

FALL CITY CALENDAR 2019



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$15

THEN AND NOW

Preston Mill Company Office

In the lower photo, taken circa 1943–1945, a crew from the Preston Mill poses outside the Preston Mill Company Office. The large building was originally built about 1911 as a hotel catering to traveling salesmen. It gradually transformed into temporary housing for workers, then became the mill office. The far end of the building served as the Preston Post Office. The building was torn down in 1975.

Note the glimpse of a Shell station sign just beyond the large building. Butchy's Shell Station and General Store was built in 1940 by Butch and Agnes Fredeen. The small photo in the middle shows the station in 1956. In 1987, the store moved to the Preston retail area near I-90. The building was sold and later used by a variety of businesses. It remains in place today, currently adjacent to Preston Mill Park.



Valley Hotel

The Valley Hotel (below) was located on the site now occupied by the parsonage next to the Fall City United Methodist Church (at right). According to the *Issaquah Independent* of July 16, 1909: "Fire destroyed the Valley Hotel on Tuesday afternoon. The piano and much furniture, bedding and clothing were removed by a surprisingly active salvage corps of citizens. Mr. E. A. Hanson has been proprietor for the past several years. It is not thought that he will rebuild."





River Street, Looking East

The unique eastern view in the 1917 photo at top was probably taken from the roof of the then-new three-story Brick School. The “now” photo includes only two buildings remaining after the 1928 widening of River Street (see arrows): the barn-shaped Taylor House (now Fall City Dental) and the Prescott-Harshman House (obscured by the tall trees east of the library). The river and bridge are also much less visible because of large trees now present along the river.





Pioneer Saloon

Peter Stokes and his son Frank ran the Pioneer Saloon, beginning in the early 1900s. It went out of business when Prohibition began, and the building was torn down in 1928 when River Street was widened. The building currently home to the Last Frontier Saloon was constructed on the site in 1930.



Riverside Tavern

During Prohibition, a single-story building was built by Paul Holden on the site currently occupied by the Fall City Roadhouse. It had a fountain and coffee shop and served plate dinners. Adjoining the building was Riverside Campgrounds and a pavilion in which dances were held every Saturday night. In 1933, the owner, Mae Brown, added a second story with 12 tourist guest rooms, which were often rented to single teachers working in Fall City. After Prohibition ended, the business became known as the Riverside Tavern and Lodge.

Around 1960, the Riverside Tavern moved its business to the current location across 338th Street SE from the Model Garage. The Riverside Lodge building later became the Colonial Inn and is now the Fall City Roadhouse and Lodge.



Fall City Depot

Rail service to Fall City began in 1889, connecting Fall City to Seattle by rail, telegraph, and postal service—a huge change for the small town. Over time, however, with the improvement in roads and other transportation, rail service declined, and by 1974 it was discontinued and the rails taken up.

The Preston-Snoqualmie trail is one of many Rails-to-Trails projects that took advantage of old railway beds. The Fall City Depot sat on the south side of the tracks where they crossed what is now Lake Alice Road, approximately at the end of the parking area closest to the road. Looking east from there in the photo below shows the trail curving off as in the photo of the depot, taken in 1909.





Preston Mill

August Lovegren established the Preston lumber mill in 1896. It operated under various owners until a major fire in 1989. The area was purchased by King County Parks in 1997.

The only buildings that can be seen in the 1910 photo at right that exist today are the Preston Church (right arrow in both photos) and the Lovegren Mansion (left arrow, masked by trees in the “now” photo). The two large buildings in front of the mansion in 1910 were located where the current Preston Community Center (circle) stands. Only a few small mill buildings remain today, in the area now designated Preston Mill Park.





Early Auto Stage in Snoqualmie Valley

When roads were improved, but before widespread car ownership, the “auto stages” (as seen above) were very popular. They served towns within the Valley as well as offering trips to the big city of Seattle. Today, Valley residents are served by the Valley Shuttle shown at right and by a shuttle that can be scheduled for home pickup.





Fall City Brick School and Totem Pole

The main photo above shows the three-story Brick School, a centerpiece of Fall City from 1917 to 1975, as seen looking west across what is now the Totem Garden. The school stood in the area now used as a parking lot by Fall City Elementary School. The gymnasium to the left was built in 1931 and is still in use today, as seen in the “now” photo.

The Fall City Totem Pole was installed in 1934, blew down in 1964, and was repaired in 1967. In 1981, it was taken down due to serious damage and replaced with another totem pole the following year. After a remarkable restoration project, the original totem pole was put back in place in 2001.



Raging River Auto Camp

In 1929, J. T. Salomonson received permission to divert water from the Raging River for “a swimming tank, domestic supply, and fire protection for auto camp and residence.” The Raging River Auto Camp, with heated swimming pool, opened for business around 1930, located just a little over a mile from downtown Fall City on Preston-Fall City Road. Unfortunately, it was not in operation for very long: it is believed to have been seriously damaged by the flood of 1932. The property is now the location of the “A&H Septic” business and its owners’ residence.

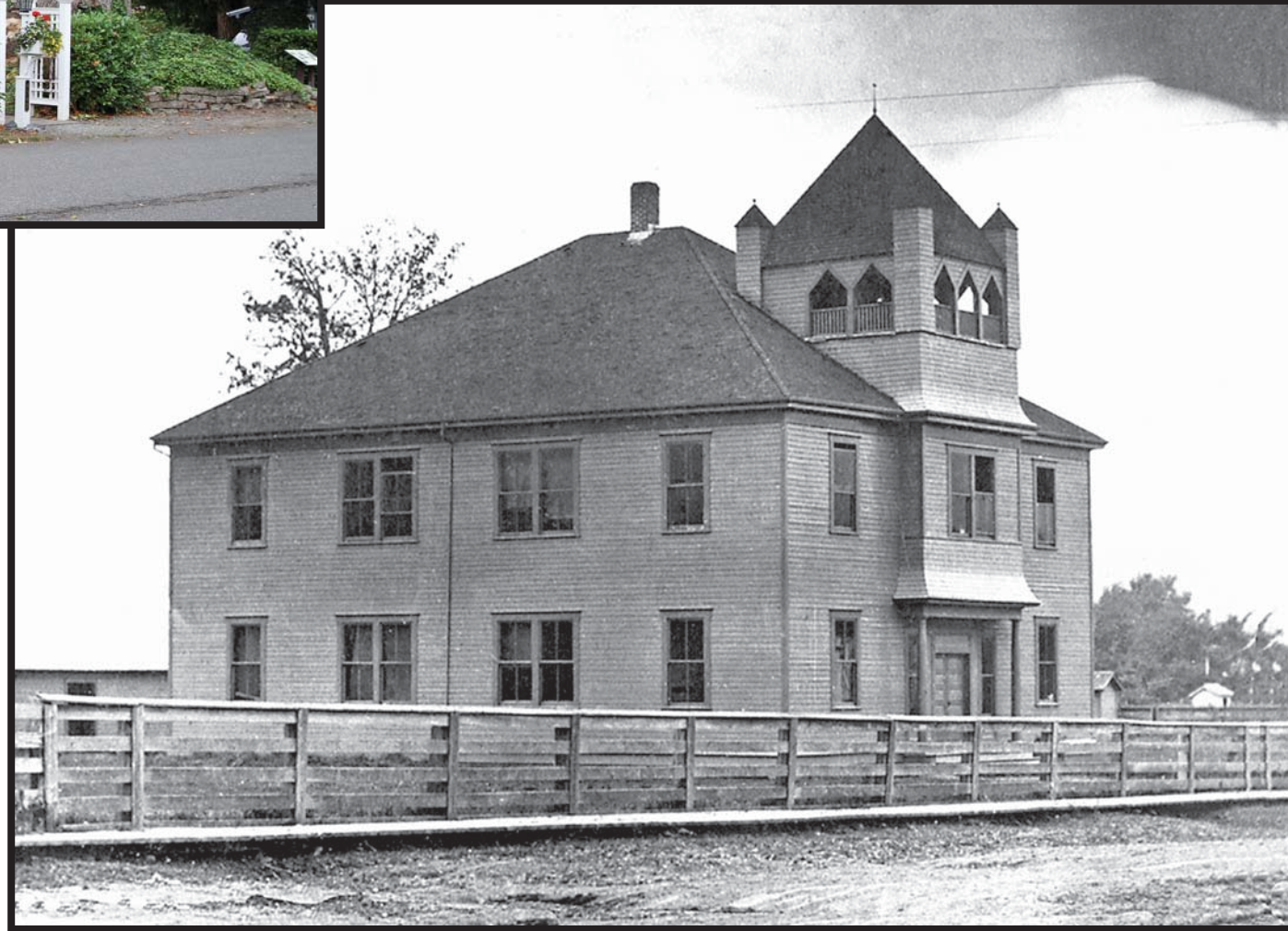




The Brown School

The Brown School (right), built in 1900 on what is now 336th Place SE, was the first two-story school built in Fall City. The first Fall City High School graduation, with four graduates, was held there in 1904. By 1914, it was already overcrowded, and the much larger Brick School was built.

The current residence on this site was built in 1923. The large maple tree in front is said to have been planted by one of the last classes at the Brown School. Next to the tree now is a historical sign that provides greater detail about Fall City's early schools.



River Street, Looking West

The photo at right shows the east end of River Street in 1948, looking west. The second IOOF (International Order of Oddfellows) Hall, just past the Model Garage, was built in 1930. The Fall City Hotel (with the “Hotel & Cabins” sign) can be identified in the “now” photo below as the same building that is home to the El Caporal restaurant.

The IOOF Hall and the three buildings beyond it, including Doc Cheney’s Drug Store, were replaced in the late 1950s with the structures that we find there today.

