

A Little Bit of History

The Fourth of July on High Prairie

The Fourth of July was a wonderful day. Everyone went to the favorite picnic grounds to spend the day. A platform would be erected on which sat those who took part in the program. Someone read the "Declaration of Independence." One year my sister Lola was chosen to do this. And did she strut! Of course, we sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and other patriotic songs, and as an added attraction, a quartet would sing, with Dick French at the organ.

There would be a liberty wagon. A big farm wagon would be provided, on which a platform had been built. The Goddess of Liberty, who would be some neighborhood miss, chosen by popular vote, would stand, wearing a long white dress and a gold paper crown, and grasping a large United States flag. She would be surrounded by little girls dressed in white, and each having the name of a state in tall letters across her breast.

The wagon would be drawn by four bunting-bedecked horses, with a special guard of four men on horseback, each riding at the head of one of the horses in the team, ready to snatch at a bridle should the team become unruly. Happy indeed were the girls who were privileged to ride on the Liberty Wagon!

After the program, a real farm picnic dinner was served on a rambling table, under the trees. After dinner there would be races by the boys, and maybe a ball game. All through the dinner hour and the games afterward, ice cream and lemonade were bought at the stands erected by the lads and lasses there.

The Fourth of July was indeed a marvelous day!

From *Sketches of Early High Prairie*, by Nelia Binford-Fleming

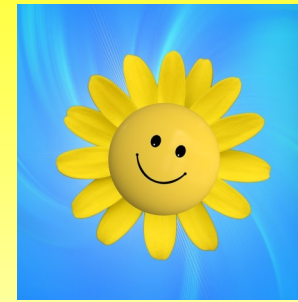
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KCHS NEWSNOTES

From Closet Chaos to Fashion Catalog

Every winter when the Presby museum is closed, the Klickitat County Historical Society Board members try to undertake a large project that requires more time and space than is available during the open season. This winter, we tackled the storage closet behind the Children's Room.

This closet was a chaotic mess! There were three loaded clothing racks, old picture frames, decorations for the Fair booth, and many other odd items. First, we cleared the entire area, cleaned and painted the floor, replaced the single light bulb with LED lights, and added shelving around the room.

Once the storage room was ready, I photographed each item of clothing, wrote down a description of the fabric and its condition, recorded the accession number, and listed the number of the bag in which the item would be placed. When each item of clothing was ready to be stored, we rolled it loosely in unbleached muslin, as recommended by museums, and placed it in a breathable plastic, numbered bag.

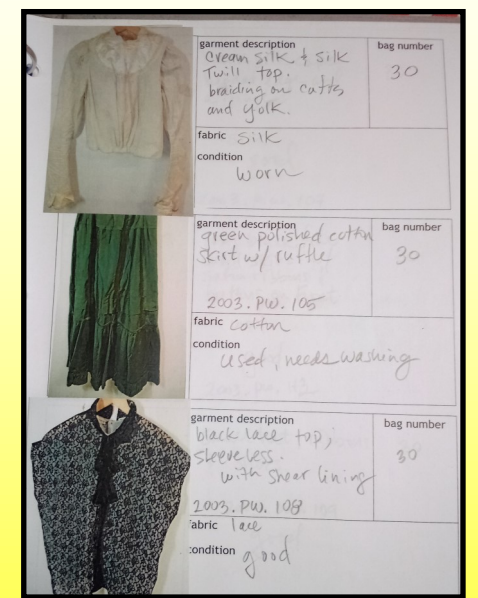
This stage of the project took a great deal of time and a lot of hand warming because the upstairs of the museum gets very cold in the winter. The time and shivering were well worth it, though, because now we have a fashion catalog with a photo of each item, a description, and a bag number for easy location, as well as a clean, organized, and workable storage area.

The museum has some very beautiful women's antique clothing and impressive men's military clothing. As soon as I began examining the pieces, I was impressed with the style, high quality, and excellent fabric. Despite the cold, it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to examine, describe, and preserve these holdings.

Warmly,

James Radcliffe

President, Klickitat County Historical Society





On April 17, KCHS Board members held a training session for museum hosts. Left to right clockwise around the circle are Miquette Ihrig, treasurer; James Radcliffe, president; Mary Childs, secretary; Ken Marvel, vice president, Sandy Crosland; and Jon Dove.

In addition to the Board members, those who have volunteered to host this year include Lucille Bevis, Kay Cameron, Trish Cosner, Mary Ann Enyeart, Noma Ferguson, Diana Gallagher, Candy Hack, John Ihrig, Missy Large, Jim Link, Nola Ray, K. C. Sweeny, Debbie Teal, and Darlene Witt.

We can always use more hosts! If you have three hours to spare once a month or more, get in touch with Host Coordinator Sandy Crosland, and she will be happy to sign you up.



We recently received a \$5000 donation from Marcie Merritt in memory of her mother. This donation was then matched by a third party through a grant from Boeing.

We are grateful to all three parties for their generous support of the Klickitat County Historical Society.



On May 1, we welcomed our first visitors of the 2024 season, Terry and Peggy Campbell of Goldendale. The Campbells were getting ready to move to Arizona, and they came to donate some vintage items to the museum, including the school crossing sign shown at left. Thank you, Terry and Peggy, and good luck in your new home!



The third annual Goldendale June Blooms was held on Saturday, June 1st, from 11:00AM to 3:00 PM. This event is a celebration of our determined, knowledgeable, and talented Goldendale gardeners and as a rule is held on the first Saturday of June. With a free self-guided map—available at the Presby Museum on the day of the tour—participants toured gardens that reflect the personality of each gardener. Stops on the tour included the Presby Museum, the Klickitat Valley Hospital healing garden, the Soroptimist plant sale, and private gardens. All provided a wealth of information and a chance to speak with local gardeners. Gardeners who opened their gardens were able to tour the other gardens and meet one another the next day, Sunday, June 2.



Remembering Delores Imrie (1938-2024)

Mary Evans Childs

Surrounded by her family of friends, Delores Mortensen Imrie died in The Dalles on February 8, 2024.

Delores moved to Goldendale in 1973 to become the Klickitat County Extension Agent. Two years later, she married Roscoe Imrie, a Rock Creek rancher. We met when she came to our place in Trout Lake on her first date with Roscoe.

In the early 1990s, Delores joined the Klickitat County Historical Society. Besides holding several positions on the Board, she helped update the accession process, decorate the Presby Museum at Christmas, clean the mansion from top to bottom, and serve as a host. Most notably, she decorated the Presby porch with quilts for Community Days. She and Neva Shelton Wheelhouse, along with their many wonderful quilter friends, began what is now an annual event that has continued for twenty-five years. She eventually got me interested in volunteering at the Presby.

I knew Delores for fifty years. Some of my best hours were spent visiting with the Imries



Mary Evans Childs and Delores Imrie (right) decorating the Children's Room for Christmas in 2004

and my parents under the willow tree in our Trout Lake backyard. We also spent many days "helping" Roscoe with roundup, attending rodeos, picking huckleberries, preparing barbeques for the Roscoe's Hunting Ranch, and planning holiday get-togethers. I, like her many friends at the Presby, will miss her dearly.

Upcoming Events

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|-----------------------|--------------|
| Community Days | July 5-6 |
| Quilt Show | July 6 |
| Klickitat County Fair | August 14-19 |
| KCHS Annual Meeting | October 26 |



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