FALL CITY CALENDAR 2022

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  $15

FARMING
Photographer Darius Kinsey took a number of panoramic photos in the Snoqualmie Valley in 1914. Among them are these two, showing farms in Fall City.

**Above:** The Alexander farm, which was just north of the current Fall City Farms area, on the west side of Hwy 203. It is unusual to have the farming family included!

**Below:** The Orin and Violet Baxter farm, located at the west end of SE 44th St, across from the current Baxter Barn Farm.
Herbert and Percy Smith, shown here ca. 1908, were the sons of Walt and Mary Smith, who came to Fall City in 1894. The farm was located on the SW corner of 324th Street SE and Redmond-Fall City Road.
One of the most famous dairy farms in the lower Snoqualmie Valley was Carnation Farms ... called the Carnation Stock Farm in earlier years, as noted in the sign on the barn roof! It was started in 1908 by the E.A. Stuart family, who operated the farm until 1985, when it was sold to Nestle. In 2010, the Stuart family repurchased the farm. This undated Darius Kinsey photo notes that they were known for registered Holstein-Friesian cattle.
Above: Wallace Rutherford, raising pigs in Fall City. He was the son of early settlers Almus and Jessie Rutherford, whose farm was north of Fall City on what is now Neal Road. Raising pigs was fairly common in our area. Early settlers remember that the pigs would often escape and go to the Snoqualmie River during salmon runs to eat fish.

Right: Sign from Cedar Creek Farm, near Fall City on Preston-Fall City Road. Bill Carnahan and his father Willard Carnahan raised pigs here in the 1950s.
Brothers Bob, Harry, Fred, and John Koba owned and operated Koba Farms for over thirty years. By 1966, they were King County’s largest truck farm, with over 400 acres, on land both purchased and leased. Many Valley residents remember working on Koba Farms during the summer. In addition, farm workers from diverse groups were bussed in from Seattle and other locations.

This 1962 Seattle Times photo shows harvesting at Koba Farms strawberry fields. L-R: Wendy Tokuda, Mike Smith, Kenny Aoki.
This undated early photo shared by Tolt Historical Society shows the labor-intensive process of harvesting hay. The hay was probably cut using a horse-drawn mower, but then had to be gathered into piles, loaded onto a wagon, and hauled to the barn for storage.
Many areas of the Valley are made colorful with flower fields cultivated by the close-knit Hmong farming community. Just across the bridge from Fall City are these fields which supply Angie Tsab’s flower shop and are sold by her family at Pike Place Market in Seattle. Angie and her son Enzo are shown at right.
Loading hay into a large barn built in 1908 on the E.E. Williams farm in Pleasant Hill, between Fall City and Carnation. Hay was loaded into an upper loft area in the barn using a pulley system, so that it could be thrown down as needed for feeding during the winter.
Raising chickens was common throughout the Snoqualmie Valley. Andrew and Bergette Hjertoos owned a large farm in Tolt (now Carnation), where Bergette is shown feeding a flock of chickens. The large Hjertoos barn and house are still visible on the left as you enter Carnation on Hwy 203.

Below: 50-nest, 2,169 square-foot chicken house built in 1921 by Claude Hoover of Fall City on his land southwest of Fall City off 332nd SE. The egg-grading scale, widely used in the 1950s, is from the Washington State Historical Museum collection.
Flooding is a frequent problem for farmers in the Snoqualmie Valley. This photo shows Robert Kenneth Sikes hauling milk through flood water in 1932. The Sikes were from Vincent, the area near Carnation Farms.

After a serious flood, a customer at Fall City Farms commented, “Gee, your soil must be really good, with all the floods …” The reply was, “Oh, our soil is great … but it’s in Duvall!”
During wartime, the important role of farmers is widely acknowledged. On the left is a WWI poster created in 1917, asking citizens and their children to register for work on farms. The WWII poster on the right again recognizes the vital role of food production to the war effort.
FARMING

FIRST CLEAR THE LAND …

Early farmers usually started out on land that had been logged and were faced with the daunting task of clearing large stumps to make their land usable.

In this photo, taken on the John T. Larson farm on Tolt River Road, they have taken a page from the logging industry and used a spar pole and “horse power” to bring the stumps into a pile for burning. The presence of the men on top of the pile helps show the scale of the task!