

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVING THE STORIES OF FALL CITY

A MEMORY BOOK PROJECT
OF THE FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Preserving the Stories of Fall City... a new book from the FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

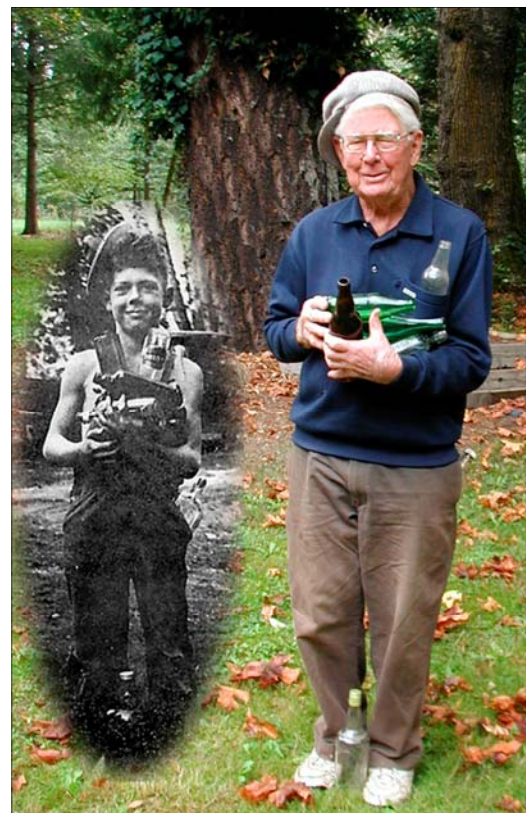
*Preserving the Stories of Fall City is a well-organized and well-researched local history anthology that showcases a rich array of primary sources, including oral history interviews and first-person reminiscences, but also maps, photographs, documents and newspaper advertisements and reporting. The edited memories are a delight to read, with surprises on every page – this book opens doors into Fall City's past that would otherwise remain closed, and helps the contemporary community make more sense, encouraging good choices in the future. As such, it will appeal to youthful readers and dramatically increase popular appreciation of the **Fall City Historical Society** and the vital role of local history in the community. The book itself is beautifully-designed and a pleasure to read – I think it will be a major contribution to our shared history in central Puget Sound.*

**Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, Public Historian,
Museum of History & Industry, Seattle**

Preserving the Stories of Fall City is the result of a three-year Memory Book Project undertaken by the Fall City Historical Society, with partial funding from **King County Heritage 4Culture**. Workbooks were distributed in 2007, and oral histories were done with selected individuals. Excerpts were then chosen according to section topics, and graphics were selected from the Fall City Historical Archives and other sources.



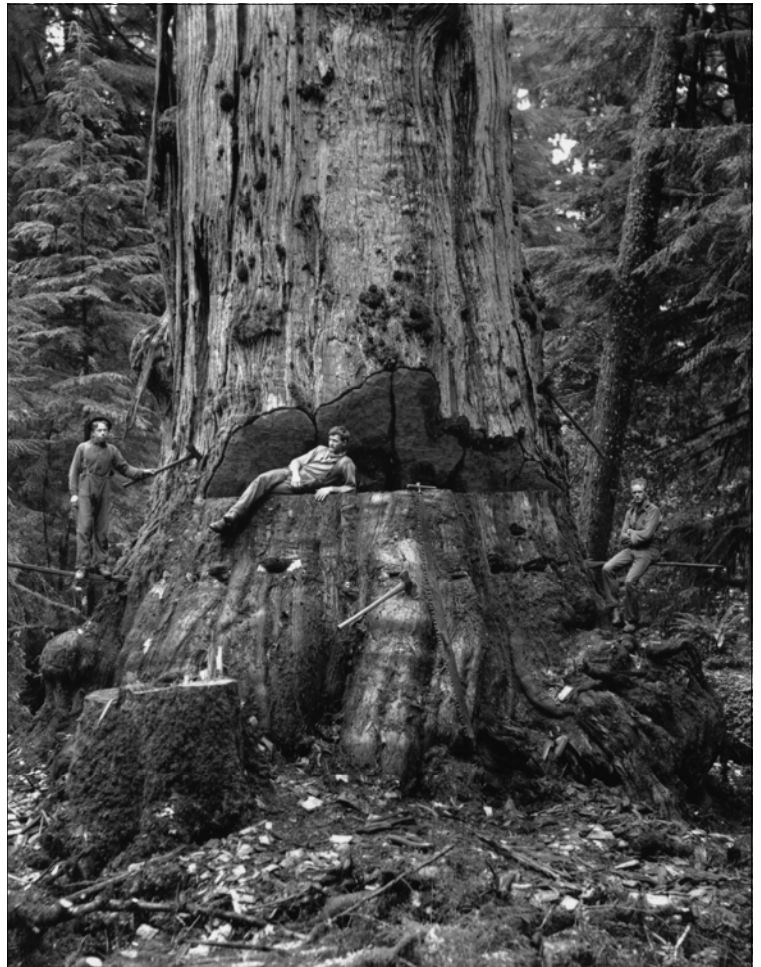
A total of 54 authors are included, with birthdates ranging from 1910 to 1957; about half were born before 1930. Eighteen (*photos on page 3*) attended Fall City High School, where the last graduating class was in 1944. One of this group, Les Morton, filled out a Memory Book and also did extensive interviews about his father's Dance Hall and Shingle Mill. The Dance Hall was wiped out by a Ragging River flood in 1932. His regular Sunday morning task had been to gather up the bottles left around the property after the Saturday night dances.



The book is a rich tapestry of memories. And the process was blessed with serendipity along the way. Two daughters of early Fall City resident Art Howe both contributed memories, and both donated poor copies of an amazing Darius Kinsey logging photo taken in 1906, in which their father and uncle were shown. Another community member donated an article about Kinsey, in which this photo was featured, and noted to be from the collection of Whatcom Museum in Bellingham. We were able to obtain a high quality print of this photo, with permission to use it in the book, and Whatcom Museum, which has this photo displayed as a large mural, was delighted to be able to identify the loggers in the photo. (See photo at right.)

Another unexpected discovery was a solution to the “steel bridge mystery.” The first bridge across the Snoqualmie River at Fall City was a wooden bridge, with a 350-foot span. Yet some of the early photos of this bridge which had been donated to the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum were titled “Steel Bridge.” A *Fall City News* note from the June 12, 1908 *Issaquah Independent*, mentions that “work will be complete this week on the Fall City Bridge. Retimbering is complete and the new iron girders are being placed in position.”

Much use was made in the book of the 1940s-era photographs of homes and buildings in King County, available from the Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Region. When the 1940 photo of the Gust Isackson home was obtained, it included his wife, Tamar Beadle Isackson, standing in front of the house. (Shown at right.) Tamar was the mother of one Memory Book author and grandmother of two others, none of whom had ever seen this photo.





Never-before-seen photos of the Raging River Auto Camp came to light. (Above.) This short-lived business on the Preston-Fall City Road was remembered by many for its swimming tank and hamburger stand, yet had all but disappeared before the historic photos of the 1940s were taken.

School memories, of course, are something we all share. We were delighted to receive some background on the Shark Mascot of Fall City High School, and a rare, relaxed photo of Principal Ed Opstad, who played such an important role in the era of the Brick School. (Photos at right.)



We are grateful for the partial support of **King County Heritage 4Culture** for this project, and for the generous donations from individuals and businesses in our community to help with the publication costs.

For information about the book, contact Becky Gordon, 425-222-7102, or grgordon@comcast.net.

These 18 Memory Book authors, who attended Fall City High School before it was closed in 1944, are among the 54 authors included in the book. Some filled out a Memory Book workbook, others are represented from writings done for their families.