Lumber Towns: Some times the beginning, ... and the end

As Europeans and Americans explored the greater Snoqualmie Valley in the mid and late 1800s, some viewed the landscape with an eye toward financial opportunity: timber and mining topping the list. Rapidly, small mill towns popped up, clearing land and making way for mining and eventual farming. These mills provided employment to many, and the towns around them ranged from a collection of homes to communities with a school, a church and more. Some mill and mining towns have evolved into the towns and cities we see today like Snoqualmie, Preston and Redmond. Some remain as neighborhoods or areas like High Point and Coal Creek. Others, however, have disappeared from view, leaving behind only historical records and occasional artifacts. Less commonly known names like Houghton (in Kirkland), and Donnelly and Monohon (shores of Lake Sammamish) are such places.

And some times, towns are renamed and even relocated. The early days of the town of Cherry Valley placed it along The Everett and Cherry Valley Traction Company Railway which ran mostly parallel to current Rte. 203. When the Great Northern Railway Co. purchased the line, it continued building the rail lines, and soon ran in to a problem - the town of Cherry Valley sat squarely in the way of the planned expansion. After push back from the residents of Cherry Valley, in 1909, Great Northern agreed to pay to move the buildings about a half-mile up the hill to a new town site, what was originally the Duvall homestead. Some of these buildings are still standing today, including the Dougherty House. It took about six weeks to move the town up hill.

Like many towns, mill towns were often named for the owner of the mill, at times replacing an original Native American name for a location. The town of Kerriston, southeast of Preston, opened its post office in 1904 at the Kerry Mill Co. store. At its peak in the 1910s, its population ranged from 400 to 500 people. Japanese workers had their own separate housing in the town, referred to as the "Japanese Village." Today, Kerriston is listed as a Ghost Town Trail on some hiking websites, and in the 1950s, hikers found the schoolhouse still had books on the desks.
FALL CITY DAY 2023

Thank you to everyone who joined our Nifty Fifties Retrospective!

We enjoyed visiting with you as we remembered and celebrated a decade of poodle skirts, typewriters, hula hoops, rotary phones, and our small town community!

Join Us for a Walking History Tour!

Sunday, July 16, 2023  3:00 - 5:00pm
Meet outside the Masonic Hall.

Join us for a walk around downtown Fall City, exploring some of our historic buildings and places. Learn about our Historic Sign Project which now includes 17 signs around town, providing historical summaries and access to more detailed information and photos.

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