Confectionery was a common business in the early 1900s. While the word indicates a shop that sells a variety of sweets, it was most often combined with tobacco products — a combination that would be frowned upon today! Fred Hazelhurst is shown above in the Hazelhurst Confectionery (1907–19). William Kirkpatrick purchased Hazelhurst’s business in 1919 and continued through 1923. The current site of the Raging River Café was the location of a confectionery operated by J. W. Leslie from approximately 1919 to 1926 (see insert of a 1919 ad). Henry Hamilton later built a new building on this site and had a confectionery there for many years, offering hot coffee and lunches as well.
Carnation Farms was founded in 1908 by E. A. Stuart, on 360 acres of land near Tolt—today known as Carnation. Stuart set about improving milk production via selective breeding of Holstein cows, including a regime for handling the cows that reduced their stress, leading to “contented cows,” a company slogan. The astounding success of Stuart’s work was well established by 1920. While an average cow produced 4,000 pounds of milk per year, the test cows began to produce over 30,000! Segis Pietertje Prospect, called “Possum Sweetheart” by her milker, Carl Gockerell, broke the world’s record for the most milk produced in one year, with a total 37,361 pounds in 1920. In 1928, a monument was erected in her honor at Carnation Farms’ entrance.
Fall City was once a major crossroads. Vessels on the Snoqualmie River were early major modes of transportation. One of the first bridges over the river was built in Fall City in 1899, the same year a railway depot was established on what is now Lake Alice Road. The first two transcontinental highways—the Yellowstone Trail and the Sunset Highway—both came over Snoqualmie Pass and crossed the bridge at Fall City. The photo above from the 1920s shows the new concrete bridge coming in from the right to River Street, which stretches off to the west, toward the top of the photo. (Note the three-story Brick School in the distance.) The Yellowstone Trail turned onto River Street, and went west via Redmond, the ferry at Kirkland, and then to Seattle. The Sunset Highway went straight ahead from the bridge, through Preston, Issaquah, Renton, and on to Seattle. When the new freeway from Seattle to Spokane was completed in 1946, bypassing Fall City, it meant the end of the tourist industry here.
A large petroglyph (rock carving) exists along the Raging River between Fall City and Preston. The fish figure is approximately 40 inches long. It was brought to the attention of the Fall City Historical Society in 2007. No information is available on the age of the carving, although the Snoqualmie tribe and archeologists at the University of Washington are aware of its existence.
A small town known as Cedar Falls (shown at top, c. 1914, with Rattlesnake Ledge in the background) once stood on the northern shore of Rattlesnake Lake. In 1915, seepage from a recently built masonry dam on the Cedar River raised the level of Rattlesnake Lake, and by the end of the year Cedar Falls was under water. Seattle paid restitution to the residents and purchased the land to protect the watershed.
Fall City’s annual celebration was called “Derby Day” from about 1952 through 1970, named for the soapbox derby held in the 1950s by the Fall City Cub Scouts. The tall ramp seen in the distance in this 1953 photo was used to start some early races. Unfortunately, it wasn’t wide enough for all the cars to use, so “Dad power” was the mode as more cars joined the race!

The soapbox derby race was eventually discontinued, and the wearing of derby hats became the characteristic of the celebration, which featured a variety of events, including boat races on the river.
Did You Know...?

George Carmack, the driver of this 1903 Stanley Model B “Steamer” (during a visit to Fall City), made the first claim on the Klondike River, starting the famous Klondike Gold Rush.

In 1885, George headed north over the Chilkoot Pass to the Yukon. For 11 years, he worked to support himself while continuing to prospect during the summers. In 1896, while prospecting on what became known as “Bonanza Creek,” off the Klondike River, he found rich gold deposits and registered Discovery Claim. Word spread fast and the area was soon flooded with other prospectors. In 1897, steamboats left the Yukon town of Dawson City with an astounding $1,500,000 in Klondike gold.
Lucinda Collins Fares was the first white woman to settle in the Snoqualmie Valley. Around 1868, Lucinda and her husband Joseph settled just west of North Bend, on property later known as Tollgate Farm. (A toll bridge was operated there from 1884 to 1887 to help pay for maintenance of the wagon trail across Snoqualmie Pass.)

The Fares’ home became a stopover for many who came over the pass. Although she was never able to read or write, Lucinda grew up among the Indians on the Duwamish and could speak their regional language. She was also known for her cows: she would take her milking stool to the pasture and had trained the cows to come to her for milking when called by name.
In 1906, the Raging River broke through between the Livery Stable and the Pioneer Saloon (now site of the Last Frontier) and washed out River Street. In the early days, the Raging River posed a serious flooding risk to Fall City and areas immediately upriver. The building of a dike along the lower 1.5 miles of the river was finally approved in 1937 and finished in 1939. It involved dredging out gravel, adding heavy rock to protect the banks from erosion, and deepening, widening, and straightening that stretch of river.
During WWII, the Boeing plant was covered with netting, and pretend residential blocks were created on top of it in order to camouflage the plant from potential enemy bombers. The photo shown is from 1946, not long before it was dismantled. According to John Little, assistant curator and research team leader at the Museum of Flight, the streets all had names: “Ersatz,” “Fake,” “Phony,” “Synthetic,” and so on. The cars were modular and were repositioned at least once every day by Boeing security guards.
In the later 1800s, large herds of cattle, sheep, and hogs would be brought over Snoqualmie Pass and through Fall City on their way to Seattle and other areas. Before the railroad came, ranchers would swim their cattle across the Okanogan River to pick up the trail southward and herd the cattle in big drives through Naches Pass or Snoqualmie Pass into Seattle’s livestock yards.

From Clarence Bagley’s *History of King County:* “July 1869, M. S. Booth, L. W. Foss, and Joseph Borst bought a small meat market in Seattle and began buying cattle in the Kittitas Valley and driving them over Snoqualmie Pass. The cattle were left at Borst’s farm to recuperate and fatten up and then driven on to Seattle as needed. . . . Booth drove a herd of two hundred cattle over Snoqualmie Pass through 36 inches of snow and lost only four animals, December 1869.”
Snoqualmie Valley had its own movie star, Ella Raines, who was born in the former town of Snoqualmie Falls, grew up in Spring Glen, and attended the University of Washington, majoring in drama. Discovered by director Howard Hawks, Ella was the first actress signed to the new production company he had formed with actor Charles Boyer. She made her film debut in *Corvette K-225* in 1943, acted in a total of 20 films, and appeared in a number of television series in the 1950s. She was on the cover of *Life* magazine twice—in 1944 and 1947—and has two stars on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame, for her work in movies and TV. Ella passed away in 1988.
The first public crossing of the Snoqualmie River at Fall City was a flat-bottomed ferry boat, built and put into service in 1884 by brothers John and Philo Rutherford. It was 34 feet long and 8 feet wide and could carry several passengers and a horse team and wagon. The bow and stern were attached to a stationary cable stretched across the river. By adjusting the lines to bow and stern, the ferry could be angled such that the flow of the river would carry it across in both directions. Fares were 10 cents for a passenger, 50 cents for a horse, and a dollar for team and wagon. When the first bridge opened in fall of 1889, the ferry was no longer used. (See larger photo, circa 1887, on the front cover.)