



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024

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A Corny Story



In keeping with our 2022 calendar's theme of "Farming", it's interesting to think about what drew people to this remote corner of the country to farm. Many took advantage of the Homestead Act, then there's the story from *Preserving the Stories of Fall City* of the special trophy...

According to Larry Everett, great-grandson of Davis and Sadie Rutherford, sometime around 1917-1920 in a bar in New York City, a couple of soldiers were playing pool and talking about their hometowns. They start bragging about where the best tasting corn could be grown. One man, Mr. Barfuse, is from the Midwest, the other, Mr. Rutherford, is from Fall City. Mr. Barfuse says, "The best corn comes from the Midwest." Mr. Rutherford counters with, "I know where the best corn comes from. And I have the trophy to prove it!" He invites Barfuse to come to see his farm. (The Almus and Jesse Taylor Rutherford homestead encompassed what is now Fall City Farms, where that prizewinning corn was grown, and the land to the east and west along the river.) Shortly after that, Mr. Barfuse does come out to Fall City to see the Rutherford farm...and the trophy. He is convinced that this is, indeed, the best farmland and the best place to grow corn. Consequently, he moves here soon thereafter.



The 13-inch silver trophy awarded in 1915 to Wallace Rutherford (son of Almus and Jesse Taylor Rutherford) is quite impressive. It is inscribed:

Presented by First National Bank of St. Paul

~TO~

Wallace T. Rutherford, Fall City, Wash. Dist. No. 3

BEST TEN EARS CORN, BOYS CONTEST

First National Corn Show

December 15-31, 1915

Special thanks to Rob Arenth for relating this story to us!



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☆ GiveBIG Coming May 3rd and 4th ☆



As we Spring forward, we are very excited to be celebrating Fall City’s 150th Birthday with you in person at Fall City Day! In addition, we hope to see you at our Cemetery Tour and History Walk at the Lake Alice Trailhead - stay tuned for details! Behind the scenes, we are gearing up for our new project - interviews and conversations with some of Fall City’s longstanding residents, capturing their thoughts and memories on video. We know these Oral Histories will be a treasure for our community. We are very grateful for our supportive community who enable our all-volunteer efforts to continue. Thank you for your continued kindness during GiveBIG this year.

May Day Meander or March

Celebrate May Day with us on Sunday, May 1 at 1:00 PM for a walk along the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail.

This former railroad grade linked the Valley with Seattle from 1889-1974. It’s a paved, mostly flat trek. Feel free to take a casual stroll or a power walk. If the leaves allow, there is a nice view of the Falls on the eastern end.

We’ll meet at the interpretive kiosk at the Preston-Snoqualmie Lake Alice Road Trailhead, the former site of the Falls City Train Depot (yes, Falls City as it was known then.)

So, don your finest spring bonnet or hat and meet us there!



Museum of History and Industry, Seattle

1950 CENSUS TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC APRIL 1

Taken every 10 years since 1790, the United States census provides a snapshot of the nation's population. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the records, the most recent census year currently available is 1940. On April 1, the National Archives will make the 1950 data available to the public. What do you suppose we can learn about Fall City by perusing this document? For more information go to <https://www.gov/research/census/1950>.

Support for our work from King County Heritage 4Culture is gratefully acknowledged.

