903.

Both groups enjoyed wide membership over a long period, and still welcome new members. The ribbon shown at left belonged to Jesse Kelley, who was an IOOF member for 60 years. Besides playing an important role in the social life of the community, perhaps the greatest contribution of the IOOF to Fall City was the creation of the IOOF Cemetery in 1902, which is now part of the Fall City Cemetery.



*First IOOF Hall, c. 1906*

*Left, early IOOF members; right, Rebekah Drill Team, 1940s*







## LeRoy and Lillie Bronemann

LeRoy Bronemann came to Fall City with his family from Waterville, Washington, in 1927 at the age 13. He went to school here, graduated from University of Washington, and was appointed postmaster in 1940. In 1942, he was drafted into the army and sent to New York City, where he met his future bride, Lillie. They corresponded during his deployment in the Pacific Theater. After the war, they drove across country to Fall City and were married in 1946 in the Fall City Methodist Church. For over 50 years, while raising their family, they served Fall City in a myriad of ways. Between them, they had worked over 70 years in the Post Office by their retirement in 1978. The Fall City Service Bureau was started alongside the new Post Office in the Bronemann Building in the 1950s and run for many years by Lillie. Both worked over 30 years with the Fall City Water Company, and LeRoy was a charter member of the Fall City Fire Department and served as volunteer for 40 years.

*LeRoy and Lillie, 1992 Valley Record article*

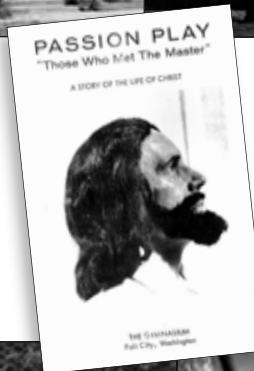
*Below and right, from LeRoy's Memorial Program, 2007*



## Fall City United Methodist Church

Members of the Fall City UMC, started by "Brother Mac," circuit preacher for the Methodist Episcopal Church, initially met in the first small school building on the north side of the Snoqualmie River, then in a small building built by Brother Mac, which later had to be sold. The Baptist Church had built a church in 1899, which was used for a period by the Methodists and later purchased by them in 1918 (photo, immediate right). The building was moved across Main Street (337th Pl SE) in 1929 to its present location (far right) and continues to serve the congregation. Starting in the mid-1950s, under the leadership of Revs. Ernest Barber and George Pratt, growth in the church and additions and remodeling of the building brought it to its present configuration (upper right). Rev. Pratt, with Henry and Dorothy Eaton, also wrote the script for the Fall City Passion Play, performed around Easter each year for over 25 years.

The church's centennial celebration in 1985 inspired Paul Katocs to write his fine account of church history, *The Story of Our Church, 1885–1985*.



*The Fall City Passion Play program for 1964 (at left)*

*(Below, left) A Methodist Ladies Aid Group from the early 1900s*

*(Below, right) Sterling Thomsen as Jesus in the fishing boat scene, 1968*

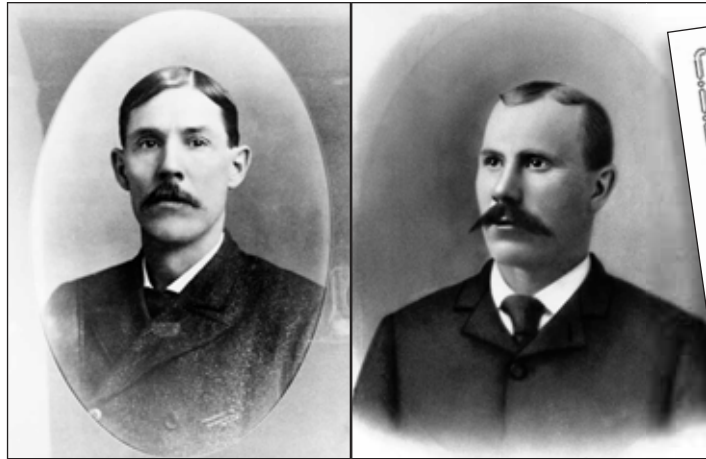




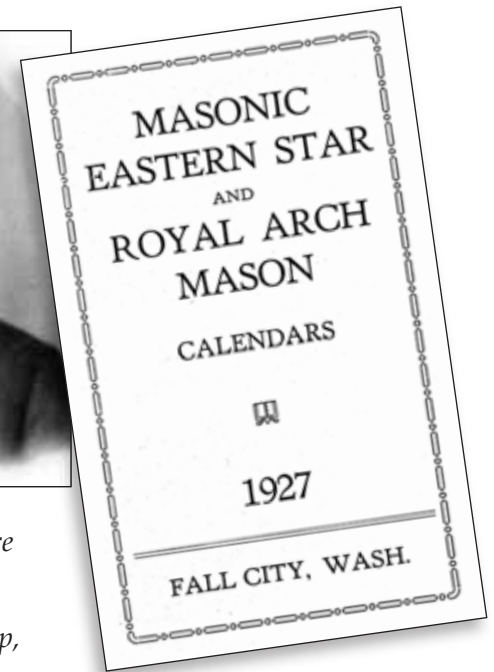
## Falls City Lodge, No. 66, Free and Accepted Masons

The Falls City Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1890 and met upstairs in David Taylor's store until 1894, when the building was destroyed by fire. Meetings were then moved to the upstairs of the IOOF Hall, as plans were made for the construction of a hall, which was completed by the end of 1895 and still stands today. Palm Chapter No. 155, Order of the Eastern Star, affiliated with the Masons, was chartered in 1917. The Masonic Lodge and affiliated groups enjoyed wide membership over a period of many years and still welcome members. The 1927 Calendar (upper right) lists memberships of 166 for Master Masons, 211 for Order of the Eastern Star, and 80 for Royal Arch Masons.

The Falls City Masonic Hall was declared a King County Landmark in 1994 and added to the National Register of Historic Buildings in 2004. The addition of photographs of early Fall City on the north and south walls, provided by the Friends of the Fall City Library, has made the ground-floor room very popular for a variety of community events.

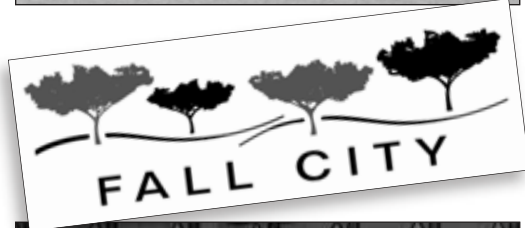


*Alma (left) and George Davis Rutherford were charter officers of the new Masonic Lodge.*



*(Below) Early Order of the Eastern Star group, with Georgia Morton and Ed Opstad in the front row.*





Supplement to the Valley Record



Most In Fall City <sup>12/14/89</sup>  
Not In Favor Of Sewers *Valley Record*



## Civic Groups

As an unincorporated town, Fall City has always had to fend for itself. Over the years, many groups have stepped up to serve the community and get things done—pay the bills, mow the grass, care for the cherry trees, coordinate with King County, and put on our important annual community events. The more recent ones include the Recreation Council (1951–70), the Business and Professional Association (1970–93), the Community Association (1993–present), and the Fall City Days Committee. Other groups have taken on specific issues, such as the restoration of the Hop Shed. We salute them all!







## Fall City Fire Department

From bucket brigades to early hose carts, Fall City folks turned out to battle fires in old wooden buildings, often in vain. The fire siren was activated by a switch at the Fall City Telephone Company, where operators would also call to muster help. A ballot initiative for the King County Fire District 27 was approved in May 1946, and the first fire truck was purchased later that year. By the end of 1947, the first modest concrete block Fire Hall was built.

In 2006, KCFD 27 celebrated its 60th year of serving Fall City, and the history of dedicated volunteers goes back much further. Our gratitude to all: the fire commissioners who oversee the operations; the staff; the volunteer and salaried firefighters; and, of course, the fire chiefs, shown below, who have worked so hard to maintain excellence of service over the years.



*Al Slott*  
(1946–56)

*Chet Bluher*  
(1956–72)

*Mac Pearson*  
(1972–91)

*Chris Connor*  
(1991–present)



*First hall, 1947–61 (WA State Archives)*



*Second hall, 1962–77 (WA State Archives)*



*Third hall, 1977; enlarged/remodeled in 2004 (below)*







**E. R. Opstad Is Elected to New Superintendency**

At a meeting of the school board last Friday evening, E. R. Opstad of the present Fall City school system was elected to the superintendency of the new consolidated tendency of the new consolidated district No. 410. Opstad, who is widely known in the valley, has been with the Fall City schools for a period of 16 years, during which time he has established himself as a capable school executive.



## Edwin R. Opstad, Principal and Superintendent

Ed Opstad came to Fall City in 1928, as a teacher and athletic coach, and six months later was appointed superintendent of the Fall City School District 185. The first teacher he hired was Hermia Thompson of Ellensburg. They were married soon thereafter (upper left) and lived for the next 15 years or so in the principal's house, next to the old gymnasium.

Principal Opstad's name is synonymous with the Brick School for the many students who knew him. He was remembered as a stern, no-nonsense principal, but one who cared about his students. The photo at right is a special part of our Fall City Collection, catching him at a rare smiling moment, close to graduation day in 1939.

In 1944, after much planning by Opstad, consolidation of high schools from North Bend, Snoqualmie, and Fall City into Snoqualmie Valley School District 410 was approved, leading to the construction of Mount Si High School. Ed Opstad was appointed superintendent for the new district and served in that position until he retired in 1959 (photo, upper right). He and his family had moved to Snoqualmie in 1944, but returned to Fall City around 1975. At his death in 1983, the memorial service was packed with former students, teachers, and friends who came to say goodbye to a very principled man.





*Marguerite Wilkie,  
Teacher*



*Austin Huhn,  
Teacher,  
Principal*



*Josephine  
McClaskey,  
Teacher*



**FALL CITY BRICK SCHOOL**



*Helen Pebbles,  
Teacher*



*Tom Mus,  
Teacher, Coach*



*Julia Larson,  
Teacher*



*Barbara  
Van Oeveren,  
Teacher, 1973–present*



*Les Jones,  
Principal,  
1970–91*



**FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



*Paula  
Young-Keeffe,  
Teacher, Talent Shows*



*Kirk Dunckel,  
Principal,  
2001–present*



**CHIEF KANIM MIDDLE SCHOOL**



*Dave Clifford,  
Teacher,  
1974–present,*



*Art Galloway,  
Teacher,  
1979–present,*



**MOUNT SI HIGH SCHOOL**



*Sydney Mullock,  
Teacher,  
1987–present*



*Don McConkey,  
Principal,  
1991–2004*



*Mickey Fowler,  
Teacher,  
1990–present*



*Chris Ratcliffe,  
School Counselor*



*Christine Kjenner,  
Teacher,  
1985–present*



*Greg Hart,  
Teacher,  
1982–Present*

**Schools.** A very small “then and now” sample of the many important folks who serve the community through our schools.



## Fall City Study Club, 1922–2002

The Fall City Study Club, affiliated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs, served for 80 years as an important social, cultural, and civic organization for women of Fall City and the Snoqualmie Valley. Membership was limited to 35, because they met in members' homes, and there was usually a waiting list. In 1981 (see photo, upper right) there were 28 members, 13 of whom were retired teachers. For most of their years, they met twice a month, except in summer, and usually enjoyed a program on literature, art, music, or reports of travel, most often presented by a member.

Perhaps the most appreciated of the Fall City Study Club's many civic contributions was the pivotal role they played in the establishment of Fall City's libraries—from the first rooms in the Fall City Methodist Church in 1944, through 2007, when King County Library stepped in to build our current library building. The Study Club raised funds, recruited volunteers, and gathered materials—including a desk found floating down the Snoqualmie River, which was used in 1944. An overview of early libraries is shown below.



*Study Club members at 1000th meeting in 1981*

*Members in front of the third library, 1967. (Valley Record)*



*Methodist Church, 1944–57*



*Refurbished cottage, 1957–67*



*New building, 1967–86*

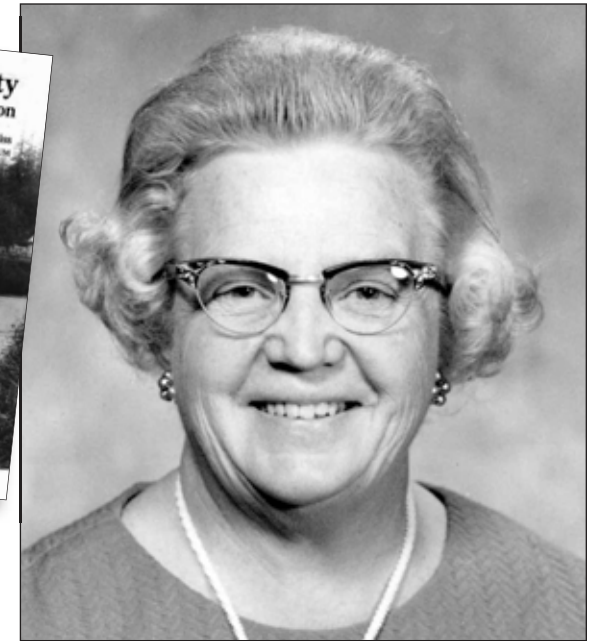
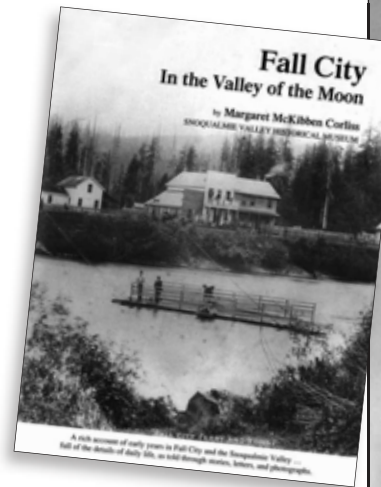
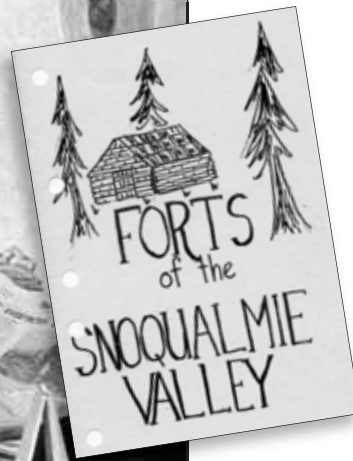


*Former bank building, 1986–2008*





Elva Bush Polley, 1892–1961



Peggy Corliss, 1915–85

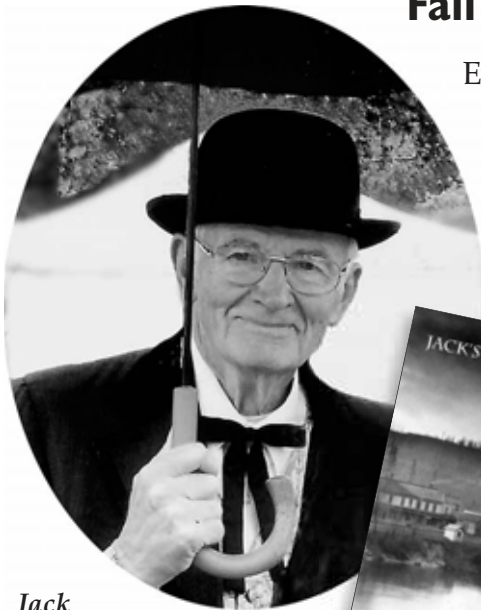
## Fall City Historians

Every town owes a debt of gratitude to its historians, who save and share the facts, figures, stories, and images of our past.

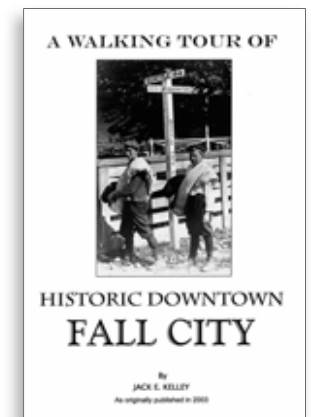
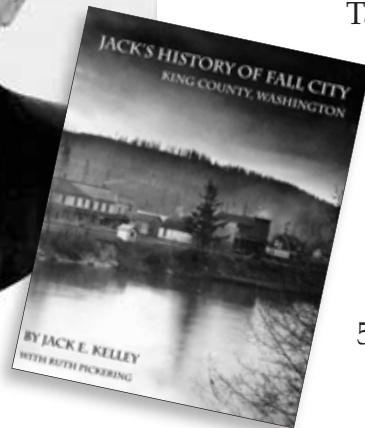
Elva Polley, daughter of early settlers Jack and Hattie Thomas Bush, gathered stories and records and wrote large numbers of historic articles for the *Valley Record*, as well as the booklet, *Forts of the Snoqualmie Valley*.

Margaret “Peggy” Corliss had a special friendship with “Aunt Ol” (Olive Taylor Quigley), the first non-Indian child born in the valley. She collected many stories from Olive and from other pioneer families and compiled them into Fall City’s first history book, *Fall City: In the Valley of the Moon*.

Jack Kelley discovered when he retired that he liked to write. He wrote *Life and Times of a Small Town Kid*, stories of growing up in Fall City, and then brought his engineer’s head for detail to researching and writing *Jack’s History of Fall City*, a 520-page opus.



Jack  
Kelley







# FALL CITY NEIGHBORS

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 1998

The *Fall City Neighbors* newsletter is a relatively recent “pillar” in Fall City. But it is a tribute to our local community spirit that it will be in its 16th year by the time this calendar is out. For a community-supported, volunteer-based newsletter, this is impressive. Hats off to everyone who has played a part in making the newsletter work through the years. Special kudos to columnists Noma Edwards (“Garden Corner”); Alan Bauer (“Natural Neighbors”), skilled interviewer Sharon Brown, whose contributions we have enjoyed for over 10 years; and Janet Kautz, who has served as treasurer since 2004.

Through the years, a “cast of hundreds” have written articles, taken photographs, edited, proofed, made up the calendar, distributed the issues, and mailed out subscriptions. And last, but far from least, are all the individual donors and the Fall City and Snoqualmie Valley sponsors whose contributions over the years have paid the bills.

The guiding light for *Fall City Neighbors* has been a series of editors, who for the most part have also done the layout work. Shown below, left to right: Carrie Sasynuik (’98–’99), Ruth Pickering (’99–’07), Becky Davie (’07–’09), Anita Westernen (’09–’10), CJ Nielsen (’10–’11), Christine Johnson (’11–’12), and the dynamic trio (bottom left) of Del and Nancy Moore (co-editors since March 2012) and Dave Gershman (newsletter layout since January 2012).

