

Office of the Secretary of State says “Thank You!” to its Volunteers

Contributed by Amber Raney, Historical Records Project Coordinator

On Tuesday, October 7, volunteers for divisions of the Office of the Secretary of State stepped into a Western Village to enjoy a BBQ lunch and authentic cowboy entertainment. All of this was the Office's way of thanking them for what they do all year to support the work of the Archives, Library, and Legacy Project.

The weather was perfect—an 80 degree day in October in Ellensburg. The volunteers began arriving at 11:00 am to have a photo taken with Secretary Wyman. From there, they moseyed on into the V.I.P Room, where they were greeted by the music of David Lundy, retired physician who now plays for preschool and

elementary schools in and around Ellensburg while also entertaining at community events.



[Rodeo City Bar-B-Q](#) brought in a delicious lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, chips and cookies and also provided many of the raffle prizes that made up the gift baskets. Locally owned and operated, Rodeo City Bar-B-Q is run by four generations of the same Ellensburg family. Their restaurant is known for its friendly and Western atmosphere and home-style

recipes. They have been recognized in *Chili Pepper Magazine* for “Top Bar-B-Q in the Country,” and in *Sunset Magazine* for a “Must try Restaurant in Washington State!”

And if this wasn't enough Western-themed excitement, the volunteers enjoyed the musings of Kevin Barnhart, Ellensburg's own Cowboy Poet. Kevin is a 5th generation Ellensburg rancher who grew up near Colockum Pass. His ancestors moved to the land in 1872. In the 1980s, while spending his days on the ranch, Barnhart began exploring the world of cowboy poetry. He'd informally memorize and recite the works, eventually developing a talent for the hobby. He is a well-known and regular performer at the “[Spirit of the West](#),” an annual event that celebrates music, poetry, and art relating to the cowboy spirit of the community.





Secretary Wyman presented Rose Banks with the Roger Easton Award of Excellence for being the first volunteer to index 100,000 records in Scribe, the Washington State Archives' online indexing tool. Rose currently lives in Cheney, Washington, and absolutely loves working with Scribe. She got involved after the death of her husband, and

found that it was just what she needed. And she is just what the Office of the Secretary of State needed to help make this project the success that it is! Rose was completely surprised, and we were more than thrilled to be able to thank her for all of her hours of dedication!

The day ended with a thank you from State Archivist Steve Excell and included raffle prizes containing items that are all about Washington State—both sides of the mountains. It was a wonderful event. Next year's location is still to be determined and staff is currently rethinking the event in order to involve the volunteers who don't call Washington home. If you'd like an invite, why not sign up to transcribe and index records in Scribe? You will be involved in a project making thousands of original documents available for research all across the globe, no matter where you call home!



Visit <https://scribe.digitalarchives.wa.gov> to sign up for Scribe, contact one of the many regional branches of the Washington State Archives, or call the Washington State Library to find out about volunteer opportunities near you!

Photos courtesy of Mary Hammer and Amber Raney