FALL CITY CALENDAR

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

$15
After school moved to a different building on the south side of the river, the original school building continued to have many uses. It is shown after 1940 in the photo at right; it was torn down in the 1960s.

First School, 1873–1885

In early 1873, a group of parents built a 24-by 30-foot building on the north side of the Snoqualmie River, east of the current Hop Shed location. This would be the first building in the Snoqualmie Valley built specifically for school use. No photos are available of the school in its original form. The sketch at left is from *Fall City, In the Valley of the Moon*, by Peggy Corliss.

This was the school that greeted the first teacher, Laurilla Foresman, and her five students—Elma and Amanda Thomas, Ellen Stearns, and Druzilla and Jessie Taylor—on the first day of school in the summer of 1873. The Taylor sisters lived on the south side of the Snoqualmie River and had to be taken to school by dugout canoe.
As the number of students living on the south side of the Snoqualmie River steadily increased, a larger school was built in town, just west of the existing Raging River Bridge. Richards School was completed in 1885 and used until 1890. It was named for the Richards family, who had lived briefly in the building. Only one photo of the school exists, shown above.

Richards School, 1885–1890

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The increasing number of students soon overcrowded Richards School, so beginning in 1888 and in later years as needed, the Lyceum Hall (located where the current Masonic Hall stands) was used for overflow. This unpainted single-room building with a tall square front was built by Bemis and Walker as a furniture factory and later became known as Lyceum Hall. It was used for a variety of community events, such as a debating society and singing school and various meetings. A newspaper, *King County Record*, was published there for a while, starting in 1906.
In 1890, the third school building, called the White School, was ready for classes. It was the first school in town with a bell tower. This school faced what is now SE 44th Place between 335th and 335th Place SE. The first enrollment consisted of 31 boys and 27 girls. It was in the White School that paper replaced slates for writing, and the school term was increased from six to nine months.
Brown School, 1900–1915

The first two-story schoolhouse in Fall City was built in 1900. It was painted brown—hence the name.

In the corner of the large schoolyard behind the school, a gymnasium was built where the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams would have played. The photo at left was taken circa 1914.
Eighth-grade graduation was the highest education available in Fall City until 1903, when the Brown School’s school board created a high school. Teacher Daniel Daum, shown in the 1902 8th-grade graduation photo at right, was the first high school teacher and principal. The first Fall City High School graduation—with four graduates—was held in the spring of 1904. All of the Brown School’s 1910 classes are shown in the lower photo.
The last high school graduation for Brown School students was in 1914. Portions of the graduation program and the upper part of the fancy Certificate of Graduation are shown.
As population along Patterson Creek began to grow, the parents petitioned to form a school district, as it was too far for the children to walk to Fall City. In 1885, School District 48 was formed.

The school, a one-room building with a bell tower, was built on the west side of what is now 308th Street SE, just south of Redmond-Fall City Road. In 1915, the students began attending the new Brick School in town.

Left: Grades 1-8 at Patterson Creek School, circa 1910.
In 1898, this elaborate souvenir program was created for Patterson Creek students, perhaps by teacher Meta N. Schalter.
Fall City Brick School, 1916–1970

The large three-story Brick School, located on the site of what is now the Fall City Elementary parking lot, took students in one giant leap from kerosene lamps to electric lights, and from outhouses to flush toilets! The increased size and better equipment allowed many new classes to be offered. In 1931, a brick gymnasium with a large stage was added, which is still in use today. Beginning in 1945, high school classes from all Snoqualmie Valley schools were consolidated to Mount Si High School. The construction of Fall City Elementary School and Chief Kanim Middle School ended the use of the Brick School, which was demolished in 1970.
The only official printed yearbook for Fall City High School was from 1927. Graduating seniors are shown above.
Left: Poster from 1939.
Right: Basketball team, 1927
Below: Football team, 1936–37