

Skagit River Journal of History and Folklore



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History of the Eagles Aerie No. 199 and No. 2069, Sedro-Woolley, Washington

respectfully submitted by

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Eagles Aerie 2069 in Sedro-Woolley is actually the second one in our city

By Noel V. Bourasaw, *Skagit River Journal*



The question about whether the city had an earlier Aerie arose about 15 years ago when a photo appeared in the collection of the late Howard Miller that showed the officers of the Sedro-Woolley Eagles Aerie. It included photos of men who were wearing fashions that preceded those worn in 1923.

That question led to a long period of research. The Sedro-Woolley Aerie had no records preceding the 1923 charter. But we soon discovered in the special historical edition of the *Sedro-*

Woolley Courier-Times of June 29, 1939, that an Aerie was established here in February 1902. What happened to that original Aerie? No one seemed to know either locally or at the state headquarters.

Our answer finally came in the fall of 2009 when Jenny Peterman of the Grand Aerie of the national Fraternal Order of Eagles, in Grove City, Ohio, answered our emailed question about what happened to both the original Sedro-Woolley Aerie and the Clear Lake Aerie:

Our records indicate that Sedro-Woolley, Washington instituted on February 2nd, 1902 with 76 Charter Members as Aerie No.199. In 1912, the Sedro-Woolley Aerie consolidated with Anacortes Aerie No. 249 and then later, on January 14th, 1923, instituted Sedro-Woolley Aerie No. 2069 in Sedro-Woolley, Washington with 138 Charter Members. For Clear Lake, Washington, our records indicate it was Instituted on May 22nd, 1908 with 50 Charter Members. In 1914 or 1915, Clear Lake Aerie No. 1787 consolidated with Anacortes Aerie No. 249.

Years ago, an old timer from Lyman recalled that there was an Eagles Aerie there, but we researched and discovered that this was actually the Eagle Lodge of the Knights of Pythias there.

Sponsored by Seattle Aerie No. 1, the new Sedro-Woolley Aerie originally met from 1902 onwards in a hall that was referred to in a 1953 newspaper article as the "IWA Hall." So far, we have not determined what organization that abbreviation stood for; we hope a reader will know. The first meeting was on Feb. 23, 1902. We do not know why the Aerie disbanded and consolidated with Anacortes in 1912 because that volume of the *Courier-Times* burned in a fire decades ago. We are somewhat surprised at the timing because the city was experiencing a wave of prosperity at that time before World War I.

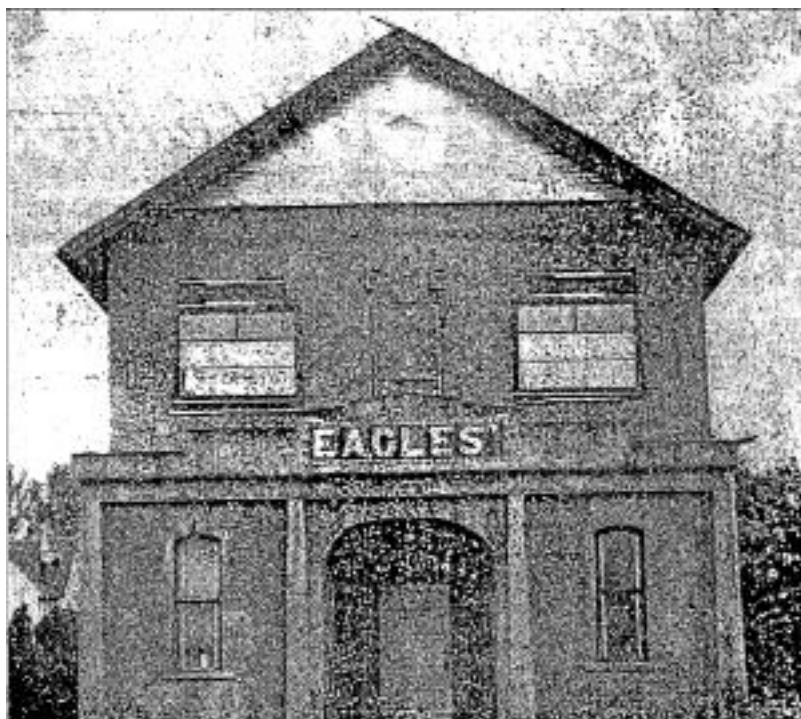
The new Aerie began in the same year that a fine old hall became available. The International Order of Odd Fellows [IOOF] erected their new hall in 1923 and the Eagles took over the old IOOF hall, which stood where the American Legion Club Lounge stands today.

The Sedro-Woolley Aeries 2069 wasted no time in gaining state recognition for their new Aerie. E.W. "Ed" Bigelow was elected as the Worthy State President of both the Sedro-Woolley and state Aeries

in 1925 and he hosted the state Eagles convention that October (see the full story below) in the new Sedro-Woolley IOOF Hall.

Bigelow was a butcher in town and he also owned a duck-pin bowling alley on the west side of the 800 block of Metcalf Street where the Mailboxes office is located in 2009. Greer Drummond, owner of Valley Hardware and turns 93 in November 2009, remembers Bigelow well: "When I was in Sedro-Woolley High School, I remember Ed Bigelow delivering an inspirational speech at the auditorium and he was the most inspiring orator I ever heard."

At the time of the 1925 convention, the Aerie office was actually in the brick Schneider Building at the southwest corner of Metcalf Street and Northern Avenue, which most recently housed the Fairweather Lanes Bowling Alley. On April 16, 1925, the Eagles Aerie bought the Schneider Building from the W.B. Pigg family for \$28,000 and devoted about half the building to their club rooms. They stayed in that building for nearly 14 years.



This is the old IOOF Hall on Murdock Street that once was also home to the Eagles Aerie. The photo comes from the Oct. 20, 1949, issue of the *Courier-times* that reported the fire that leveled the building.

In 1939 the Aerie bought the old IOOF Hall on Murdock Street and remodeled the building that was then nearly 50 years old. A little over a year later, a bowling alley opened in their old building and stayed open there until 2000. When World War II erupted, the Eagles Aerie became a local leader in guarding the community and providing for families of soldiers overseas.

"Mr. Eagle," Jess Sapp

Jess Sapp, a local insurance broker, became Mr. Eagle during that decade in Sedro-Woolley, Washington-statewide and later at the national level. After heading the local Aerie 2069, he was elected as state president in 1942 and after setting amazing enrollment records for Aeries in Washington state and after helping with the same in British Columbia, he was reelected. Disclaiming any personal credit, he urged his fellow Eagles:

Give serious thought to the return of your members who are in the service. Prepare to welcome them when they come home. Try to lay plans that will fit them back into the groove from which they were torn when duty called.

Any and all aid that can be given to further our war effort, whether it be voluntary donation or pay labor, let us do what we can. Help save the perishable foods in your neighborhood. Help in the harvests. Do all you can to keep the wheels of production turning.

When the national Fraternal Order of Eagles decided to hold their national convention in Seattle in August 1948, Sapp was called on to act as chairman of the planning committee. Five years later, Sapp

was elected Grand Aerie Justice at the National Eagles convention in Indianapolis.

The late Howard Miller told me an amusing story about Jess Sapp that is also inspiring. Before the Depression, Sapp sold Missouri Life Insurance and had a thriving business through the late 1920s. Sometime after the October 1929 stock market crash, the company failed and couldn't pay up on many policies held here. Sapp was determined that his customers would not be shut out totally and decided to help them out of his own funds even though his policy numbers had plummeted.

As Howard recalled, Sapp decided to become a bootlegger and recoup his losses. He drove a Big Buick and he had a mechanic install a fake gas take for the Everclear liquor. Miller recalled that Sapp hired Ira Moffitt of Lyman to transport the shipments from upriver to Seattle. Doc Cleveland of Burlington was a customer of Sapp, ordering a gallon at a time. In checking the records we discovered that by 1943 Sapp had recovered from his earlier losses well enough that he bought a half share of an insurance agency, soon bought out his partner and then bought a building on Woodworth across from the post office where he established the Cascade Agency Insurance on his own by 1953.



This photo was taken by the late Bert Webber during the first Loggerodeo Grand Parade on July 4, 1946. Looking southeast from the corner of Murdock and Ferry streets. The original Legion Hall is behind the float and the two-story Eagles Temple is right behind that.

The photo below shows Emil Runck's motorcycle shop on the north side of Woodworth street in about 1918, 12 years before the old city hall was erected. You are looking northeast at the original IOOF hall in the background.

Eagles Hall burns in 1949

By the post-World War II years, the Eagles Aerie was one of the social centers of town, aiding in relief programs and holding regular public dances in the City Hall, which was directly across the street. Nine years after purchasing the old two-story IOOF Hall, they remodeled it in 1948 and rewired it for safety reasons. Regardless, the building burned to the ground on Oct. 17, 1949, just two months before the old wooden Seidell Building burned to the ground at the site of today's downtown park and gazebo. With the fire hall across the street, the firemen were able to keep the fire from spreading to Berglund Motors to the south (today the Sedro-Woolley Museum) and the American Legion hall to the north.

Although members wanted to rebuild immediately, the financing took a bit of time.

Meanwhile, the Eagles and the American Legion, which was directly to the north and on the corner of Ferry Street, decided to share meeting space. At that time, there was a 30-foot-wide empty lot between them that the Eagles owned. For the next four years, the Legion shared its hall with the Eagles Aerie, rent-free. In 1952 the Legion bought the lot from the Eagles for \$1,000 and began digging for a foundation.

The two organizations then began an ambitious building program that would lead to a new Eagles Temple that would share a wall with a new south addition onto the Legion hall. Jess Sapp, who was a state and national Eagles officer at the time, led the Aerie program and comrade Andy Cromarty, a local contractor and brick layer, led the Legion expansion. The Legion post borrowed \$10,000 from plumber Otto K. Presentin for just five percent interest and payments of \$100 per month.

In March 1953, the Legion began digging out the basement of their planned club and lounge. In April the *Courier-Times* announced that the Legion and Eagles would build a common 270-foot front with

uniform brick facing, construction that would cost \$20,000. Ted Allen was the contractor and Harry Pulsipher was the Aerie president. The same article featured the erection of the new Hunter Medical Clinic across the street at the northwest corner of Murdock and Ferry streets, where pioneer James Gray's house stood for 60 years. In September, Jess Sapp was elected Grand Aerie Justice at the national convention and he returned home to lead the planning for the September 15 opening of their new temple. The grand opening was staged by the largest number of members ever — 500. That was beginning of weekly bingo games at the Eagles Temple, which were Sedro-Woolley's casino entertainment at the time. I remember them well because I won a \$75 blackout prize when I was 12.

Sometime in the 1970s, the Aerie opened a class-H cocktail lounge in the temple; we hope that a reader will know the year and date. Aerie 2069 met at that Murdock Street temple and conducted the lounge there for 44 years until they voted to buy the former commercial space at the northwest corner of Metcalf and Warner Streets. They completed the move in 1997 and opened their new temple and cocktail lounge and dining room on June 13, 1997.



The photo below shows Emil Runck's motorcycle shop on the north side of Woodworth street in about 1918, 12 years before the old city hall was erected. You are looking northeast at the original IOOF hall in the background.

Part Two: Short history of national Eagles



Paul Dorpat found this wonderful photo, courtesy of Michael Cirelli, for his "Then and Now" column in the *Seattle Times* on Aug. 25, 2002. After originally meeting in Freemason halls, Seattle's Aerie No. 1 of the Eagles moved into this permanent hall at the southwest corner of Pine Street and Seventh Avenue (still standing in 2009) in 1903. They paid \$11,500 for it.

By Noel V. Bourasaw, *Skagit River Journal*

On Feb. 6, 1898, six Seattle theater owners sat on a pile of lumber at the Moran Shipyards on the waterfront and buried the hatchet after many years of fierce competition. They had a bigger problem than each other; their employees were fixing to strike and they needed to bring the recalcitrants back into the collective fold. John Cort, brothers John W. and Tim J. Considine, H.L. "Harry" Leavitt, Mose Goldsmith and Arthur Williams agreed initially to fire their bands and use pianists alone to accompany variety acts, according to Seattle historian and author Paul Dorpat, but audiences soon forced the theaters to bring back the orchestras. Once the strike business was out of the way, they decided later that day to form a fraternal organization, which would show their best side to the community and provide a social safety net for their employees. They called it the "The Independent Order of Good Things" and the late Murray Morgan wrote in his seminal Washington-history book, *Skid Road* that they agreed on a motto of "Skin 'Em."

Morgan profiled those early leaders in the book, noting that Considine's main theater at the time was the People's Theater; Cort's was the Palm Gardens and Leavitt owned the Bella Union. John Considine was a former "box-house" operator in the Skid Road district, who was turning respectable. The new organization helped him and his brother in that quest, at least for the time being. But three years later John shot and killed ex-police chief William Meredith after Meredith accosted the brothers over his long-running investigation of corruption during the period of the "Open Town" policy in Seattle. A jury

acquitted the theater owner in 1901 after evidence showed that Meredith had threatened several times to shoot Considine.

The group selected theater-owner John Cort as their first "worthy president." He went on to become the owner of the most legitimate theaters in the country. Harry Leavitt left the group and joined the Loyal Order of the Moose, which began ten years earlier. Melvin G. Winstock, Horace E. Merkle and L.C. Brown soon joined the group and in April they changed their name to the "The Fraternal Order of Eagles" (FOE), selected the Bald Eagle as their emblem and formed Grand Aerie No. 1 in Seattle. They also replaced their original motto with a secular one: "Not God, heaven, hereafter, but man, earth, now."



You may be more familiar with the historically designated Eagles Auditorium at 7th and Union, especially if you followed music in the 1960s and '70s. That was where Boyd Grafmyre staged his Concerts West promotions for many years, bringing in top-flight entertainment from Janis Joplin to Little Richard and The Doors. Designed to be the new home of Aerie No. 1 by Henry Bittman in 1924, it is recognized for its terra-cotta ornamentation and Romanesque style. Seattle architects and engineers experienced in the renovation of existing buildings recognize Bittman as a prominent architect and structural engineer during Seattle's formative years. Besides acting as the Eagles Temple for the national Grand Aeries, it was also known as the Senator Hotel.

Their initial mission was to provide a meeting-place for like-minded men to socialize and to protect one another and their families, but the idea soon evolved to attract the theater labor as well as management. Most early members were actors, stagehands and playwrights and that may have been the answer to why the Eagles idea spread so rapidly throughout the United States and Canada, from seeds planted by the traveling troupes.

Like other societies, initiation was a hazing ritual. At the Eagles' 50th-anniversary celebration, William A. Fisher recalled, "When they initiated me, I almost resigned. The ceremonies were so rough I was on the shelf for three days." The hazing soon subsided, however, and the glue that held the men together was a healthy helping of patriotism and populist sentiment; populists and the People's Party had



This close-up photo shows the magnificent terra cotta work on the exterior of the 1925 Eagles Auditorium in Seattle. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke there on November 10, 1961, on his only visit to Seattle. In 1996 the building was remodeled to become the home of ACT theater and was renamed as Kreielsheimer Place. Photo by Joe Mabel, courtesy of Wikipedia.com.

recently swept statewide offices in the 1996 election. Membership was open only to men and people of color were not allowed to join, a rule that brought trouble to the Eagles 60 years later.

Early meetings were often held on local theater stages. After conducting business, attendees rolled out a keg of beer and enjoyed a social hour or two. As numbers grew, the adherents adopted as their principles: liberty, truth, justice and equality, and the aeries worked both locally and nationally for child welfare, old age subsistence and unemployment insurance. New aeries popped up all over Washington state in the early months, No. 2 in Spokane, No. 3 in Tacoma and then No. 4 was instituted across the state line in Portland.

This was not to be one of the old-fashioned secret societies that benefitted most the rising stars of business. The Eagles evolved to become a home for blue-collar working men as well as small-business owners. The organization's success is usually attributed to its funeral benefits, the provision of an Aerie physician and many other benefits that were important to family men. For instance, no Eagle was ever buried in a Potter's Field.

The aeries were similar to other lodges, however, in their use of visual symbols; all three symbols,

the eagle, the Bible and the flag became an essential part of Aerie meetings in each temple. Meanwhile, no self-respecting fraternity was without rituals. As Clarence Bagley pointed out in Volume 3 of his 1916 *History of Seattle*, the author of the Eagles rituals, ceremonies and codes of laws was General Eduard Polonius Edsen, a German immigrant and military stalwart who performed similar tasks earlier for the Odd Fellows. Unfortunately, less than a decade later, Grand Aerie officers discovered that the bylaws were largely copied from a defunct prior secret society.

Frank Hering, Eagles and Mother's Day

By the turn of the century, the aeries exploded in number to nearly 500. Frank E. Hering, a member of South Bend, Indiana, Aerie No. 435, was Notre Dame's first Athletic Director and a great football quarterback and baseball player and he wrote the order's funeral service ritual along with updating the bylaws and other national documents. He also knew how to gain publicity for the Grand Aerie and in 1904 he began the first nationwide grand project, calling for the observance of a special day annually to honor mothers.

Similar days to honor mothers dated all the way back to Greek and Roman times. Back in 1870, the early feminist Julia Ward Howe issued a "Mother's Day Proclamation" as one of the earliest calls for such a holiday in the United States. Howe believed that women had a unique responsibility to reshape society, especially after observing the immense losses and carnage of the Civil War in this country and the Franco-Prussian War in Europe.

Although Hering and the Eagles in general took credit for the national bandwagon behind the idea — especially when he was the national Grand Worthy President in 1911, in 1912 Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrases "second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day" and created the Mother's Day International Association. With suffragettes marching on Washington D.C. with regularity, in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson designated the second Sunday in May as an annual Mother's Day. In 1925 The Society of American War Mothers proclaimed Hering as "The Father of Mother's Day" and two years later the FOE opened an Eagles Auxiliary to women, following earlier auxiliaries formed by individual aeries around the nation.

Eagles promote Social Security

After the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932, the FOE pushed hard the concept of social security, a central precept in their populist ideas. Roosevelt relied on that groundswell to push the political concept nationally and when he signed the legislation creating the Social Security Act on Aug. 14, 1935, he credited the FOE for starting and sustaining the public campaign. A proud member of Buffalo, New York Aerie No. 46, the president presented to the Eagles dignitaries one of the pens with which he signed the Act and it is in the Ohio Eagles Grand Aerie archives.

Seven U.S. presidents have been Eagles: Theodore Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Teddy Roosevelt praised the order for its humanitarian accomplishments and President Harry S. Truman often reiterated that the Eagles were his type of organization, one founded by and for the common man.

The Eagles celebrated their Jubilee 50th anniversary national convention in Seattle and Jess Sapp of Sedro-Woolley, twice elected State Worthy President, in the 1940s, headed the planning committee. Spokane hosted the national convention in the centennial year of 1998.

Part Three:

Articles about the Sedro-Woolley Eagles

Below you will find a selection of documents from local sources about the second Sedro-Woolley Aeries, No. 2069, from local sources. We hope that readers will find more documents and photos from either local media or from family collections.

Thousands of Eagles coming here Sunday for special meeting

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, Oct. 22, 1925

Some 2,000 members of the Eagles lodge will be in Sedro-Woolley, Sunday, October 25, at a special meeting to greet John S. Party, grand worthy secretary of the lodge in the United States. A large class of candidates will be initiated by a team consisting of the past worthy presidents of the Ballard and Everett Aeries.

The meeting will be held in the new Odd Fellows hall, for as many of the visitors as the room can accommodate. At 10:30 there will be a business meeting and preparation of candidates. At 1 p.m. will be the grand Eagles parade, which will include several hundred eagles and three or four bands. The parade will march east on Ferry Street to Township, south on Township to State Street, west on State to Metcalf, north on Metcalf to Northern Avenue, west on Northern to the Northern Pacific tracks and south on Eastern Avenue to State Street, and on down to Metcalf. "Dutch" Miller, captain of the local drill team, is marshal in charge of the parade.



We found this photograph years ago in the Oct. 11, 1923, issue of the *Sedro-Woolley Courier-Times* when we studied the economic boom of Sedro-Woolley in 1923. That issue featured new buildings downtown and new houses in the hot new residential district of Talcott Street. Located at the southeast corner of Woodworth and Metcalf streets, the brick building was built to house the Rex Drug Co. and Skaggs Grocery on the ground floor and the club buildings of the IOOF on the upper floor. Today, the only remnant of the Odd Fellows is a beautiful mural on the inner south wall of the upper story. The building now houses a video store.

The Odd Fellows was chartered in old Woolley in the early 1890s and their building was erected on Murdock Street in 1895. Sometime in about 1939, the Eagles Aerie moved from Metcalf Street to the old Odd Fellows Hall. That hall burned to the ground in October 1949. In 1953 the Eagles rebuilt and they connected their building to the American Legion building to the north with a common brick front.

Lodges numbering several thousand members will be represented at this big conclave of Eagles to greet their national officer. Among the Aeries which are sending big delegations are the following: Ballard, Renton, Everett, Snohomish, Anacortes, Concrete, Bellingham, Blaine, New Westminster, Victoria, Vancouver and several others. The Bellingham and Ballard drum corps will be here, in addition to the Sedro-Woolley Eagles band.

Following the parade there will be a meeting of secretaries, which will be followed at 2:30 by the initiation of the class of candidates. At 4 p.m. there will be a public meeting addressed by Mayor Wyman Kirby, W.E. Berry and other local men, and John S. Parry, the Eagles national secretary.

Sunday evening will be spent in dancing at the Darrell and Billy Boy pavilion at West Big Lake. The visiting ladies will have headquarters in the Commercial Club rooms during the day. E.W. Bigelow, head of the local Aerie and also state president of the order, has made elaborate preparation to handle the big crowd, and expects this to be the largest meeting Sedro-Woolley has ever had.

Journal Ed. note: The meeting place had long been the site of the fruit orchard of Woolley's town founder, P.A. Woolley, whose mansion — built in about 1901, stood to the east, facing Woodworth. The photo below shows the front of Universal Motors/Emil Jech's Ford dealership (the Sedro-Woolley Museum in 2009), with the two-story Eagles Temple in the background.



Initiates honored: Eagles Hold Special Entertainment for Candidates

Mount Vernon Daily Herald, January 26, 1932

SEDRO-WOOLLEY Jan. 29 More than 200 Eagles and their friends were seated for the big dinner Tuesday night at the Eagles hall where prospective candidates were entertained.

Tom Black and his assistants on the committee in charge of the function expressed their pleasure with thanks to those who contributed to the success of the event which exceeded the expectations of all concerned.

Dr. Stanley Holton and W. E. Thresher were the speakers on the program which included the presentation of five small pupils of Miss Violet Adams, dancing instructor. The pupils who entertained

were Betty _____, Onita Cannon, Betty Cannon, Mary McIntyre and Maxine Johnson.

M.O. Brade, of Anacortes, presented his orchestra in ten specialty numbers and this organization provided the music for dancing which followed the entertainment.

[Journal Ed. note: Miss Violet Adams, the dancing instructor, was the daughter of Eddie O. Adams who grew up in Clear Lake and later became part owner with Jim Blackburn of the B&A Buffet Saloon in Sedro-Woolley and in 1937 opened the Old Timers Tavern with Ford Cook.]

Eagles hoop squad opens its season

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, Oct. 31, 1935

The Sedro-Woolley Eagles basketball team will play a practice game at Clear Lake Friday evening, opening its regular schedule here on Monday of next week at 8 p. m. at the high school with the Fourth street entrance to the gym open. Edison will be the opponent for the Eagles and another game will be played at Clear Lake next Thursday.

Teams in the league are Clear Lake, Edison, Concrete, LaConner, Parkers Toggery and -Signal Oil of Mt. Vernon and the Eagles. Season tickets are now on sale. The local lineup includes Coffey, Moritz and White, forwards; Ross, center, Lederle and Giddons, guards, -and Davis and Vlahovich, subs.

Ed Bigelow named for state office on security board

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, April 6, 1939

Edgar W. Bigelow, popularly known as "Ed" in Sedro-Woolley where he resided for many years, has been appointed a member of the social security committee to serve with Governor Clarence D. Martin and Olaf Olsen, director of budget, business and finance. This important committee, authorized by the 1939 legislature, will control administration of the social security act and decide questions of policy under it.

Commenting upon his appointment, Bigelow says: "My appointment was a compliment to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, instead of a tribute to me. The Eagles pioneered for the principle of old age-pensions for fifteen years before the act of 1938 was passed. With the improvements made at three succeeding sessions, Washington now has the best old age assistance law in the United States."

Bigelow is a deputy auditor for the Grand Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and a deputy organizer [statewide].

Jess Sapp again named president of state Eagles

By R. W. WATTS

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, Jan. 29, 1943

Jess V. Sapp, Sr., president of Washington state and British Columbia aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, who has been reelected for the year 1943-44, on Sunday made a report of his activities for the year 1942-43 to state aerie officials assembled at Seattle. Upon hearing the report this assemblage was impressed almost to the point of amazement, for it covered personal visitations to sixty-six aeries in Washington and British Columbia, and showed the prescribed quotas for increase in membership as more than doubled during the past year for Washington, and even fifty percent more than doubled for British Columbia. His visits covered every part of the state and took him as far north in British Columbia as Revelstoke.

President Sapp closed his report with the following eloquent appeal: "Give serious thought to the return of your members who are in the service. Prepare to welcome them when they come home. Try to lay plans that will fit them back into the groove from which they were torn when duty called.

"Any and all aid that can be given to further our war effort, whether it be voluntary donation or pay labor, let us do what we can. Help save the perishable foods in your neighborhood. Help in the

harvests. Do all you can to keep the wheels of production turning." Disclaiming any personal credit for this banner year, President Sapp commended the rank and file of the order for their support.

Local Eagles plan Bellingham trip

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, Jan. 7, 1946

Many members of the Sedro-Woolley Eagles lodge plan to attend the district meeting of the FOE to be held at Bellingham, Friday, January 18. Members and their wives will be treated to a fine social evening by the Bellingham aerie. Included in the evening's program in addition to regular business will be a luncheon, entertainment and a dance. Bill Knapton, director of District No 9 of Bellingham, met with the local Eagles lodge this week.

Eagles Social Night

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, April 22, 1948

The Sedro-Woolley Eagles are to hold a social dance Saturday night, April 24 at the recently renovated hall. Eagles, their wives and friends may attend the affair, which will be topped off with a potluck lunch.

Sapp heads Eagles convention group

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, Aug. 5, 1948

Jess Sapp has been appointed chairman of the committee of 10 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles to meet the Grand Aerie officers prior to the Eagles National convention to be held in Seattle August 18 to 23. Sapp was chosen chairman of the select committee by the state Aerie, and he will head the group which will meet with the national officers to plan phases of the convention.

Fire levels local Eagles hall loss is estimated at \$38,000

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, Oct. 20, 1949

Fire of undetermined origin completely leveled the remodeled Eagles hall Monday night and early Tuesday. Only rubble, charred ashes, twisted metal and burned bricks remain where last week stood the Eagles hall, a landmark here for many years.

Loss was set at \$38,000. Insurance carried included \$16,000 on the building and \$5,500 on fixtures, Jess Sapp, past president, reported. A total of \$500 insurance was carried by the Lady Eagles on their paraphernalia. The insurance adjuster set the loss at \$8,000 on fixtures and \$30,000 on the building.

The building, which originally was the Odd Fellows [IOOF] hall, had been remodeled by the Eagles in 1939 and again last year, when \$12,000 was spent improving the entire building, re-wiring, overhauling the furnace and putting in a club room and bar.

The fire alarm was turned in at 10:45 p.m. Monday when an unidentified passerby reported that smoke was coming from the building. The smoke poured out and blanketed the entire building, and most of the business district like a thick fog. **[Journal Ed. note: the fire hall was across the street.]**

Firemen were hampered by heavy smoke in efforts to locate the blaze. Sparks floated across much of the downtown area, but firemen restricted the blaze to the single building. Aluminum sheeting on the outside of the building helped prevent the spread of the fire to the American Legion hall, only a few feet from the Eagles hall, and to Skagit Lumber company and Berglund's garage.

Firemen fought the blaze until the next morning, and mopping up continued Tuesday and Wednesday. Part of the debris was still burning Wednesday night. The Burlington Fire department stood by but was not used. Acting Fire Chief Fred Leber and several other firemen did not leave the area from Monday night until about Tuesday noon.

The two-story building has been remodeled several times and ceilings on both floors had been lowered so flames spread rapidly throughout the building. A piano, an organ, dishes, 1,500 chairs and tables, robes and other fixtures and equipment were lost in the blaze. Lodge records and money was kept in metal containers in the secretary's office, and they were saved.

Origin of the fire is undetermined. The hall and club rooms are not open Monday nights, but there was an officers' meeting on the lower floor which adjourned about 9 o'clock. President Rex Howell said everything seemed in order when the officers left. He said he checked the rooms himself.

The oil furnace had been rebuilt last year. A new brick chimney had been built and it was flue-lined. The furnace had been operating satisfactorily except when the oil supply ran low, and then it had been known to backfire and blow the damper off.

The hall had been re-wired when the remodeling was done and it had been checked by a state safety inspector. It has not been decided whether the club will rebuild immediately.

Public dance free

Sedro-Woolley *Courier-Times*, Sept. 1, 1951

Fraternal order of Eagles, Sedro-Woolley, Aerie No. 2069, will sponsor a free, public dance on Friday, Sept. 21, in the City Hall. Dancing begins at 9 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend. The aerie will furnish sandwiches and coffee. A four-piece orchestra has been engaged.



This is the former connected American Legion building (left) and the Eagles Temple (right) as they were being completed in August 1953.

Respectfully submitted to Sedro-Woolley Aeries 2069
Nov. 11, 2009

Noel V. Bourasaw