

Rings of Time

Skykomish Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2006, Volume 3. Edition 1

You (and Your Family and Friends) Are

Invited

To The Grand Opening of

Skykomish Historical Society Museum

Upstairs in the "Old Fire Hall" on Railroad Ave.

Friday Evening July 14, 2006 from 7 to 9

*Also Open: Saturday July 15 "Old Timers Picnic Day" 3-7,
and Sunday July 16 10 am - 2 pm*

It's been a long time coming, but with the work of many members over the years, kind donors, partnerships, and a facilities grant from King County 4Culture, we are ready to open our museum as we continue toward our goal of promoting awareness of the history of the people of the Skykomish Valley, from Baring to Stevens Pass.

Message from the Board Chair

As chair of the board of trustees, I am proud of the many accomplishments the Historical Society has made and excited to finally have a museum to "showcase" our collection.

I would like to make special acknowledgement of our "founder" Bob Norton who worked hard over the years to keep the Society active. As many of you know, Bob passed away last year and left us his wonderful collection.

I also give thanks to recently resigned president Hank Barber for encouraging us to go

beyond our comfort levels to set lofty goals and to find ways to achieve them, and to Bob Kelly and Michael Moore specifically for their tireless efforts to organize our collection and build our museum, and of course so many others for their many efforts.

We have more success ahead.

So, please come see us upstairs at the "Old Fire Hall" building over "Picnic" weekend and share some of the history we have collected over the "rings of time".

Pat Gallagher-Carlson

Hank Barber Steps Down

For the last year or so I have had the privilege to be the President of SHS.

Thanks to a hardworking Board and a shared vision we did have fun making great things happen; membership almost doubled as did our revenue; we actually have a museum now; and the society has become a vital part of the community.

The most fun for me was working with and getting to know some really special people who were always there when we had to pull together. We were like-minded people who wanted the society to be inclusive rather than divisive. I treasure the new friends my wife and I have made.

Skykomish is a special place with a rich heritage and there is so much more for SHS to accomplish.

I have agreed to help on special projects but an ongoing responsibility is not possible since we have become snowbirds and live half the year in the California desert. I am particularly grateful to Pat and Warren Carlson who provided leadership in my absence and got our first major grant! Wow. Bob Kelly is another individual who, as a new board member and our collection manager, has worked tirelessly to organize and catalog the many treasures we now have.

Skykomish Historical Society is in great shape and is in good hands. Thanks for your friendship and for your support.

All the Best,

Hank Barber

Artrain

By any measure the hosting of Artrain in Skykomish in May was a huge success. Revenues covered all expenditures, more than 2,000 patrons visited, 65 volunteers worked well together to maintain order and help the visitors, and the Artrain staff said they'd rarely been treated so well or supported by such an organized effort. The town was alive with bustle and happy people, music venues were enjoyed and appreciated, and the members of Artrain have

already asked if they can come back again in four years when Artrain is again in the Pacific Northwest.



Sky School art teacher Andie Brown prepares a display of local artists' work, hosted at our new museum space. SHS was pleased to be a partner in the successful event.

A Skykomish Schoolgirl Reminisces

"The most amazing thing," says Yuriko Kawaguchi Suzuki about being relocated from Tule Lake Internment Camp in California to the camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming in 1943, "was that the train went through Skykomish. It had to stop to switch from coal to electric to go through the tunnel, and we were all excited."

"When we learned it would be at least a 15 minute stop, we pleaded with our Army escort to let us get out of the train. He said OK, but only if we promised to stay together. Of course we promised, and of course as soon as our feet hit the ground we exploded in all directions. My sister and I ran to Maloney's store, where Lon Hildreth was working. He seemed so happy to see us and to know we were OK."

As Yuri talks about her life and the unattractive aspects of her war experience she is clear. "I know some people seem bitter or angry about what happened, but I never was. It happened, but it never really made me feel this wasn't my home or that I didn't belong here."

In the '30's the Japanese community in Skykomish was perhaps as well integrated as any non-white group could have been in America in that era. At school they were part of everything as class and student body officers, playing sports, and being involved in the same activities as everyone else. Yuriko grew up aware there were differences between the Japanese community and the rest of the Milltown and Sky citizenry, and while it was important about who she was, it merely was a difference, not a liability.

Yuriko was 13 and feeling like a normal American teenager when what turned out to be WWII paranoia, but at the time was perceived as real threat to national security, forced all persons of Japanese descent, whether they were citizens or not, to be relocated into internment camps. Kawaguchis were picked up at their home in Milltown and driven by paddy wagon to Everett. She'll never forget it,

she says.

"My brother was in the back and I was in the front seat, but then he got car sick, so I had to do the rest of the trip in the back and he got to ride in front." After that it was on to Tule Lake Camp by train. She did her freshman year there.

"It wasn't much of a school," she says with her infectious laugh, "in fact it wasn't a school at all, just barracks." She spent her sophomore and junior years in school at Heart Mountain Camp. By her senior year it had become clear her community posed no threat to the nation, but because there was still war in the Pacific, her people were not allowed to return to the west coast so she joined her older sister in Minnesota for her final year of high school.

Her father Kunitaro (Johnny) Kawaguchi had come to the States as an 18-year-old about the turn of the century and by the early '20's had saved enough money to return to Japan to seek a bride. Yuriko doesn't know if her father chose and courted her mother, if her father's family picked her mother, or if there was a third process involved, but in any case like many of his peers in that era, he returned to the US with his bride, ultimately raising his family in Milltown and working at the mill until the war changed everything.

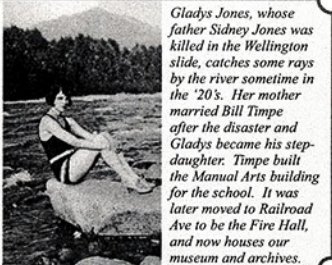
"I didn't even know the correct pronunciation of our name," she says with a laugh. "When we got to the camp I was told it was ka-wa-GOO-chi. We'd always called ourselves ka-WAH-gu-chi, because that's the way everyone in Sky pronounced it."

Although none of her family, nor any of the other Japanese-American families returned to live in Sky after the war she expresses only fond memories of Skykomish and often comes to the Old Timers' Picnic with her husband Jim Suzuki, one of the many decorated Japanese-American war veterans who fought in Europe. They now live half the year near Shelton and the other half near Rancho Mirage, CA.

Put Grandma in the 2007 Calendar!

The 2007 SBS Calendar theme is *Recreation in the Valley*. Please dig into those old albums and send photos of yourself as a child, or your kids or Gibby with fish, or a batch of berries, or a deer or a bear or skiing or camping, or on the trail or whatever else exists by way of visual memories of the recreation enjoyed in the valley. Please include a caption identifying what is happening and who is in the photo if at all possible.

You may copy photos digitally (250 dpi min.) and email them along with captions directly to slowdrifters@comcast.net. Or deliver or mail to Mike Moore (P.O.B. 193, Skykomish 98288) and include an envelope for returning the photos to you. Mike will scan and return them promptly, and we'll have a copy for our calendar and for our archives.



Gladys Jones, whose father Sidney Jones was killed in the Wellington slide, catches some rays by the river sometime in the '20's. Her mother married Bill Timpe after the disaster and Gladys became his step-daughter. Timpe built the Manual Arts building for the school. It was later moved to Railroad Ave to be the Fire Hall, and now houses our museum and archives.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

In coordination with Ruth Ittner of Volunteers for Outdoor Washington, SHS has received a collection donation from the estate of Dr. Grant W. Sharpe. Grant was a UW professor specializing in outdoor recreation and interpretation. During the conceptual planning phase Grant, Ruth Ittner, and Bob Norton made an exploratory visit to the old Great Northern Railway right-of-way, resulting in what we know today as the Iron Goat Trail. Items donated include classroom and presentation materials from numerous seminars on the Railroad History of Stevens Pass. Slide programs, videos, audio tapes, research notes as well as his field photo notebook are included, as well as Iron Goat Trail planning documents, photographs, educational materials, maps, guidebooks, and research notes.

Gary West has donated a bound volume of the Seattle Post Intelligencer covering the period Dec 1, 1898 to Feb 28, 1899. This 21 by 17 full size book is full of interesting stories. Front page headlines range from ship wrecks, university appointments, crimes and delayed peace commissions. An interesting interview with Great Northern President James J. Hill, is published in the Dec 5, 1889 edition. For political reading, the complete text of President McKinley's message to congress covers nearly three pages in January of 1899. On the lighter side is the full page advertisement from the Bon Marche' for the big Washington's Birthday sale in February of 1899.

Mike Shawver has donated a bound volume of Great Northern "Daily Car Reports to Superintendent of Car Services" covering the period October 31, 1895 - June 30, 1896. This 16 by 19 inch hard cover book, full of very thin onion skin type paper, identifies daily each railroad car in the yard at Skykomish, the contents and it's destination. For example; Derrick X111 is listed as "belongs here" and GN Coal Car 48108 is "unloading" on November 1, 1895. In an entry for November 15, 1895 GN car 8368 was here because "No room on east bound" train. The type of loads were also recorded, many of the entries are for coal, shingles, lumber, rails, paper, wheat and even a full car of nails. A copy of the report was sent daily to the Superintendent of Car Services, so car movement could be tracked.

SHS is pleased to thank
Puget Sound Power and Light
for their kind donation of \$500
in support of our new Museum

Don't Forget

Skykomish Show-n-Shine Car Show
August 26 at the Ballpark

SHS Membership Categories

Heritage Lifetime Membership (single or family)	\$1000
Patron	500
Benefactor	100
Family	35
Individual	20
Senior/junior (60+ and under 18)	15

Category benefits:

Members receive free museum admission, a calendar, newsletters, recognition, and discounts at events and on all items for sale.

Benefactors receive the above plus "History of Skykomish" DVD.

Patrons receive all of the above plus a framed historical print.

Heritage Lifetime members receive all of the above plus a permanent plaque in the museum and no annual dues.

Skykomish Historical Society

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Historical Society Membership

Susan Aker	Gary and Gwen Henry	Stan & Marie Nelson
David Anderson	Jim Henry	Gordon & Karen
Mary Ann Anderson	Kathryn Henry	Omeg
Tom & Linda Averill	Laura Henry	Rosalind Philbrick
Robert Ballet	Ralph Hildreth	Ken Phillips
Hank & Christie Barber	John Hildreth	Ethel Pierce
Ron Beal	Leonard Holdridge	Donald Potter
Tony Beedle	Margo Hornbeck	John Robinson
Fred & Sharon Black	Paul Ingram	Helen Bishop
Robert & Joanne Boggs	Ruth Ittner	Rothenberg
Charlie & Teddy Brown	Margaret	Doretta Rano
Mimi Brunjes	Luak-Jeffery	Ed San Juan
Jason & Carla	Betty Johnson	Ted San Juan
Burkhead	Larry & Lisa	Edward Schein
Madge Buss	Johnson	Anne Sekor
David Busse	Darrel Joselyn	Mike Sharpe
Warren Carlson &	Glen Katzenberger	Mark & Kristin
Pat Gallagher-Carlson	Robert E. Kelly	Shipman
Bill & Alicia Chandler	Bertha Kopitz	Henry Sladek
Ted & Nancy Cleveland	Lindsay Korst	Frank Smith
Chip & Joan Davidson	Susan Lee	Margaret Smith
Hazel Davis	Doris Leu	Jerry & Sharon
Mike & Mauretta	Lois Lew	Soltis
Descheemoeker	Joyce Littlejohn	Johnathan Stratman
Jerry Dinsmore	John & Sharon	Kathleen Sullivan
Georgi (Idabelle)	Lochman	Yuriko Suzuki
Dubuque	Louise Locke	Woody Swarnwood
Don & Deborah	Terry Luck	Holly Taylor
Engblom	Ann Lynch	Mary Thompson
Don & Louise	Bob & Charlotte	Gene Tubbs
Gallagher	Mackner	Chuck Tuft
Donna Gibson	Robert Marquez	Darlene Waite
Lorna Goebel	Dorothy McDaniel	Bob Walters
Bill & Desiree Gould	Patrick McEvoy	Kevin Weiderstrom
Charles Hall Sr.	Dick & Roberta	Gary & Donna
Stan & Gaye Harris	Mitchell	West
Dick & Iva Henry	Michael Moore	