



Among the women who planned and created the White Salmon Centennial quilt are, from left, Linnie Tallman, Wanita Gordon, Lynne Kilgore, Pat Paulsen and Joan Ahlers.

It's Centennial Time!

*White Salmon
to celebrate its
colorful history with
many activities*

By Jeanie Senior

Mark your calendar for “The Big Event.” That is what planners of White Salmon’s centennial celebration have dubbed a day-long party on Saturday, August 11, to mark the city’s 100th anniversary.

The celebration will begin about noon in Pioneer Park and continue until after dark.

The first official commemoration of the centennial came in early June during Springfest, when a basalt rock monument was dedicated in the park. A time capsule will be buried at its base in August.

The same weekend, White Salmon Postmaster Sue Gross led a team of riders on a historic reenactment: the delivery of mail from White Salmon to Husum.



(C) 2007 White Salmon Centennial Celebration Committee

The ride recognized Teunis Wyers, White Salmon’s first mail carrier, who held the position for 71 years.

A centennial cancellation, issued in June by the U.S. Postal Service, recognized Wyers’ contribution.

As for the big event, “we’re trying to create a picnic in the park,” says Bob Van Alstine, head of the centennial committee, which started meeting last year to plan the observance. “We want it to be a family thing. There will be no beer garden, for instance. The emphasis

is on family.”

Bob and David Baker, who sought and received a centennial proclamation last July from the White Salmon City Council, are ambassadors for the effort.

Committee members have focused on what the centennial celebration should look like, Bob says.

“That’s been our job; how to create interest and enthusiasm,” Bob adds.

One conclusion came early, says member Miriam Knowles.

“We decided it was a celebration for the community,” she says. “We wouldn’t try to make money.”

Any funds left over from the sale of centennial pins and other items will go to the White Salmon Valley Education Foundation.

The event will feature music and history. Bob says there will be a variety of food concessions and music throughout the day to “cover the century,” including drumming and dancing by members of the Yakama Indian Nation, Mexican music and dancers, and swing, bluegrass and rock and roll. The White Salmon Jazz band will perform in

the evening.

A kite-flying contest will be held for kids, along with games and historic exhibits.

Playwright Jim Tindall, dressed as Meriwether Lewis, will stroll around the park presenting historical vignettes.

Other centennial observances have been in the works for several months. Twenty-three quil-

ters pieced 30 blocks for a centennial quilt, which showcases the town and area with squares depicting salmon, apple trees, wildflowers, a May Pole, an early school bus, early town scenes, Mount Adams, and a horse and sleigh on snow-covered Jewett Street.

Joan Ahlers, who helped coordinate the making of the quilt, says the original plan was to raffle it off.

But when the seamstresses got a look at the finished squares, she says the product was so beautiful they decided it would hang in the pioneer center.

Instead, a smaller quilt that can be used as either a wall hanging or a lap quilt will go up for raffle.

Wanita Gordon put the quilt together. Joan and Wanita each made blocks for the quilt. Other contributors were Pat Paulsen,



Juliet Knowles, Mildred Shorter, Cindy and Ruth Jewell, Katie Price, Carol Keightley, Carolyn Aplin, Mary Pence, Trisha and Nicole Dunn, Lois Baker, Linnie Talman, Marilyn Vosika, Melody Van Horn, Maria Baker, Debbie Brignoli, Lois Wade, Terry Johanson and Lynne Kilgore.

A centennial cookbook was compiled and published by the PEO.

White Salmon—the river and the town—apparently took its name from the fish that explorer William Clark sketched more than 200 years ago, while the Corps of Discovery spent the winter at Fort Clatsop on the Oregon Coast.

The fish Clark called a “white salmon trout” later became known as the coho salmon.

When settlers Erastus S. and Mary Joslyn arrived in the area

from Massachusetts in the early 1850s, they wrote in their diary that early settlers used the name White Salmon, according to historian Jim Attwell.

White Salmon included the land along the Columbia, as well as the land on the bluff above the river, which were dubbed Pine Tree Flats.

A dispute over water rights to Jewett Creek and the location of the post office in the settlement on the bluff between two subsequent pioneer families—the Suksdorfs and the Jewetts—eventually fostered the creation of two neighboring towns.

The Jewetts settled on Pine Tree Flats, eventually incorporated as White Salmon.

The Suksdorfs platted the town of Bingen in 1924, naming it after Bingen-on-the-Rhine in Germany.

Several attempts to unite the towns under one government have failed.

Bob says the centennial celebration “embraces the communities in Klickitat County.” ■

See a complete list of county events happening in August on page 8.



Above, the Glenwood stage leaves White Salmon. Top, the Washington Hotel about 1907.



Klickitat County is poised for a busy summer of events, including White Salmon's centennial (see page 4). More scenes of White Salmon's early days include, left, Wyers Trading Company interior, about 1920. Below left, Crows Store. Below right, looking west on Jewett Street, early 1900s.



August is a Busy Time in Klickitat County

The White Salmon Centennial on August 11 is billed as "The Big Event," but August is a busy month throughout Klickitat County.

The centennial celebration in Pioneer Park in White Salmon begins about noon and lasts until after dark. There will be historic exhibits, food concessions, living history in the form of Jim Tindall, dressing as Meriwether Lewis and presenting historic vignettes from the explorer, plus music from Indian dancing and drumming to the White Salmon Jazz band.

Other events in August include:

- August 4, Pine Springs Resort north of Goldendale on U.S. 97 presents the first Backyard Blues Bash. For information, call Len Schulmeister at (509) 773-4344 or

e-mail pinespringsresort@wild-blue.net

- August 3 to 5, Trout Lake Fair and Parade, 31 Little Mountain Rd. Call (509) 395-2318.

- August 8 to 12, the Golden Art Gallery will exhibit a collection of signed clown prints done by comedian Red Skelton. There also will be a benefit auction. For information, call the gallery at (509) 773-5100. The Web address is www.thegoldenartgallery.com

- August 12, Maryhill Museum fun day: Calling All Books! Book collector and author Jack Walsdorf will hold the "Book Lovers Road Show." He will discuss book collecting, then appraise and discuss books brought by audience members. Artist Roberta Lavador will lead a bookmaking seminar.

Activities are free with a paid museum admission; children under 17 are admitted free with one paid adult. For information, call (509) 773-3733 or e-mail maryhill@maryhillmuseum.org

- August 18 and 19, also at Maryhill Museum, the Maryhill Arts Festival. In the museum grounds, displays of work by more than 50 artists; live music performances; food, beer and wine vendors; hands-on art activities for children. Free admission.

- August 23 to August 26, Klickitat County Fair and Rodeo, in Goldendale. Check the Web site at www.klickitatcounty.org

- August 23 to August 26, Sportbike Northwest, 2007 Rally Week in the Gorge. Go online at www.soundrider.com. ■