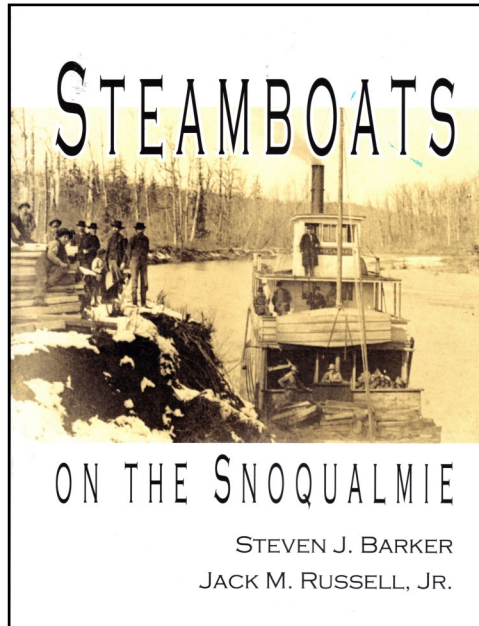


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## Steaming on the Snoqualmie



**Hot off the presses** comes a new book, *Steamboats*, chronicling steamboat traffic in our area. Authors Steven Barker and Jack Russell met as fifth graders in the 1960s. Their fascination with steamboats has led to a lifetime of tracking down details of commerce on local rivers from the mid 1800s to the early 1900s.

Starting in 1859 with the side-wheeler Ranger, boats hauled goods up rivers and carried raw materials out. Stern-wheelers became the norm by 1871 trailing large log booms behind them. This was especially important when the Hops Craze hit the Snoqualmie Valley. Farmers across the valley read Ezra Meeker's book about raising hops, and soon hops was the major crop. A riverboat captain George W. Gove and partners formed the Hop Growers Association to run the Snoqualmie Hop Ranch (present day Meadowbrook.) His steamers hauled his crop and those of other's downstream to market. He recalled guiding his boat, the Cascade, through the many turns in the Snoqualmie

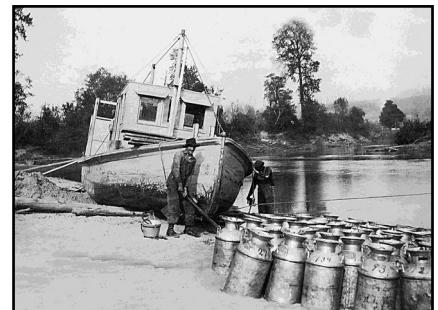
River often stopping at Hance Moore's warehouse for lunch while waiting for higher water.

By 1888, a regular schedule ran from Snohomish leaving at 8:00AM and arriving in Fall City at 5:00PM. The boat would stay over and return the next day. It brought passengers, groceries, hay, feed, and hardware.

In addition to managing sand bars, riffles, deadheads, and low water, there was the added drama of sabotage from rival captains and the occasional shooting. Steam engines exploded and boats got stranded—some even caught fire and sank.

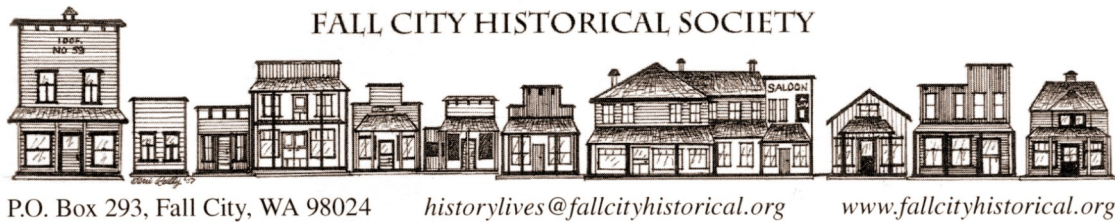
By 1908, gas powered boats became popular, but it was the 1911 arrival of the railroad that sounded the death knell for the steamboat era. It was cheaper, faster, and more versatile to ship by rail.

The book includes maps, 100 photos, and detailed descriptions of the boats that plied the rivers. Also included is an interesting section on bridges of the area. They've done a great job of giving reference notes and a comprehensive bibliography. The book can be ordered from their website <https://www.barker-russell.com/>.



A milk boat on the Snoqualmie River





## It was a Hot Time in the Old Town That Night!



A posse-ful of cowpokes came to inaugurate the new movie screen at the Masonic Hall in January for the showing of *Tall In the Saddle*, starring John Wayne and Fall City's own Ella Raines. Historical Society President Rick Divers, a descendent of Miss Raines, gave a brief story of her life. Rick's mother kept a scrapbook and other memorabilia that drew interest from the crowd that came from as far away as Monroe.

As the audience settled down with popcorn, the story unfolds in classic 1944 western style. A cowboy comes to town, finds a problem, fixes it, and in the end finds true love, in this case Ella. She plays a feisty woman rancher who rides and shoots with the best of them. For comic relief, Gabby Hayes plays the drunken side-kick. Most surprising is Ward Bond of *Wagon Train* fame, in the role of a bad guy.

It was a fun evening the Historical Society would like repeat. Let us know if you have ideas on interesting topics.



## The Great 2022-2023 Contest Drawing

As is our habit each year, we sponsor a drawing for a fabulous prize. This year the prize is two of our Fall City mugs. The question this year was, "How did Ella Raines get her big break in Hollywood?" Some of our most interesting answers were:

"She rode through town like lady Godiva  
people could not help but notice her."

"She got her big break  
when she fell on the ice."

"She was an excellent  
horseback rider."

"She was a good friend with Mickey Mouse."  
"She winked at John Wayne."



**Congratulations to Don Howe—winner of our drawing.**



So...what was the real answer? It seems Miss Raines was discovered by producer Howard Hawks.