

## Tunnel Days 15 June

From the beginning Skykomish was a railroad town and a boomtown, but it never boomed bigger than in the late 1920s when Great Northern Railway was boring what for decades was the longest tunnel in the Western Hemisphere and building the Electric Transfer Sub-Station in town.

On June 15th. Sky will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the opening of that tunnel with a Tunnel Days celebration. The listing of activities of this festive event appears on page 2.

## SHS Spring Meeting

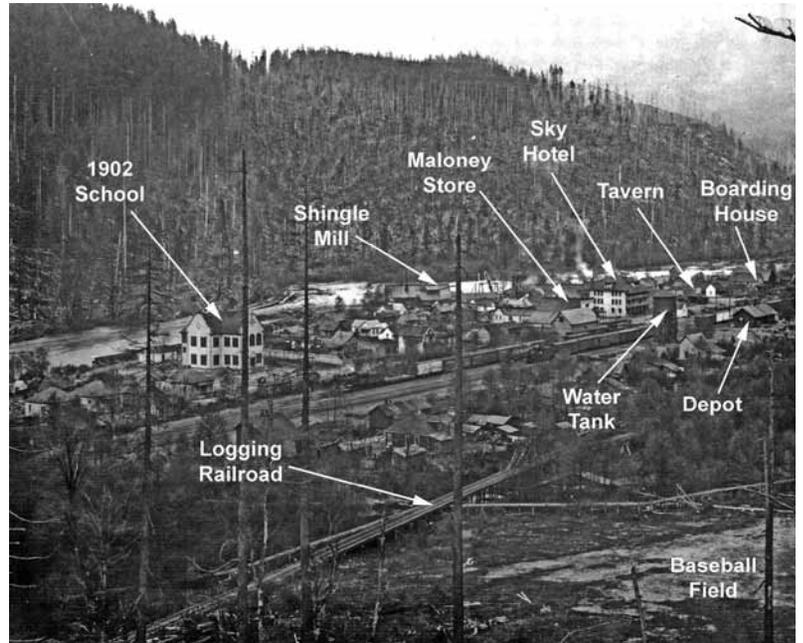
Highlights of the meeting at the Community Center include Pat announcing Bertha Koptlitz had sent \$1000 for a lifetime membership for herself (see article about Don's passing pg 3).

Pat shared that after a winter of health challenges Bob Kelly is expected to be at full strength by summer, and he has several rail-related road trips planned, in addition to his regular Tuesdays at the museum.

SHS member and author Deborah Cuyle was in attendance to discuss her just released Arcadia book *The 1910 Wellington Disaster*. She told the group since so much has been written about the disaster itself her focus was to bring to light the stories and lives of passengers. A lively Q & A followed. Deborah also gave SHS a copy of her 12-minute slide presentation which we can run on a loop at the museum as appropriate.

Henry Sladek updated about town goings on. Mayor Grider has moved to Gold Bar, thus cannot serve as mayor. Henry is now mayor pro-tem. The council is addressing flooding issues. Nothing new on the Hotel nor Motel properties. There is a grant possibility to evaluate changes on the highway to make developing the sidehill property north of the highway more feasible.

The remaining meeting subjects of note are covered in articles elsewhere in this newsletter.



## Depot Photo Display

Having received approval from the town to use the west room of the depot as an extension display area, SHS has so far placed eleven 20 by 30 photographs along the walls. Volunteer Louis Read continues to select photos for enlargement and writing captions.

Several are next to windows that look out onto views depicted decades ago in the photos.

The eras covered range from the photo above to the 1950s and cover topics from the first car (a Hupmobile) to reach Index to the first gas station on Stevens Pass.

Among them are a shot of Sky in the 40s covered in snow, the 1902 school, the mill in Milltown and the classic Knutson Nelson

*The above circa 1906 photo looking NE from a hill SW of town is one of 11 historical views now on display in Sky Depot's west room. The school is where the 1936 school stands today, the Tavern is the Whistling Post, and the Boarding house is where Cascadia Inn, built in 1921, is now.*

Logging crew with four "one log loads" at Miller River in 1936.

The photos are Phase One of our displays for the depot. Since the town wants the space available for meetings; Phase Two will be portable exhibits for the center of the room.

## Museum Hours

Sat. & Sun.: 12 to 4 pm  
May thru October



# Tunnel Days of Skykomish

Saturday, June 15th 2019



Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the 8-mile Cascade Tunnel

FESTIVAL • FUN  
RAILROAD SWAP MEET  
ARTS N CRAFTS  
GAMES • RAFFLE  
PARADE • AUCTION  
EXPLORE A FIRE TRUCK  
BOOKMOBILE  
ROOT BEER FLOATS  
FACE PAINTING  
FREE TRAIN RIDES

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FREE TRAIN RIDES

- 8-10:30 am **Pancake Breakfast**  
at the Masonic Hall
- 11 am **Parade**  
Old Cascade Hwy through town
- 11-3 pm **Open Air Market**  
at Railroad Avenue Park
- 11-3 pm **Railroad Swap Meet**  
at Skykomish School Gym
- 11-3 pm **SkyCrafters Pie Social**  
at the Maloney Store
- 10-4 pm **Train Rides**  
GNCR at Depot Park
- 12 pm **The Big Bang Show**  
by KCLS at the Community Center
- 11-3 pm **BBQ**  
PTSO at Depot Park
- 12-3 pm **Car Show**  
feat. LJ Juke tunes
- 11-3 pm **Silent Auction / Raffle** (3 pm)  
at Maloney Store at the bandstand
- 4-7 pm **Street Dance** feat. **Outta Control**



# Good Turnout for SHS History Day

Whether they were called by history or free root beer floats, a lot of people came to History Day at the Maloney's store building last May 26th.

Dozens of photo binders on all phases of Valley history were spread out on tables for patrons to study and enjoy. Participants were encouraged to bring old photos for us to copy and return, and to be interviewed about their

## Volunteers Honored

Rosemarie Koch Williams, a founding SHS member and long-time volunteer, was recently honored by SHS for her



years of dedication with an attractive cobalt blue glass statuette. For much of the last decade Rosemarie faithfully volunteered at the museum cataloging collections so they could be searchable on our website.

At Sky Valley Community Awards Celebration, the "Old Timers Picnic Committee" was honored. Chair Margaret "Smitty" Smith & sec/treasurers Donna West & Maggie Wheatley were recognized as well as all committee members.

## SHS Lifetime Members

Denis Aker & Susan Swartwood-Aker  
Hank & Christie Barber  
Marjie Bardan & Ed Hill  
Pat Gallagher-Carlson & Warren Carlson  
Leonard Farlow & Janet Boehmer  
Dr. George E. Fischer  
Marc Greenough  
David R. Hall  
Bob & Pam Kelly  
Bertha Koplitz  
Don Koplitz  
James C. Mattson  
Bob & Charlotte Mackner  
Joanne Menard & Bob Boggs  
Don & Neva Jean Pavia  
Ken Phillips  
Hazel Timpe-Davis (in memory of)  
Bob & Virginia Walters  
Dean & Dorothy Willard

lives in and around Sky. A "help-desk" was available to assist patrons find whatever aspect of Valley history they were looking for.

## Pizza at "Sky-Vue"

It is a reference not all generations will identify with, but for decades, Skykomish Deli was called "The Sky-Vue" by many even when it was Nelson's Cafe, The Liquor Store, the Deli, or any of the other businesses that operated there. Under new management it is now "Sky Deli & Pizza," offering a welcome addition to the fare available in town.

## Don Koplitz Passes

In March Don Koplitz, who served as principal and basketball coach at Sky HS from 1956 to 1962 passed away. For a number of his years Sky did not have a legitimate 6-foot tall player, and still he compiled a record of 86 -62.

In 1962 he went to South Bend, WA, as principal and was named basketball coach in 1971. His South Bend teams went 328 -183 over the next 14 seasons. He was named to the WA Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Asso. Hall of Fame in 1991.

Don and his wife Bertha were frequent attendees at the Old Timer's Picnic.

## Thank You 4Culture

SHS has again received a two-year sustained support award from 4Culture which will contribute \$4000 per year toward general operating expenses. In past cycles we have received \$3000 & \$3500. This support allows us to keep the museum open on a regular basis and expand our efforts in other areas. 4Culture provides "funding and support for the cultural work that makes King County vibrant."



## Great Northern Day

GN Day in Skykomish will be September 14, 2019. The event is free and open to the public. The Masonic Hall will open at 8:30 am for people who want to set up a display and the program starts at 9:30. In the morning there will be short presentations on local history, and time to visit. The feature presentation will be Kurt Amrbruster speaking about his new book: *The Pacific Coast; Seattle's own Railroad*.

Lunch will be leisurely with time provided for visiting the museum, the town market, or the Great Northern and Cascade Railway operating at the Depot. Skykomish Historical Society museum will have a GN Skykomish Substations DVD gift for all attendees. People attending may bring their own lunch or a lunch will be arranged. During the afternoon an additional presentation concludes the event.

Anyone with questions about the event may contact Bob Kelly at 425-432-3884.

## Music in the Park

The 9th annual family friendly Music in the Park of Skykomish will be Saturday, Aug. 17th, at the ballpark, hosted by the Town of Skykomish, Skykomish Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by local businesses, non-profits, and attendees.

The day begins at 1pm with a children's program sponsored by King County Library System. For more info go to Skykomish Music in the Park Facebook page for updates, bands and schedule. Festivities will last until midnight.

The event is free with donations encouraged, as they are what make future events possible. Any group or person interested in sponsoring the festival is encouraged to do so via the FB page.

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

Those planning to camp at the ballpark want to be sure to reserve a spot in advance through Town Hall at 360-677-2388.

# Please Send Your Skykomish Stories

SHS invites you to write a story, or many stories, regarding an interesting event or happening in your life in Skykomish Valley and send it to us. It can be from your childhood or last week or any time in between. It is all part of Sky Valley history.

A story about your neighborhood, your friends, family, school days, events on the job, whatever you remember fondly about your time here.

Sometimes the worst events make the best stories, like the time you ran out of gas, or the brakes failed, or got snowed in camping. On the other hand kindness, and happiness, and good neighbors also make great memories and great stories.

Please send your stories to:  
Skykomish Historical Society (Stories)  
Post Office Box 247  
Skykomish, WA 98288

## 2018 SHS Activities

**March 25:** SHS Meeting where Todd Brunner updated us on Sky Hotel renovation, and gave us a look inside the building. Also plans were finalized for our 13 May "Upper Valley History Day."

**May 6:** Museum opened for season.

**May 13:** "History Day" where we had tables and information dedicated to all valley towns from years past.

**May:** Published spring newsletter.

**May – Nov:** Presence at five Skykomish "Open Air Markets."

**June 26-30:** "Art Week in Skykomish" at Maloney's, ending with an opening/party displaying the art amid refreshments and music.

**July 15:** SHS Booth at annual *Old Timers' Picnic*.

**Aug 12:** Booth at *J. J. Hill Day* at GNCR & Depot Park.

**Aug 19:** SHS presence at *Music in the Park* at the Ballpark.

**Sep 9:** *Great Northern Day* in Sky attended by 50+ rail fans.

**Sep 23:** *SHS Annual General Meeting* at museum.

**Nov 18:** *SHS Annual Planning Meeting* at the museum.

**Dec:** Published *2019 SHS Calendar* on subject of Skykomish Volunteer Fire Department.

## Sky Paint Out

Beanne Hull has announced a free art workshop will be held at Maloney's from 9 to 3 June 27-28. Canvas & acrylic paints will be provided. The theme will be BIOZOOM. All ages & skill levels welcome; under 10 are encouraged, but must bring an adult. Contact Beanne at [beanehull@gmail.com](mailto:beanehull@gmail.com).

## 2019 Events Calendar

Museum & GNCR Open 4 May  
Tunnel Days..... 15 June  
Sky Paint Out..... 27-28 June  
Criterium Bicycle Race .... 6 July  
Old Timers' Picnic..... 20 July  
Electric Sky..... 26-28 July  
J. J. Hill Train Festival.....2 Aug  
Music in the Park..... 17 Aug  
Great Northern Day..... 14 Sep  
SHS General Meeting.... 28 Sep  
SHS Planning Meeting....16 Nov  
Christmas Tree Lighting.... 7 Dec

## Open Air Markets

May 11, June 15, July 20,  
August 17, Sept 14

## Membership Information

Our 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](mailto:shs@skyhistory.org)**

## SEI Update

Spring wildflowers are in bloom all along the wooded, short (.2 mile), disability access Maloney Creek Trail (MCT) overlooking rushing, tumbling Maloney Creek. At the moment a short walk beyond the end-of-trail outlook there is a broad field of elegant trillium.

During winter, the MCT is increasingly used for snow shoeing and XX skiing. Sky Parks Board and USFS continued their efforts to develop a nearby groomed sled hill. MCT and surrounding areas are becoming a year-round recreational spot.

Slow bikes and dogs on leash are allowed on MCT. Dog poop bags and waste cans are at the trailhead.

A kiosk providing outdoor history, watershed maps, and trail direction is at the MCT trailhead at the end of Thelma Street in town. Additional interpretive signage is planned for installation this summer. The USFS and Sound Salmon Solutions are contributing grantors for the sign project.

Come out to enjoy the beautiful, short and easy, local Maloney Creek Trail.