



## FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Fall City Library: 80 Years of Community Action & Ingenuity

*Is that a desk floating down the river? We can use that!*

It all started in March 1944 when the fairly new King County Rural Library District approved the application submitted by the Fall City Study Club for the establishment of the Fall City Library. As the sponsoring organization, the Study Club then had to find a location for the library, raise funds for heat and electricity, as well as provide the furnishings. Even though the war efforts were stretching everyone's resources, the community rallied. Fall City United Methodist Church offered the use of their two Sunday School rooms, Elmer Gochnour donated lumber and his woodworking skills for shelving, a piece of linoleum was found at Bennett's Second Hand Store for \$10, and lastly, the surprise find of a desk floating in the Snoqualmie River completed the library's provisions. For the first two years, the United Good Neighbor Fund provided for the \$100-\$200 expense of heat and utilities. After that, the Study Club held two annual fundraisers: a plant sale in the spring, and a silver tea and cultural program in the Fall. The first librarian, Mary Stokes, volunteered her time for the two afternoons and one evening that the library was open. In addition to checking books in and out, she also tended to the two stoves and hauled wood.



First library in the United Methodist Church



Work Party at the Hanson Home

In 1957, a new location was needed as the church members had approved some remodeling work. In step Al and Bonnie Hanson with a donation of their first home, an 18'x24' honeymoon cottage - it just needed to be moved within one month. After a large community appeal, The Study Club received approval from the School Board to place the building on school property. Thanks to efforts from all across the community, the building was moved, repaired and remodeled, plumbing and wiring installed, and even some new paint! Funds were raised with plant and rummage sales, pickle sales by school children, paper

and glass drives, and car washes. When it opened in the Fall of 1957, there was new shelving for 6,000 books, and even a new desk. The community united again in 1965 when the Study Club needed to raise \$8,500 for a new 1,300 sq ft library building, which opened in 1967. Today's 5,000 sq ft library is home to staff, events, programs, and classes for children, teens and adults, as well as a community meeting room. Look for the annual plant sale this spring, sponsored now by the Friends of Fall City Library.

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