



# VILLAGE VOICES

Oct-Dec 2020

Photo by Holly Heideman

## SAVING HISTORIC LOGGING CAMP BUILDINGS

- Dedicated to history of northeastern section of Pierce County including Buckley and Greenwater, as well as the towns of the Carbon River Corridor (Burnett, Carbonado, South Prairie, and Wilkeson.

- Historic sites of Crocker, Fairfax, Hucklechuck, Marion, Manley Moore, Melmont, Montezuma, Pittsburgh (Spiketown) are also included .

Logging continues today as an important enterprise in the Foothills. Early logging camps were generally temporary. The buildings could be moved to a new location by rail when an area was logged out. One of the last big camps was the Scott Paper Camp at Lester, WA. In 1965 Tacoma began buying the timber lands for a watershed. In the late 1980's Walt Olsen and Museum volunteers rounded up a couple of lowboy trucks and headed out to rescue a bunkhouse and saw shop. The roofs had to be removed to cross White River Bridge.



The two buildings were set up next to Buckley Hall on city land they had cleared of rubbish and new roofs were built. The saw shop (seen below) had a simple skylight of fiberglass to provide more light for the sharpening to be done. Donations and volunteers made

### MISSION

*The Society is dedicated to the identification, collection, conservation, and sharing of the history of Buckley and surrounding area, including the Carbon River Corridor.*

it all possible. A metal roof replaced the original shingles last year and a more secure skylight was installed. This summer volunteers repainted both and caulked the windows. The bunkhouse is scheduled for a new metal roof next year. Gerald A Moriarity, author of western novels and a Buckley local, shares his memories of working there in this issue.



**New date and  
time for Board  
Meetings:  
1st Tuesday of  
Month  
11 Am at  
Museum  
Open to Public:  
Wear your mask**



### **News from President Gene Robertson:**

Frank and Nancy Stratton and I repainted the two Lester buildings and the WW II Spotters Cabin. Dave Meshke put a second coat on the Fire Tower. We are preparing to make a repair to one wall of blacksmith shop. The gazebo is prepped for a final coat. Our Washington Capital Project grant proposal did make it through the second level of the process. Now we wait to see if the legislature will fully fund the projects. A CARE grant for operating expenses we were denied has now been funded for \$2500. The museum has acquired an antique buggy from the Hlede estate that we hope to restore.

We hope to open soon for a few visitors at a time. Volunteers can come in (masked) and work on projects in the main building. A new volunteer is learning process of accessing our artifacts. A FHS website is being developed by Teal Larsen, a new volunteer. When it is up, the address will be [foothillshistoricalmuseum.org](http://foothillshistoricalmuseum.org) Chloe and Jean are assisting her with text and pictures.

We hope you all are safe and well. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

### **From the Inbox:**

Yes, I got the email. I found one thing very interesting and that was the story about the roaming cows. I grew up in Lower Burnett. We always had a cow and no pasture. We just turned it loose after milking in the morning and it would roam around Lower Burnett looking for grasses. I can always remember my mother telling me "Lloyd, go get the cow". We lived in about the middle of Lower Burnett so I would always have to determine which direction and where the cow went. In my search I would have to ask local residents if they saw our cow. People like Bob Barber or Dick Williams, to name a few would always tell me if they saw our cow. "Oh yes, I saw your cow this afternoon over there in that thicket" someone would tell me. I would usually find the cow and then chase it home. Some days, the cow would wander home at milking time on its own. That made for a happy day for me.

From Lloyd Blanusa 8/24/2020  
8/24/2020 from iPad

### **FHS Board 2020-2022**

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Gene Robertson

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#### **Secretary:**

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#### **Advisors:**

Martha Olsen

John Hilding

Doris Maris

Nancy Stratton

Board Meetings: 1st  
Tuesday at 11:00 am  
130 N River Avenue  
Buckley, WA 98321

PO Box 530  
Buckley, WA 98321

Tel: (360) 829-1291

Email [foothillsmuseum@  
cityofbuckley.com](mailto:foothillsmuseum@cityofbuckley.com)

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## Scott Paper Co Logging Operation Lester, Washington

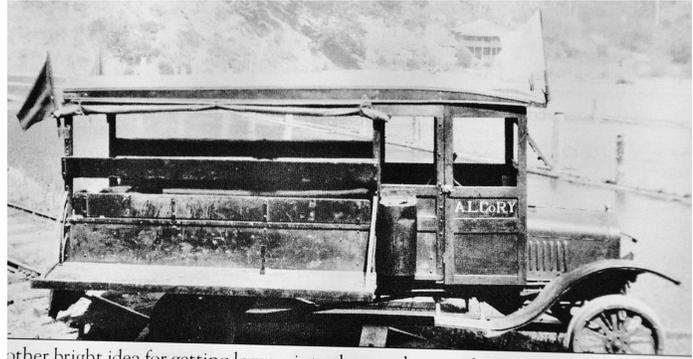
by Gerald A Moriarty, Buckley, WA 10/26/2017



Picture is not Gerald. It was on one of his western novels. Could not find a picture.

The Scott Paper Co Lester logging operation was located a short distance to the west of the town of Lester high up in the Cascade Mountains of Washington in the Green River drainage. My Uncle Norton Carden who lived in Enumclaw, Washington, worked for them as a log truck driver and I was fortunate enough to get hired because of him.

The workers either rode a train to the Maywood train depot or rode the crummy, which was a short school type bus, from the town of Kanasket to the camp located at the town of Lester up in the mountains. You loaded up on the crummy every Sunday evening and stayed in the camp until Friday evening when you once again loaded up on the crummy for the long grueling ride back to Kanasket. My uncle was usually the driver.



If you rode the crummy you learned quickly to keep your head away from the windows. All it took was one time of hitting your head on the window to learn that lesson. It was one of the roughest and noisiest rides you could ever imagine going on. The driver was always accused of aiming at every one of the chuckholes. I don't know what kept that crummy from falling apart. I remember one that did break down. If you missed the bus or train you had to drive over Snoqualmie Pass and take a road up through an area called Cabin Creek and up and over Stampede Pass to Lester. It was a drive you didn't want to make.

Gerald A. Moriarty was born in Enumclaw and "raise against the foothills of Mount Rainier in the state of Washington. He and his family now live in the town of Buckley, Washington that is located against those hills. He has not lived anywhere that was far from a mountain range no matter which state he has lived in because his love of them is so deeply ingrained in him. He is 80 years old and being retired he is enjoying writing books about the old time characters that he admired."

## Foothills Historical Society



This is inside one of the FHS rescued Lester bunkhouses that Gerald may have stayed in when he worked for Scott Paper.

The camp consisted of numerous buildings that included the main maintenance shop, office, superintendent's house and a cluster maybe up to a dozen or more two room bunkhouses where the workers lived away from their homes. Each bunk house had cots that were located along the walls, two in each room. If my memory serves me right they were heated with steam.

The chow hall provided a breakfast fit for a king. At one end of the chow hall was a long table piled high with breads of all kinds, assorted meats and cheeses along with mustard, mayonnaise and whatever other kind of dressing you can name. There was pie, cake and cookies of all sorts all for each of the work to make their own lunches. It was always a rush getting ones meal consumed and lunch made in time to catch the crummy to the work sight.

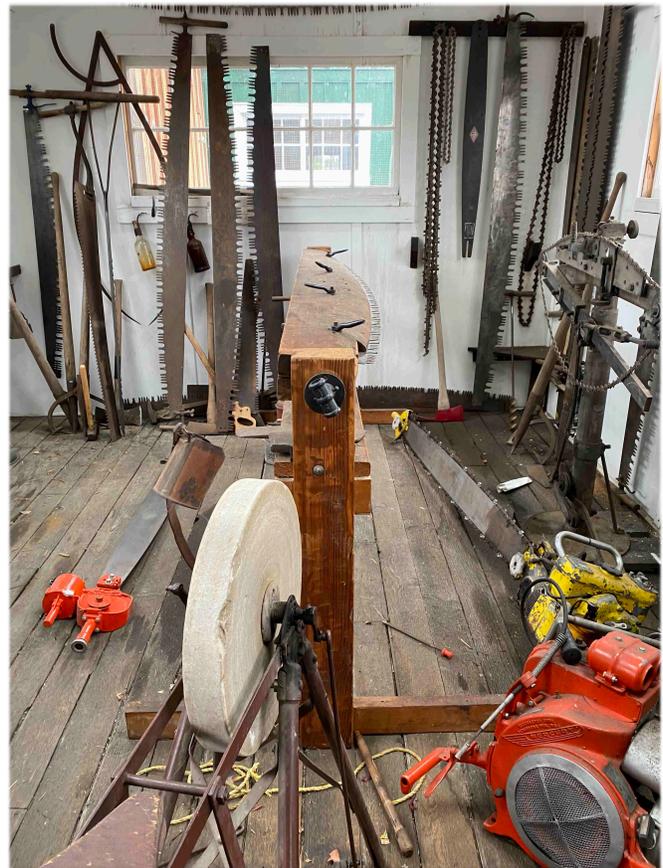
When the workers returned after the work day, which generally lasted twelve to thirteen hours from the time you loaded up onto the crummy in the morning and reached camp at night, a gourmet dinner was served. Before dinner they always allowed time for the workers to take their showers in a large shower house that was provided. I never heard of anybody running out of hot water. It was a nice clean facility. When the chow hall doors opened dinner was served family style and the bowls and plates of food were never empty for but a minute or so. Going hungry or the quality of the food was never a complaint.



## Foothills Historical Society



Where the crews unloaded from the crummy a saw shop was located and all the fallers and buckers would drop off their saw chains and pick up sharpened ones for the next day of work. If the saw was not operating properly they exchanged them as well. If they had any axes with broken handles they also left them for repair and picked up replacements. A supply of various wedges was always well stocked.



**Editor's note: Gerald's logging camp was more modern than what this poor faller (logger) had.**

A laundry room was provided with both washing machines and dryers. It was included in the building the showers were in.

Entertainment consisted of reading, playing various games of cards, movies, volley ball, horseshoes and several other activities. You never heard of any problem of boredom.

There was a tavern in the town of Lester a short distance east of the camp. There were generally a half dozen or more that would partake of its pleasures each night. You never overstayed as it was always an early arising in the morning. The cook made sure of that as he was the one who rang the triangle each morning. It was really loud and he always took great joy in making sure everyone could hear it.

Raccoons were abundant along with an occasional porcupine or two who always thought they owned the camp. Bear were always meandering through the camp looking for a handout. Deer and elk were plentiful and always around. Some of them were real pets, others were always into everything you left out unprotected. Especially food items. I can only remember one occasion that a bear actually entered a bunkhouse. The rumor

was that each resident had to change their underwear after the encounter. Luckily no one was hurt.

Overall the morale was always good and the experience was a good one. The married men had it the worst. Even with all the coworkers it was a lonely time for them. I saw several with tears in their eyes at night. I saw one who was so stricken with loneliness that he had to be taken back to the town of Kanasket and his family contacted to come and pick him up. Know his feeling because I too was a married man, I was fortunate enough to have bunked in the same bunkhouse with my Uncle.



## Foothills Historical Society

Much of the logging was done by dozer but they did have several tower shows. I was fortunate to have been given the opportunity by the construction foreman named Miller to learn and operate a dozer the first being an old cable blade IH TD14. I was trained by a man from Carbonado by the name of Ab Main. I really took a liking to him. He was one of the nicest men I ever had the occasion to know.



I worked with the pioneer crew along with Ab and man named John who owned a tavern in Lester. You couldn't ask for better operators than they were. The first road I worked on was Champion Creek and another one named Snow Creek. There were several others but can't recall the names.

I was thankful that I not once two-blocked the TD14 as you never live it down had you done so. Two blocking consisted of lifting the blade so high that the two blocks came together so tight that it broke the cable. That was a no-no! I loved that dozer. It was my favorite. I hated the D-9 Caterpillar with a passion. Why in the world one would place a D-9 up in a logging road to make grade I will never know. It is the clumsiest piece of machinery's ever built. It was designed for open flat country. For a short time I drove a dump truck and on several occasions operated a gridroller breaking up donickers (large rocks) that stood up in the middle of the road bed. I wanted my TD14 back!

All in all Scott Paper Company was an extremely well-run company at that time. Unfortunately, because of bad economic times for the lumber industry, they had to close their doors and sell most of their vested shares in the business. Most of their timber lands were sold to holding companies. Many employees were put on the unemployment rolls, I being one of them.



## WOMEN IN LOGGING

“Johnie” Gladys Eaton came to Sumner, WA with her parents in 1935 from her birthplace of Otoe County, Nebraska. Her father George Robinson was a vinegar distiller in Sumner. Johnie started out working for NFS on the Trails and Telegraph crew with her husband, Clyde

Eaton. During WW II she became a logger. Her first job in logging was as a whistle punk for \$7-8 a day. While she learned to do all the jobs on the logging site (show), she reported in an interview that even though she could do it, she left the high climbing to the guys. Clyde, Johnie and their son Fred lived on their tree farm on Mt Baldy outside of Enumclaw. Clyde’s father had been an early homesteader in the area.



Mt Baldy Tree Farm  
Eaton Family 1955

## Donating to Foothills Historical Society via Amazon Smile Program Black Friday Sale Days Oct 13 and Oct 14

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