

Project Description

My name is Ryan Schafte, and the physical portion of my Senior Project is the scanning and digital archival of three of Washougal High School's annuals. I chose this project because Mrs. Stanton, the assistant-librarian, had been trying to get someone to do that for the past six years. At first I wasn't too excited about it, but then I actually saw the old annuals, and saw how they were slowly crumbling away. I chose the 1915, 1916 and 1943 annuals as part of a World War scheme to show what life was like before we entered World War I, and during World War II. Of course, there are still several yearbooks from several decades that still need scanning. I recommend that future Seniors continue and expand on this, for the preservation of WHS history. The 1914 annual, currently in Mr. Carver's room, would be a prime target for scanning

First, it was my mentor, WHS Teacher-Librarian Kim Dillon, who suggested that I go to the Two Rivers Heritage Museum, and seek assistance there. They were more than reluctant to let me use their scanning equipment, so we had to go a different route. Ms. Dillon then contacted Susan Tissot, director of the Clark County Historical Society and Museum, and requested meeting to discuss the the use of their scanning equipment. We then had a meeting at the museum, and hammered out the details of what we were going to do. Susan then accepted my request and also brought in Michael Heim, who acted as a secondary mentor at the museum.

Technical specifications and difficulties

What is required is a computer with Windows XP or Vista (I used XP), and scanning equipment. If the scanner has not been installed, then there should be an installation disc with the right software. Scans should be picture resolution 768x1120 or higher, and you can do either .png or .jpg, but .jpg is preferable because the file size was smaller than with .png, taking up less space and still looking good with its resolution. Gray scale was used in the first two annuals, but full color was used in the 1943 annual.

During the execution of my project, I encountered technical difficulties with the computer at the museum. The problem was that the computer I had used when scanning the 1915 and 1916 yearbooks had gotten a blue screen a day before scanning the 1943, meaning the computer died. That led me to use my cousin's scanner, which was newer. Even then I had technical difficulties, mainly with the installation of the machine. Since the completion of my project however, the CCHSM has received a new computer and scanner.

Once the yearbooks were scanned, I spoke to Lester Brown, the webmaster of the Washougal School District, and it was because of his help that I was able to convert the scans into .pdf files to upload to the school district site, as well as Christina Roberts, for the CCHSM site. For the first two I used Adobe Acrobat Pro at the school, and then Primo pdf when the school's Word program was messed up.

Historical Implications

Based on the information from the yearbooks, it is very apparent that back then life was radically different than today, with different ways of talking, behaving, and dressing.

In the 1910's and 1940's, I never knew that our school had so much spirit back then. There were also quite a few social events at the school, like a Halloween party, and the Washougal Skate. Back in 1915

there was also the Freshman Reception, where the incoming Freshmen would be blindfolded and branded with a piece of ice that had the Washougal Seal, and made to repeat the following oath: "I hereby solemnly swear to honor the Seniors, obey the Juniors, and carry out the wishes of the Sophomores, so help me, Washougal High School."

During WW II, I didn't realize that there was so much rationing in the schools, with things like gas, tires, sugar, coffee, and even paper. On another note, back then they had interesting things like a class will, and poems were always consistent in the yearbooks. There were several graduates from 1941 and 1942 listed in the yearbooks, with recognizable names like Whetzel, Shaw, and Rasmussen. It is also noted in the yearbook that the 1943 would be the last to be published for several years on account of the paper and ink and other supplies going to the war effort. This could also be the same reason why I was unable to locate any yearbooks from 1940, 1941, and 1942 at WHS and the Two Rivers Historical Society

Acknowledgments

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- Kim Dillon, Teacher-Librarian of the Washougal High School and my mentor
- Kathy Stanton, library assistant of WHS, for letting me use the yearbooks and for her support
- Susan Tissot, director of the Clark County Historical Society and Museum, for letting me use the museum's equipment.
- Michael Heim, of CCHSM for his time and help with the yearbooks
- Betty Ramsey of the Two Rivers Heritage Museum for pointing me toward the 1943 yearbook which contained the names of those graduates who would fight in WW II.
- Shawn McGill, of the Washougal Community Library for his input and advice, which was to use the Genealogy resources at the Washougal Public library, although I was unable.
- Robert Hitchcock of the Washougal Veterans of Foreign Wars post, for his input and the photos of the VFW Charter and its original members, although I wasn't able to include that in the final product due to time constraints.
- Lester Brown, webmaster of Washougal High School, for showing me how to make a .pdf, and for uploading the files to the Washougal School District site.

Side Note: Even though the scanning objective had been achieved, there are still things that could be done to add to the content in the future, like utilizing the photos of the VFW Charter sent to me by Robert Hitchcock, finding which Washougal graduates from 1915 and 1916 (if any) fought and returned from WW I, and interviewing Don Newkirk to get his perspective on life back then. This is my challenge for future Seniors for the continuation of this project and the preservation of Washougal history.

Here now is the list of Grads from 1941 and 1942 that served in WW II, found on pg. 37:

George Shaw, '41-Navy	Walter Knapp, '41-Navy	Wilbur Britton, '42-Navy
Robert Sullivan, '41-Navy	Joe Chamberlain, '42-Navy	Wayne Kirkpatrick, '42-Navy
Curtis Whetzel, '42-Navy	Bryon Walling, '42-Navy	Charles Hoots, '41-Navy
Albert Goot, '42-Army	George Thrall, '41-Army	Dick Rasmussen, '41-Army
Jack Carlson, '41-Army	Dick Farrell, '42-Marines	Johnny Howard, '42-Marines
Jack Elliot, '41-U.S.M.S.	Paul Buhman, '41-U.S.M.S.	Bud Sanders, '41-U.S.M.S.
Francis Kramer, '41-U.S.M.S.	Bob Fah, '41-Coast guard	