

Issaquah Historical Society

PAST TIMES

Volume 1, Issue 1

Autumn 1999

IMPORTANT!

We've converted our membership files to a new computer program and will not have time to send renewal notices until October. Please check the mailing label on this newsletter for your renewal date. By sending your renewal in as soon as possible, you save us the cost of mailing a reminder. Have questions? Call us at 425/392-3500.



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IHS On the Information Superhighway

If you have access to e-mail and the Internet, the Issaquah Historical Society has two new projects to share with you. The first is the IHS e-mail list, which allows us to distribute information quickly. If you'd like to be added, send e-mail to bangs@southcove.net. You'll begin receiving regular news about Society events and activities.

Those of you with Internet access can check out the new IHS web page. The page will be a resource for researchers and history buffs, offering photographs and write-ups on 15 historic Issaquah buildings, as well as the structures that make up Gilman Village. An Issaquah photo album exists on the

page, allowing us to share a portion of the Society's extensive photo collection with Internet users. The page also has links to news articles about Issaquah. The King County Library branch in Issaquah offers Internet access for those of you who have not quite pulled onto the Information Superhighway at home.

IHS member David Bangs single-handedly created the page and continues to maintain it. The page is expanding on an almost-daily basis, so check it frequently for updated information.

Is there something special you think should be included on the Web page? E-mail David Bangs at WebMaster@issaquahhistory.org, or call Erica at 425/392-3500.

Calling All Volunteers

Everything that the IHS has accomplished over the years is due to the efforts of dedicated volunteers. For those of you who have generously contributed your time, many thanks! For those of you who have thought about volunteering in the past—we're working on a number of exciting projects, and now is the time to step forward. Some opportunities include docenting, helping with mailings, working in the shop, operating the Pump Car at festi-

vals, and planning special events.

We are also forming an Exhibit Committee. The Town Hall Museum exhibits are in need of some rearranging and sprucing up – and you're just the person to help! If you are interested in getting in touch with your creative side, and educating the public about Issaquah's history, this is the job for you. If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions – or a special project – call Erica at 425/392-3500.

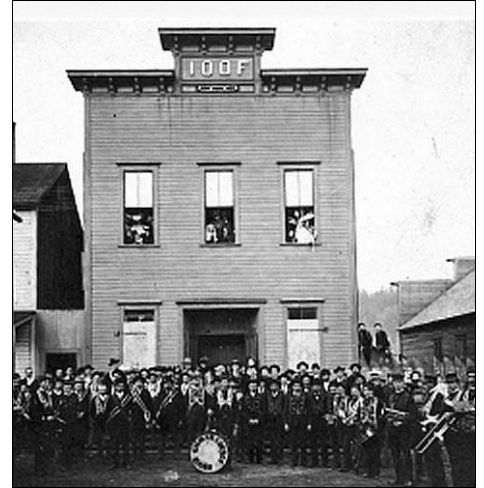
Looking Back: The International Order of Odd Fellows Hall

The Issaquah Odd Fellows Hall was constructed in 1888, and still stands at 58 Front Street. An important addition to the Town of Gilman, the Odd Fellows Hall served as a central meeting place between the north and south regions. The Hall played a vital role in the social life of early Issaquah inhabitants, providing a location for plays and dances. The first moving picture shows in Issaquah were shown at the Hall.

Beginning around 1904, the ground floor to the Hall was rented out as a grocery store and served that purpose for several different

owners. The building was nearly destroyed by an arson attempt in 1908, and later by a severe wind-storm in the 1930's. The International Order of Odd Fellows held meetings in the building into the 1960's. The lower story has recently housed an antique store, while the upstairs serves as the surprisingly modern headquarters of the Vialight Corporation.

"Looking Back" will be a regular feature of Past Times, highlighting aspects of Issaquah's history. Contributions and suggestions are welcome! Call 425/392-3500.



Gilman Cornet Band, in front of the IOOF Building, c. 1900. IHS catalog number 91.007.076. Donor unknown.

Save These Dates!

Next Member's Meeting

The September general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16, 1999. A brief meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, followed by a 7:30 presentation on "The Story of Issaquah City Governance," by Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger and City Clerk Linda Ruehle. Join us for this behind-the-scenes look at local government!

Town Hall Open House

The doors of the Gilman Town Hall will open again starting Saturday, September 25. The museum has been closed nearly a year. New hours will be 11-3 Thursdays and Saturdays, other days by appointment. We'll be holding an Open

House on Saturday, September 25, from 11 to 3. Come by to check out the changes, meet the new Director, and see old friends. Light refreshments will be served.

Annual Meeting

The IHS Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 PM, followed by a presentation entitled, "Issaquah Festivals, Historic City at Play." Members will vote on proposed by-law changes and elect Board members. The meeting will be held at the Depot, located at 50 Rainier Blvd N, in Issaquah. Anyone wishing to serve on the nominating committee can leave a message at 425/392-2500.

New Depot Docent Coordinator

Tom Mechler has been a Lifetime member of the Issaquah Historical Society since 1996, and has worked as a docent at the Historic Depot since 1997. Now Tom has offered to be the Depot docent coordinator. Tom will work with the museum director to recruit docents and schedule shifts at the Depot.

In addition to his work with the Issaquah Historical Society, Tom volunteers at the Veteran's Military Cemetery. He and his wife Yvonne live in High Valley.



Letter to the Membership

Dear Members,
 There have been a lot of additions to the Society lately – a new director, new computer software, and renovations at the Town Hall. Some of these changes will be affecting the way we handle membership correspondence and benefits.

The first major change is our computer software. All membership files have been converted to a state-of-the-art database that will help us keep track of renewals and generate notices automatically. While the files have been converted, it's taken us a little time to get back on track with renewal notices. If you look at the mailing label on this newsletter, you'll see your renewal date. If your renewal date has passed or is coming up, sending in your membership

renewal now will save us the cost of mailing a notice.

Secondly, we've been preparing a new membership plan that includes membership benefits. Many other historical societies and museums have a similar program, in order to thank members for their ongoing support. Beginning in January 2000, members will receive a membership card. This card will entitle you to a variety of benefits, such as gift shop and photo reproduction discounts. Other bonuses may apply, depending on your membership level. Look for more details on this plan in the December issue of *Past Times*.

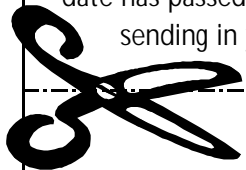
Finally, there will be a change in who handles membership issues. After the Board elections in October, the role of welcoming mem-

bers into the Society will move to the President of the Board.

With Museum Director Erica Maniez handling the mailings and other administrative details, I can step down from my position as Membership Chair. I'm looking forward to getting involved in other areas of the Society that I haven't had time to pursue! Even though I haven't met all of you face to face, I've enjoyed getting to know you over the past six years. I hope to see you at membership meetings and other events.



Faye Green,
 Membership Chair



Membership Renewal & Application Form Issaquah Historical Society

- Yes, I want to support the work of the Issaquah Historical Society!
 - Individual (\$15) Senior/Student (\$5) Family (\$20) Business (\$30)
 - I am donating \$_____ in support of your work.

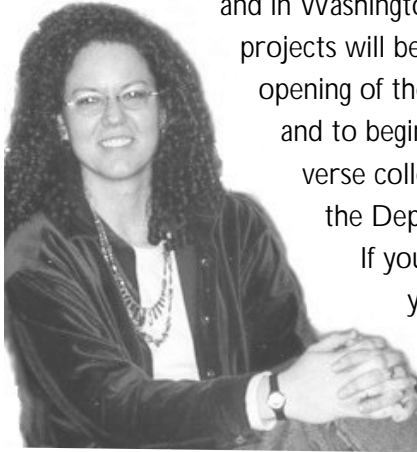
Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

- My employer will match my gift! Company: _____
 (Please attach matching gift form or provide contact name and phone number for the matching gift officer at your company).

Please make checks payable to the Issaquah Historical Society (IHS). The Issaquah Historical Society is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization, tax ID #23-7425589. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

IHS Welcomes New Museum Director

The Issaquah Historical Society would like to welcome Erica S. Maniez, the new Director of the IHS Museums. Erica is a recent graduate of the University of Washington Master's in Museology Program, and has worked with several non-profit organizations in Seattle



and in Washington, DC. Erica's first projects will be to organize the re-opening of the Town Hall museum, and to begin cataloging the diverse collections housed in both the Depot and the Town Hall.

If you haven't met Erica yet, be sure to drop by the Town Hall Open House on September 25.

Past Times is a production of the Issaquah Historical Society. If you would like to contribute to the next issue of *Past Times*, call the Historical Society office at 425/392-3500.

The Issaquah Historical Society was founded in 1972. Now more than 200 members strong, the Society works to preserve and interpret the history of Issaquah and the surrounding area. Two hallmarks of the Society are the Historic Train Depot and the Gilman Town Hall Museum, both open to the public.

Historic Train Depot: 50 Rainier Blvd. N
Open Saturdays, 11-3

Gilman Town Hall: 165 SE Andrews Street
Open Thursdays & Saturdays, 11-3
and by appointment.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://ISSAQUAHHISTORY.ORG/](http://ISSAQUAHHISTORY.ORG/)

Issaquah Historical Society

P.O. Box 695
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**MEMBERS : NOTE YOUR
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE!**