

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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www.fallcityhistorical.org

Designs complete on two new signs

We're on the way with the first two new signs of 2017, shown below. The linked more-detailed report has been written for the Model Garage, and is in process for the Prescott-Harshman House. An important part of this report is background on the Fall City Telephone Company, an important part of the community for many years. Julia and Newt Harshman, the early owners, were very respected in town, and served as witnesses for legal documents and as notaries. The Totem Pole was presented to the community in memory of Julia Harshman after her death in 1933. (See historic signs in Totem Garden Park.) The poem on page 9, was written in memory of the "party line" era.



Fall City ... history lives here

The Model Garage, since 1920

From about 1909 to 1920, Lee Murphy operated Murphy's Garage on River Street, next to the current location of the Last Frontier Saloon. Lee and his wife lived in a large house to the west of the garage, on the corner across from the Odd Fellows Hall. When Lee left town in 1920 due to ill health, Lud Peterson arranged to lease the garage building and opened the Fall City Garage. Around 1922 he changed the name to Model Garage. (The photo shown above is circa 1924.)

Lud soon needed more work space. Around 1926, he purchased the garage building and the Murphy house. The house was taken down, and Lud hired Bill Blaisdell to build a larger 40-foot by 60-foot cinder-block garage on the corner lot. When the Redmond-Fall City Road was widened around 1929, the new building was moved 50 feet south to its current location. It was one of the few River Street buildings to survive the road-work. (Scan the QR code below for a more-detailed history.)

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CULTURE
King County Landmark 1984

Fall City ... history lives here

Prescott-Harshman House

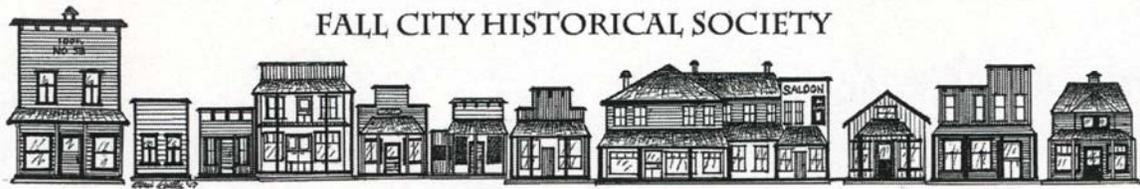
Built 1904, King County Landmark 1984

The Prescott-Harshman House is a carefully restored turn-of-the-century residence. Despite its simplicity, it has a certain "grand" presence, owing to its tall, steep roof with a mock "widow's walk" at the crown and three tall windowed dormers. It was the residence of Martin and Parthena Prescott from 1904 to 1909. In 1912 it became the home of Newton and Julia Harshman and the office of their business, the Fall City Telephone Company. (The photo above is from 1940.)

The Fall City Telephone Company was a vital link among the communities of Carnation, Preston, Fall City, North Bend, Newcastle, Coal Creek, and Snoqualmie, connecting them with the "outside world." When Julia died in 1933, her only child, Gertrude, and Gertrude's husband, George Satterlee, inherited the business. The Satterlees operated the company until Cascade Telephone of North Bend bought them out in 1947. (Scan QR code below for more telephone company history.)

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Open House at Falls City Masonic Hall Saturday, March 18th 5-7pm

One of Fall City’s historic treasures, the Falls City Masonic Hall is a King County Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The Open House on March 18th is a chance to visit this special building. The large hall on the main floor is lined with historic Fall City photos from the collection of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum, printed and framed in the 1990s, with captions by Jack Kelley. Upstairs is the Lodge meeting room, used since the first meeting in January 1896, and not usually accessible to the public. Last September, when we did a historic signs walk, two Masonic members were on hand and gave a tour upstairs for those who were interested.

The Fall City Historical Society will furnish some background history on the Falls City Hall, and refreshments will be available.

Put it on your calendar and drop by!



Poem by Marjorie Raven

“Three shorts and a long,
“Three shorts and a long.”
It keeps on ringing madly
From eight o'clock 'til dawn.
And when you're sweetly sleeping
With the nighttime almost gone,
You're suddenly startled wide awake
With "three shorts and a long.”

As part of the history of the Prescott-Harshman House, we'll be writing about the Fall City Telephone Company. The author of this poem worked on the switchboard in the 1920s and in the 1940s wrote this poem about the days of the “party line.”

It keeps on ringing through the day.
You think, "They must be through."
I'd better get my order in---
Some onions for a stew.
I need some cheese and crackers
And perhaps some shrimp or prawn.
I lift the receiver from the hook...
And it's "three shorts and a long.”

And so I am slowly going mad,
The sun has ceased to shine
Upon this pleasant Valley
And this old party line,
And if you ask me, "What's the matter?
You look so pale and drawn."
You'll very likely hear me mutter,
"It's three shorts and a long.”