

# Treasurer Dorothy Beck Retires

After 16 years as SHS treasurer, Dorothy Beck has decided it is time to step down. SHS is indebted to her for her exemplary service.

She was born in Havre, Montana where her father was a parts manager for a Ford dealership in a nearby Harlem, but when WWII broke out auto parts ceased to be manufactured, and her family joined thousands who migrated west. They landed in Shelton from where she graduated HS a decade later.

While in high school she performed duties as an assistant in a daycare center which, she says, ended any thoughts she had of being a school teacher.

After a few years in banking she took an interesting job for the State in Olympia creating birth certificates for people born in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

She moved to Seattle in 1955, again was employed in banking, and got married in 1966. The marriage produced two children, Mark in 1960 and Shari in 1965. After her divorce in 1970 she met Dick Beck on a blind date. They married in 1973.

Dick had built a small A-Frame cabin in Baring and shared his dream of adding on to have a view of Mt. Baring. Anyone who ever visited appreciated the masterpiece they built in Riverwood Park where they lived for 30+ years and enjoyed many great friendships. She served as Riverwood treasurer for 12 years, and Dick managed the well system there.

## SHS Museum Entertains

### A VIP Visitor

In May 3rd. Dist. County Commissioner Sarah Perry and husband Bill Ramos paid a pleasant and lengthy visit to SHS Museum. Ramos is 5th Dist. State Representative from Issaquah, and a self-described museum buff.

In Sky to meet with constituents next door at Sky Artworks, the couple then came in and appeared to very much enjoy what was on offer, spending time intensely studying and enjoying the exhibits, also including tours of the West Room, and the back area.

Commissioner Perry is on the board of 4Culture, and docent Karen was careful to mention our appreciation for what 4Culture support has meant to SHS though the years.

When Dick's health began to fail they moved to Mill Creek and bought a charming manufactured home. A few years later after celebrating Dorothy's birthday at the Whistling Post in Sky, Dick suffered a stroke the next day. He passed away at 93 in April 2020.

She has recently moved to a retirement community in Mill Creek where she says the neighbors are very nice and there are lots of activities to join, but she truly misses her great friends in Baring and Sky, and plans to visit soon.



Spring 2022, [www.skyhistory.org](http://www.skyhistory.org)

## A New Face at SHS Museum

After more than a decade as the contracted docent at SHS Museum, Karen Molesky has moved next door to Sky Artworks, and her husband Federico Seco de Lucena will now be the smiling face greeting SHS museum patrons weekends and holidays.



Federico's bio lists 15 categories of professional experience, but does not include among them his time as a Navy aviation structural mechanic serving in Japan, nor does it mention his willingness to show up and donate his time

and talents for SHS and elsewhere.

He is also employed by Sky Artworks, monitors Sky's recycle station, and is on call for Brookdale Assisted Living Facility in Monroe.

He is an artist who works in various mediums, an illustrator, and a graphic designer with an impressive list of clients and jobs. Some of his remarkable work may be seen at [www.design-artist.net](http://www.design-artist.net). He designed the logo for SHS.

Born in San Francisco, he and Karen now live in Sky at the end of Reginald St., in a place he refers to as Sky Palace, where they've had bobcats and bears in their back yard, in addition to otters and salmon when Maloney Creek floods.

**It's been a long time coming, but finally...**

# Historic Skykomish Hotel Is Coming Back Strong

People who care about Skykomish almost universally care about the fate of Skykomish Hotel, the iconic building that dominates most views of Railroad Avenue and teetered on its deathbed for years.

**That the building stands today is in part due to King County Tax dollars at work.**

For nearly a decade citizens and visitors alike watched in modest horror as “The Hotel” deteriorated bit by bit, flying shingle by flying shingle, until the town finally acquired it from the previous owner for back taxes owed and called for proposals from private developers to save the building. A group called “Revive - Historic Skykomish” took a five-year lease with an option to extend and buy the building at the end.

Sky resident and builder Todd Brunner had been asked to determine if the hotel could be saved structurally. Once that was established, grants from 4Culture and a King Co. preservation fund paid to reroof the building and paint the outside to protect it from more weather. Todd says aside from some stout vertical timbers and floor joists, most of the interior was mush due to years of water coming through the failing roof, but eventually things were stabilized and rehabilitation work could begin. Ultimately Todd bought the lease from Revive and began clearing out the mush and shoring things up.

In the process he hired Monica (Mo) Ainsley for some of the the clean-up, and as he saw her work ethic and willingness to learn, she smoothly transitioned from carpenter's assistant to an able carpenter and ultimately worked alongside Todd as they rebuilt the entire ground floor inside the building.

An important goal at that point was to establish a revenue stream. Vail Resorts had recently purchased Stevens Pass ski area, but Todd quickly learned creating housing for their employees



**A far cry from the crumbling edifice seen at the left, with the new roof and exterior paint Skykomish Hotel was ready for the complete interior make-over that will continue over the next 18 months.**

mirror image double-balcony look, just like the front of the building, to people crossing the bridge into town.

There will be six rooms each on the second and third floors, plus three penthouse suites on the fourth. They will all feature fireplaces and a kitchenette. The hotel lobby in the space between the coffee shop and the outfitters is being designed to feel as if you are walking into an upscale hotel in the 1920s including a period chandelier and all the trimmings. SHS will be working with Todd to select appropriate period photos for the lobby. An elevator is being installed. In the 21st. century one cannot expect penthouse suite patrons to walk up three flights of stairs.

Sky River Coffee will expand to sandwiches and other lunch offerings and a dining patio is planned for the northwest corner of the Hotel.

All this is expected to happen in the next 18 months, at which point historic Skykomish Hotel will finally again contribute to the allure of Sky as a destination for travelers and vacationers.

would be a non-starter given Vail's corporate style, so he and Mo became partners in **Sky River Coffee**, which has been a successful enterprise from the beginning. Doing their best to preserve historically significant aspects during the rebirth of the hotel, the tables in the coffeeshop are made from unmilled 2 by 14 planks that originally supported the hotel's upper floors. **Skykomish Outfitters** also now rents the southeast corner space on the ground floor old timers will remember as “The Drugstore.”

After considerable research visiting restored classic hotels in Montana and elsewhere, Todd learned there is a significant market for upscale lodging in traditional style establishments, so that is the future planned for Skykomish Hotel.

As an historically designated building, alterations to the exterior require strict design review, but happily permission has been granted to add balconies at the back of the building to offer a

# Sky Artworks Opens at Maloneys

An exciting new neighbor has arrived next door to our museum in the main room of Historic Maloney's Store.

The mission of Sky Artworks is to promote the creative community in the Upper Sky Valley by providing production, exhibition, educational, marketing, and professional development resources for artists, artisans, and tech creatives, including a gift shop where artists can sell their work.

In addition to being a classy, attractive gallery displaying and selling art, Sky Artworks is focused on being a community center for both the arts and artists. They provide membership-based access to work space for artists, collaboration opportunities, supplies, and exhibition spaces.

Operating as a non-profit under the 501 c 3 aegis of Third Place Technologies, Sky Artworks is a joint venture with the town to expand Sky's appeal as a destination for all kinds of activities.

Offering a large format printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter, 3D printer, DSLR camera and more, Sky Artworks will provide artists tools they would rarely be able to afford on their own.

In addition to workspace for artists Sky Artworks will offer classes and workshops

## New SHS Treasurer Bill Kajdzik

In addition to all his other roles with SHS, Bill has accepted the job of being our treasurer. He retired in 2010 from The Boeing Company after 42 years as engineer/manager in Flight Test Engineering. He currently serves as a director and volunteer at the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive in Burien, WA and Treasurer of the Boeing Railroad Club.

For SHS he serves as Chairman of the Board, and manages the web site and Facebook pages in addition to scanning and editing photographs.

His passion is the railroad history of Stevens Pass area, and he has explored and photographed throughout Sky Valley since 1975. For over 50 years Bill

on a variety of topics including creative skills, tech skills, and professional development.

They also keep the space available for the town and others to host community events.

## M.C.T. Update

Maloney Creek Trail (MCT), conveniently located near Skykomish Post Office at the end of Thelma St. provides a simple, safe, and beautiful "walk in the woods" opportunity to get outdoors.

Spring wildflowers are in bloom all along the wooded, short (.2 mile), disability access trail overlooking rushing, tumbling Maloney Creek. It's trail cleanup time. Clearing out scattered branches on the trail as you walk will be appreciated by USFS, Town, SEL, and fellow hikers.

Slow bikes and dogs on leash are allowed. Please keep dogs under control and clean up after them. There are poop bags and waste cans at the trailhead.

Additional interpretive signage is designed and ready for production and installation this summer. The USFS and Sound Salmon Solutions are contributing grantors for this Town of Sky sign project.

This fall we hope to be again visited by spawning salmon in Maloney Creek.

has collected railroad artifacts and HO scale brass steam engines.

He and wife Sandi live on the East Hill of Kent on a small farm where she used

to raise miniature horses and maintains a flower and vegetable garden. They have two grown daughters and a 13-year-old granddaughter and a 13-year-old grandson.

Bill insists it is his honor and privilege to serve as Treasurer for SHS.



## Great Northern Day

GN Day is scheduled for September 10 and will be anchored at Sky Artworks in the Maloney Store building. In addition we will have an activity or a display in the west room of Skykomish Depot.

**Uniquely this year will feature a railroad oriented art show at Sky Artworks co-sponsored by Skykomish Historical Society. Artists with rail themed work are encouraged to submit pieces for the art show will run through September.**

GN Day will include short presentations and tables will be available for displays. The event is free and open to the public. Bring your lunch, eat locally or arrangements will be made to bring in sandwiches. During a long lunch visits can be made to the GN&C Railroad, the Museum, and the merchants in town. For questions contact Bob Kelly: mvmvmv@comcast.net or 425-432-3884

## Music in the Park

The 10th anniversary edition of family friendly Music in the Park in Skykomish will be Saturday, Aug. 20th, 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 Facebook page.

Bring a blanket and/o chairs, yard games friends, family, neighbors, and a picnic. Or support the PTO 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.

## 2021 SHS Activities

While a number of things returned to “normal” in 2021, one by one the scheduled activities in a normal Skykomish year were canceled.

Both the Board and Regular SHS Spring meetings happened via Zoom, and we continued to expand our on-line presence. Facebook & website host Bill Kajdzik determined our average monthly visits to our various media outreach platforms to be:

Facebook Post Reaches: 12,000  
Engagement: 6,600  
New Followers: 35  
Page Likes: 900

We continued to upgrade and expand displays in the museum and Sky Depot and responded to requests for information and photos as we have always done. We published our annual newsletter on the spring, and the SHS Calendar for 2022 on the subject of Skykomish Library.

We look forward to a more “active” year in 2022.

## 2022 Events Calendar

SHS Museum & GNCR.... Open  
Tunnel Days..... 18 June  
Old Timers’ Picnic..... 16 July  
Electric Sky.....4-7 Aug  
J. J. Hill Train Festival.....6 Aug  
Music in the Park..... 20 Aug  
Great Northern Day..... 10 Sep  
SHS General Meeting.... 24 Sep  
SHS Planning Meeting....19 Nov  
Holiday Market..... 19 Nov  
Christmas Tree Lighting.... 4 Dec

### Open Air Markets

June 18, July 16, August 20,  
Sept 17

## New Displays

Louis Read continues to expand and refine our displays throughout the museum and the west room of the Depot.

In the west room of the museum what began as largely a storage area has been increasingly filled with interesting, attractively displayed railroad equipment. Signs, lanterns, and small kerosene cans, the light that hung over the Scenic Depot freight door, and a set of locomotive classification lights are all on display with captions signifying their use.



Louie and collection manager Bob Kelly are currently building a display featuring Bob Norton, Ruth Ittner, and USFS. The 8-foot wall-mounted display will present biographical information, photos, and personal items such as Bob’s hiking pack and Ruth’s unique hard hat and ice axe.

Louie is also expanding the displays in the Depot where 6-foot racks will feature photographs, plus a spiral rack to display four 2-foot wide panels of historical data.

## Significant Donation

Fred Black has given SHS a significant donation consisting of items from his personal Great Northern Railway collection. Included in the donation: a 24-inch GN Harold, railroad books, framed prints, a GN wall banner, several ephemera items, a framed wall schedule for King Street station, and a supply of *Spirit of Skykomish* postcards.

## Membership Information

Dues are due in January. Late dues may be sent to treasurer William Kajdzik, 22519 100th St. SE, Kent, WA 98031. 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)

## Students Visit

A contingent of Skykomish School Pre-K through 3rd grade students enjoyed a March visit to SHS Museum.

Each was presented a tote with an SHS pen, a train whistle, and several brochures such as the Walking Tour.

The students seemed particularly dazzled by the Oil Clean-up books, and the fact the Maloneys Store building they were standing in had been moved several hundred yards away to summer along the river while the oil in the earth beneath it could be removed.

## Thank You 4Culture

SHS continues to be supported by a two-year sustained support award from 4Culture which will contribute \$5886 this year toward general operating expenses. In past cycles we have received \$3500 & \$4500. 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.”

