



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024 historylives@fallcityhistorical.org www.fallcityhistorical.org

Newest Historic Sign finalized

Our newest sign celebrates one of the most historic sites in Fall City: “Hotel Corner,” currently occupied by El Caporal Restaurant. David ‘Doc’ Taylor built on this site late in Washington Territory days... and it has been home since then to a series of long-lasting buildings which grace all our historic photos. The sign has now arrived and been turned over to the Nelson family, current building owners, for installation.



The photo above (winter scene from 1901) is one of few which show the second Taylor Hotel, built before 1900, and sold in 1903 to Ronnei and Nelson. They added a large saloon, merged in 1909 with the hotel.

Fall City Hotel Corner . . . history lives here

Taylor Hotel (1886–1903)

David “Doc” Taylor, his wife Helen, and their three children were the first family to settle in Fall City, in 1872. Around 1886, Doc built a store on what would become River Street. He then added a restaurant on the east side of the building and a two-story house for his family on the west (right). The Taylors began renting rooms in their home. In 1892, the store and restaurant burned, and a few years later the Taylor House/Hotel burned down as well. Soon after that, Doc built the new two-story Taylor Hotel on the site, with a dining room that served as the town’s restaurant.



University of Washington Special Collections, UW5190

Hotel Fall City (1903–1919)

In 1903, Doc Taylor sold the Taylor Hotel to Andrew and Karen Ronnei and Mike Nelson, who changed the name to Hotel Fall City and built a large saloon on the corner west of the hotel (near right). Local papers in November 1908 noted that Western Union election returns were posted in the saloon to draw patrons. In 1909 the hotel was expanded to merge with the saloon (far right). In 1911, the Ronneis bought out Nelson, and Andrew and Karen ran the hotel until 1919, when they both died in the flu epidemic.



Semipalmist Valley Historical Museum

Fall City Hotel and Restaurant (1921–Present)

In about 1921, Lars and Inga Johansen bought Hotel Fall City and renamed it Fall City Hotel. The business did well until September 1925, when it burned to the ground.

Lars soon built a new hotel on the site (left), with the Fall City Café at the west end and the rest of the building rented to offices or residents. By 1933, Lars had added eight tourist cabins. He sold to Frank and Florence Thomas in 1936. After the completion of



I-90 in 1946, tourist traffic declined, and the cabins were demolished in 1964.

A series of restaurants followed: Kaschulmist (1968–1979, lower left), a restaurant and ice cream parlor; Rocky’s Pizza House II (1979–1993, lower middle), painted to reflect pizza ingredients; and, since 1994, El Caporal Mexican Restaurant (lower right).



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Mystery Photo!



Thanks to Ed Holmes, who shared two photos which appear to be in Fall City in a photo album dated 1912-1925. The two appeared together, and the other one showed the first concrete bridge, which opened in 1917. The two-story house on the right appears to be the house which stood for many years on the property now occupied by the Fall City Roadhouse. The sign says: **“Modern Garage, Storage and Supplies, Larson Bros., Auto Repair and Machine Shop, All work guaranteed.”** The only reference we found to a “modern garage” in Fall City is the 1928 article at right. We do know that Amel Larson later owned the Standard station across from the Roadhouse approximately 1928-1944. The sign in the photo above and the newspaper article seem in conflict, unless Sorenson took over the Modern Garage in 1928 when Amel Larson moved across the street.

**Seattle Daily Times
Feb. 21, 1928**

At Fall City, two garages will soon be under way. Elmer Sorenson, automobile dealer in the valley, will build a modern garage on the river bank and Amel Larson of Carnation will build a service station and garage on the corner where Louis Heiberg's garage burned last fall.

If anyone has information about the Larson Bros. Modern Garage, please get in touch.

THANKS AGAIN TO MANY VOLUNTEERS

We appreciated Fall City Day help from Carl Neilson, Rob Spence, Jon Kummer, Linda Lasure and Kirsten Erickson. Tracy Keene is taking on a number of office tasks, including writing procedures and herding a variety of Excel worksheets! Tom Keene created a backing and installed the Macrae Building sign. Dave Gershman has provided design work for this year's signs. Melinda Koethe made the rounds and cleaned all signs at the end of June. Emilee Cline is supplying Farmhouse Market with sales items. Denise Brennen offers exceptional skills in online research as needed.

THEN AND NOW will be the theme for the **2019 Fall City Calendar!** Help in creating NOW photos is coming from drone operators George Conway and Bill Wheeler and photographer Scott Massey. Ed Holmes is also helping with Preston photo topics.



FALL CITY ANNUAL COMMUNITY BBQ POTLUCK

Sunday, August 19th

Fall City Masonic Lodge

4304 337th Pl SE, Fall City

5:00–7:00 p.m.

BBQ hot dogs and fixings provided by Fall City Masonic Lodge.

Bring a side dish, salad, dessert: something yummy to
add to our community table!

Rain or shine—indoor and outdoor seating is provided.

Bring your neighbors and meet new ones!

Organized with the help of the Fall City Historical Society

QUESTIONS? E-mail Cindy at PARKSCL@comcast.net.