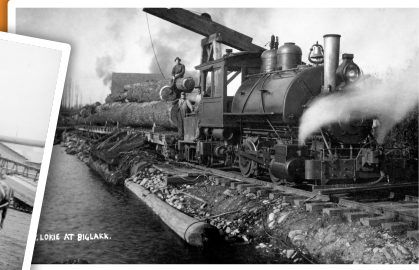


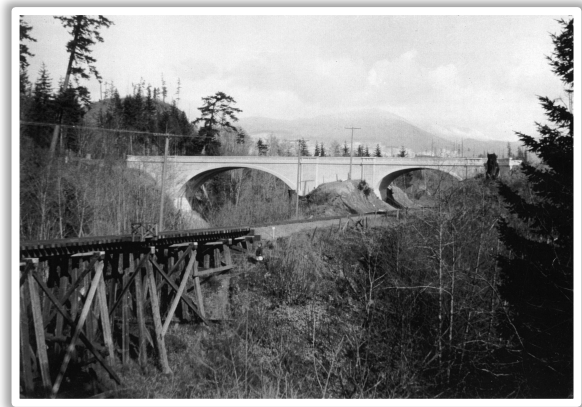
BLHS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019



Please Join the Discussion

Calling all **HISTORY BUFFS**—those who are inquisitive, those interested in exploring and probing, those who wish to protect, preserve and conserve. The BLHS is recruiting both members and non-members interested in local history, especially Big Lake and the surrounding communities to join an open discussion Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Big Lake Community Church of the Nazarene. The discussion will center on the future direction of BLHS and encouraging participation within the organization. The quarterly business meeting will be postponed until January.



The Big Rock bridge built in 1920 and still used today.

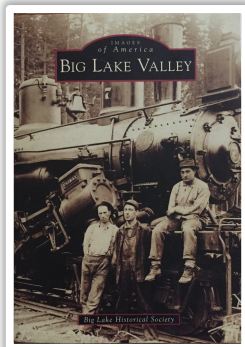
Be Part of the Solution

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Attend and participate in BLHS Quarterly Meetings.
2. Volunteer to research, record, and archive local historical artifacts.
3. Volunteer to share your stories or the stories of those that have been passed down.
4. BLHS needs members willing to take leadership roles and participate on the Board or in executive positions (Secretary and Vice President positions are open).



Authors of Images of America Big Lake Valley signing books at the 2016 BLHS Biennial Display.



Copies of our book *Images of America—Big Lake Valley*, are still available, cost \$21.99. If interested contact Trudi Davis 360-431-8889

2020 BLHS Calendars will soon be available for purchase. When and where soon to be announced.

Mark Your Calendar, Plan to Attend—the BLHS Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2019

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: Big Lake Community Church of the Nazarene

Open discussion moderated by President Jim Farmer concerning the future direction of BLHS and encouraging active participation.

Baker Heights School Daze

As shared by Dale Thompson

The first school was in the Benson home, east of the base of Skunk Rock - this rock is close to and west of Baker Heights Road. The Lang family lives in that old house now. (Little Rock is to the west of the concrete bridge on Highway 9, and Big Rock store, off Highway 9.) The school district went south about half-way to Big Lake; and went west to the start of College Way; and it took in almost all of the lower Nookachamps valley.

The newer Baker Heights school was built in 1922. School Board Members were Marie Wilcox, Blake Thompson, Mr. Dixon, and I think, Esther Carlson. The school had two large classrooms—the room to the east had grades 1-4; the room to the west held grades 5-8. There was a cloakroom for all grades. The school had a wood-burning furnace, and the older boys got to put wood in it. The school had a cook stove in the basement, and the moms of Baker Heights took turns making soup for the children for lunch in the 1930s. The school had well-water. The school eventually had flush toilets, but only the faculty could use them. The kids still had to use outhouses - the boys' outhouse in one direction, the girls' outhouse in the other. The

kids would swim in good weather in Nookachamps Creek during noontime lunch and often visited by crawdads. They knew when school was out by the Galloping Goose, a train coming through at 3:00. This single-car train was an “interurban” that ran from Auburn, south of Seattle, to Sumas on a transportation railroad track. It went north at 11:00 a.m., returning at 3:00 p.m., so we knew what time it was when the train blew the horn close by.



“New” Baker Heights School built in 1922

“One important part of historical recording is to get people of another generation to understand the feelings, the passion that went into social transformation. That’s why oral history is so valuable.”

Alix Kates Shulman

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“History is important. More than any other topic, it is about us. Whether one deems our present society wondrous or awful or both, history reveals how we got to this point.”

James W. Loewen

