

Bob Norton's Bottle Collection Returns to Sky



Nearly 100 "styles" of bottles, and each style has its own "story." SHS will feature a Bottle and Story each month over the summer.



Spring 2015, www.skyhistory.org,

Real/Fictional Alpine Program

When the mill at Alpine closed in 1929, the town fairly quickly died. The Forest Service cremated its last remains in the early 1940s to prevent squatters from hanging out there and perhaps starting forest fires, and Alpine went away for the next 50 years until author Mary Daheim chose to resurrect it as a functional town of 6,000 inhabitants in her first Emma Lord mystery published in 1992. Although Mary had never been there, her parents and grandparents spoke of the town with great reverence throughout her youth. The 26th Emma Lord mystery was released this month set in thriving, fictional Alpine, despite the vine maples, alders, and devil's clubs that dominate the place these days.

SHS member Tim Raetzloff, inveterate hiker of hills and old rail

lines, rediscovered the place a few years back and was afflicted with what he calls "Alpine Flu." Tim has since infected a modest following of friends and relatives to help him reapply some flesh to the bones of the ghosts and trappings that were once Alpine. He and his compatriots continue to locate foundations and other remnants of the town and research who lived there and what really went on.

SHS hosted a *Real/Fictional Alpine* program at Maloney's Store 28 March where Tim and Mary collaboratively presented "their" Alpine for an enthusiastic audience (65 or so), some of whom attended from as far away at Spokane and Port Angeles. Mary also graciously donated a case of recent Emma Lord novels, the proceeds from which came to SHS.

Bob Norton's remarkable bottle collection has returned to Skykomish, thanks to the generosity of Dave Anderson, Norton's longtime friend and bottle picking partner.

Norton came to work for the Forest Service in the 1950s and early on developed a love of Great Northern Railway history and all things related to Skykomish Valley. Exploring ghost towns along the tracks was just one of Bob's many passions as regards the history of the Valley, and while he looked for all remains of civilization; that bottles don't rust or decay made them by far the most found objects.

More than any other person Norton's diligence, scholarship, generosity, and propensity to collect laid the groundwork from which SHS was built. At his passing the collected materials and writings that were donated to SHS represented well over half of our collection at that time. His old bottle collection, however, was given to his buddy Dave in honor of the hours spent together combing ghost towns along the old GN line.

It was always Anderson's conviction those bottles belonged on display in Sky, and now that our museum has a permanent place for them, he has returned them to what he feels is their rightful home. In March he and mutual friend and bottle picker Tony Beedle delivered and installed a large display case and set up the collection in the museum. Dave is of the belief the case itself came from Maloney's Store some decades back.

Bob's favorites were the ink bottles, especially the purple inks. He also favored the pepper sauce bottles because of their unique shape. Others he highly prized were the embossed whiskeys, the three-piece-mold bottles, bottles with inside screw threads, and the miniature bottles.

The display at the museum is in the window of the west room, which at the moment is also bulk storage for donated railroad equipment and other large and often weathered items many of which are designated for display at the depot, the GNCR tool shed, or elsewhere around the new railway and Town Center Park as space for them is created. Museum patrons will be encouraged to view the bottles but to be prepared for the "work in progress" status of the room.

It should be noted that the Antiquities Act which was originally intended to protect artifacts at National Parks and Monuments has over time been expanded so that these days it is a violation of law to remove any historical items found on federal lands.

Museum Hours

Starting May 2nd.

Sat. & Sun.: 12 to 4 pm

“Art Week” in Sky

The fifth annual Art Week in Skykomish 22-28 June will be bigger, better, and brighter than ever before. By expanding into the Masonic Hall more participants can be accommodated and by adding new instructors more creative opportunities can be offered. Art Week founder Beanne Hull is particularly excited about the expanded program.

The first four days will be devoted to more traditional media, Mon. photography; Tue. sculpture with Sky Valley sculptor Kevin Pettelle; Wed. drawing with Seattle artist and architect Anita Lehmann; and Thu. a painting project in collaboration with Woodland Park Zoo. Friday will offer “Electric Art.” Participants are encouraged to register for the entire week, but it is possible also to sign up for just selected days. The Friday Electric Art activity will be in conjunction with “Electric Sky Art & Tech Campathon” being presented by Shelly Farnham, who spearheaded the lighting of the bridge into Sky last winter.

Over the weekend there will be an exhibition of Art Week works at Maloney’s Store and a Wrap-Up party will be held from 3 to 5 Sunday. To learn about all of it and to register visit Skyartweek.com.

Volunteers Invited

Nearly every Tuesday Bob Kelly is at the museum Rose Marie Williams and Cathy Bittner volunteer, and these days they are being joined by Beanne Hull, who recommends everyone should try it.

“Since I had no previous experience with museum collections, I didn’t expect volunteering at the museum would be as much fun as it turns out to be,” Beanne reports. “Bob Kelly has an uncommon skill at making one feel productive and appreciated. And it’s always a great pleasure to spend time with Rosemary and Kathy and learn what all is happening in Sky.”

New Projects & Grant Awards

Having successfully settled into our new space in Maloney’s Store, SHS activities are expanding in new and exciting directions with the help of volunteers and financial support from grants.

In May Bob Kelly and professional archivist Elizabeth Knight completed a Needs Assessment Survey largely funded by a Collections Care grant from 4Culture, the King Co. agency that allocates a portion of county hotel/motel tax to support arts and culture. This award also enrolled us in StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program) which the board is working through and applying.

Bonnie Hollingsworth tirelessly continues to build an “O” scale model of the GN Sub-Station building that dominated the town skyline from 1928 until it was demolished in 1992. She is also building the external transformer yards that surrounded it. Along with hundreds of volunteer hours from Bonnie, SHS received a 4Culture Special Projects grant to cover a part of the out of pocket expense.

As part of our goal of outreach into the community SHS is developing exhibits and interactive “tablet” based retrieval systems to be placed in town so anyone who is interested will be able to search our online collection and other historical data while visiting the Whistling Post, Cascade Inn, or the Depot. Skip Mynar and Bob Kelly are developing the content. The display cases, tablets, printers, and a computer to help with programming and design of the content were purchased via a 4Culture Heritage Equipment grant.



Nancy Cleveland has begun interviewing people for a third book in the “oral history” series, this time with a railroad theme. The book is expected to be out around the end of the year.

In 2013 SHS received a 2-year \$3,000 per year 4Culture Sustained Support award to underwrite our activities. Keeping the museum open with volunteers had been inconsistent, so the decision was made to contract with Karen Molesky to be open regular hours (Sat & Sun, noon to 4) throughout the summer. The highly successful result was well over 1,000 visitors signed the registry, many representing families or a party of travelers. SHS been awarded a second 2-year sustained support grant.

Skykomish Calendar of Events

Art Week.....	22-28 June
Old Timers’ Picnic.....	18 July
Music in the Park.....	15 Aug
Great Northern Day.....	12 Sep
Historical Society General Meeting.....	26 Sep
Historical Society Planning Meeting.....	21 Nov
Christmas Tree Lighting.....	5 Dec

Open Air Markets:

May 9
June 13
July 11
August 8
Sept 12

Music in the Park

The 5th annual Music in the Park celebration of our community and town will be Sat. Aug 15, at the Ballpark, hosted in conjunction with Sky Chamber of Commerce and the Town, and sponsored by local businesses, non-profits, and attendees.

It begins at 3 with a program at the library, then live music at the Ballpark 4 - midnight. Bring a picnic or buy food at the PTSO cook shack.

The event is free and donations are encouraged, as they are what make future events possible.

If you plan to camp, be sure to reserve a spot in advance through Skykomish Town Hall.

Town to Acquire Skykomish Hotel



Built in 1904 after the original Skykomish Hotel burned, this four-story building has dominated images of Sky and particularly Railroad Avenue for more than a century

As a result of holding liens and judgments against the owners of Skykomish Hotel, the town found itself high bidder in the sheriff's sale that should ultimately result in the town controlling the property. A judge is expected to confirm the sale in late April.

There has been interest shown by several preservation and/or historical property restoration entities in partnering with the

town to save it and return it to a functional building. Mayor Tony Grider plans to offer a request for proposals for the lease or sale of building once the judge has ruled.

Speaking for the town Tony is excited there is so much interest in the building from preservation and restoration groups intent on saving the structure. He is confident it can and will be restored.

GNCR Begins Season May 2 & 3

Coming off a busy 2014 season where an estimated 6,000 people visited Sky to enjoy the 1/8 scale ride-on railroad, generating nearly \$13,000 in donations and \$8,000 in merchandise sales, Great Northern & Cascade Railway opens 10 a.m. May 2, for its third summer of operation.

With the west portal of the tunnel completed as an excellent replica of the New Cascade Tunnel, work has begun to make the east portal replicate the original Cascade

Tunnel that opened at Wellington in 1900. Other upgrades are a new cross-over track and a new switch yard.

Additional plans call for a grass and landscaped picnic and playground area at the east end of Town Center Park with a spur to load and unload users, a turntable just east of the steaming bays, a second bridge and two cement crossings, and ultimately a second passing track around the front of the depot.

Great Northern Day

GN Day in Sky will be Sept. 12 at the Masonic Hall from 9:30 to 4.

The informal event will feature short presentations and GN displays by people attending, so everyone is encouraged to bring GN ephemera and models to show. Tables will be provided. Plenty of time will be set aside for informal discussions a tour of the town. There will be a Saturday Market along Railroad Avenue, the Historical Society Museum will be open, and the Great Northern & Cascade Railway will be operating. Lunch will be available for purchase from the Sky Deli or bring your own. The event is free and open to the public.

For information please contact Bob Kelly at 425-432-3884 or mvmvm@comcast.net.

Depot Rehab Update

Work has begun to complete the west room rehab of the depot so the entire structure will be secure, open, and available to the public.

The repairs to the eastern part of the building used salvaged interior siding from throughout the structure to give this area the "old-timey" appearance and feel it had when the depot was first built. Thus the room to the west will require a different interior finish and will have more modern appearance when it is complete.

Painting of the exterior of the GN tool shed, which spent last summer near the depot, has been completed in the same depot buff and dark olive livery of the main building. For the summer it will be moved near the GNCR steaming bays to be used appropriately enough as a tool shed. Once GNCR completes a purpose built tool storage room at the east end of the depot the shed will be rehabbed and used to display antique Great Northern Railway tools and equipment.

Collections & Donations News

Work has started cataloging the William J. Coughlin collection. This significant collection of railroad materials has some very unique photographs including the earliest photo we have of the Skykomish depot and very early photographs at Wellington. Bill Cough-

lin was a GN Conductor who retired with 51 years of service. He started collecting photographs from "Old Timers", when he started with the railroad in 1915. The collection arrived in 2012 and we have used several of the photographs in displays, presentations and publications. Once cataloging is completed, all the photos will be available online.

Dean Hess has allowed SHS to make digital copies of his Dean family photographs. The original photos were scanned and returned, and we are able to use and display the scans we made. In the collection are photos of Oliver and Sara Dean, Joe and Ella Hayes and their family. There are excellent candid shots of Archie Dean, Lois Mildred Dean, Bob Dean and Dean Hess. Some early views of Sky and logging by horse wagon are also included.

2014 Activities

January: Moved from temporary (5+ years) space at old Forest Service compound to Maloney's Store Building on Railroad Ave
March 15: SHS meeting at museum
April: Published Spring Newsletter
April 26: Museum Grand (re) Opening sponsored by four town businesses, 100+ attendees
April 26: First weekend of new museum hours: 12 to 4 Sat. & Sun. throughout the summer into October
May 3-4: Supported summer opening of Great Northern & Cascade Railway, the town's own small ride-on-railroad at Town Center Park, near the restored Skykomish Depot
May: Needs Assessment Survey completed by professional archivist
May - October: Presence at five Skykomish "Open Air Markets"
June 21: SHS meeting at museum
June 26-27: "Art Week in Skykomish" produced 17 posters, many of which hung at the Woodland Park Zoo Jungle Party fund-raiser
July 19: SHS Booth at annual Old Timers' Picnic. Dozens of picnic attendees pored over the binders of historic photographs we provided
September 13: Great Northern Day in Sky attended by 50+ rail fans
September 27: Annual General Meeting at museum
November: Published 2015 Calendar on theme of Skykomish Depot
November 22: SHS Annual Planning meeting at the museum scheduled to coincide with Sky Christmas Market next door in Maloney's Store with special displays provided by SHS

Membership News

SHS members have done well at transitioning to our January dues cycle. Questions may be sent to the email address below. Anyone in arrears on dues may send them at any time to treasurer Dorothy Beck, 18245 643rd. St., Gold Bar, WA 98251. 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.

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

Sky School Oil Remediation Program

Recently the District signed an agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to give BN access to our school during summer months so that they can implement that last phase of the underground cleanup process.

The cleanup will utilize a process called "hot water flushing" in which hot water will be pumped into the ground under the school and then pumped out along with the existing pollutants. This process will run during the summer months (beginning in 2016) while students are out of the building. During the summer of 2015 construction crews will be setting up and preparing the building for the cleanup process.

The cleanup process is expected to last for 3-5 years and will not run during the time that school is in session. The negotiations, between the School District and BN, which have led to this agreement have been ongoing for many years. The fact that we have

finally come to this agreement comes in large part because of the hard work and dedication of both current and past board members. The School Board Directors and school staff are happy to be moving from the planning and negotiation phase to the actual construction and cleanup phase of this important project.

The cleanup project is being conducted in part under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Ecology. If you have questions about the cleanup you may contact Superintendent Martin Schmidt or Board President John Robinson.

-- Reprinted from Skykomish School District Website

Sky Valley Arts Council

SVAC is a community of artists, heritage enthusiasts, and organizations in Skykomish Valley interested in developing creative and heritage activities as a viable element of the lifestyle and economics of the valley. Visit: Skyvalleyartscouncil.com