

# THE SNOWS COMETH

By Steve A. Anderson

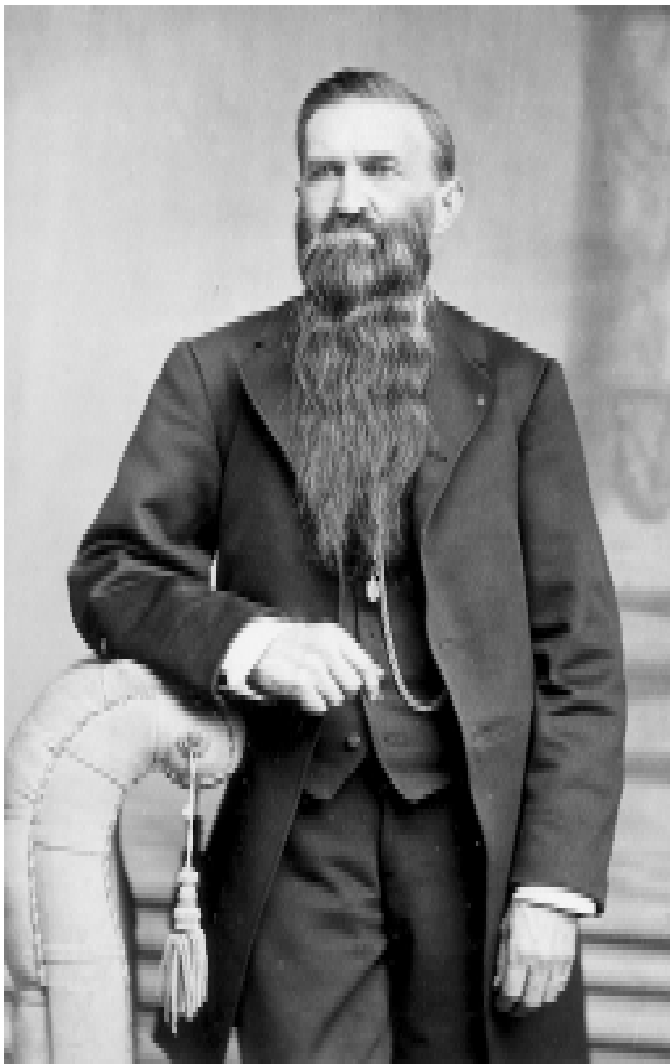
## Foreword

We've all visited the big box stores like IKEA, Fry's Electronics, Sam's Club and Wal-Mart, strip malls and The Super Mall of the Northwest. We've also ventured into AM/PM Mini-marts and 7-11s; Fred Meyers and even used the Internet for e-commerce. You get the idea: from on-line shopping and convenience stores to full blown malls, these are but a sampling of the modern mercantile stores of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They are HUGE, and they are full of things we need (the staples of life) and don't need (those naughty little impulse items that clutter our homes and businesses.) Needs existed in

Renton in the middle 1870s as well, except that there were no cornerstones of commerce, merchants of minutiae, or proprietors of impulse to satisfy those needs until one day, two Oregonians decided to invest in their future and Renton's prosperity by creating the town's first real mercantile store.

## Harm & Nancy

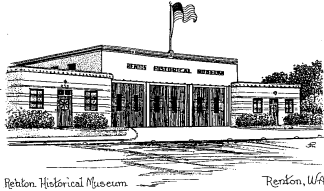
Little has survived regarding Harmon Hartman Snow's<sup>1</sup> life prior to meeting his wife, Nancy Matilda Hembree.<sup>2</sup> We know that he was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1828 and eventually wound up living in the Oregon Territory during the 1840s; however, Nancy turned out to be the one who documented her travels in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In her own flowery style, she wrote an article for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, depicting her travels from Missouri to Oregon. She came west on her sixth birthday, joining the first major wave of Oregon Trail pioneers in 1843. And as she states it, "we were piloted by that fearless, unselfish martyr, Marcus Whitman . . . the first immigrants to break the road for wagons, and but for the knowledge and self-possession of the trusted and faithful guide, few would have been left to tell the tale." In the romantic style of that period, her article is studded not only with references to "innocent women and helpless children", but also numerous epithets and derogatory statements regarding the behavior and uncleanness of the Indians she encountered along the way. Nancy's father Captain A.J. Hembree of the Oregon Volunteers was killed in the Indian Wars of 1855-56 – further fueling Nancy's dislike of Native Americans.



*Left: Harmon Hartman Snow was one of Renton's first dry-goods merchants. Along with George Tibbits, he established what has been recorded as Renton's first mercantile in 1877. This image is from around 1884.*

*Continued on page 4*

*Masthead: Nancy Snow found the language and rough manners of "toughs" like those shown here (standing in the doorway of the Alki Tavern, circa 1878) to be intolerable. The Alki was located where Armondo's Restaurant is located today just around the corner and within eye and ear shot of the Snow's store.*



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Susie Bressan, Graphic Design & Layout  
Louise George, Copy Editor  
Daisy Ward, Text Input & Copy Editor  
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**Contributing Authors**

Steve Anderson

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Renton Historical Museum  
235 Mill Avenue South  
Renton, WA 98055-2133  
Phone: 425.255.2330  
FAX: 425.255.1570

Email: [saanderson@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:saanderson@ci.renton.wa.us)

**Hours:**

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm

**By appointment:**

Wednesday-Friday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

**Admission:**

\$3 for adults

\$1 for children

Free to members and on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month.

**Board Meetings:**

October 27 6:00pm

November 24 6:00pm

December 22 6:00pm

Please call the museum for location.

# President's Message

By Bob Hunt, President

## Administratum - The Non-History Part of The Historical Society

The quarter has just zipped by and the business of the Society has been as hot as ever. While we sit on the board, the tasks that confront us are very administrative. I sometimes think that the volunteers and staff get more of the fun out of working with an historic museum while we discuss budgets, policies and long term plans. The folks who volunteer to sit on the board are often attracted to this effort by their enthusiasm for the Renton community and its history, and then find themselves in meetings discussing action items, committees, taxes, insurance and facilities. I know that these board members enjoy hearing Renton stories and admiring artifacts as much as any member of the Society, and I have to admire them for bringing a set of much needed skills to the support of the Society to help us support and improve the museum.

We've added two new board members in this quarter to fill vacancies. Pat Brown comes to us as an accounting professor from Renton Technical College and Jerrilynn Hadley is an attorney. They both have strong connections to Renton and come with some fresh energy to help the board address some tough challenges.

Over the last few years, certainly including the Custer donations, we've acquired a large number of new artifacts that require accessioning (that's a cool word, ask Steve for an explanation some time). We've got unprocessed artifacts jammed in corners all over, and a substantial amount of stuff sitting in some borrowed storage outside of our building. The odd effect of all of this wealth is that we have no room to develop exhibits or put elements of old exhibits while we install new ones.

Over the last couple of years we looked at renting space, using the Custer house (didn't work because of environment and zoning limitations), or even trying to acquire the old fire station #12 in the Highlands (expensive, remote, unsecure and borderline for environment). Norm Abrahamson came in this summer and built some more shelving in the meeting/collections room that helped us along. We've been working with an architect to design a structure to mount the old Roxy sign indoors and that may also help us develop some storage space within the building.

That construction work will take some materials and labor. We've established a fund raising committee to go out and work the community for support. They will be looking for donations to get the structure completed and the sign installed. The City has budgeted some funds to help with the restoration of the sign, but we'll have to get a new estimate from the restorer to see if that will be sufficient.

Most of you are aware that we have quite a bit of cash, so you might be wondering why we would need to go out fund raising. We've spent part of this year trying to answer that question ourselves. Our goals with our capital are to help it to grow, plan for it to support our operating budgets year after year, fund some acquisitions for the museum, and ultimately seed the construction of facilities that will allow us to better display our collection. I would feel we had failed our trust if we did not make the best long term plan with these funds, and I believe that we want to continue to operate as frugally as possible.

Your volunteer efforts certainly contribute significantly to that frugality, and I cannot foresee a time when the museum won't benefit as much from those efforts as anything a dollar can buy. I defy any museum anywhere to prove that their volunteers make as much impact and provide as much support as you folks do for the Renton Historical Museum. Thanks for letting me carry on about the boring stuff for a bit.

Bob Hunt, President

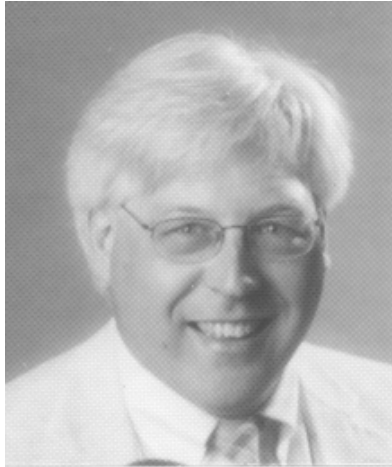
# Renton Museum Report

By Steve A. Anderson, Museum Supervisor

Well, this has been one hot summer we just ran out the door! Here it is, Fall, already, and the time just keeps blowing by here at the Renton History Museum. We learned this past month that our long time archivist, Stan Greene, will be retiring from active museum life this fall. Stan has indicated that when he and wife Rose Mary leave for their California digs this November, he doesn't plan on returning as the museum archivist in the Spring – although he did indicate that he'd be available on a limited basis for consultations, Stan's tremendous run of over twenty years on the staff here is almost over.

As part of Stan's preparations to retire, he has been showing us various activities and projects that he's been taking care of over these past twenty years.

One of the projects he showed me recently, related to a collection of color slides, taken by the City of Renton in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The nearly 3,000 images have resided in several boxes in the museum's library since 1986 and, like other such collections in the museum, have not been catalogued with the other images. They are a "Phantom" collection. This is a term I've begun to use to describe a number of collections – some of them quite large like this one – that coexist within the museum's walls, side by side with catalogued and known collections. The difference with them is, we don't know we have them and they are for all intense and purposes inaccessible to us or anyone else.



This particular set of slides recently came under the close scrutiny of Paul Hanson, who was putting together a DVD program for a gathering of the Renton High School Class of 1974. Paul interspersed numerous images from this collection with other items he held personally, some film footage and high school annual shots to make a wonderful tribute DVD for his classmates. When I viewed the DVD, I asked Paul where he got some of his wonderful images of Renton in the 1970s – "From you" was his response. After I got up off the floor, I took the opportunity to look through this most recent addition to our "Phantom Collection List." It is perhaps one of our most important documentary collections of Renton in the 1970s.

To make these "apparitions" become more solid and useful to us, we set into motion at the beginning of the year, a project that would begin to identify where these collections initially came from. Using our collections database software *Past Perfect*, we commenced with our **Donor Registry Project** early on in the year. Following an estimated 430 hours of data entry time by UW intern Sarah Iles, Seattle University intern Manny Mutia and Library Assistant Amy Neff, I can tell you now that we have completed the first phase of playing ghost-busters. We now have the ability to tell you that we have exactly 2,616 donors in our database. At their August board meeting, the trustees of the Historical Society viewed a one-inch thick bound copy of the **Renton Museum Donor Registry** – the first time that anything like that has ever been viewed in the life of the organization.

Anyone and everyone who has ever given anything to the museum – and had that fact recorded somewhere – is now an official donor. The completion of this first aspect has allowed us to trace back to original donor names and dates. It allows us to tie donors to the object, photograph, old paper or library donation. The second phase of this project will include the re-attachment of the estimated 100,000 objects to the donors. Obviously, this will take some time. But I feel it is the only way to eliminate those collections within our walls that we do not know exist.

One of the spin-offs from this type of activity has been that we've delved in to several collections that have not received a great deal of attention. Specifically, our World War I and II collections. After a thorough review of what we had, we began the process of "filling" out those portions of that collection in anticipation of opening a new long-term exhibit in the main gallery title "**The World Wars.**" This exhibit will be opened on Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004. It is our intention to have a reception here at the museum with all members of the Society receiving a "preview" on that day before the general public is invited in. Portions of the "Renton Super Creamery" veteran's images will be set up, and an entirely new view into the trenches of France in 1918 will be set up for everyone to experience. Please plan to come down and visit that day in honor of our veterans.

Also, I must relate that things are moving ahead with the ROXY Theater sign and mezzanine project. The sign is now back in Renton and we've been meeting with architect Rich Wagner to see how we might integrate it into our long-term exhibit gallery. Stay tuned for more exciting news about it!

To everyone who has written us, thanks for the notes of encouragement and constructive suggestions regarding the work that is progressing down here. The museum is evolving in important ways. It is my hope that as we get more professional with our operation and more able to serve the greater Renton community, we will not lose the comfortable nostalgic atmosphere that has made Renton's History Museum one of the best in the state.

Cheers,

Steve Anderson,  
Museum Supervisor

*Snow Story continued from page 1*

The Hembrees eventually settled in Yamhill County, Oregon Territory, south of Portland. Nancy recalls:

*“In the fall of 1844, my father, with others moved their families to the homes they had prepared for them . . . [these being] crude log cabins, with mud and stick chimneys. There were places cut for doors and windows. Over these, the thrifty housewife hung blankets at night to keep out the cool night air. Later on, doors were made of split cedar, hung by leather hinges, with a wooden latch raised by a buckskin string, which always ‘hung on the outside.’ My father built the first hewed log house in the county, and that was considered quite grand for several years.”*

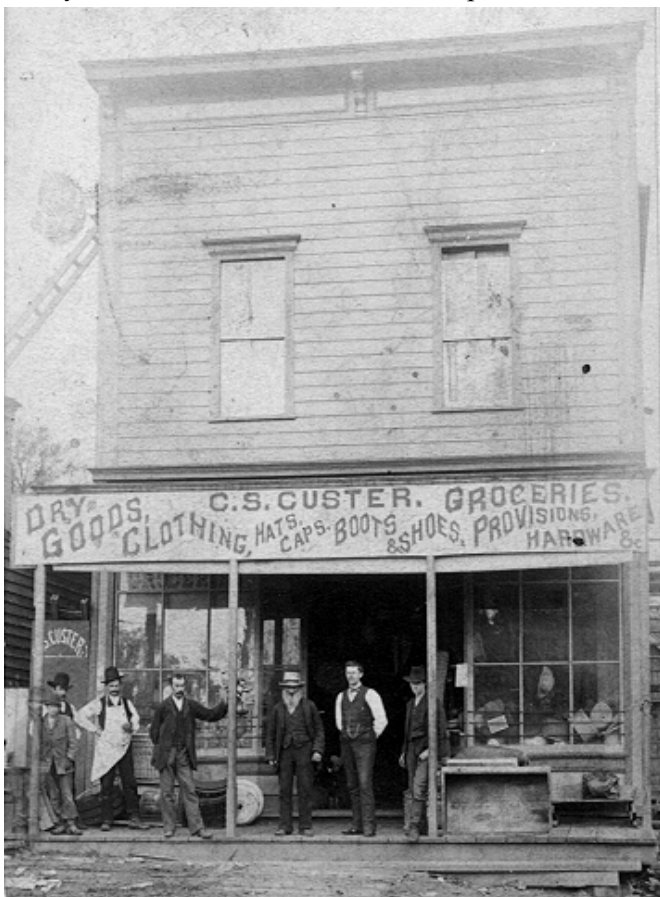
As Nancy grew up, she observed that “there was a rush not only for the land but also for a wife, and thus men were more plentiful than women. It was a common thing to see girls of thirteen or fourteen married to men old enough to be their fathers.” Not one to be taken too soon, Nancy rebuffed numerous suitors until 1853 when, at the tender age of sixteen she married twenty-five-year-old Harmon Hartman Snow, who by that point was a successful Lafayette, Oregon dry-goods merchant.

Twenty-four years and ten children later, the couple moved to Washington Territory in 1877.<sup>3</sup> Stepping off the *Seattle and Walla Walla Rail Road* coach under gray, rainy skies, the entire family, including children, Izella (age 16), Harmon Jr. (age 14), Lena (age 12), and Ray - a four year old, gathered themselves under a makeshift railroad station consisting of two board-covered stumps at the base of Renton Hill.

Nancy took an immediate dislike to the place.



*Above :Nancy Matilda (Hembree) Snow came to Renton with her husband Harmon in 1877 and she regretted it. She bore 10 children, although only four remained alive when the Snows came to town. Following Harmon's death, Nancy remarried the town's marshall and eventually moved to Tacoma in 1906.*



The old town on the east side of Renton Hill was grimy, crowded and dirty. Though less populated, the newly platted area to the west was heavily wooded, mosquito infested and marshy. The estimated three hundred adults and eighty children, who worked in dusty drudgery at the adjacent coalmines and nearby logging camps and mills, gave the scene a sobering, even desperate appearance. The nearby Chinese village at the foot of Renton Hill was scantily populated – no more than thirty souls, several ducks and a flock of chickens.

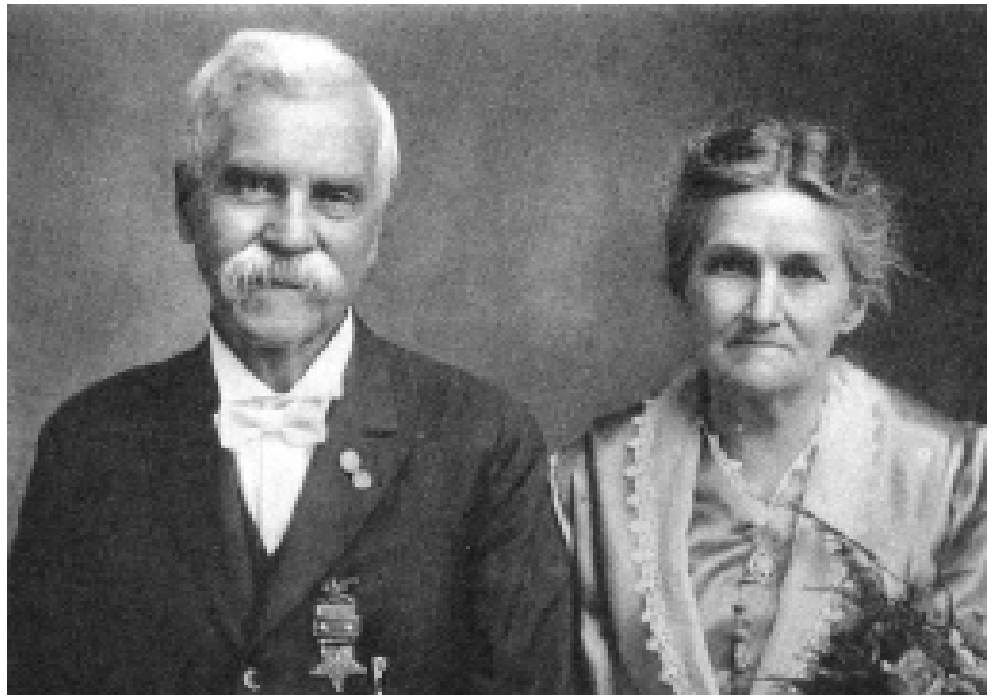
Harmon Snow, however, sensed a vacuum that needed filling. At that point in history, Renton’s dry goods and grocery businesses were being run out of tents by here-today, gone-tomorrow peddlers. Ramshackle wood sheds (and in several instances the tailgates of wagons) held other transitory, fly-by-night businesses. Itinerant photographers, claptrap hucksters and out-and-out thieves rounded out the lot. Snow’s business acumen and panache had served him well during his merchandising years in Oregon and he was excited to start a new venture in Renton.

All he needed was a partner to make a go of it.

*Left :This view of the Charles Sumner Custer Store is belived to be around 1885, about the time that Snow was stepping back from the operation and (as it is believed) Custer bought him out. The two owned stores in approximately the same prime location - making one believe that they were in fact the same building. C.S. Custer is standing in front.*

## Enter the General

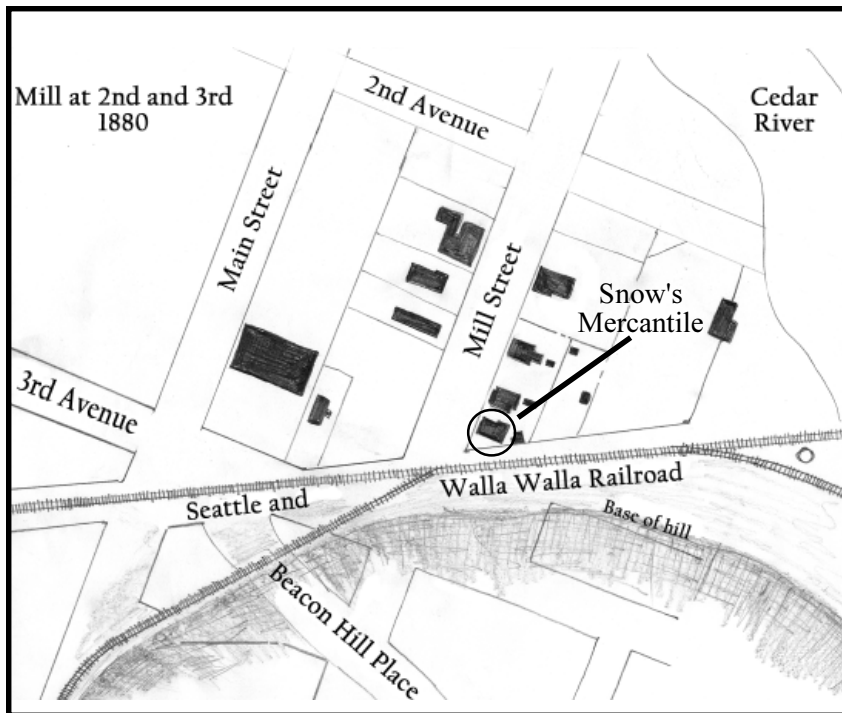
That partner was found in one George Wilson Tibbitts.<sup>4</sup> Following a stint in the army during the Civil War (where he was elevated in the military to the rank of general), George had gained valuable experience as a mill worker, a general store owner, and partial owner in a banking operation. He had also farmed in Oregon and homesteaded in Issaquah. He had arrived in Renton about 1875, leasing Erasmus Smithers's milk cow farm for a year. He also served as Renton's first postmaster. It was during this time that he and Harmon Snow first met. The two Oregonians then struck a deal that resulted in the formation of the Tibbitts & Snow Mercantile. Now all they needed was a building and some inventory to get started. As previously noted, various individuals had tried to set up small dry goods & grocery stores in Renton, but with little success. The farming, logging and mining operations upon which Renton subsisted at this time really didn't support ordinary commercial stores; most folks at this time grew their own produce, tended their own livestock and hunted for wild game. But as we've learned, the team of Snow and Tibbitts were no ordinary, run-of-the-mill merchants.



Above: George Tibbitts and his wife Rebecca came to Renton about 1875 and partnered with the Snows in establishing the first mercantile. Tibbitts eventually migrated full time to the Issaquah Valley where he and his family remained.

## Location, Location, Location

Surveying Renton, the partners chose a location within Smithers's new town plat that was at the foot of Renton Hill.<sup>1</sup> The site was literally "on the bubble" between the old and new town sites. This location, on Mill Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>



Above: This 1885 map shows the foot of Renton Hill (at the bottom) and the speculated position of the Snow's mercantile - situated where it would pick up the most railroad and foot traffic during the day. The railroad bed is still in the same position today, also the spur lines to the left and right have been removed. The Snow's store would be sitting in the 200 Mill Avenue Building's parking lot today.

Avenues, offered high visibility (next to the railroad tracks) and guaranteed foot traffic. Miners moved daily between their homes on the east side of the hill and the saloons and mines on the west side, making the location perfect for repeat customers. One should be aware that a bit of speculation (aided by historical documentation) is required when one attempts to exactly locate the lot occupied by their store. Current assumptions place the building on the east side of Mill Avenue at the corner where it met Walla Walla Avenue (now Houser Way). The 1909 Sanborn fire maps (our earliest documents relating to land holdings in town) show other structures in this section of Mill Avenue as industrial, residential, vacant, or already spoken for by early settlers. With this lot selected, the partnership succeeded in building something that has since been referred to as Renton's "first good-sized store" in late 1877. And then there is the partnership itself . . .

The Tibbitts and Snow partnership continued on into the early 1880s, with Tibbitts often being absent while serving on the Territorial Legislature and seeing to private land holdings in the Issaquah area.

By this time, however, Snow was probably managing the mercantile by himself with Nancy and children living upstairs. More than likely, Snow offered dry goods and grocery items typical of that period to Renton's townsfolk. This would have at least included the following sampling: all forms of paper and envelopes, soap, buttons, nails, eggs, yard goods (cloth) and notions (sewing accessories), flatware (knives, spoons, forks), tobacco, cookies and candy, handkerchiefs, straw hats, brooms, crackers, tea and coffee, figs, sugar, flour, peaches and maple syrup.<sup>2</sup>

In time, Nancy, who was a strict Presbyterian, concluded that Renton contained far more sinners than she ever could have imagined. Later in life, she confided that if the loud, coarse language used in Renton's streets were to ever stop – the end of time would be near.<sup>3</sup> She also lamented “the quarreling – swearing, shooting, yelling – and the dog nuisance [that] we have to endure [in this place].” Writing in her diary, she contemplates moving out of town to a place “where everything *is so harmonious* and peaceful . . . [and away from] the incessant wrangle, strife, and confusion that exists at Renton.” No matter what her husband saw in the place, Nancy's opinion of Renton ranked at the bottom of the barrel.

Once George Tibbitts had passed the title of Renton Postmaster to Snow around 1882, he was pretty much out of the picture. We also know that by that year Tibbitts was living full time in Issaquah. So there remains a high degree of likelihood that Snow bought out Tibbitts at this time and was a primary, if not *the* sole owner of the Tibbitts and Snow Mercantile.<sup>4</sup>

At this point in the story, Charles Sumner Custer entered the scene. For many years now, Renton old-timers have advanced the idea that Custer and Snow were two of the earliest competitors in the mercantile businesses here in Renton. While the early dates of their business startups can't be argued, the idea that they were competitors is now in question. Consider these facts: Charles Custer was merely a “clerk” who had a year's worth of experience in a Newcastle mercantile.

While this experience undoubtedly taught him important lessons about the business, he probably lacked the capital or connections to start up a new business on his own. Another fact is that Harmon Snow had a structure and business in place in 1881 (the year Custer came to town), and he needed help.

On the home front, Snow's youngest daughter Lena died in 1884, leaving the oldest son Harmon Jr., the only successor to the store. But the 23 year old was not available – the only record of him thereafter is that he died at sea in 1888. Their eldest daughter, Izella, married Joshua A. Morris<sup>5</sup> in July 1884 (with the Reverend George F. Whitworth presiding over the ceremony). The two lived in Renton for several years - but Morris was a miner, not a clerk. In all circumstances, the Snow children were not able to take over the business and women (i.e., Nancy Snow) generally did not attempt such things at this point in history.



Above: Izella Snow Morris - shortly after marrying Joshua Morris (Morris street was named after his father). Josh and Izella eventually moved out of Renton and homesteaded near Enumclaw, c. 1889.



Also, there is evidence that Harmon may have become increasingly debilitated with illness at this time. Further, Custer family records or oral traditions do not pinpoint an exact construction date for the first Custer mercantile store in Renton.

However, all indicators seem to point to 1885 as the pivotal year that Charles S. Custer's store opened for business under his name. One other point of interest: Charles Custer took over for Snow as the town's postmaster about this same time. When Harmon Snow died in the spring of 1886 at the age of 58, it is assumed that he left this world either as a silent partner, or was bought out

Left: When the Snows arrived, Renton's train station looked something like this. Artistry by Doug Kyes.

entirely by Charles Custer. Now, as the sole proprietor of the operation, Charles changed the name to C.S. Custer Mercantile. One final consideration: Custer's store was located on the exact same lot as the Tibbitts and Snow Mercantile is suspected of occupying. But this is a story about the Snows – so we'll leave the Charles Sumner Custer story to another time.



*Above: The marriage portrait of Joshua and Izella Morris. Izella lived until 1904 - making her the only one of ten Snow children to ever reach adulthood. It is believed that descendants of Izella's still exist in either King or Pierce County today.*

In 1905, husband Samuel Bogart voted in the local elections, and sadly, daughter Izella Morris passed away. Nancy, being no great fan of Renton to begin with, made plans to leave town. The Bogarts moved to Tacoma the following year. Nancy would get four more years of companionship with Samuel, who had exhibited health problems from about 1900 - eventually passing away in 1910. This left Nancy to her memories, friends and whatever other hobbies she had acquired during her long life, which came to a close in 1922.

### The Bogart Years

Harmon's death was just another in a long line of tragedies that befell Nancy. With the proceeds of the sale of the Snow's business sustaining her, we believe Nancy turned to what friends she had cultivated in Renton's Presbyterian community for comfort and support. By this time though, it is believed that she suffered horribly from migraine headaches - no doubt brought on by all the stress inducing coarse language and "dog nuisance" that she had to endure those many years. These "sick headaches", as she called them, tended to restrict her movements from time to time. By the early 1890s, Nancy's mourning period appears to have ended, as she developed a relationship with Renton's thirty-year-old Justice of the Peace, Samuel J. Bogart, a Norwegian immigrant. The age difference apparently did not matter as the two fell in love and married in Renton in 1891. She then moved into his home that was located on a Wells Avenue lot of what would eventually become Renton's first municipal building.

Nancy's only remaining child Izella eventually moved with her husband Joshua Morris to Franklin, and later homesteaded Osceola, near Enumclaw. In one of her memoirs, Nancy's granddaughter, Nina Marie Morris,<sup>6</sup> recalled three-day trips to Renton by horse and buggy to see her grandmother. No small undertaking, it took one day to get to Renton, one day to visit everyone and yet another to return home. The Springbrook Road<sup>7</sup> was the main north/south arterial used by the Morris's buggy during those trips. Nina's older sister Lena recalled spending a cold and wet winter with the Bogarts in Renton. In one recollection, she reminisced about fishing in a ditch near the streetcar tracks that ran through town. The ditch (apparently connected to Lake Washington by some means) yielded numerous catches for the young girl.

Harmon Hartman Snow (1828 – 1886)  
m. 1853

Nancy Matilda Hembree (1837 – 1922)  
m. 1891

Samuel J. Bogart (? – 1910)

Charles Melville Snow (1854) d. in infancy

Algenova Snow (1855) d. in infancy

George Edgar Snow (1858) d. in infancy

Izella Snow (1859-1905)

Harmon Hembree Snow (1861-1888) lost at sea.

Lena Snow (1863-1884)

Edward Richard Snow (1868) d. in infancy.

Frank Elba Piny Snow (1869-1872)

Willard Ray Snow (1872-?)

Vera Snow (1875-1877) d. in infancy

## Parting Note

Here at the Renton History Museum, we are often asked if we have the personal histories of various individuals. Those asking the question are often times “genealogically charged” relatives of the ancestors being sought out. Sometimes we get lucky and find things that are absolutely fascinating and very connected to that family. Other times, we come up completely empty-handed. One of the reasons that this may happen is because the family in question has not sent us a family history - or a photograph - or even an obituary. In those cases, we cannot simply conjure up the material - it must be donated first. The story you have just read is an example of the kind of historical narrative that we can create when we have the primary “from the horse’s mouth” resources to do it. This is the kind of information researchers can pull from even the most innocuous documents, like a census record, a photograph, a diary - or a letter. The Snows, Bogart, and Morris families no longer live in Renton, but their history is here and someday, someone - perhaps a great-great-great grandchild- will walk through our doors at the age of 93 and ask the question: “Do you have anything on the Snows?”

We’ll be waiting, and at least for the Snow descendants, we’ll be ready. How about your family?

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Harmon Hartman Snow, born February 22, 1828 in Springfield, Illinois; married Nancy Matilda Hembree October 6, 1853 in Lafayette, Oregon; died April 20, 1886 in Renton, Washington Territory and is buried at Lakeview Cemetery, Seattle.
- <sup>2</sup> Nancy Matilda Hembree, born in Dade County, Missouri, May 3, 1837, died, 1922. Married 1853 & 1901. She came to the Oregon Territory with her parents in 1843.
- <sup>3</sup> Six of the Snow’s children died as infants. So when they arrived in Renton in 1877, they only had four kids with them.
- <sup>4</sup> George Wilson Tibbetts, Sr., born January 22, 1845, Action, Maine, Fourth Regiment of new Hampshire Infantry during the Civil War; married March 11, 1868 to Rebecca Ann Wilson.
- <sup>5</sup> Being strict Presbyterians, we believe the Snows were encouraged/influenced to buy lots in this area of town by David and Emily Parker, founding members of Renton’s first Presbyterian Church, who also owned property nearby. The church was eventually established in 1885 at the foot of Renton Hill on Mill Avenue.
- <sup>6</sup> These items were copied from the C.S. Custer Mercantile ledger book (Acc. #2000.127.0592), and came from the accounts of Mrs. James Williams, for the year 1886.
- <sup>7</sup> From her 1901 diary, her exact words state: “There is a good class of people living here [Los Gatos, California]; You can but feel when you look in their faces, or feel the hearty handshake, that they are people you can rely upon – my husband has been around the stores, shops, and depots a great deal, and says he has never heard an oath *from either man or boy*, if we could say that of *Renton*, we could certainly feel that the millennium was at hand.”
- <sup>8</sup> We concede to the fact that George Tibbetts could have maintained an non-active interest in the Renton store, eventually selling out to Charles S. Custer as well. But with other activities demanding his attention at this time, it is unlikely that he maintained a tie to the Renton mercantile.
- <sup>9</sup> Joshua Morris came to Renton from Iowa in 1879, possibly with his father, brother and sister. He made a trip to California and returned to Renton in 1882 where he probably worked in the coalmines. According to King County records, the Morrisises purchased a lot in Renton from Erasmus Smithers and lived in Renton for a time.
- <sup>10</sup> Nina Marie Morris was born in Franklin, near Black Diamond.
- <sup>11</sup> This arterial is now called Talbot Road.

## GIFT SHOP

The gift shop has a new shipment of caps, T-shirts, sweatshirts, and hooded sweatshirts with the logo of a miner’s face. We also have white T-shirts with the painting of the Smither’s farm.

Additions to the gift shop: miniture teapots with matching cups and saucers; vintage keyplate photo frames and Victorian design scissors in a case.

A variety of books and a few of the centennial afghans are also available.

## Notes



## Received

Email 7/15/2004

Steve:

You did it again. WONDERFUL story in the current Renton Historical Quarterly. We enjoyed it so much. Thank you for bringing us a piece of Renton history even though we’re clear down here in HOT Sun City West, Arizona. And those old photos are simply fabulous!!

Everything about the RHS Newsletter is greatly enjoyed and appreciated when it comes in the mail. Like getting a letter from home. How fortunate we are to have a historical society that does so much for it’s members.

And...being able to remember departed family and friends by making a donation to this exceptional museum is a godsend. The money goes to a most worthy cause (RHS) and we, in turn, are showing we care by donating in their name and the family of the departed receives written notice of our donation. A win-win situation in my opinion.

Most sincerely,  
Sharon & Ron Clymer

**Re: Renton Quarterly Vol 35 #2, page 6 “the saddest story of hard times.....”**

I didn’t know whether to cry or laugh.

“The daughter of the mine’s superintendent got dolls....”

She would be my great Aunt Sadie (Morgans) Marion. I am named for her husband.

And yes - she was very spoiled - she was the baby of the family - born 1878.

I enjoy the Newsletter - Thank you.

/s/ Marion H. Damiano



# Collections Report

By Laura Crawford, Curator/Collections Manager

## Donations

Over the past year, many generous individuals have donated items which have been added to the Museum's permanent collections. The staff at the Museum wish to thank the following individuals for their contributions of historical items and photographic images - your efforts are invaluable in helping us preserve Renton's history.

## Mission

Our mission is not limited to just accepting and preserving the many items of memorabilia and photographic images generously donated by our members and the general public. It requires we seek out and engage in activities which will enhance and complement the existing Collections for future generations. Since June 2003, the following objects have been purchased for the Museum's permanent Collections:

- Native American trade beads (props for Duwammish exhibit)
- Ladies Auxiliary to Carpenters and Joiners porcelain cup and saucer
- Deed for Lot in Renton
- Commemorative playing cards picturing planes manufactured by Boeing Airplane Company
- Seattle District Council of Carpenters pin
- 4-Native American (Salish) gathering or berry baskets to complement Duwammish exhibit and collections
- 2-Paccar and Gladding McBean employees ID badges
- Pre-WWII 16" Table Globe inscribed "Property of School District #403, Renton, Washington
- Early version of Japanese Arisaka rifle bayonet
- 1938 Calendar from the Renton Grocery
- Argonot Cafe Menu with Renton Boeing Plant B-29 cover illustration
- WWI canvas ammunition belt, 1915
- Book entitled "The Coal Miner's Pocketbook: Principles, Rules, Formulas and Tables", 1916
- Set of 4 Pokemon gold gaming cards collector series
- Large assortment of International Order of Oddfellows IOOF regalia and ceremonial artifacts, sashes, tunics, pendants, headwear
- Triple XXX brand handled cup/mug
- Hazen High School cheerleader sweater, C1987
- Program for Thanksgiving Day Renton High School Football Game, 1949
- Bartender's Local Union #596 pin
- Commemorative videotape package covering 50 years of Boeing history
- Springfield rifle, demilled, 1903
- City of Renton councilman badge, c. 1960

## To Acquire

Museum staff are continually seeking to expand and/or complement the Collections by acquiring items which represent current places, people, or events in Renton history. If you or anyone you know have items of interest pertaining to the following, please contact the Museum.

- Hazen and Liberty High School memorabilia, uniforms, awards and photographs
- Any Renton businesses (1990 to present)
- Women's and Men's Costume jewelry and personal adornment items (1970's to present)
- Photographic images of events and sites "around town" (1980 to present)

## Our Other Assets

While preserving material artifacts are an important part of the Museum's mission, much of the work that goes on "behind the scenes" would not be possible without the contributions of the Museum volunteers:

**Arthur Allen**, who has tirelessly scanned over 4500 photographic images from the Museum's photo archives into the Collections Management database over the past eight months...

University of Washington intern, **Sarah Iles**, who helped establish the donor records in the Museum's database earlier this year, and catalogued the early jewelry collection. Sarah is planning to return this October to continue volunteering in the Collections Area...

**Pearl Jacobsen**, who has faithfully administered the registration function each Wednesday and helped keep current on accessioning - and congratulations as "Volunteer of the Year"...

and last - but certainly not least - **Jean and Chris Noel** who have helped set-up new catalog records for many of the "unknown" or unidentified photographic images "found in collections" over the past several months.

# Obituaries

## May

Deane Arndt  
George L. Smith  
Gertrude Sullivan  
Velma Weber

## June

James E. D'Agosto  
Clayton S. Anderson, Sr.  
Macy L. Anfinson  
Gene E. Brown  
Geraldine Burrill  
Helen N. Corkins  
Doreen M. Dalbotten  
Marian T. Heintz  
Donald L. Johnson  
Warren G. Knutson  
Inez M. Lewis  
Roberta Lund  
Orpha M. Murdoch  
Genevieve Patton  
Bertha M. Sanders  
Dennis G. Spiry  
Elizabeth Waltner  
Tracy K. Wiese  
Kimble L. Woods

## July

John D. Buck  
Donna Bichich  
Marjorie Callen - member  
Tony Culjak  
Robert Davlin  
Shirley Anderson-Fraidenburg  
David E. Huffman  
Robert W. Lee  
Paul Maxin  
Wanda Messmer - member  
Walter E. McGerry  
Inez E. Nelson  
Elena Quigley  
Patricia Chambers Walradt  
George H. Williams  
Burton Wilson

## August

Edward J. Brown  
Elizabeth "Beth" Donofrio  
Robert Karinen - member  
Catherine Litzenberger  
John McLaughlin  
Agnes Severeid

# Contributions

## General Fund Contributions Under \$100

Vera & Leo Were  
Greg Bergquist  
John Thompson  
Marjorie Gould  
**\$100 & Over**  
Barbara Shinpoch

## Contributions to Honor Patricia Hardie Borek Kandy Mulrony, daughter

# Memberships

## New Members

Kory Gannon  
Phyllis Wallace  
Dolores Hendricks  
Steve Dobson  
Richard Ericksen  
Roger Knutson  
Brian Fritz

## New Business Benefactors Fosum Design

## Join the Renton Historical Society Today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City:State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ + 4 ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Please make checks payable to the Renton Historical Society.**

VISA/MASTERCARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Ex.Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share your e-mail address with us: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a volunteer application form. (32/1)

Mail To: Membership Secretary, Renton Historical Society  
235 Mill Avenue South, Renton, Washington 98055-2133

Please Choose Membership Category & Any Donation You Wish To Make:

Student Individual(\$8+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Individual (\$8+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$10+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Couple(\$12+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$15+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor (\$50+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Business (\$40+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate (\$1000+) = \_\_\_\_\_

Life (\$250+) \_\_\_\_\_

*One Time Only*

General Fund Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Endowment Fund Donation \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Rentonians Remembered



denotes former Society Life Member



denotes former Society member

**Dorothy Deacy Behan**  
*Katie Gilligan*

**Marjory Ingeborg  
Thompson Bennett**  
*Hazel & Peter Newing*

**Agnes Deacy Bento**   
*Katie Gilligan*

**Clinton Betz**   
*Anonymous*

**Edward Betz**  
*Clinton Betz*

**Louise Betz**  
*Clinton Betz*

**Dorothy Bruce**   
*Harold Bruce*

**Les Carr**  
*Robert & Gilda Youngquist*

**Geraldine Coates**  
*Lila Houser*

**Tim Chinn**  
*Hazelle DuBois*

**Paul Connors**  
*Dorlene Bressan*

**Gene Cooper**   
*Katie Gilligan; Joyce Leas McIver*

**Arvey Creek**   
*Renton High School Class of 1944;  
Raymond Petermeyer*

**Ira Leona Creek**   
*Raymond Petermeyer*

**Anthony Mark "Tony"  
Culjak**  
*Hazel & Peter Newing*

**Doreen Greggs Dalbotten**  
*Mildred Faull*

**Beth Donofrio**  
*Louise George*

**Gary Eide**  
*Al & Shirley Armstrong*

**Maxine Grubescic**  
*Anne Butko & family*

**Robert Hodgson**  
*Mary Postishek*

**David E. Huffman**  
*Richard L & Louise C. Major*

**Velma Howard Jarrell**  
*Raymond Petermeyer*

**Donald Lewis Johnson**  
*Carmel & Don Camerini; Homer &  
Bunny Venishnick*

**Warren G. Knutson**  
*Ron & Sharon Clymer*

**William Koshak**   
*Verna M. Koshak*

**Theresa Kreier**  
*Clinton Betz*

**Wanda Messmer**   
*Greg & Carrie Bergquist*

**Jack Roberson**  
*Renton High School Class of 1944*

**Evelyn Rosenstrom**   
*Ken & Joyce Jones*

**Diana Galiano Shuman**  
*Raymond Petermeyer*

**Ralf Twedt**  
*Betty Sipila, Renton High School  
Class of 1944*

**Elizabeth Waltner**  
*Berniece Schwartz*

**Patty Ann Walradt**  
*Louise George; Florence  
Delaurenti*

**Velma Weber**  
*Nesika Chapter O.E.S. Past Ma-  
trons Club*

**Dar Wilcox**  
*Mr. & Mrs. Bill Monahan*

**George H. Williams**  
*Bert & Evy Nord; Renton High  
School Class 1940; Beth & Mike  
Potoshnik; Madeline Donckers;  
Harold Bruce; Hazel & Peter  
Newing*

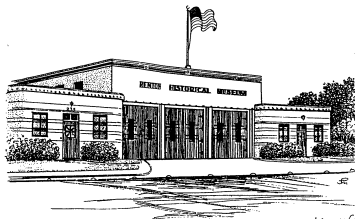
**Bequest (\$10,000)  
from the estate of  
Clinton H. Betz**

*In memory of Edward F. and  
Louise M. Betz (decendent's par-  
ents), Theresa Kreier (decendent's  
great aunt) & Clinton H. Betz  
(decendent).*

## Renton Historical Quarterly

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Renton History Museum will be opening an exhibit featuring veterans of the World Wars. Below are the names of WW I veterans from Renton, as listed on the bronze memorial plaque at the Memorial Park next to the Museum. If you know about any of Renton's WW I veterans who did not make this list, or any Rentonians who served during the period immediately after the war ended, circa 1918 – 1925, please contact the museum and tell us their stories. We are also interested in any artifacts, photographs or related materials that illustrate the lives of these men. – RHM STAFF

Adams, William Hay ★ Agnew, J.E ★ Albanese, Michael ★ Alberti, B. ★ Alcott, Charles ★ Allison, John ★ Anderson, A.A ★ Anderson, C.R ★ Anderson, D.L ★ Anderson, Martin ★ Anets, C.N ★ Arthur, David M. ★ Arthur, John D. ★ Ashwork, B. ★ Atkinson, George A. ★ Azzola, Lino ★ Bailey, David O. ★ Barber, Victor ★ Barlow, Robert ★ Bates, Arthur ★ Beale, James C ★ Beanblossom, Harlan ★ Beil, Arthur C. ★ Bennett, Howard ★ Bennett, William F., Jr. ★ Berry, Elmer P. ★ Bevan, Christopher ★ Boissetti, Louis ★ Booth, Claude ★ Bowron, Leroy ★ Boxill, Loren ★ Breda, Angelo ★ Britton, Walter ★ Bruce, Hugh ★ Burrows, E.E ★ Butler, Cecil R. ★ Butler, Glenn E ★ Butler, Wayne J ★ Cambetti, Joseph ★ Cappelli, John ★ Carson, Maynard ★ Cavelletto, Angello E. ★ Chess, Daniel ★ Ciesfski, Edward ★ Ciesfski, William ★ Corra, Buttista ★ Cory, Robert ★ Davis, Reginald W. ★ Dick, Walter ★ Domerick, K ★ Dominic, Peter ★ Elliot, William C ★ Emery, R.E.C ★ Engstrom, Ernest W. ★ Erickson, Albert ★ Evans, Arthur E. ★ Falls, James ★ Faull, Robert ★ Faull, Lester ★ Faull, Thomas ★ Fenske, Arnold ★ Friend, George ★ Fournier, Arthur ★ Fournier, George ★ Fournier, Stanley ★ Gamba, Isidora ★ Garver, John ★ Gibbon, Chester ★ Gray, George W. ★ Gregoris, Ciro ★ Gunn, William I ★ Hancock, Fred B. ★ Hansen, Lester ★ Hansen, Raymond ★ Hartelroad, Ernest ★ Harries, David T. ★ Harries, James W. ★ Harries, Thomas ★ Harris, Emil ★ Harris, Frank W. ★ Henwood, Thomas ★ Hogan, David ★ Hogan, John ★ Hogan, Patrick ★ Holtz K.J. ★ Hough, Stanley L. ★ Houser, Paul W. ★ Hughes, Bryan ★ Huitt, Clyde W. Illian, Elmer ★ Illian Frederick ★ Illian, Benry ★ Isackson, Ernest W. ★ Jenkins Ralph D. ★ Jenkins, Roger ★ Jenkins, Verne W. ★ Jones, David ★ Jones, Walter ★ Kane, Francis ★ Kellogg, Gerald ★ Kellogg, John ★ Kaser, Wayne E. ★ Kendtner, Ernest ★ Kendtner, Lacerne ★ Kilpatrick J.D ★ Klepach, Michael ★ Kline, Abraham M. ★ Knez, August ★ Koskiner, Edward ★ Kranick, M.J ★ Kusmurz, Alexander ★ Lanich, Arnold Jackson ★ Lavroni, John ★ Lanscardi, John B. ★ Lawrence, Floyd E ★ Lawrence, Ralph E. ★ Laws, Benjamin ★ Laws, Mathew ★ Lind, Charles ★ Long, Sylvester ★ Mcardle, James ★ Mcdonald, J.H ★ Mcelho, Howard ★ Magoli, Guisepe ★ Magoli, Joseph ★ Maioli, Luigi ★ Manifold, Clarence A. ★ Manifold, Frank L. ★ Marlotty, Benjamin ★ Marlotty, John ★ Marlowe, Milton J. ★ Marlowe, Vane W. ★ Marshall, George ★ Mazey, Leroy ★ Mehan, Merle ★ Melville, Isaac L. ★ Milford, Orvil ★ Miller, Albert ★ Miller, Charles D. ★ Milhuff, George W. ★ Moline, Francis H ★ Monti, Mauro ★ Monoghan, William P. ★ Moran, John ★ Morrison, Rufus ★ Morrow, Albert ★ Munn, A.L. ★ Massucco, Joe ★ Mutti, Elia ★ Nelson, John A. ★ Nelson, Ralph ★ Nichols, Albert ★ Nicola, Andrew ★ O'Brien, C. ★ O'Hara, Frank ★ O'Neil, Hugh ★ Olsen, Charles ★ Olsen, Howard ★ Olsen, Oscar ★ Olsen, Olen C. ★ Paller, Peter ★ Pasini, Battista ★ Pellegrinno, Modesta ★ Perella, Benjamin ★ Petagana, Ben ★ Petagana, Joseph ★ Peterson, Fred L. ★ Peterson, Thurston ★ Peterson, William ★ Petty, Cecil E. ★ Pistoresi, George ★ Poli, Angelo ★ Powell, William ★ Powell, David ★ Pozzobon, Alexander ★ Pozzi, Tony ★ Pridham, Howard E. ★ Pritchard, George ★ Pritchard, Thomas ★ Raffello, Angelo ★ Raymond, Evan J ★ Rees, Evan T. ★ Rees, Frederick ★ Rees, Meredith ★ Rees, Stanley M. ★ Rhodes, A.W. ★ Richards, Chester ★ Richards, Raymond ★ Roberts, R.D. ★ Robertson, James ★ Robinson, Ralph ★ Romiti, Angelo ★ Rossi, Vincent P. ★ Rutter, Thomas ★ Samson, John ★ Sandstrom, Robert ★ Scoll, Louis ★ Sedlacek, Andrew ★ Seguin, Charles P. ★ Seguin, G.W. ★ Seguin, William ★ Serosky, William ★ Shook, Walter B. ★ Sipila, Jacob R. ★ Snyder, John ★ Stone, Robert ★ Storey, Charles ★ Storey, Frank T. ★ Swalet, John ★ Swales, John ★ Swift, Martin ★ Swift, Thomas ★ Tachell, Bertram ★ Tachell, Roy ★ Tamborini, Charles ★ Tamborini, Peter ★ Tamborini, Stephen ★ Thomas, Kenneth A. ★ Thomas, W.I. ★ Thompson, Hugh ★ Thorne, R.M. ★ Tonkin, Edgar J. ★ Trent, Carl ★ Truesdell, William ★ Tira, Fioranzo ★ Uder, Jerome ★ Vaise, Frank ★ Van Winkle, Francis ★ Vincentino, August ★ Wagner, L.F. ★ Wentte, Fred ★ White, Walter ★ Williams, Milton E. ★ Williams, Rees ★ Williams, Robert H. ★ Williams, Thomas H. ★ Williams, William E. ★ Williams, William G. ★ Wilson, Ernest, P. ★ Wood, Bryan V. ★ Wood, Charles R. ★ Wood, John F.



**Renton Historical Museum**  
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