

Authors Gary Krist and Martin Burwash headline:

SHS to Commemorate Wellington Avalanche Feb. 27th.

One hundred years ago next March 1st. at Wellington 96 persons perished in the greatest avalanche disaster and very nearly the greatest train disaster in American history, just 15 miles east of Skykomish. On Saturday 27 Feb. SHS will host a commemoration of the Wellington Disaster. Featured speakers will be Gary Krist, author of the best selling book *The White Cascade*, and Martin Burwash, who

recently published *Vis Major*, a novel told from the standpoint of railroad men that Bob Kelly says "really gets it right." The event will be at Skykomish School at 1 p.m. There will be other authors and local historians, as well as information and displays. August 14th. there will be a second commemorative event at the Wellington site itself. Details will be announced in our next newsletter.

Museum Moving Next Summer

It remains to be determined exactly when and where SHS Museum will be relocated next year to allow the oil-spill clean-up process to clean the earth beneath us, but it is scheduled to happen. The entire southwest corner of the block on which we sit will have buildings removed, cleaned under, and returned next summer and fall. SHS has requested space which will allow us to continue to operate and be open to the public, and to have access to our collection while all this is going on. SHS representatives will be meeting with Skykomish Town Council and Burlington Northern Santa Fe to determine the best way to proceed for all concerned. Our present location has always been considered "temporary" and that a permanent facility would be found at the conclusion of the Clean-up.



Rings of Time

Skykomish Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 2009 www.skykomishhistoricalsociety.org

"Tye" Depot Sign Comes Home



Having spent 30 years under a house in Skykomish, followed by 40 in the home of a Minnesota railroad, the Tye Depot sign was donated to SHS and returned

to the Valley last July. It was placed on display in time for Great Northern Day in September. For a related story and the account of GN Day, see page 3.

Iron Goat Trail Collection Grant

SHS has been awarded a \$3500 grant by King Co. 4Culture to help us inventory and preserve the Ruth Ittner Iron Goat Trail Collection consisting of 35 boxes of IGT records, documents, and photographs donated to SHS by Ruth. The grant represents a key part of a project to do a high level inventory and make decisions how best to preserve and protect the collection and will largely be done with volunteers and in-kind contributions. The project will use a professional preservation specialist, museology student interns, and volunteers, and will be able to be done "off site" while the museum may be in limbo status due the move.

SHS Collection Manager Bob Kelly sorts through some of the boxes of the Ittner Collection while gearing up for the preservation project.



Old Timers' Picnic

The July Skykomish Old Timers' Picnic featured terrific weather and drew the largest crowd in recent memory. The always popular raffle gave away dozens of items, the highlight being an Adirondack Chair donated by Maggie & Don Wheatley.

The Historical Society booth was perpetually surrounded by old timers and new faces looking at photo books, buying books and photos, updating memberships, helping us identify people in pictures, and sharing stories. Missy Long and Skip Mackner had a busy day at the booth during our best ever "sales" at an OTP.

Ted & Nancy Cleveland and Gene & Ann Swartwood were honored as Mr. and Mrs. Skykomish; and three-fourths of the class of '59 returned to celebrate their 50th High School Reunion.



Above: Class of '59 Reunion Celebrants left, to right: Jim Valentine, Don Matheny, Barbara (Hall) Dickinson, Clayton Sutton, Phyllis (Thompson) Freestad, Pat (Henry) Gallagher-Carlson, Sis (Kennedy) Javier, and Gary Henry. Right: Old Timer's Ida-belle (Georgie) Dubuque and Georgianna (Toni) Smith are having a good time catching up. Far right: Ted & Nancy Cleveland and Ann & Gene Swartwood are honored as the 2009 Mr. and Mrs. Skykomish.



A Bittersweet Award at

Sky Show-n-Shine Car Show

For the 125 entrants and dozens of visitors the '09 car show was again a great event. A special acknowledgement award was given to Patrick Holmes Jr. of Everett who had just completed his third cancer treatment. Patrick had been at every Sky Show-n-Shine and always as entrant #1, because he always returned the first form. The ever popular Patrick passed away about 3 months after the show.

Patrick Holmes Jr. with his award... and his pride, a 1971 Lincoln Mark IV.



Additional 600 Items to go On-Line in Jan.

At the December SHS Planning Meeting Collection Manager Bob Kelly announced we have over 1200 items searchable on-line now, and by the end of January of 2010 an additional 600 will be added. Anyone, anywhere with access to the internet can go to our web site and search our collection by subject or category.

Bob also reported we have 126 items "archived," and over 3000 items catalogued; this is more than 2500 photographs, 89 objects, and 289 books. Among these books are dozens we have made containing copies of our photographic collection by subject that are out on shelves and available to be searched by visitors to the museum.

More Happy Times at Great Northern Day in Sky

At GN Day in Skykomish 19 September the big news was the Tye station sign has come home. In the mid-1960's the sign rested under a house in Sky until George Fischer, Sid Pierce and Bill Richardson talked. During a Skykomish Old Timers Picnic Sid discussed with Bill the possibility of placing the sign with George for safe keeping because of his Great Northern research interests in the area.

So it was that the sign moved to Minnesota for the next 40 some years. Until this year when George donated the sign to Skykomish Historical Society saying, "It was time for the Tye station sign to come back to the Cascades." The sign arrived at the museum in July and was publicly displayed for the first time at the annual GN Day event.

The feature presentation by Scott Tanner provided a unique overview of the Empire Builders radio program that ran in the early 1930's for just over 100 live broadcasts. Scott even showed photos of unique railroad sound effects machines built in the Dale Street Shops.

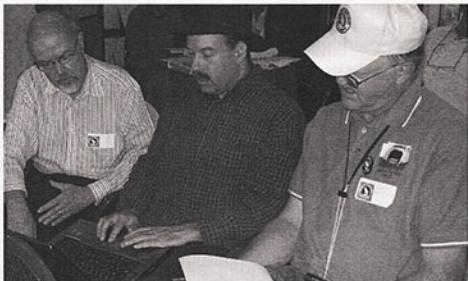
In the afternoon, Bob Kelly took the group on a photographic trip from Stevens Pass to Skykomish stopping at each GN station site along the way.

GN veterans attending included Mike Pierce who told the tale of how his father "lost" caboose X228 while negotiating to purchase it from the GN, then "found" the caboose as soon as the deal was made. Ted Cleveland, who was a crew member on the last electric out of Sky, was seen reviewing the 1953 Bruce Butler photos of a trip between Sky and Wenatchee with John Blotnick who attended from Ohio. At lunch some great GN tales were told by veterans and master GN story tellers Dave Hall and Bill Handley.

Other activity at the annual meeting included informational updates on GNRHS and Sky Historical Society activity, as well as a briefing by Tim Raetzloff about work at the old GN station of Alpine to clean up the site and inventory what remains.

Next year the Skykomish museum building is scheduled to be moved as part of the oil clean-up and the date will need to be shifted to accommodate the GNRHS convention in September. So as they said on the Empire Builders radio program, "Please stand by for more information."

Article by Bob Kelly



Top: Henry Ewert and Mike Bartenstein look over some of Jeff Richardson's extensive digital photo collection. Left: Kevin Weiderstrom discusses the moving of X228 to its new location next to the Old Cascade Highway in Skykomish. Right: GN veterans Dave Hall and Mike Bartenstein tell a few stories about the Great Northern Railway.

Storage Container Acquired

SHS has purchased a 20-ft. container in which to store items presently in Gerry Dinsmore's garage in Baring, mostly those we purchased from Maloney's Store (glass display cabinets, the bean counter, the sliding ladder, etc). Gerry has been concerned the items were not well protected, but now they will be out of harm's way next to his garage. De-humidifiers will be placed in the containers to control moisture. We also are storing an old-time roll-top desk being donated by Mike Pierce in the container. The desk was given to Mike decades ago, and he has cared for it until SHS had room to properly look after it

New Publications Form

The SHS Board has published a new author's proposal form designed to make it easy for anyone wanting to produce a publication or CD for SHS to spell out their plans and apply to SHS for approval and support. It may be filled out by hand and is designed to give authors freedom to create, while giving SHS ultimate say in what is produced in our name. Contact Bob Kelly for a copy.

Berlin/Miller River Scrapbook Acquisition

Ann Streeter has donated a scrapbook compiled by Pat Streeter and family. The book contains a large collection of photos from the Miller River area. Many photos show the Englehome compound with the cabins and daily life. Other topics include unique views of local mines, bridges, the railroad, and Miller River Inn. Bob Kelly says it is an absolute treasure of a collection. Rose Marie Williams is currently cataloging the collection which will be ready for viewing by the end of January at www.skykomishhistoricalsociety.org.

The Oil Clean-up Video

**Under Sky;
In Our Backyard**
is now available for purchase. The CD includes the earlier award winning "Oily Sky" video many credit with being a catalyst for the clean-up going on today.

Members may buy the CD for \$9 including postage from:

Dorothy Beck
SHS Treasurer
P.O. Box 66
Baring WA 98224

New Board Members

Teddy Jo Ryder and Bob Boggs have been elected to serve as Board Members for SHS. Teddy Jo will complete the remaining year of Desiree Gould's term, and Bob replaces Gary who had completed his second three year term and by rule had to step down. SHS President Pat Gallagher-Carlson welcomed the new board members and thanked both Desiree and Gary for their years of service.

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Historical Society Membership

Susan Aker
David Anderson
Mary Ann Anderson
Pat & Robert Anderson
Michael & Donna Armstrong
Bill Atkinson
Tom & Linda Averill
Robert Balliet
Gary Bansemer
Christie Barber
Hank Barber
Mike Bartenstein
Ron Beal
Richard & Dorothy Beck
Tony Beedle
Fred Black
Boeing Emp. Model RR Club
Robert & Joanne Boggs
Mary Brunjes
Don Burdick
David Busse
Pat & Warren Carlson
Matt Cawby
Bill & Alicia Chandler
Ted & Nancy Cleveland
Dorothy Cornell
Earl & Kathleen Currie
Chip & Joan Davidson
Tom & Nora Davis
Don Daymont
Jeanette Denry
Richard Dickinson
Jerry Dinsmore
Georgi (Idabelle) Dubuque
Rita Dupris
Don & Deborah Engblom
Byron Evans
Joseph Evans
Henry Ewert

Sherry Ezell
Leonard Farlow &
Janet Boehmer
Ronald Ferrel
George Fischer
Mike & Galena Fleckenstein
Leon Fowler
Marilyn Fry
Don & Louise Gallagher
Donna Gibson
Lorna Goebel
Pete Goodwin
Charles Hall Sr.
David Hall
Dick & Iva Henry
Gary and Gwen Henry
Jim & Ann Henry
Ralph Hildreth
Robert Hollister
Margo Hornback
Elsie Horner
Norma Hornli
Clarke & Alice Isackson
Hiroko Ishida
Ruth Itiner
Margaret Lusk-Jeffery
Betty Johnson
Larry & Shelly Johnson
Darryl Jones
Wayne Jones
Dannel Joseph
Lucinda Marie Joseph
David & Frances Jouppe
Glen Katzenberger
Bob & Pam Kelly
Janet Knice
Don & Bertha Koplitz
Lindsay Korst
Russell Kram

Janice Lakin
Susan Lee
Doris Leu
Louise Lindgren
Joyce Littlejohn
John & Sharon Lochman
Dennis Locke
Jeff & Missy Long
Ann Lynch
Bob & Charlotte Mackner
Robert Marquez
Brian Martin
Don & Judy Matheny
Dorothy McDaniel
Patrick McEvoy
Arnold McFarland
Charles McFarland
Julie Mettler
Dennis & Diane Michalenko
Dick & Roberta Mitchell
Maureen McMahan Moore
Michael Moore
Stan & Marie Nelson
Cordell Newby
Gordon & Karen Omeg
Donald & Nava Pavia
Norman Pearson
Eddie Peter
Bob & Nena Pierce
Michael Pierce
Rosindil Philbrick
Ken Phillips
Mike Pownall
Jack Porzig
Babs Pratt
Tim Raetzloff
Colleen Rettig
Jeff Richardson
Patrick & Carol Richardson

John Robinson
Helen Bishop-Rothenberg
Doretta Runo
Steve Ryder
Ed San Juan
Ted San Juan
Edward Schein
Mike & Liz Sharpe
Mark & Kristin Shipman
Henry Sladek
Frank & Pat Smith
George & Pat Smith
Kent Smith
Lindley & Toni Smith
Margaret Smith
Jackie Solomon
Pamela Staton
Yuriko Suzuki
Kathleen Swanson
Arleen Swartwood
Scott Tanner
Mary Thompson
Terry & Barbara Townsend
Gene Tubbs
Chuck Tuft
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Jackie Vander Yacht
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