

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

fallcityhistorical@juno.com

www.fallcityhistorical.org



## Meet Kirsten Erickson, a new ally!

**K**irsten Erickson has recently joined the FCHS after meeting Board members at last summer’s Fall City Days and subsequently attending a Board meeting. Kirsten lives in Sammamish and is the Adult Services Librarian for the North Bend, Fall City, and Snoqualmie branches of the King County Library System. Her daughter, Hannah, is a sophomore at Southern Oregon University and is studying Communications. Her husband, John, is a professor of History and a program manager at the Central Washington University Sammamish Center.

Before joining King County Library, Kirsten was a librarian at Central Washington University in Ellensburg for 12 years. In 2005 she helped establish the school’s first university archives and found that she loved the process! When the opportunity arose to pursue studies in Archival Management, she applied to and was accepted into Simmons College’s post-Master’s certificate program. She anticipates graduating from the program in May of 2018. In addition to library science and archival management, Kirsten studied Comparative History at Central and received her MA in 2008. She sees history both from the point of view of the researcher and of the curator and hopes she can be of great service to the Historical Society in Fall City. In her off time, Kirsten reads, watches hockey, and takes her spaniel Molly to the dog park. Her current life goals are to learn to ice skate and to read in another language.

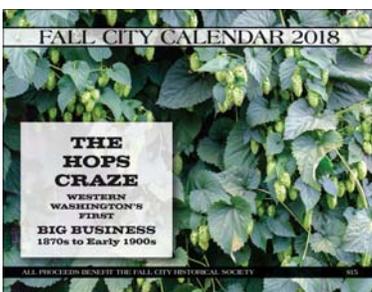
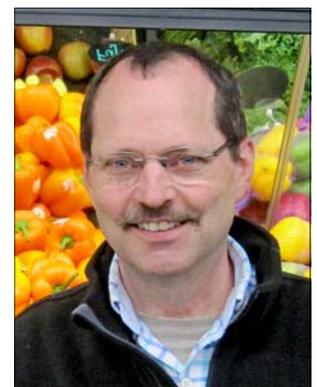
Welcome, Kirsten...we look forward to working with you in Fall City.

\* \* \* \* \*

## AND MANY THANKS TO JAY BLUHER, A LONGTIME SUPPORTER



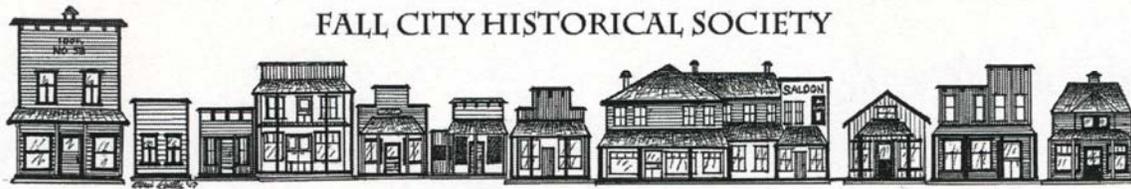
Since the beginning of the Fall City Historical Society in 2007, Jay Bluher has helped with our fundraising efforts by making space for “history in your hand” items at Farmhouse Market. He financed the early creation of the “Lucky Enough” FCHS shopping totes, with Farmhouse Market logo on the back... one of our favorite items, long sold out! Since then, mugs (now sold out) and beverage glasses with historic designs have been available on the north windowsill, and the annual Fall City Calendar is sold at the end of each year.



This is a great kindness and in recent years has netted well over \$2000 annually to help support our work.

*Thank you, Jay!*

*Calendars still available in January!*



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**HOTEL FALL CITY OWNERS REMEMBERED** (continued from page 9)



According to Jack Kelley in his *Walking Tour of Downtown Fall City*, the Ronneis built a house in 1905 at 33208 SE 44th Pl. After their deaths, it was home to Lud and Jennie Peterson until 1958, when it was moved to its current location at 4354 - 335th SE (shown at left in 2006).

The present owner, Suzanne Daymond, in the course of remodeling, has come across some items which may have belonged to Andrew and Karen Ronnei. Between the downstairs ceiling and the floorboards of the upstairs bedroom, several items were found: an unfinished letter, ini-

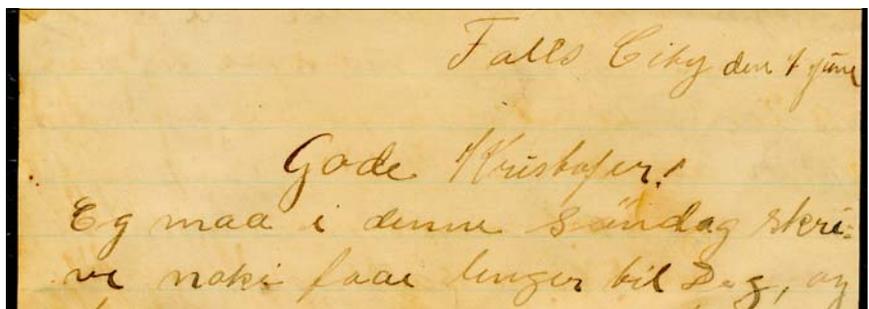
tially thought to be in Dutch, but found to be Norwegian, and two very old, dark negatives. We are grateful for the skills of Cristy Lake at Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum which allowed images to be rescued from these difficult negatives. In another area under the floorboards there was a bottle of Imperial Crown Muscatel...with a tight cork and about 3" of wine left!

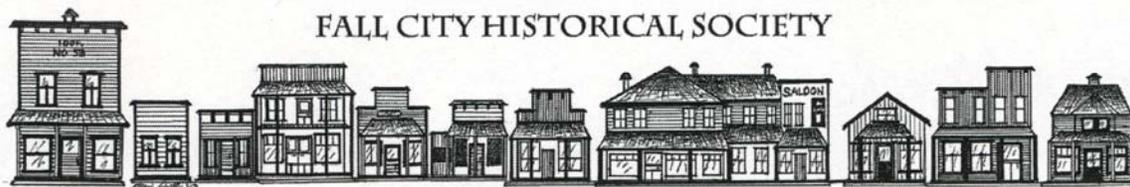
Stay tuned for more research on whether these items belonged to the Ronneis or to the later tenants, Lud and Jennie Peterson. Our thanks to Suzanne Daymond for sharing these!



The photo at left is the larger and more interesting of the two photos. An older man and a younger one are shown near a river, both with rifles and fishing poles. The younger man wears a distinctive cap.

Below is a fragment of the letter...looks as if it was being written but was not sent.





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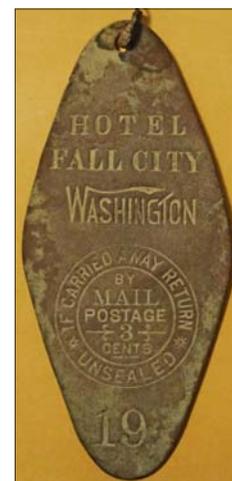
Hotel Fall City Left: in 1906, with horserace on River Street! Saloon is separate. Right: 1909, when the Hotel had been enlarged to merge with the Saloon.

## Hotel Fall City owners remembered

A. P. RONNEI	C. F. NELSON
<b>Hotel Fall City</b>	
Headquarters for Fishing and Outing Parties. Commercial Hotel.	
Three Miles From Snoqualmie Falls.	
FALL CITY,	WASHINGTON

1909 Hotel Fall City ad  
The Coast Magazine

In 1903 Andrew and Karen Ronnei and C. F. Nelson bought the two-story Taylor Hotel (on the corner currently occupied by El Caporal) and changed the name to Hotel Fall City. The Hotel is shown above, with a Saloon adjacent in 1906 and enlarged to merge with the Saloon in 1908. The key tag at right was found in Carnation in 2013 and donated to our collection.



Hotel Fall City was a “happening” place, according to the snippets below from the *Issaquah Independent Newspaper*, 1908-1911:

(4/02/08) Ronnei and Nelson have added another pool table to their place of business, elevated chairs for players and spectators have been installed. (7/17/08)... building a concrete sidewalk in front of Hotel Fall City. This is decidedly the best improvement in town we have noticed. (7/24/08)... launched a boat on the Snoqualmie for the convenience and pleasure of themselves and guest during the summer season. (11/06/08)...with commendable enterprise, received and posted Western Union election returns at their saloon. Both the station agents and the local telephone operator were held at their posts until far into the night. The place was crowded, enthusiasm was spasmodic and business was excellent. (1/29/09)... are installing a hollow wire pressure system of gasoline lighting at Hotel Fall City. (2/26/09)... have begun the construction of a large addition to their hotel and saloon building. A water tower will also be built. (6/2/11) A. P. Ronnei has succeeded to the business of Ronnei & Nelson hotel and saloon. C. F. Nelson will remove from Fall City early in June.

The Ronneis both died in the influenza outbreak in 1919. In about 1921, Lars and Inga Johansen bought the hotel and ran it until it burned to the ground in 1925. The two-story building Lars built later that year is used to this day.

(continued on page 10)