Early Schools of Fall City … history lives here

First School, 1873-1885
In 1873, the early families who had settled in the area that would become Fall City got together to plan and build a schoolhouse, the first to be built in the Snoqualmie Valley. The 24-foot by 30-foot school was built on the north bank of the Snoqualmie River, since most of the children lived on that side of the river.

Richards School, 1885-1890
As the number of students living on the south side of the Snoqualmie River steadily increased, a larger school was built in town, just west of the existing Raging River Bridge. Richards School was completed in 1885.

Lyceum Hall, 1888-1914
The growing number of students soon overcrowded the Richards School and in 1888 and 1889, the Lyceum Hall (near the current Masonic Hall) was used for overflow. It continued to be used when needed until the Brick School opened in 1915.

White School, 1890-1900
In 1890, the third school building was ready for classes. It was the first school in town with a bell tower and was painted white on the outside, hence the name. This school faced what is now SE 44th Place. The first enrollment consisted of 31 boys and 27 girls.

Ten years later, the increasing number of students reached the limits of space, and Lyceum Hall was pressed into service once again to accommodate the overflow. It was in the White School that paper replaced slates and the school term was increased from six to nine months.

Brown School, 1900-1915
The first two-story schoolhouse in Fall City was built in 1900. It faced what is now 336th Place SE. It was painted brown…hence the name. In the corner of the large schoolyard behind the Brown School a gymnasium was built, where the girls' and boys' basketball teams shown would have played (photo c1914).

Eighth grade graduation (shown at left c1902) was the highest education available in Fall City until 1903, when the school board created a high school. Nine students were admitted in the fall of 1903. The first Fall City High School graduation, with four graduates, was held in the spring of 1904.

School Locations
This elaborate diploma was for the 1914 graduation of Oliver McCaffree. In spite of the Brown School's much larger building, after more than a decade had passed it became obvious that a considerably larger facility was needed. Planning began for the Brick School, which opened in 1915.