



# STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

2025



*Linda Anderson, Newsletter Editor*

Hours of operation: Saturday, Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
For Pioneer Hall Rental call Caretakers Austin & Shannon Myrick at **(360) 435-7289**



Denny Somerville and Ralph Knutson



Cathy Clark-Smith and Terry Legare



Don Tillman and Loren & Pat Kraetz

The April Potluck brought out the usual cast of characters and good food but clearly –  
no one had as much fun as Cathy & Terry!



There has been so much going on at the museum, newly arranged exhibits and a new building. If that wasn't enough, the guys have continued to restore the fire engine #2 and the 1934 Ford. Many busy hands!!!

Downstairs is a sight to see. We've given a couple of glimpses in previous newsletters but there is, oh so much more to see there.

On the main floor, the millinery area has taken on a whole new look and an area that features music and music machines over the years. The pictures (pages 6-7) don't do these areas justice – you really need to come see for yourself and bring your friends and family. I think you'll like what you see! GOOD DAYS TO CHECK THINGS OUT WILL BE...

## *Pioneer Day*

Saturday, July 19  
11:00 – 3:00 PM

\* \* \*

## *Annual Meeting and Pioneer Picnic*

Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM – potluck lunch followed by  
Annual Meeting...remember...Annual Dues are due

**Annual Dues \$20.00; Lifetime Membership \$200.00**

## UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT ROY

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. This spring, the museum has been a bustling hub of activity thanks to the incredible dedication and hard work of our volunteers. Every Monday they have been making remarkable progress on a variety of projects that are bringing new life to the museum.

Some of the highlights include the reconditioning of the 1934 Arlington hardware truck and the Arlington fire #2 ladder truck. They have also been organizing and curating displays for the restaurant, butcher shop, bakery, jewelry store, fine china shop, watch repair shop, shoe repair shop, veterinarian office, service club, Arlington hardware, architect, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, office equipment, as well as the telephone and operator exhibit. These efforts extend to the children's hands-on section, which now includes a working telegraph, a toy section, and a captivating music and entertainment display. Further contributions include the millinery store and a tribute section honoring our pioneer volunteers.

In the process, many of these projects have sparked a domino effect, resulting in the reimagining and enhancement of several other displays. What stands out most is the talent, vision, and teamwork of our volunteers, who give their time and skills wholeheartedly. Their efforts have turned an already great museum into something truly extraordinary.

The museum library has been bustling with activity this spring, thanks to the tireless efforts of our local historians and volunteers. These incredible individuals have been collaborating to digitize thousands of photographs, document family histories, and archive historical documents. Their work not only preserves the rich heritage of our community but also ensures that it can be shared and accessed for generations to come.

The historians have been dividing tasks efficiently, pooling their expertise to produce historical resources for cities, counties, businesses, and personal inquiries. Their contributions have enabled the museum library to develop a special

video for the upcoming 250th anniversary of America in 2026. By voluntarily dedicating countless hours of their private time, these volunteers have made it possible to create an invaluable digital archive, filled with detailed records, categorized photographs, and local histories.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these volunteers whose passion and dedication have made such a monumental impact. Their efforts have transformed our library into a true treasure trove of local history, ensuring that our heritage remains alive and accessible to all who seek it.

As these projects are near completion, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to all our volunteers, those that are able to do the work, and all of you who support them with your generous gifts. Your dedication and passion have made all the difference, and the museum reflects your hard work and love for our shared history.

Thank you for making our museum so special.

*Roy*

## VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT AND BOARD VACANCY

The Board of Directors of the Stillaguamish Valley Museum is pleased to announce that Linda Anderson has been appointed to the position of Vice President of our association. Congratulations to Linda for accepting this important role! We look forward to exciting and wonderful growth for our museum, with Linda playing a vital part in this journey of expansion.

Linda's term as Vice President will extend until the upcoming August membership meeting, during which time the membership will vote on nominations to fill all officer positions. Alongside her new role, Linda will continue to serve as our Past Perfect Coordinator and Manager, overseeing the  
*(continued)*

## VP APPOINTMENT AND BOARD VACANCY - continued

entry and tracking of information related to artifacts donated to the museum through the Past Perfect computer system.

Previously a board member, Linda's acceptance of the vice presidency has created a vacancy on the board.

This transition presents a wonderful opportunity for someone passionate about preserving local history to join the Board of Directors and contribute to the Stillaguamish Valley Museum's vision. We encourage all interested individuals to step forward and share their dedication to the museum's mission. To express interest in the open Board of Director position, please contact:

[stillypioneers@frontier.com](mailto:stillypioneers@frontier.com) – Attn: Roy Harris

## NEW DISPLAY BUILDING

The construction of the Stillaguamish Valley Museum's 3-Bay display building is currently underway. So far, the contractor has completed the pole building, laid the concrete floor, and put in the windows. The next phases include installing the garage doors, framing the interior to prepare for insulation, roughing in the electrical work, applying sheetrock, and painting. Once those steps are completed, the electrical installation will be finalized, encompassing lights, outlets, switches, heaters, and safety lights. If you haven't had a chance to visit and see the progress, consider stopping by—you'll be impressed by how it's coming together!





## FAMILY HISTORY FAIR



Michele Heiderer represented the museum at the Family History Fair held in Smokey Point on May 10<sup>th</sup>. She had the six publications from the museum including *100 Years of Arlington* and how to buy them. She was able to share information about the museum and our activities, including Pioneer Day. There was a steady flow of visitors asking for information about local history and pioneer families. She gave out at least 70 museum brochures with an insert with up-to-date museum hours and contact information along with details about Pioneer Day and the Research Library. She invited everyone who stopped by to bring their summertime visitors to the museum for an inexpensive, fun way to spend an afternoon walking through Pioneer Park, viewing the museum's displays, and learning about the Stilly Valley's amazing history.

## A NEW SLED IN 1926

Jack Gray, seven years-old in 1926, received a sled from his father. The sled was purchased at Arlington Hardware for \$3.95. But, a boy of 7 wouldn't care about the cost. I'm sure his delight was unending and no doubt, Jack and his dog, Chimes, had a many great adventures.

Jack's sled is included in the Arlington Hardware display in the basement.



### DO YOU KNOW????

We have been unable to identify those in this picture. Do you recognize, anyone – the minister, church or the children? If so, please notify:

[stillypioneers@frontier.com](mailto:stillypioneers@frontier.com) – Attn: Michele Heiderer



## HONORING LOREN AND PAT KRAETZ COMMUNITY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

This past April 23, 2025, the Stilly Valley Center held a Community Lifetime Achievement Breakfast honoring Loren and Pat Kraetz.

Loren, born on the family farm in 1936 attended local schools, attended Jr. College in Mt. Vernon and received a B.A. in Education from Western Washington University. He began teaching in Oak Harbor, WA in 1959 and except for a break for travel, retired in 1990.

Pat, born in Kentucky in 1942, married and had two children. She and her family lived in Oak Harbor, where she worked with special education students for 25 years. After she was widowed, she and Loren met and have been married 30 years.

They have traveled extensively and have seen much of the world; having taken ten cruises, visited 42 states, toured Europe, Australia and South America multiple times and traveled through much of Asia and Canada.

Loren's family roots run deep in the Stillaguamish Valley. His great grandfather, Andrew Strotz, settled at Island Crossing in 1876 and grandfather Antone Kraetz settled in Silvana in 1888. In 1902 the Kraetz family moved to the family farm one mile west of Arlington, where Loren grew up.

Loren has an extraordinary knowledge of the area, the early settlers, subsequent families and businesses. He has spent his life helping the Stillaguamish Valley transform into what it has become today. He has provided local historical knowledge to the *100 Years of Arlington, Vol. 4* book and is featured in the museum's logging video "*Timber*".

He and Pat have volunteered endlessly in the community and continue to work with local museums preserving photos, books, clothing, music, tools, and farm machinery so that residents in the future can envision how the early settlers transformed the Stillaguamish Valley. We are proud to call Loren and Pat members of our community and the Stillaguamish Valley Museum.

Thank you both.







Be a telegraph operator and send real Morse Code; visit the diner, bakery or meat market; and check out...

...a hardware store, business machines and, be a telephone operator or enjoy the beautiful glass ware.  
Don't delay – come see - there's so much more.



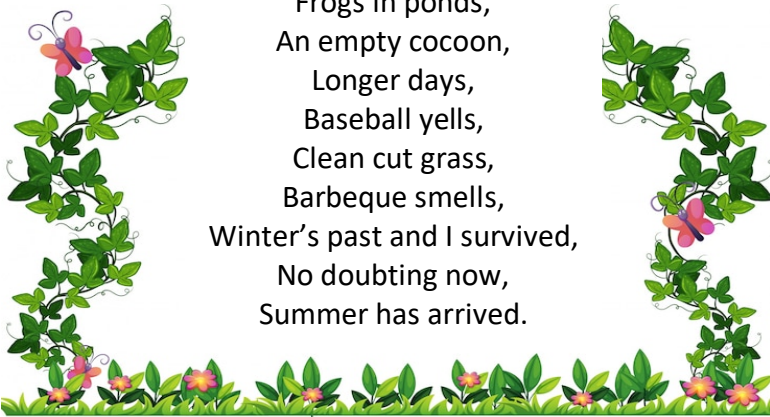
The millinery area has been reconfigured. Check out the lovely collection of hats as well as antique and vintage clothing, wedding dresses, furs and shoes that span a century here in the Stillaguamish Valley.



Music, music, music – lovely display of all things musical

## ARRIVAL

Apple blossoms,  
Trees in bloom,  
Frogs in ponds,  
An empty cocoon,  
Longer days,  
Baseball yells,  
Clean cut grass,  
Barbeque smells,  
Winter's past and I survived,  
No doubting now,  
Summer has arrived.



## BILL PRITCHARD!

Bill has been the key contributor in getting our technology up to date. In addition to networking our computers, upgrading security and security cameras he has been training volunteers on how to use the network and installing facial recognition on computers which will provide another layer of security to our systems. Also, he has set up a working telegraph so one can transmit real Morse Code. Although intended for kids - I suspect the adults will enjoy this as much as the kids!

## MEMORIALS

*In memory of:*

***Betty Jo Thorsen***

***Yolanda Larson***

***Rick Sturgeon***

From  
Loren & Pat Kraetz

***Linda Brackinreed***

From  
Linda Henry  
Jane Joselow

## DONATIONS

Lutheran School Association

Museum Visitors

Anonymous Donors



**2024 – 2025 OFFICERS**

President: Roy Harris  
Vice President: Linda Anderson  
Secretary: Sally Shinstrom  
Pioneer Treasurer: Sharron Knutson  
Museum Treasurer: Myrtle Rausch  
Past President: Sue Walde

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

1: Loren Kraetz 2025  
2: Vacant 2025  
3: Rex Martin 2025  
4: Cathy Clark-Smith 2026  
5: Terry Legare 2026  
6: Ralph Knutson 2026

**PIONEER DAY**

Saturday, July 19  
11-3 PM

We can always use  
more volunteers!!!

**PIONEER PICNIC & ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, August 17  
1:00 PM potluck  
luncheon  
followed by  
annual meeting

Annual dues are due!  
\$20.00/year  
\$200.00 Lifetime

**COMMITTEES:**

Advisory Program Committee  
Advisory Governance Committee  
Advisory Acquisition Committee  
Advisory Financial Committee

**Stilly Stitchers**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday ~10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Pioneer Hall ~ Coffee & Tea provided  
Bring your project, your lunch and invite a friend.



Stillaguamish Valley Museum  
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