



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

historylives@fallcityhistorical.org

www.fallcityhistorical.org

Northwest Passages...a lively and interesting story



Living Voices presenter Rachel McClinton introduced the Evening's program and then narrated along with a video produced in cooperation with Nordic Museum of Seattle. The audience was invited to join in the discussion at the end of the performance.

Northwest Passages is the story of Julia Berg from Sweden. When her father sees the futility of farm life in Sweden he decides to move the family to Washington State in America. Julia and her brothers begin a new life in Preston. A sister, Astrid, is born to the Bergs a few months after their arrival. The story follows the family's growth in America as they celebrate both Swedish and American holidays, build a new life, and sometimes experience prejudice toward immigrants.

After the death of her brother, who went north in the Gold Rush, Julia becomes a nurse with Seattle's Swedish Hospital. As a nurse, she is

able to travel throughout the Northwest. Julia interacts with African American coal miners in Roslyn, assisting families when an explosion rips through the local mine. In Tacoma she hears the story of a Chinese immigrant and his struggle to be accepted. At an Indian reservation, Julia witnesses the government removal of Native American children from their families to be placed in boarding schools, to become "Americans."

When World War I breaks out, Julia's world is changed forever. Her oldest brother disappears in the war, her father is killed in a logging accident, and her mother dies during the flu pandemic of 1918. When she is required to send a letter to the family in Sweden, she realizes that she no longer knows how to write in Swedish. Julia realizes her special status as a woman with two homes, two cultures, and two families.



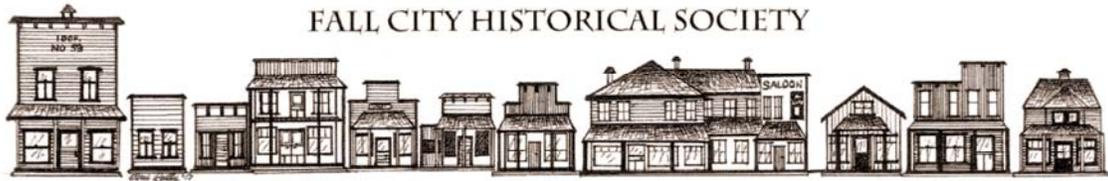
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THANK YOU

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



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DID YOU KNOW...?

The Nelson house, built in 1900, is one of Fall City's oldest houses

Photos at right: Top is 1940 photo from Washington State Archives. Bottom is current photo from property report.

This house, on Fish Hatchery Road, has been blessed with several caring owners who have maintained its history and character. KC Archives show 1900 as the date it was built, which means that Hans and Inga Nelson, who are said to have come to Fall City about 1902, were not the builders. But they lived here for many years, raising their family and farming. Hans and Inga were strong community members. Among other things, they are remembered for “a fine crop of sons,” all of whom were prized basketball players. The photo below was taken by Jack Chisholm in 1933. Nels is in front, in back (l-r) are Ivar, Hans Jr, Bill, and Walt.



Thanks to Cory for a Baxter Barn tour in October!