

When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



THIS PHOTO of the Kloeber Hotel, located at the Green River Hot Springs and Sanitarium, dates to 1908. The hotel featured 100 guest rooms, baths, steam rooms, a bowling alley, billiard tables, tennis court, and one of the most opulent dining rooms of the day. The 132°, white sulfur hot springs were renowned for their curative powers. A 1905 Enumclaw Courier advertisement touted the springs for the treatment of "rheumatism, stomach disorders, nervous troubles, sleeplessness, skin eruptions, and all diseases of the blood". The hotel and sanitarium were built by Dr. J.S. Kloeber in 1900. At the time room prices fetched \$1 to \$3 per day or \$5 to \$20 weekly, with the higher prices for rooms with connecting bathrooms. The Kloeber Hotel was sold in August 1910, but shortly after the sale the hotel and sanitarium burned to the ground. The facilities were located near the banks of the Green River between the towns of Nagrom and Lester on the mainline of the Northern Pacific Railroad west of Stampede Pass. At this time, almost all steam locomotives were fueled by coal. For the complete story of the Green River Hot Springs, go to www.BlackDiamondMuseum.org, click on the News link, then scroll down to the January 2010 newsletter for an excellent article on by Ken Jensen on pages 17-18. - This photo comes courtesy of Bryan King, Watershed Manager of the City Tacoma properties surrounding the upper Green River basin.

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Tahoma schools recognized for recycling, resource conservation efforts

Six Tahoma schools are among 11 that King County is honoring for completing the first level of the county's Green Schools Program. Participating schools receive assistance on how to conserve resources such as paper, electricity and water, and they are often rewarded with reduced utility and garbage disposal costs.

"Each of these 11 schools has involved its whole school community - students, teachers and administrators - in reducing garbage and increasing recycling," said Dale Alekel, King County Green Schools Program manager.

In the Tahoma School District: Cedar River Middle School; Lake Wilderness Elementary School; Rock Creek Elementary School; Shadow Lake Elementary School;

Tahoma Middle School
In the Highline School District: Gregory Heights Elementary School

In the Issaquah School District: Cascade Ridge Elementary School; Challenger Elementary School; Discovery Elementary School; Issaquah Middle School; Maywood Middle School

These schools completed level one of the program by initiating or improving recycling practices and engaging in waste-reduction strategies, such as decreasing paper use. Success stories for each school are at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/greenschools/participants.asp>.

After starting to recycle food scraps and making other recycling

improvements, Lake Wilderness Elementary School went from a 27 percent recycling rate to recycling 55 percent of its total solid waste.

Of the 11 schools that completed level one in the fall of 2009, these eight schools recycle food scraps and other organic materials that are collected for composting: Cascade Ridge Elementary; Challenger Elementary; Cedar Ridge Elementary; Discovery Elementary; Issaquah Middle; Lake Wilderness Elementary; Maywood Middle; and Shadow Lake Elementary.

"We want to thank King County for its assistance and for recognizing the effort put forth by our students and staff to achieve the Green Schools Program ranking," said Lori Cloud, Tahoma School District director of financial services.

"Sustainability is part of our curriculum and this program is evidence that we are making progress toward becoming more responsible in how we interact with our environment," Cloud said.

Participation in the King County Green Schools Program has grown each year. To date, 10 of King County's 18 school districts have received assistance or are now participating, and in doing so they have increased recycling, reduced energy and resource consumption, and engaged students in benefiting

Letters to the Editor

Accolades to Representatives Simpson and Sullivan

Editor, the VOICE:
 I am writing this letter to acknowledge the good work of Representatives Geoff Simpson and Pat Sullivan who represent large parts of Maple Valley and Covington, including my home community of Ravensdale.

We should all take great pride in how these gentlemen are representing us in Olympia. I own a nursing home and when it comes to the care of the most vulnerable citizens of our state, these two state representatives have been tireless in their support for the highest quality of care and quality of life for these citizens. Currently both are working in support of HB 3021 that creates a Quality Assurance Trust fund which maximizes Federal funds, stabilizes nursing home Medicaid rates and saves the state general fund approximately \$27 million this biennium, savings that are badly needed to help with other state programs. This proposed legislation will assure that nursing homes are able to continue to provide quality care in the State of Washington. Without it we will see caregivers lose jobs across the state and the subsequent erosion of quality care for those who are our

most vulnerable citizens.
 So let me be among many others who say to Representatives Simpson and Sullivan, "thank you for a good job and please keep up the fight to protect our elderly and disabled". We all owe both these state representatives a great debt.
 Sincerely,
 Tim Lehner

Classified School Employee Week March 8-12

Editor, the VOICE:
 Governor Gregoire has issued a proclamation announcing March 8-12 Classified School Employee Week. If you're not sure which school employees are classified, you won't have to look hard to find them. They're the bus drivers who are first to see our children every morning and the last to send them off in the afternoon. They're the dedicated staff who provide meals, security, technology and classroom support. They maintain the buildings and campus grounds and they staff every school's front office. Classified school employees offer before and after school care in the elementary schools and make small group instruction possible in the high school.

Please take a moment to thank a classified school employee this week. Until we can pay them a living wage and stop cuts to their health insurance benefits, the least we can do is acknowledge the important role they play in our children's education.

Tahoma Classified Staff, words cannot express my deep appreciation for all that you do.
 Thank you.
 Judy Lum
 Tahoma School District parent

Classified Employees recognized

Editor, the Valley:
 As Shadow Lake Elementary School acknowledges classified employee recognition week, we would like to publicly convey a special thank you to:

Christy Duerson, Bonnie Love, Donita Willaford, Lori Autrey, Lisa McFarlane, Beverly Evans, Dana Kane, Yvonne Allard, Lori Ratigan, Karen Markus, Leslie Johnson, Terry Nordstrom, Shannon Stam, Lisa Von Michalofski, Laura Durkin, Alissa Nilsson, Gina Castagna, Lisa Frankum, Mary Hoggatt, Anna Treetippayarak, Rhonda Watson, Tracy McCutchan, Dyann McVay, Jeannie Merrick, Deborah Scratch, Kami Springer, Rafaela Taylor, Paul Hopkins, Cheryl Seubert, Bill Smith, Steve Sogura, Daral Tenhoff, Lois Taylor, Betty Lavera, Carolyn Gravelle and Maggie Dowell.

You are skilled individuals who always place the needs of our students at the top of your list. Thank you for your hard work and flexibility. You are truly valued members of our professional learning community. Your patience and dedication to kids are sincerely appreciated.
 With continuous gratitude,
 Shadow Lake Elementary
 Certificated Staff

the environment.
 Alekel said the Green Schools Program will be busy in 2010 as it helps 95 schools. Many of the schools that completed level one will be working on level two, which includes energy conservation, plus an additional conservation category that each school selects:

- Environmental education;
- Environmental purchasing;
- Green building;
- Hazardous materials management;
- Litter reduction; or
- Transportation choices.

Schools that go on to the third and final level of the program add an additional selection from the list, plus water conservation.

The program has helped more than 300 schools cut waste and save resources since its inception in 2003. By providing hands-on assistance, including school visits, tailored recommendations, help with outreach to students and staff, and recycling containers and stickers, the Green Schools Program provides schools and school districts with the support they need to set up and maintain effective conservation practices.

In addition to providing schools with the hands-on help they need, the program offers a Web site, www.kingcounty.gov/GreenSchools, with useful tools and resources. Schools interested in receiving assistance to improve conservation practices can contact Alekel at dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov.

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