

Upper Sky Valley History Event Planned for 13 May

Ever want to know more specifics about the history of some part of Skykomish Valley? Saturday May 13th from noon to four at Maloney's Store in Sky will be your opportunity.

There will be tables set up with people to tell the stories, and binders of photos all about the life and times of Index, Baring, Grotto, Berlin/Miller River, Milltown, Sky, Great Northern Railway, Scenic, and Stevens Pass. Each table will also feature one or more "experts" with specific knowledge about each subject.

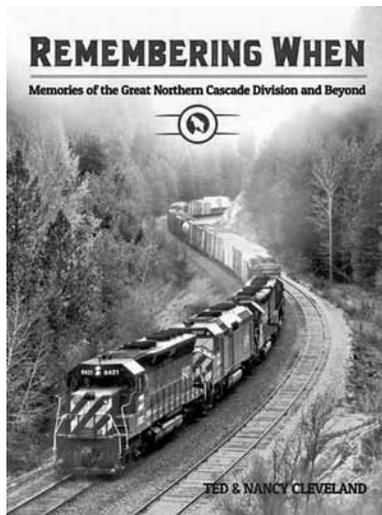
Most people staffing the tables have lived in the place in the past and/or present and all have expertise and specific insights about the community or subject to share.



Spring 2017, www.skyhistory.org

GNRy Cascade Division Memories Published

SHS's newest "oral history" is in print and available. Ted and Nancy Cleveland have produced **Remembering When, Memories of the Great Northern Cascade Division and Beyond** by recording and transcribing



the stories of men and women who worked for the railroads that cross Stevens Pass.

Twenty-one people provide their memories of working on track gangs, operating depots, repairing bridges, running locomotives, and managing families that supported the men and women working on the railroad.

Nearly 50 photographs and diagrams support the stories in this 260 page book, plus a fold-out map documents locations where the events occurred.

Orders may be mailed to:

Brenda Clement (For SHS)
P.O. Box 88
Skykomish, Wa. 98288

Cost of book:
Members \$16.00 (shipping incl)
Non-members \$20 (shipping incl)

Museum Hours
Sat. & Sun.: 12 to 4 pm

At the Berlin/Miller River table, for instance, will be Margaret "Smitty" Smith whose grandfather, Millard Filmore Smith, has been described as the "John Maloney of Miller River. He was postmaster and operated Miller River Inn for decades. Gene "Tubby" Tubbs will be at the Scenic table. Tubby lived at Scenic while growing up and has wonderful stories to share. Jerry Dinsmore grew up in Grotto where his parents operated the Grotto store and gas station. Noted historian and Index resident Louise Lindgren will be at the Index table. There will be several Great Northern and general railroad enthusiasts in attendance as well. Ted and Nancy Cleveland will have a table to sign their new book.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own stories and photos to share. SHS will be prepared to record stories and make copies of any photos not in our collection you are willing to let us have. We will return all originals to their owners that day.

8-mile Tunnel Display



Meeting in the Middle. East Superintendent Frank Kane and West Supt. Herbert King at the breakthrough of the Pioneer tunnel May 1, 1928.

A major new display at the SHS Museum features the building of the 7.8-mile New Cascade Tunnel in the 1920s. For half a century it was the longest tunnel in the Western Hemisphere.

The heart of the presentation is the remarkable photography of Lee Pickett who documented nearly all phases of the construction. Artifacts and memorabilia are also presented. For those seeking more information there will be a 3-ring binder containing reference materials used in creating the display.

SHS Happenings Include a Look Inside Sky Hotel

Attendees at the SHS March meeting were rewarded with a surprise and rare look at the rehabilitation work going on inside Skykomish Hotel.

Mayor Tony Grider had been invited to our meeting to update us on what all is going on in Sky, and he in turn invited Todd Brunner who is supervising the hotel's reconstruction. Once Todd had updated the membership on what is happening, he invited us to visit the building and see first hand the progress.

Because it is a hard hat area, and Todd had just eight hats, we broke into groups of eight for the viewing.

The majority of the space on the ground floor has been opened up and determinations are being made as to

what can be saved or reused, and what needs to be replaced.

In other news SHS has added almost 300 new searchable items to our website and made significant progress organizing and cataloging

various collections thanks to the work of Rose Marie Williams, Cathy Bittner, and Beanne Hull.

In April Collection Mgr. Bob Kelly hosted a class of 25 U of W environmental students at the Community Center.



Todd Brunner, right, explains the hotel rehab project to Beanne Hull, Gary West, Pat Carlson, Karen Molesky, Cathy Bittner (behind Karen), Sandi Kajdzik and Maggie Wheatley (behind Sandi).



Art Week in Sky

Everyone is invited to the highlight of the 2017 Art Week in Sky June 30th:

A Party at Maloney's

featuring music, finger food, and a display of the art created during the exciting week.

Art Week begins with Monday June 26th devoted to photography; Tuesday the 27th will feature mask making; Wednesday will be drawing; Thursday painting; and Friday will be spent painting murals. To learn more and/or register for any day, or days, or for the entire week visit www.skyartweek.com or Sky Art Week on Facebook. Attending Art Week is free. Registration is limited to 25 participants each day. Children under ten are welcome but must bring an adult.

Art Week is being presented by SHS board member Beanne Hull, retired art instructor from Cornish College for the Arts in Seattle. She will be supported by artist/teachers with expertise in the different daily disciplines.

Beanne especially hopes people will bring their families and attend the Party from 6 to 10 p.m. on the 30th.

Bittner Joins Board

Cathy Bittner has been elected to the SHS Board of Directors replacing Teddy Jo Ryder-Brown upon completion of her allowed two consecutive terms. The board thanks Teddy Jo for her six excellent years of service during a period of significant growth for SHS.

Cathy grew up in Simi Valley, CA; B.A. in English Lit from Los Angeles Baptist College, where she met and married Tony; master's degree Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Worked as Children's Specialist for Tacoma Public Library, then School Librarian and Computer teacher for Cascade Christian Schools. Moved to Sky in 2011 as a missionary/pastor's wife for Skykomish Community Church, and began volunteering at the SHS. Currently is PTSO treasurer at the school, Food Bank board member, and has fallen in love with the Skykomish community.

2017 Skykomish Calendar of Events

- Museum & GNCR Open 6 May
- Sky Valley History Day...13 May
- Art Week..... 26-30 June
- Old Timers' Picnic.....15 July
- J. J. Hill Train Festival.....12 Aug
- Music in the Park.....19 Aug
- Great Northern Day..9 Sep
- SHS General Meeting.....23 Sep
- SHS Planning Meeting....18 Nov
- Christmas Tree Lighting.....3 Dec

Open Air Markets:

- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- Sept 9

Substation Model on Display at Depot

Bonnie Hollingsworth's wonderfully detailed model of the "Substation" is on display in the southeast room of the depot museum within yards of where the building stood for more than 65 years. Technically it was the Frequency Converter Building, but for every old-time Sky resident or railroader it was the Substation.

Great Northern Railway's decision to bore the 8-mile tunnel under Stevens Pass required electric power because exhaust from steam engines in long tunnels was deadly, and Sky was chosen as the western terminus for the electrics. Built in the late 1920s the industrial-looking edifice dominated the Skykom-



ish skyline until 1994, although it had gone out of service in 1956 when a fan system in the tunnel and electric diesel engines ended the need for the line to be electrified.

The model was commissioned by SHS and a significant portion of the funding came via a King Co. 4Culture Special Projects grant.

GNCR on a Roll

Like the SHS Museum, Great Northern & Cascade Railway opened their summer season 6 & 7 May. They operate 10 to 4 weekends and holidays.

President Kevin Wiederstrom reports the West Crossing is now complete, and the track is connected to the new bridge. The new East Crossing is complete with the track connected to the North. It is also connected to the South, but ballasting work remains around the back of the tunnel. A stone retaining wall has been built on the SW end of the new line, with new landscaping west of it.

While the GNCR is always seeking additional donations, they've applied for and been awarded a generous grant from King Co. 4Culture that allows them to keep the depot open week days, plus a \$5,000 grant from BNSF to be used to landscape the tunnel.

James J. Hill Train Festival will be happening 12 August with food, music, vendors, and the annual "Best Pie in the World" contest, and on 10 June a visit from "All Aboard Washington," a group promoting "rail as an integral part of Washington's transportation solutions" is scheduled.

New Display Guy



Unlike our other wonderful volunteers Louie Read brings years direct experience designing displays as an assigned duty while he worked for the Army Corps of Engineers. In retirement he is following his interest in history and railroads.

The new Cascade Tunnel display is Louie's first presentation for us, and he is also revamping the west room of the museum into display space while still being an important storage area.

Great Northern Day

Great Northern Day in Skykomish will be September 9th at the Masonic Hall. The free event runs 9:30 to 4:00 pm and is open to the public.

There will be tables people can set up with displays or items for sale and as always there will be plenty of time is the schedule for visiting and exploring the area.

The Sky Saturday market will be held the same day in Railroad Park. The museum will be open noon to 4:00 pm and the GN&C Railway will be operating at Depot Park. In the morning and early afternoon there will be informational presentations at the hall.

Lunch will be available to order from Skykomish Deli or bring your own. If there are questions please contact Bob Kelly at mvmvm@comcast.net or 425-432-3884.

Music in the Park

The 7th annual family friendly Music in the Park celebration of Skykomish and our community will be Sat. Aug 19th, at the Ballpark, hosted in conjunction with Sky Chamber of Commerce and the Town and sponsored by local businesses, non-profits, and attendees.

The Music will begin with a children's program sponsored by King County Library System and may start before three, depending upon how many bands are scheduled.

The Facebook page **Skykomish Music in the Park** will offer specific times and updates as to which bands are performing and at what time. Festivities will last until midnight.

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

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

Those planning to camp want to be sure to reserve a spot in advance through Skykomish Town Hall.

Collections & Donations News

In the past year we have cataloged several new collections.

Bob Hollister donated a large collection of photographs and documents from the Stanton and Thompson family.

Julie Chapman donated a large new group of Betty Maloney materials.

Additional Alpine digital photos taken by Vern and Julie Farnham were also donated to SHS.

2016 Activities

March 21: Largest regular SHS meeting turnout ever (31) came to hear Mayor Tony Grider update us on the status of the Store, the Hotel, the Theatre, the Depot and other town activities.

30: Museum opened for season, along with Great Northern & Cascade Railway ride-on railroad.

May: Published spring newsletter.

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

June 8: All day Capacity Building Workshop at Community Center for board, officers, and key volunteers.

June 20-24: “Art Week in Skykomish” at Masonic Hall, followed by an opening at Maloney’s Store where the art was displayed amid refreshments and music.

July 16: SHS Booth at annual *Old Timers’ Picnic*.

Aug 15: SHS presence at *Music in the Park* at the Ballpark.

September 10: *Great Northern Day* in Sky attended by 50+ rail fans.

September 25: *SHS Annual General Meeting* at museum.

Nov 21: *SHS Annual Planning Meeting* at the museum.

Dec: Published *2017 Calendar* on theme of the improvements in Sky as a direct result of the oil clean-up.

The Abbott family donated family materials collected while working for the Great Northern Railway.

Interesting materials about Joe Stafford who was at Wellington in 1910 were donated by the Mitts family with assistance from Pat and Fred Brown.

SHS also assembled materials we had on hand and created a binder about Thomas R. “Tommy Dick” Okerlund, a Warrant Officer helicopter pilot who grew up in Sky and remains MIA in Viet Nam.

SEI Update

The winter snow is long gone and Maloney Creek Trail (MCT) again offers a refreshing spring walk on the wooded, short (.2 mi), ADA disability access trail.

An MCT Spring Cleanup is planned by Skykomish Environmental Institute (SEI) for May 13 at 10. Volunteers are welcome at the trailhead at end of Thelma Street. This winter’s impact on the trail has been minor – cleanup will be removing branches and overgrowth to make a clear walking path.

Slow bikes and dogs on leash are allowed on MCT. Please keep dogs under control. There are dog poop bags and waste cans at the trailhead.

The platform outlook at the upper trail terminus remains inaccessible. The major November 17, 2015 storm, logjam release, and flood caused significant creekbank erosion near the observation platform. Hopefully, the platform can be repositioned soon to a safe trail location.

Planning continues for the design, fabrication and installation of a trailhead kiosk and interpretive trail signage. The US Forest Service and Sound Salmon Solutions are contributing grantors for the sign project.

Happy Trails.

Membership News

Membership and membership renewals are at an all time high, and the 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.

Skykomish Historical Society
P.O. Box 247
Skykomish, WA 98288
Email: shs@skyhistory.org

Capacity Building

SHS board members and officers gathered in Burien in November to meet with professional archivist Elizabeth Styles Knight for phase two of the Capacity Building workshop to further implement StEPs (standards & excellence program). The workshop was supported by a capacity building grant from 4Culture and held at the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive.

In very hands on active sessions attendees worked through vision and mission statement design and board “tasks” were specifically assigned to individuals.

Emphasis was given to strategic planning and how to incorporate it into outreach and advocacy.

One specific outcome of the effort is the Skykomish History Day taking place 13 May in the Maloney Store building and SHS Museum.