

SHS Hopes to Move Museum to Maloney's

Award winning architect and SHS member Bob Hull presented our general plan for moving the SHS Historical Museum to Maloney's Store to the Sky Town Council at their 13 June meeting at Town Hall.

The proposal seemed positively received but final decisions await completion of the lease agreement between the town and BNSF Railroad, who owns the building. A sub-lease will then be needed before we can relocate into this historically designated landmark.

The building will require modification for museum use; the goal being that the central "store" area will be for a multi-purpose use by the town for meetings, seminars, classes, perhaps even dances, etc., while also serving as space for museum exhibits. The walls and built-in shelving will have permanent displays, while the floor area will be used for portable exhibits, research tables, and temporary displays.

The old butcher shop would become museum and reference space and the freezer locker room at the back would be used for office space, a work area, and storage. The space along Fifth St. that housed the Post Office for decades is expected to be made available for a retail endeavor such as a coffee shop or pizza outlet.

At the time the building was emptied for its move during the oil cleanup, SHS purchased original items of furniture and the wheeled ladder that had been fixtures in the store throughout the last century. Per our plan these will be returned to their rightful home.

If all goes as planned, our collection will be moved from its temporary space at the Forest Service compound by professional movers as part of the cleanup agreement once the building has been prepared. SHS will be seeking grants and donations to defray the cost of preparing the building. (See campaign announcement page four.)



Rings of Time

Skykomish Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2011 www.skykomishhistoricalsociety.org

Summer Art Workshop in Skykomish in June

Cornish School art instructor

BeAnne Hull

is conducting a five day

Free Art Workshop

June 27 - July 1 at Sky school

Everyone invited to participate

See article back page

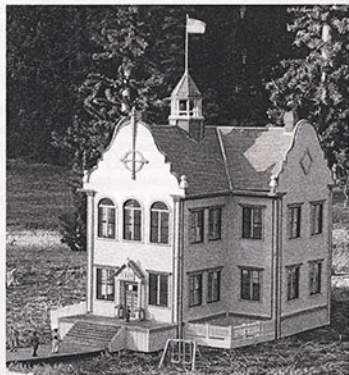
Model of 1902 School Completed

Some combination of family history and the regal splendor of the building itself compelled new SHS member Bonnie Hollingsworth to create an intricately precise model of the 1902 Skykomish School.

Just how and why in 1902, seven years before Sky was incorporated as a town, this opulent building with Flemish parapets was seen by town fathers to fit Sky's otherwise western boomtown, mud streets and stumps profile remains unexplained, but any child growing up in Sky in that era undoubtedly understood education was important.

Bonnie's mother, Lisle McIntyre MacPherson, and aunts and uncles on her mother's side, graduated from that building. Her mother was valedictorian

(article continues on page four)



Left: Bonnie Hollingsworth's "O" scale model of the 1902 Skykomish School rendered in exquisite detail. Above: a photo of the original school shortly after it was built in 1902. Bonnie will be displaying her model at the Old Timers' Picnic 16 July before donating it to SHS Museum.

Cascadia Inn Gets "Makeover"

After being closed six months Cascadia Inn reopened in November following what owner Henry Sladek termed an "extreme makeover" of the dining room and kitchen. Extreme indeed: both were demolished and rebuilt.

The Cascadia was the last business in Sky directly impacted by the oil cleanup. As the amount of contamination under the Cascadia was unknown, it was decided to demolish the single story "added on" kitchen and dining room, thus if the hotel itself needed to be moved in order to remediate contaminated soil beneath it, only the original structure would require relocating. In the end the only major contamination was found under the kitchen and dining room, so once the dirty earth had been hauled away and replaced they were rebuilt.

Right: The dining area and kitchen of the Cascadia Inn coming down. Top: "Makeover" dining area at Cascadia Inn.

The new dining area essentially carries over the design and interior features as before, with modifications to the entry and table arrangements. And the hummingbirds happily returned to the outdoor feeders in the spring.



Cleanup Activities Update

Looking at Sky this spring, one might forget how cleanup activities significantly dominated life in Skykomish throughout the summer of 2010.

The bridge into town was closed nearly a week. The Cascadia was closed six months (see article above). The swampy area east of the library between the tracks and Old Cascade Highway was cleared, dug up, and filled. This area had been considered marginal wetland, but in exchange for an offset wetland designation along Maloney Creek it was reclassified as upland and allowed to be filled, thus can be now used as part of the Visitor Center when the depot is returned to the south side of the tracks. (The Nov/Dec page of the 2011 SHS Calendar shows an artist's conception of the Visitor Center and gives a description of the plans for the space and rail displays nearby.)

Most homes and businesses received new septic systems and were connected to the wastewater treatment line.

The buildings along Railroad Ave. between 5th St. and the school all began the year on blocks elsewhere in town. In the summer Maloney's Store; the town maintenance building; the community center; and the old, scruffy, theater building were all returned and placed on new foundations. (The theater is curiously dubbed "the opera house" on the official skykomishcleanup.com website; the site offers comprehensive information about all phases the cleanup.)

All parties continue to meet to determine the process and schedule for cleaning under the school next year.

Music Festival

Skykomish Ballpark
Aug 20th
After the Car Show

Honor for SHS' Waylon Robert

SHS member Waylon Robert will be receiving the 2011 John B. Spellman Youth Award for Preservation Advocacy at a ceremony held at historic Delta Masonic Hall in Tukwila June 17th. It was Waylon's initiative and his proposal that got Skykomish Hotel, and Bush House in Index, listed as "most endangered historical buildings" by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.

Prior to serving as Washington's governor, Spellman established these awards when he served as King Co. Executive. SHS Member Ruth Ittner, now deceased, was also a winner of a Spellman Award for Exemplary Achievement in Historic Preservation.

Waylon is the second youngest member of SHS and will be a freshman at Seattle's Blanchet High School in the fall.

New SHS Projects Underway

The SHS Board has received and approved proposals for the following projects.

More "Upriver Voices"

Nancy Cleveland and Ann Sekor are again interviewing valley old timers for volume two in our series of "oral history" tales of life in the Skykomish area in the past. The proposed publication date is spring of 2012.

Sky Railyard Documented

The Skykomish railroad yard is being documented through a collection of full size GN drawings collected on a CD. The new Photo History CD will document the official GN drawings between 1892 and 1955. Over twenty-five drawings will be included along with other supplementary information and dozens of photographs. The original drawings vary in size but average two feet wide and over six feet long. Digitizing these large drawings preserves them and allows for easy computer access, and if a full size version is needed a reproduction shop can produce a paper blueprint.

HO Models of Sky Buildings

A project is underway to create HO scale models of Skykomish railroad buildings. The Great Northern Railway Historical Society is partnering with SHS for this effort. The Sand House, located near the old roundhouse, is currently in production by the GN society. SHS is developing a model of the Sky Signal Maintenance building that was located just east of the depot. A Portable Depot model is also in development that will be similar to the first 12 X 34 foot depots at Alpine and Gaynor. When these are completed marketing will be through the SHS museum store and GNRHS.

Alpine Photo History CD

Work has just started by Matt Cawby and Tim Raetzloff on a photo history CD about the community of Alpine. This documentation effort will include historic photos, blueprints, news reports, interview information and maps as well as current photos of the old logging and mill community located along the railway east of Sky.

Great Northern Day

Great Northern Day will be Sept 10th. The Masonic Hall is reserved, but if Maloney's Store is ready it may be held there.

Major topics will be a feature on Eastern Washington's Big Bend area railroad history and a presentation of work being completed documenting each railroad building in Sky.

Status reports will also be made about efforts to create HO scale models of Sky railroad buildings and samples of the kits will be displayed.

A new Photo History CD documenting the Skykomish rail yard between 1892 and 1955 will be available.

Questions or suggestions about this event should be directed to Bob Kelly, mvmnmvm@comcast.net.

Iron Goat Trail Archives Project

SHS has completed phase one of the IGT Archives Project (the Ruth Titner files).

The general inventory is completed and the materials are logically organized; the professional archivist hired to review the materials and provide a preservation plan has completed her work; and the inventory listing has been posted on our web site.

The final report for the 4Culture grant for phase one has been submitted, and we have received the final reimbursement.

The first step in implementing the preservation plan is to remove all metal (staples, paper clips, etc.) from papers as they present the greatest immediate threat to the collection. Bob reported Rose Marie and others have been working diligently on this important step.

SKYKOMISH
Show'n Shine



AUGUST 20th
DOWN TOWN SKYKOMISH
9am-4pm
www.skykomish-show-n-shine.com
360.677.1237

Skykomish Calendar of Events

Old Timers Picnic..... 16 July
Show'n Shine Car Show..20 Aug
Music Festival.....20 Aug
Great Northern Day..... 10 Sep
Historical Society
General Meeting.....24 Sep

Open Air Markets:

July 9
August 13
Sept. 10

SHS Announces Capital Campaign

If all goes as planned SHS will soon be moving the museum from our temporary location and will need funding to prepare the building and execute the move. Once the building is ready, we will need additional display materials and furnishings to allow us to better exhibit our collection and encourage access to our numerous photo albums, artifacts, and other historical materials in a comfortable, welcoming setting.

Once we have relocated, the museum will be open more hours and days of the week on a regular schedule.

We are seeking donations of \$1,000 to build on the four we have so far. Donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted and contribute significantly to our efforts to reach our campaign goal of \$20,000. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all donations to SHS are tax deductible.

...1902 School cont. from pg 1

of the class of '31 with numerous years of perfect attendance.

Growing up Bonnie often heard how much fun school had been for her mother.

Bonnie says of her endeavor, "As a young child I remember going to the Post Office when it was still in Maloney's Store. The pictures of Sky School made a great impression on me. I can't even remember when I didn't want to rebuild that amazing structure. I have noticed architecture around me all of my life. I have a bevy of historical models I have built and gathered. This model of the 1902 Skykomish School has become my epic journey since last June, 2010."

The model is in "O" scale, stands roughly 15 inches high and will be on display at the museum and may eventually find a home in the basement of the Sky Depot where plans for an "O" scale model of the town and the entire Sky rail yard are being evaluated. After the cleanup the Depot will be returned to its original location across the tracks and may have a 59' by 23' basement devoted solely to models.

We know you, our members, are aware of the major strides we have made over the years. We are now well positioned to further contribute to the town of Skykomish achieving its vision of the future.

The rich heritage and culture is a key component for the future of the town. Please consider sending a donation to ensure our future and enable us to do our part in helping to keep the "Vision of Skykomish," its past and its future, alive and well.

Please send donations to: Skykomish Historical Society, Attn: Capital Campaign, P.O. Box 247, Skykomish, WA 98288

Important Acquisitions

Digital scans of the Sue Lines Noyes album titled "My Summer Life on the Great Northern Railroad" have been donated by her family. The album documents summers spent at Gaynor and Chiwaukum, Washington while staying with Marie and Allen Batchelder who worked for the GNR as depot operators. The collection includes a diary starting September 27, 1918 while at Chiwaukum, WA. This large photo collection provides a glimpse into what it was like for three kids from Seattle to spend summers in a small railroad town the Cascades between 1910 and 1920.

Mike Pierce and Bob Pierce have donated over fifty copies of the magazine *Burlington Northern News*. This employee oriented journal documents activities of the Burlington Northern from 1970's to 1980's.

Web Connection Update

Our website address remains www.skykomishhistoricalsociety.org, however we have had to change hosts, so if you had our site bookmarked it may not automatically get you there. Plugging the address into your browser, or the first address that comes up if you Google Skykomish Historical Society will get you to our site, then you may bookmark it again and it will work.

Membership News

Membership is easy and rewarding. You get newsletters, the historical calendar, and the satisfaction of supporting our valuable work preserving upper valley history. Dues are \$20 (\$15 for seniors & students) or \$35 for a family.

New Dues Due Dates

To better manage dues collection SHS is asking that all membership dues be paid in January. A reminder will be sent with the yearly calendars. A pro-rated scale will be sent in late fall with the calendar that will outline the dues amount needed to bring each membership up to date with our new dues schedule.

New Members: William Baker, George & Vivian Ewing, Bonnie & Clint Hollingsworth, Bruce Kane, the Keller Family, John Pomykata, Gil Shoemaker

Skykomish Historical Society
P.O. Box 247, Skykomish, WA 98288
skykomishhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Sky Art Workshop

Cornish School Art Instructor
BeAnne Hull is offering an art workshop at Sky School 27 June - 1 July. It will be free and supplies will be provided. Hours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, with a break for lunch.

Each day will include morning instruction followed by the opportunity to create your own art applying what you've learned: Mon: photography, Tue: print making, Wed: drawing, Thu: painting. Friday unfinished work will be completed and mounted for an exhibition.

Everyone is encouraged to experience the pleasure of making art and/or documenting what he or she sees. Questions or sign-up: beanne@seanet.com or 206 979 2637.