**Tunnel Days 15 June**

From the beginning Skykomish was a railroad town and a boomtown, but it never boomed bigger than in the late 1920s when Great Northern Railway was boring what for decades was the longest tunnel in the Western Hemisphere and building the Electric Transfer Sub-Station in town.

On June 15th, Sky will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the opening of that tunnel with a Tunnel Days celebration. The listing of activities of this festive event appears on page 2.

**SHS Spring Meeting**

Highlights of the meeting at the Community Center include Pat announcing Bertha Koptliz had sent $1000 for a lifetime membership for herself (see article about Don’s passing pg 3).

Pat shared that after a winter of health challenges Bob Kelly is expected to be at full strength by summer, and he has several rail-related road trips planned, in addition to his regular Tuesdays at the museum.

SHS member and author Deborah Cuyle was in attendance to discuss her just released Arcadia book *The 1910 Wellington Disaster*. She told the group since so much has been written about the disaster itself her focus was to bring to light the stories and lives of passengers. A lively Q & A followed. Deborah also gave SHS a copy of her 12-minute slide presentation which we can run on a loop at the museum as appropriate.

Henry Sladek updated about town goings on. Mayor Grider has moved to Gold Bar, thus cannot serve as mayor. Henry is now mayor pro-tem. The council is addressing flooding issues. Nothing new on the Hotel nor Motel properties. There is a grant possibility to evaluate changes on the highway to make developing the sidehill property north of the highway more feasible.

The remaining meeting subjects of note are covered in articles elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Depot Photo Display**

Having received approval from the town to use the west room of the depot as an extension display area, SHS has so far placed eleven 20 by 30 photographs along the walls. Volunteer Louis Read continues to select photos for enlargement and writing captions. Several are next to windows that look out onto views depicted decades ago in the photos.

The eras covered range from the photo above to the 1950s and cover topics from the first car (a Hupmobile) to reach Index to the first gas station on Stevens Pass.

Among them are a shot of Sky in the 40s covered in snow, the 1902 school, the mill in Milltown and the classic Knutson Nelson

**Museum Hours**

Sat. & Sun.: 12 to 4 pm
May thru October
Tunnel Days of Skykomish
Saturday, June 15th 2019
Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the 8-mile Cascade Tunnel

8–10:30 am  Pancake Breakfast
             at the Masonic Hall

11 am       Parade
             Old Cascade Hwy through town

11–3 pm     Open Air Market
             at Railroad Avenue Park

11–3 pm     Railroad Swap Meet
             at Skykomish School Gym

11–3 pm     SkyCrafters Pie Social
             at the Maloney Store

10–4 pm     Train Rides
             GNCR at Depot Park

12 pm       The Big Bang Show
             by KCLS at the Community Center

11–3 pm     BBQ
             PTSO at Depot Park

12–3 pm     Car Show
             feat. LJ Juke tunes

11–3 pm     Silent Auction / Raffle (3 pm)
             at Maloney Store

4–7 pm      Street Dance feat. Outta Control
Volunteers Honored

Rosemarie Koch Williams, a founding SHS member and long-time volunteer, was recently honored by SHS for her years of dedication with an attractive cobalt blue glass statue. For much of the last decade Rosemarie faithfully volunteered at the museum cataloging collections so they could be searchable on our website.

At Sky Valley Community Awards Celebration, the “Old Timers Picnic Committee” was honored. Chair Margaret “Smitty” Smith & sec/treasurers Donna West & Maggie Wheatley were recognized as well as all committee members.

Volunteers Honored

Don Koplitz Passes

In March Don Koplitz, who served as principal and basketball coach at Sky HS from 1956 to 1962 passed away. For a number of his years Sky did not have a legitimate 6-foot tall player, and still he compiled a record of 86 -62.

In 1962 he went to South Bend, WA, as principal and was named basketball coach in 1971. His South Bend teams went 328 -183 over the next 14 seasons. He was named to the WA Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Asso. Hall of Fame in 1991.

Don and his wife Bertha were frequent attendees at the Old Timer’s Picnic.

SHS Lifetime Members

Denis Aker & Susan Swartwood-Aker
Hank & Christie Barber
Marjie Bardan & Ed Hill
Pat Gallagher-Carlson & Warren Carlson
Leonard Farlow & Janet Boehmer
Dr. George E. Fischer
Marc Greenough
David R. Hall
Bob & Pam Kelly
Bertha Koplitz
Don Koplitz
James C. Mattson
Bob & Charlotte Mackner
Joanne Menard & Bob Boggs
Don & Neva Jean Pavia
Ken Phillips
Hazel Timpe-Davis (in memory of)
Bob & Virginia Walters
Dean & Dorothy Willard

Good Turnout for SHS History Day

Whether they were called by history or free root beer floats, a lot of people came to History Day at the Maloney’s store building last May 26th.

Dozens of photo binders on all phases of Valley history were spread out on tables for patrons to study and enjoy. Participants were encouraged to bring old photos for us to copy and return, and to be interviewed about their lives in and around Sky. A “help-desk” was available to assist patrons find whatever aspect of Valley history they were looking for.

Pizza at “Sky-Vue”

It is a reference not all generations will identify with, but for decades, Skykomish Deli was called “The Sky-Vue” by many even when it was Nelson’s Cafe, The Liquor Store, the Deli, or any of the other businesses that operated there. Under new management it is now “Sky Deli & Pizza,” offering a welcome addition to the fare available in town.

Thank You 4Culture

SHS has again received a two-year sustained support award from 4Culture which will contribute $4000 per year toward general operating expenses. In past cycles we have received $3000 & $3500. This support allows us to keep the museum open on a regular basis and expand our efforts in other areas. 4Culture provides “funding and support for the cultural work that makes King County vibrant.”

Great Northern Day

GN Day in Skykomish will be September 14, 2019. The event is free and open to the public. The Masonic Hall will open at 8:30 am for people who want to set up a display and the program starts at 9:30. In the morning there will be short presentations on local history, and time to visit. The feature presentation will be Kurt Ambruster speaking about his new book: The Pacific Coast; Seattle’s own Railroad.

Lunch will be leisurely with time provided for visiting the museum, the town market, or the Great Northern and Cascade Railway operating at the Depot. Skykomish Historical Society museum will have a GN Skykomish Substations DVD gift for all attendees. People attending may bring their own lunch or a lunch will be arranged. During the afternoon an additional presentation concludes the event.

Anyone with questions about the event may contact Bob Kelly at 425-432-3884.

Music in the Park

The 9th annual family friendly Music in the Park of Skykomish will be Saturday, Aug. 17th, at the ballpark, hosted by the Town of Skykomish, Skykomish Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by local businesses, non-profits, and attendees.

The day begins at 1pm with a children’s program sponsored by King County Library System. For more info go to Skykomish Music in the Park Facebook page for updates, bands and schedule. Festivities will last until midnight.

The event is free with donations encouraged, as they are what make future events possible. Any group or person interested in sponsoring the festival is encouraged to do so via the FB page.

Bring a blanket and/or chairs, yard games or not, friends, family, neighbors, and a picnic. Or support the PTSO and buy lunch at the cook shack.

Those planning to camp at the ballpark want to be sure to reserve a spot in advance through Town Hall at 360-677-2388.
Please Send Your Skykomish Stories

SHS invites you to write a story, or many stories, regarding an interesting event or happening in your life in Skykomish Valley and send it to us. It can be from your childhood or last week or any time in between. It is all part of Sky Valley history.

A story about your neighborhood, your friends, family, school days, events on the job, whatever you remember fondly about your time here.

Sometimes the worst events make the best stories, like the time you ran out of gas, or the brakes failed, or got snowed in camping. On the other hand kindness, and happiness, and good neighbors also make great memories and great stories.

Please send your stories to:
Skykomish Historical Society (Stories)
Post Office Box 247
Skykomish, WA 98288

Membership Information

Our January to January dues year is working well. Anyone in arrears on dues may send them at any time to treasurer Dorothy Beck, 815 124th St. SW, #54, Everett WA 98201. Dues are $20 ($15 for seniors & students) or $35 for a family.

Membership is easy and rewarding. You get newsletters, the historical calendar, and the satisfaction of supporting our valuable work preserving the history of the upper Skykomish Valley, and presenting it to the world.

SHS Meeting where Todd Brunner updated us on Sky Hotel renovation, and gave us a look inside the building. Also plans were finalized for our 13 May “Upper Valley History Day.”

May 6: Museum opened for season.

May 13: “History Day” where we had tables and information dedicated to all valley towns from years past.

May: Published spring newsletter.

May – Nov: Presence at five Skykomish “Open Air Markets.”

June 26-30: “Art Week in Skykomish” at Maloney’s, ending with an opening/party displaying the art amid refreshments and music.

July 15: SHS Booth at annual Old Timers’ Picnic.


Aug 19: SHS presence at Music in the Park at the Ballpark.

Sep 9: Great Northern Day in Sky attended by 50+ rail fans.

Sep 23: SHS Annual General Meeting at museum.

Nov 18: SHS Annual Planning Meeting at the museum.

Dec: Published 2019 SHS Calendar on subject of Skykomish Volunteer Fire Department.

Sky Paint Out

Beanne Hull has announced a free art workshop will be held at Maloney’s from 9 to 3 June 27-28. Canvas & acrylic paints will be provided. The theme will be BIOZOOM. All ages & skill levels welcome; under 10 are encouraged, but must bring an adult. Contact Beanne at beannehull@gmail.com.

SEI Update

Spring wildflowers are in bloom all along the wooded, short (.2 mile), disability access Maloney Creek Trail (MCT) overlooking rushing, tumbling Maloney Creek. At the moment a short walk beyond the end-of-trail outlook there is a broad field of elegant trillium.

During winter, the MCT is increasingly used for snow shoeing and XX skiing. Sky Parks Board and USFS continued their efforts to develop a nearby groomed sled hill. MCT and surrounding areas are becoming a year-round recreational spot.

Slow bikes and dogs on leash are allowed on MCT. Dog poop bags and waste cans are at the trailhead.

A kiosk providing outdoor history, watershed maps, and trail direction is at the MCT trailhead at the end of Thelma Street in town. Additional interpretive signage is planned for installation this summer. The USFS and Sound Salmon Solutions are contributing grantors for the sign project.

Come out to enjoy the beautiful, short and easy, local Maloney Creek Trail.