

Sammamish History

Sammamish in the 1950's



The 1950s began here with the Big Chill. Starting on Friday the 13th of January and continuing until February 5 we endured our worst recorded cold wave since weather records started in Seattle in 1886. Temperatures stayed in the 20s most days, and dropped into the single figures of both sides of zero most nights, for over three weeks. Issaquah reported a low of minus 3 on January 18 and Pine Lake minus 2 that same morning. Then it got colder: the following week the January 26 "Pine Lake News Shorts" in the Issaquah Press reported "...in one place (at Pine Lake), it was reported to have been as low as 11 degrees below zero."

Two witnesses I interviewed had two interesting, but sharply divergent, comments about the cold wave. One reported a lot of snow, but the other said there was no snow. Actually, both were right. 10 inches of snow fell the night of the 18th -- but a brief thaw two days later melted it and caused streams to flood and pipes to burst. By the 23rd it was below freezing again, with a few inches of snow that day and another seven on the 25th—but the snow was dry and powdery, and the latter storm came with high winds that blew much of the snow away, leaving relatively little on the ground.

Then it got even colder. Seattle recorded its all time low of zero degrees at Boeing Field on January 31; on February 1 it warmed up to 1 degree. Ironically, Issaquah was actually warmer on those two days— if you call four

above zero on both mornings warmer. The February 2 issue of the Press reported that average temperatures for January in Seattle, "given out by the weather bureau's climatological office, was 29.6 degrees, compared with the previous record of 31 degrees in 1916."

Snoqualmie Falls froze first-- into enormous light green icicles, save for a trickle of cold water dribbling down the middle. Then Lake Sammamish froze. The February 9 Press featured a front-page picture of a frozen Lake Sammamish and reported "For the first time in history" (and it hasn't frozen since), "Lake Sammamish was frozen over from 3 to 4 ½ inches at the south end and ice covered most of the rest of the lake during the recent cold spell. Alexander's Beach was the site of numerous skating parties." (Alexander's Beach and Resort was located near today's intersection of Southeast 43rd and East Lake Sammamish Parkway.)

By February 5 the cold wave was over, but another kind of cold continued that affected people even on the Plateau: the Cold War. Glance at Seattle P-I front pages from January 1950 alone and you'll find headline after headline about The Great Red Menace-- communism, China, and the biggest bear of all, the Soviet Union. If you think today's society has become more paranoid since September 11, 2001, it pales in comparison to the paranoia that swept America in the early 1950s, and with good reason: today's terrorists can kill a few of us, but in the 1950s the communists could have killed many of us and done it quickly and easily. The Red Scare reached the Plateau when one local resident with leftist leanings allegedly put some flyers with communist propaganda into his neighbors' mailboxes. The neighbors complained, the FBI came out and interviewed a couple of people, but nothing much ever came of it.

Much more DID come, though, with a ground observer post that was here (and in other parts of the country) in the '50s. "It was near the end of the Korean War (1953). About eight or ten men and women got together. We weren't a club, just volunteers" recalls Jane Forbes, who was then living on the family farm on Southeast 212th where Pine Lake Estates is now. "We met with a sergeant from McChord Air Force Base. He gave each of us a big book with pictures of airplanes and their names. We had spotters at Beaver Lake and Pine Lake, and if any of us saw a plane we would identify it and phone it in on a special number that went directly to McChord."

The spotters were known as ground observers, and were part of the "Skywatch" program in the Ground Observer Corps. They established a ground observer post on the Plateau and met once a month, usually at the home of Bernice Lefler. Often the McChord sergeant attended the meetings to personally review what was happening. A circa 1955 article in "Scramble", the Ground Observer Corporation magazine, notes "this unique post, in subsection C, was formerly known as Monohon NC 53 Black". By 1955, though,

the post had changed its name to the smoother-sounding Pine Lake Washington Post. The article says “last month a total of 163 aircraft flash calls were processed (through the Pine Lake Post)”. The article does not say that it didn’t matter if the plane looked friendly or not—if it was anything bigger than a Piper Cub, it got called in.

In 1957 post members went to the Air Defense Filter Center in Portland for a tour which included the radar room. Since radar was still somewhat new in the ‘50s—at least for civilians-- this was a real treat. “When we called a plane sighting into the Air Force, they would activate their radar and try to track it” adds Forbes.



The Ground Observer Corps disbanded in 1959 with no reported sightings of enemy planes over Sammamish.

One of our major area summer events in the ‘50s was Redmond Derby Days, usually held the third or fourth Saturday in August. Although the festivities were in downtown Redmond, the Redmond Bike Derby ran through what would later be Sammamish. The Derby had started in 1939 as a novel local event but after World War II had rapidly gained in popularity and notoriety and by 1950 was serious business.

There were several bicycle races of various lengths, but the big race was a 25 mile loop around the lake (the fastest biker could complete it in just over an hour), starting from Redmond, going down West Lake Sammamish Road, back east along the Sunset Highway (Highway 10) and then back to Redmond via East Lake Sammamish Road. People came from all over Washington, northern Oregon, and southern British Columbia to compete.

Indeed, in the 1951 Derby Days all of the eight winners in the men's category of the bike derby were from either Vancouver or Victoria, BC, which had to have irked the locals to no end. There were various age and sex categories for the races, as well as races strictly for stock and racing bikes, so everyone had at least a shot at winning one of the trophies or the grand prize, usually a bicycle.

The race prospered through the '50s but biked its last lap around Lake Sammamish in the summer of 1962. I-90 was completed through Issaquah by 1963, eliminating the Sunset Highway leg of the race, and race organizers changed the route.

People living closer to Issaquah than Redmond on the 1950s Plateau say the Issaquah Labor Day Parade was their big summer event of the '50s. This was a three day parade that was held in downtown Issaquah, with the big parade on Saturday. People on the Plateau made their floats and joined in. By the late '50s Alexander's Resort was having limited hydro races around the south end of the lake. This was nothing like Seafair, which was also going on by then, but in an age with considerably less options than what we enjoy today, it was still a lot of fun if you lived nearby.

The 1950s Plateau had changed little since settlers first came here in the 1890s. The big chicken farms were still here, the dairy farms were still here, the orchards, the trees, the resorts. Just the faintest hint of change appeared as the '50s ended when construction started on the Sunny Hills Development near Beaver Lake. In 1959 there were no houses yet, just some secluded dirt roads, which promptly attracted local teenagers looking for places to park.

People living here then say that the 1950s were the last decade that was so much more like the old than the new. In the 1960s there would not be a lot of development on the Plateau, but instead the things that had been here for so long would simply begin to fade away or disappear altogether. The farms began to disappear in the '60s. Ditto Pine Lake Resort, gone after 1966. Business at the Issaquah Lumber Company on the Monohon site was slowing by 1960, due in part to several fires that struck the mill in the late '50s, including a bad one in 1956. Local granges, long a driving force on the Plateau and still strong in the '50s, would begin to see their membership rolls tailing off after 1970.

By 1975 development was increasing on the Plateau and by 1985 was increasing even faster. Far from slowing today in 2005, major development is continuing as you read this with Sammamish Commons and the Crossings Development (on Southeast 212th) breaking ground just this year, transforming the bucolic farming and ranching Sammamish of the '50s into a bustling 21st century Seattle suburb with little resemblance to its past.

---Phil Dougherty

Sammamish, 1955



What? There was no Sammamish in 1955. True--but while you might know what WASN'T here in 1955, you might be surprised to find what WAS here in 1955.

What wasn't here can be summed up in a paragraph. Much of the wasn't was between Southeast Eighth and Redmond Fall City Road. There were a few farmhouses and a lot of trees. But there was no Timberline neighborhood, no Mead Elementary, no Highlands Shopping Center, (and no Safeway, either, in spite of what the erroneous "serving Sammamish since 1950" sign inside the store says). 228th Avenue was a narrow streak of pavement, barely wide enough for two cars, coming up from Pine Lake and dead ending in a T intersection at Inglewood Hill Road.

In 1955 the population in what would become Sammamish numbered somewhere in the hundreds, most of it south of Southeast Eighth, which in 1955 was the boundary between Redmond and Issaquah. The homes here were still so remote in 1955 that they all had "rural route" addresses. Scattered through the area were a couple of small communities, some good-sized farms, and, in an era before supermarkets, small general stores. These stores typically sold a few canned goods, milk and bread; some sold beer and gas. Brady's store (which would become known as Sadlier's in the '60s) was located roughly where the Golden Wok is now at Pine Lake Shopping Center. Barker's store was on the southeast corner of 212th and SE 32nd. Farther west, off the hill and nearly to the lake, was the Monohon General Store, where the 7-11 is today. Nearby, the Monohon logging mill was still logging on, though the town was long gone.

In 1955 the big chicken and dairy farms that had been here for several decades were still here, but wouldn't be for much longer; improving technology would soon reduce the need for the farms here and nudge them into history. "1955 was about the end of an era here", remarks long-time resident Dirk Forbes. Forbes's grandfather Al had had his farm on 212th just southwest of Pine Lake for over 20 years by 1955. In 1955 he had 15 acres of peaches and several more acres of boysenberries and raspberries. He ran a profitable "u-pick" operation where people came in droves and picked their

own in the high summer months. But even the orchards' days were numbered. Al Forbes died in December 1955, and though his family ran the u-pick operation for a few more years, it was gone by 1960.

The "population center" here--- I use the term "population center" tongue in cheek-- was around Pine Lake. Remember that in 1955 Pine Lake was Issaquah, but Pine Lake was important enough to merit its own corner (the Pine Lake News Briefs) in the weekly Issaquah Press. The News Briefs were meticulously detailed updates about who was visiting who, who got married or who was ill with what. Occasionally there were more worldly briefs, such as updates on a road trip Mr. & Mrs. Eno Tanska took to the American South and Cuba early in the year. Not to be outdone, Beaver Lake had its own column, Beaver Lake News, in the Press by December 1955; one of the first columns invited people to come to a meeting on December 18 at Andy's Beaver Lake Resort to organize the Beaver Lake Community Club.

The Pine Lake Community Center was the happening place. The Pine Lake Community Club had popular theme dances every few months in 1955 (want to go to Klondike Night ? Dial EXbrook-3394 for more information). These dances were always a big draw and a lot of fun--- 50 years later people who were there still remember them with great fondness. Nearby, Reiff French had French's LaPine Resort (affectionately called "Frenchie's" by some) in full swing that spring and summer.



But the Big Event of 1955 at Pine Lake was the opening of the Pine Lake Fire Volunteer Fire Department in February. It was located in the basement of the Pine Lake Community Club, and staffed by four to six volunteers. The Club gave the Fire Department permission to install a siren on the roof of the building, and every Thursday evening the siren sounded the signal for the volunteer's weekly meeting. Then, real action-- on December 22, 1955 the Department was called to put out a nearby chimney fire. Some people forgot about the fledgling Pine Lake Fire Department and instead called the Issaquah Fire Department to fight the fire, resulting in some community squabbling and wounded pride in the next two Pine Lake News Briefs.

What would you see if you stepped into someone's house here in the spring of 1955? Most families by then had their first TVs; you could get a decent black and white picture if you had an antenna on your roof to receive the signal from Seattle. Phones, of course, were here, but were on "party lines". Each residence had its own phone number but several different residences shared a common phone line. You identified an incoming call by the number of rings- one house might have two short rings, the next house three. Watch out for nosy neighbors picking up their phone and listening in on your conversation! Finally, many homes here were still on well water in 1955. Oscar Freed was running Water District 82 by then out of his farmhouse just northwest of Pine Lake, but many people, not wanting to pay the water connection fee the District charged, hadn't bothered to hook up yet.

It was a different life here in 1955, but a vibrant one, with a sense of community and purpose unique to what would one day be Sammamish.

---Phil Dougherty

Sammamish Incorporation, August 31,1999

After a decade of wrangling, one failed vote for incorporation and an unsuccessful attempt to incorporate with Issaquah, voters on November 3, 1998 approve the incorporation of the City of Sammamish out of an area on the Plateau just east of Lake Sammamish. The city formally incorporates on August 31, 1999.

For many years the area due east of Lake Sammamish, nearly 20 miles east of Seattle, was referred to simply as "The Plateau". First inhabited by white settlers in the 1890s, the area for many years consisted of a few small farms, some large chicken and dairy farms, several logging mills and, by the middle of the 20th century, a few resorts, such as French's La Pine Resort (better known as Pine Lake Resort) on Pine Lake.

Development began spreading on the Plateau in the mid 1970s and by the mid 1980s was accelerating dramatically as Seattle's suburbs sprawled eastward. Before long local residents were complaining that King County was not providing the appropriate services as growth continued unchecked on the Plateau, which led to increasing interest in incorporation by the late 1980s.

In 1991 the first vote came when voters rejected a proposition to annex to Issaquah the southern end of the Sammamish Plateau (south of Southeast 8th, east to area ending roughly around 260th Southeast). That same year, Redmond included the north end of the Plateau (north of Southeast 8th, and west of-- again roughly-- 244th Northeast) in a long-range annexation plan.

The plan was hotly contested and was debated for over a year before being abandoned.

In 1992 East Sammamish area voters first put the incorporation issue on the ballot. Proponents argued that it would give the area the infrastructure it needed to grow, more efficiently manage tax dollars and preserve the community. Opponents argued that it would actually be cheaper and more efficient to annex to Redmond and Issaquah and take advantage of the established government services in these cities.

On September 15, 1992 over 9,300 area voters (just over half of those registered) defeated the incorporation proposition. Preliminary results released in the October 1992 Sammamish Review showed the measure failed by a significant margin: 58.4 to 41.6 percent.

Incorporation proponents were surprised by the breadth of the defeat and while there initially was talk of quickly bringing the issue to vote again, there was actually little action for the next several years. However, by 1997 the drive to incorporate was again gaining momentum. Area activists formed two groups in 1997 to gain support for incorporation. These two groups, SHOUT (Sammamish Home Owners and Renters United) and SING (Sammamish Incorporation Neighborhoods Group) helped generate significant publicity for the incorporation issue and kept it moving forward to an eventual vote.

By the summer of 1998, the incorporation drive was picking up speed. In June a feasibility study was released by King County that concluded that a new city in the area would be self-supporting and with a healthy annual tax surplus. Also by the summer of 1998, Redmond had gone on record as no longer having an interest in annexing the northern half of the Sammamish Plateau, while Issaquah had no further plans to consider annexation of the southern half of the Plateau before 2013 at the earliest.

On November 3, 1998 nearly 8,000 eligible voters voted to create the City of Sammamish by a comfortable margin of about 67 percent to 33 percent. Ironically, in spite of the publicity leading up to the vote, turnout was nearly 15% lower than in the 1992 election, even though the Plateau's population had grown during the 1990s.

At midnight on August 31, 1999, incorporation took effect and Sammamish became its own city, with a city council and a police department, a zip code (but no post office, a problem that persists today (2005)) no downtown and a "city hall" located in the Sammamish Highlands Mall--in short, Sammamish was born with the same ancillary problems that any new suburban city faces when it first splits off from the mother county. Since 1999 Sammamish has come a long way toward resolving these problems. For example, in June 2005 ground was broken for the development of Sammamish Commons, a

civic and park complex at 228th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 8th. Scheduled for completion in the summer of 2006, this will be home to Sammamish's new city hall.

During the incorporation process in 1998 and 1999 there was considerable debate over what to name the new city of about 28,000. While Sammamish was favored by many there was serious discussion on other names: Sahalee, Inglewood, Pine Lake, Heaven (a proposition quickly withdrawn)—even Monohon, in a nod to the vibrant logging community that was on the southeast shore of Lake Sammamish in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Sammamish won the name game and stuck with its original name, which is a Native American name derived from *samma*, meaning "the sound of the blue crane" and *mish*, meaning "river".

---Phil Dougherty

September 5, 2005

Sources: "Feasibility Study: YES", SHOUT for SAMMAMISH, August 1998, p. 1; "Pros and Cons" (of incorporation), Sammamish Review, September 1992, p. 15; Melissa London, "Voters quash Sammamish incorporation bid", Sammamish Review, October 1992, p. 1, 2; Dave Herman, "Cityhood for Sammamish", Sammamish Review, November 1998, p. 1; Dave Herman, "Now entering Sammamish, Wash.", Sammamish Review, September 1, 1999, p. 1; Robert Hitchman, Place Names of Washington, Tacoma, WA: Washington State Historical Society

SAMMAMISH IN THE '60s

No, there wasn't a Sammamish in the 1960s, and wouldn't be for decades yet. But by the '60s there had been settlement for 80 years in what would become Sammamish, and by this time the Plateau had a history, first as a logger's paradise, then as a resort paradise. However, in the 1960s many of the resorts would disappear and the Plateau would see the first hints of urbanization, which would eventually lead to the Sammamish we now know half a century later.

In 1960 what little development there was on the Plateau were ranches, farms, summer homes, and the resorts; the Plateau's population was perhaps 1,000 to 2,000 people. But change was edging in from the south. The Sunny Hills Development was under construction as the decade began, first as a motley collection of dirt roads (loved by teenagers for dirt driving and parking) and soon followed by streets and houses. If you wanted to get there from Issaquah, you took Vaughn's Hill Road (now SE Issaquah-Fall City Road) up from East Lake Sammamish Road. SE 43rd Way, today's primary southern access to the Plateau, wasn't there in the '60s.

Sunny Hills was the first development in Sammamish, but it didn't really resemble today's new developments. The lots were larger -- an acre and a quarter to two and a half acres -- while the houses were smaller than most new houses built here today. Jim Dilorenzo moved to SE 32nd Street in the Sunny Hills Development early in 1965 and quips "I had to pay an outrageous price for one and a quarter acres -- \$3,600. The [cost to build the] house was \$15,700; it was a rambler. It came out to about \$11 a square foot." (In 2010 dollars that equates to about \$25,000 for the lot and \$107,000 for the house.) Meanwhile, to handle the influx of families moving into the area, Sunny Hills Elementary, the first modern school on the Plateau, was built in 1962.

And despite the development, Sunny Hills was still far more rural than it is today, with nearby swamps and woods and all kinds of trails for bike riders. Since there were more woods and less people, there was more wildlife. This included chipmunks, which would sometimes visit Dilorenzo's home for a snack. "We would hold our hand out the rec room window and shake our cup of cracked wheat, and they would come up to our cup and eat right out of it," recalls Dilorenzo's daughter Barbara Brueske.



Pine Lake Resort (Frenchy's), c.1958

Northeast of Sunny Hills, the southwestern edge of Beaver Lake featured Andy's Beaver Lake Resort, which had flourished since the 1930s. But 1960 was its last year. Owner Dick Anderson sold the resort, and its small brown lodge burned down soon after. The site subsequently experienced the 1960s as a Catholic Youth Organization camp called Camp Cabrini. Farther to the west, the Pine Lake Resort -- more commonly called Frenchy's, in a nod to Reiff French, who ran the resort from 1932 to 1957 -- lasted longer into the

1960s. And even in its final season it was still going strong, attracting happy swimmers who raced against swimmers from other area lakes. When Frenchy's closed after the 1966 season King County bought the site, and by the end of 1969 had largely transformed it into Pine Lake Park, albeit a somewhat different version of the park we know today.



Sadlier's, 1949 (but building looked this way through the 1960s)

About a quarter mile south of the entrance to Frenchy's on 228th SE stood a grocery store. It started the '60s as Braden's, but by the mid-1960s was Stafford's. About 1968 Joe Sadlier bought the place and renamed it Sadlier's. The store was a popular place that became even more popular once Sadlier bought it, maybe because Sadlier added a meat market to the store (in the early '70s) or maybe because of Sadlier himself, a gregarious man who during the Christmas season might invite some of his better customers into his store's back room for a festive holiday drink. But he was no pushover -- he banned at least one smart-mouthed teenager from his store after she mouthed off to him.

Among Sadlier's customers was an older couple who often rode their horses along the Plateau's roads, accompanied by a sandy brown terrier riding its own horse. "I had to do a double take when I first saw it," says Dilorenzo. "The dog just stood up on that horse. I've got to tell you, it was a strange looking sight." Others remember the equestrian dog too; actually, it seems to have left quite an impression. And if the dog ever visited Sadlier's, there was a hitching post out front for him to tie up his horse.

Farther to the north on 228th, another Plateau icon disappeared in the 1960s: the Sween (pronounced "Swinn") Poultry Farm. In operation since 1914 and located just southwest of today's intersection of SE 4th Street and 228th Avenue SE, the farm had been a steadily growing enterprise that

during the '50s had processed as many as half a million fryer chickens a year in one of the largest such operations in the state. But owner Bill Sween retired in 1965, closed down his operations, and parceled the land out.

But even as some old icons disappeared during the '60s, new ones arose. One was the High Lonesome Ranch, located just east of 244th Avenue NE, about a quarter mile south of NE 8th Street. In 1960 Chris Klineburger bought the 50 acres that became the ranch, and within a year or so had built a "frontier town" to provide people with an authentic Western experience. There was a saloon there, as well as a bunkhouse, a working blacksmith shop, and horse rentals, where people just could rent a horse and explore the countryside.

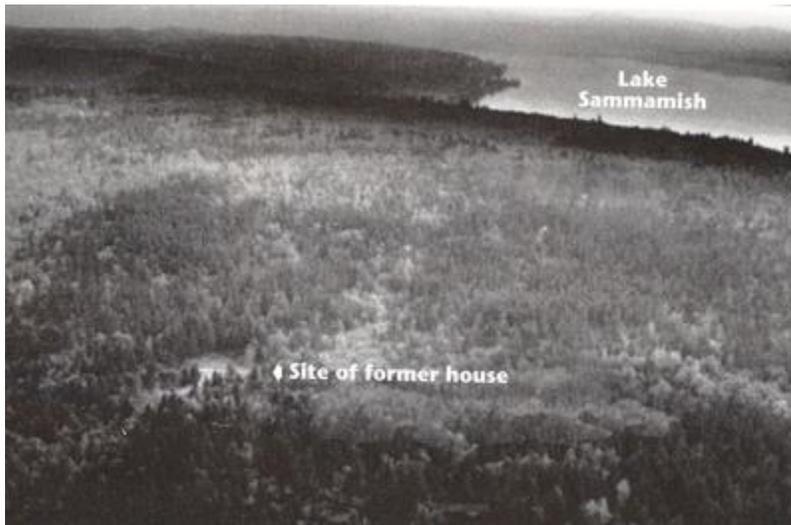
And there was plenty to explore. In 1965 Klineburger established the High Lonesome Riders club, and its members often took long horseback rides through the wooded Valhalla that was then the Plateau. In the 1960s 228th Avenue NE ended at the intersection of Inglewood Hill Road, but that wasn't a problem for the riders who were looking to go north through the area where Sahalee Way is today. Explains Klineburger, "There was a dirt road that went up the hill [north from Inglewood Hill Road] to an old boy scout camp. There was nothing left of the camp but a clearing. There was a horse trail from the camp that dropped down to the Redmond-Fall City Road -- it might have been an old logging road. We'd ride down that road to the Redmond-Fall City Road and ride into Redmond that way. We didn't like taking 244th [then the northern access route to the Plateau] because we had to ride on the [main] road all the way."



Inglewood Grammar School, 1960s

Back at the intersection of Inglewood Hill Road and 228th Avenue NE, the old Inglewood Grammar School, built in the first half of the 1890s, stood on

the northeast corner, roughly where the 76 station is today. Long since abandoned by the '60s, the old schoolhouse survived through the decade and into the next, a silent sentinel to a far earlier time, before it eventually collapsed sometime around the mid-'70s. There was a small mink farm behind the old schoolhouse (on NE 8th Street) for a period of time that probably included the early '60s, but little else is presently known about it.



Aerial view of northern end of the Plateau, later home to Sahalee, 1965

Up until the late 1960s, most of the Plateau's development had been on its southern half, with the exception of the area on and near Weber's Point, which had been home to the small community of Sammamish in the early twentieth century. But by the '60s there was only a wide scatter of farms north of Inglewood Hill Road and NE 8th Street; most of the area was just woods. So it was a bit of a surprise when in 1967 it was announced that a 27-hole golf course and development named Sahalee would be built in a forested area on the northern end of the Plateau. The first 18 holes opened in August 1969, while construction of the rest of the course stretched into 1970. But even as the decade ended, most of the development in Sahalee centered around the golf course. Some houses had been built, but further development was coming to a screeching halt that would last for several years thanks to the Boeing Bust.

Along Lake Sammamish, near today's SE 33rd Street, the Monohon mill was still operating, though it was a shadow of the large operation it had been in the early decades of the century. Farther south, near the southern end of today's Sammamish city limits, was Alexander's Beach Resort. In existence since 1917 and long a favorite for many Eastsiders (and some Seattleites), the resort remained a big draw through the 1960s, though visitors to the resort after the Alexander / Ek family sold the property in 1966 suggest that it wasn't quite the same.

And there was another significant development on the Plateau in the 1960s. In 1961 the Providence Heights College of Sister Formation opened on the southern end of the Plateau at 4221 228th Avenue SE. Yes, that's actually in Issaquah, but just barely -- you can walk across 228th Avenue SE from the entrance to the old campus and be in Sammamish. It merits a mention here because of its impact on Sammamish; this college and its successor, Trinity Lutheran College, provided a number of jobs for Plateau area residents over the next half century.

The college offered liberal arts degrees to women training to become nuns. It opened in June 1961, and "most people were very enthused with it," recalls Jane Forbes, who in the 1960s lived on 212th Avenue SE near Barker's Store. But the college was profoundly affected by the social changes of the '60s, and closed before the decade ended. A 1968 article in the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* announcing the closing probably explains it best: "The college became obsolete after the second Vatican council recommended sisters in training remain in contact with society. It was built when the emphasis for sisters-to-be was on a strong educational program coupled with withdrawal from the secular world."

The college closed in June 1969 and served as a conference center for nearly a decade. In 1978 the Lutheran Bible Institute (later Trinity Lutheran College) purchased the site and also agreed to dedicate a portion of the property to senior housing, which led to the development of Issaquah's Providence Point. Trinity Lutheran College stayed until 2008, and today the location is home to the City Church.

Still more rural than urban as the decade ended (the Plateau's population in 1969 was less than 5,000), Sammamish in the '60s is remembered with great fondness by practically everyone I've talked to who was then here. Granted that good memories look even better with time, and Sammamish is still a wonderful place to live. But there was a closer, more familiar feeling here then that isn't here now. Patty Gorman explains, "Overall it was very rural and laid back. It wasn't the speed people go today," while Gary Lachance adds, "Everybody kind of knew everybody. It was more like a family atmosphere." Mark Powell, who was a youth growing up on Pine Lake in the mid and late 1960s, sums it up this way: "It was just a neat place to grow up. It couldn't have been more fun." Yet in the '60s change was edging onto the Plateau, and most recognized that bigger change would eventually follow. Says Jane Forbes, "We always knew we couldn't stay rural because we were too close to Seattle. But it's so interesting to see how things have developed. I just can't believe it."

Phil Dougherty
February 8, 2010

Sources: "Beaver Lake," "Klineburger Brothers -- High Lonesome Ranch," "Sadlier's Store," "Sahalee," and "Sammamish In The '50s" (by Phil Dougherty), Sammamish Heritage Society website accessed January 15, 2010 (<http://www.iinet.com/~shs/history.html>); *HistoryLink Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History*, "Alexander's Beach Resort," "Pine Lake Resort," and "Sammamish Plateau: Sweens Poultry Farm," (by Phil Dougherty), <http://www.historylink.org> (accessed January 16, 2010); "Nuns Seek Use For College," *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, December 30, 1968, p. 6; "CPI Inflation Calculator," Bureau of Labor Statistics website accessed January 26, 2009 (http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm); "Our Schools," Issaquah School District website accessed January 20, 2010 (<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/schools>); "A Vision of Community," Providence Point website accessed January 30, 2010 (<http://www.providencepoint.com/History.html>); "Providence in the West: A Timeline, 1856-1902," Sisters of Providence website accessed January 23, 2010 (<http://www.sistersofprovidence.net/150years/index.php?page=history&h=timeline>); "Mission, Vision, and History," Trinity Lutheran College website accessed January 23, 2010 (http://www.tlc.edu/about_history.html); Phil Dougherty interview of Barbara Brueske, January 24, 2010, Sammamish, WA; Phil Dougherty interview of Jim Dilorenzo, January 24, 2010, Bellevue, WA; Phil Dougherty interview of Jane Forbes, January 23, 2010, Camano Island, WA; Phil Dougherty interview of Patty Garman, January 23, 2010, Woodinville, WA; Phil Dougherty interview of Michele Hyatt, January 26, 2010, Cle Elum, WA; Phil Dougherty interview of Chris Klineburger, January 19, 2010, Las Vegas, NV; Phil Dougherty interview of Gary Lachance, January 30, 2010, Covington, WA; Phil Dougherty interview of Mark Powell, January 26, 2010, Kirkland, WA

SAMMAMISH NAMES THEN AND NOW



Adelaide: Adelaide was a small village located along the northeastern shore of Lake Sammamish in the early twentieth century. It was bisected by what is today (2008) 187th Avenue Northeast, which was then officially named Ed Botsford Road. Because the village was divided by this road, the northern part of Adelaide was in present-day Redmond, while the southern part was in today's Sammamish. It is not currently known how the village got its name, though Adelaide was a somewhat common girl's name in the early twentieth century. Adelaide was a company town owned by the Campbell mill which was located just north of the community. The mill opened in 1905 and the village started about the same time. By 1909 Adelaide boasted a store, hotel, and railroad depot; the community's population seems to have averaged around 50 people. When the mill burned down in 1924 (some of its pier pilings are still visible in the lake), Adelaide faded away over the next decade or so.

Alexander's- on- the Lake: This small upscale development is located along the lakeshore just north of the intersection of 212th Way SE and East Lake Sammamish Parkway SE. The property was originally bought by Thomas and Caroline Alexander, who in 1902 built a house on their property (on the east side of today's parkway). Caroline opened Alexander's Beach Resort in 1917, and it remained in the family until 1966; this resort was a major attraction on the southeastern shore of Lake Sammamish during the mid-twentieth century. The resort closed in 1985, but the development still bears the Alexander name.

Bill Reams East Sammamish Park: The park, located on the north side of NE 16th Street just east of 212th Avenue NE, is named after Bill Reams, who served as a King County Councilmember for District 3 (which includes present-day Sammamish) from 1969 through 1989.

Four Corners: Four Corners was an old name for the intersection of SE 24th Street and 228th Avenue SE. There are some unconfirmed reports of a small school at this site around 1900. The name seems to have fallen out of use early in the 1900s.

Inglewood: Inglewood was a large-in-area, sparse-in-population community which, between the 1890s and the 1930s, covered an area that would today loosely be considered North Sammamish. The debate over how Inglewood got its name has not yet been settled. One common misperception is that it was named after Ingebright Wold, who platted Englewood (later Issaquah) in the 1880s, but this is not correct. Some historians say Inglewood was named after Inglewood, California, while others say it has its roots in Great Britain. Since the name "Inglewood" means "English woodlands," the British connection is a plausible possibility. The town of Inglewood was platted in 1889. Though no town was ever built, 17 streets were, and each street was named. The plat of Inglewood formed a square starting on the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish and running east along NE 16th Street (just north of Inglewood Hill Road) to 212th Avenue NE, south across Inglewood Hill Road to NE 8th Street, west back to the lake, and then north again. Today this area makes up the Inglewood neighborhood, and most of the streets originally built survive today -- but none have their original names. The east-west streets between today's NE 8th and NE 16th streets were all named after trees: 8th was Willow, 11th was Cherry, and 15th was Alder. The north-south avenues were named a little more creatively. 203rd Avenue NE (which no longer exists) was Sammamish Avenue. 206th Avenue NE was Hillside, 210th was Upland, and 211th Avenue NE was Prospect. These original names survived through the 1930s, but area maps from about 1950 show today's numerical street addresses.

Issaquah-Pine Lake Road: This road is identified as "Gobel Road" on a 1936 area map.



Laughing Jacobs Lake: Laughing Jacobs Lake was named after Jacob Jones (1825-1905), a wealthy Issaquah resident, who owned a shingle mill near the southeast corner of Pine Lake between roughly 1893 and 1900. According to Hitchman's "Place Names of Washington," two early settlers, William Bush and Wilford Stewart, named the lake after Jacob Jones when they heard him trying to imitate a loon's cry on the lake. The lake also became informally known as Sutter's Lake and Sutter's Mill Pond during the first half of the twentieth century, named after the Sutter family, who owned property on the lake and ran a nearby mill during that time.

Monohon: The town of Monohon was located in the vicinity of present-day East Lake Sammamish Parkway SE and SE 33rd Street, near the small Sammamish Lakeside Plaza strip mall. Monohon was named after Martin Monohon (1820-1914), who in 1877 homesteaded on 160 acres about half a mile northeast of where the town of Monohon would later be built. The town and lumber mill were on the site from 1889 until a fire in 1925 destroyed virtually everything in the town, including the mill. At its height in the 1910s and early 1920s, Monohon had over 300 people, numerous businesses, and its own water system.

Sammamish: Sammamish is a Native American name, but it does not, contrary to some published reports, mean "hunter people." According to Hitchman, the name *Sammamish* is derived from *samma*, meaning "the sound of the blue crane" and *mish*, meaning "river". The name may have originated with the Snoqualmie Tribe -- some tribal members once lived along the lake near the bottom of Inglewood Hill -- but this has not been verified.

East Lake Sammamish Parkway: East Lake Sammamish Road, as it was informally known in the early decades of the twentieth century, was officially

named Redmond-Issaquah Road through the 1930s and possibly into the 1940s. Historical records suggest that locals at the time used both names to refer to the road.

Southeast 4th Street: SE 4th Street west of 228th Avenue SE was originally named E.A. Pearson Road.

Southeast 24th Street: SE 24th Street is identified as Pine Lake Road west of 212th SE on a 1936 map, while east of 228th Avenue SE, SE 24th Street is identified as Beaver Lake Road.



Reard-Freed House: Located at 1807 212th Ave SE, the Reard-Freed House is one of the earliest structures built on the Sammamish Plateau that still stands, second in time only to the Bengston Cabin. Jacob D. Reard, a German immigrant, built the house between 1892 and 1895 and lived there during its earliest years. Oscar Freed bought it from a subsequent owner in 1928; he and later his son Richard owned the house until 1996.

Beaton Hill: Long-time resident Archie Howatson tells us that in the 1920s you went up a long, winding road from Lake Sammamish (Louis Thompson Road) to get to the top of Beaton Hill. The hill was named after farmer Angus J. Beaton (abt. 1881-1951), who owned a farm on the northeast corner of SE 8th Street and 218th Avenue SE; the farm remains in the family today. The 1930 census shows that Beaton was born in Scotland and immigrated to America in 1909, and obtained his U.S. citizenship in Pennsylvania. He moved to Washington state between 1921 and 1925.

Beaver Lake: The origin of the name for Beaver Lake, located in southeastern Sammamish, is as obvious as it sounds -- yes, it came from the beavers that live on and around the lake.

Bengston Cabin: James Bengston (1845-1896) and Johanna Bengston (1852-1946), both native-born Swedes, are believed to have arrived on the Sammamish Plateau late in 1887 or in early 1888. (This should be researched further.) The Bengstons settled on a 160 acre homestead encompassing an area roughly between today's NE 26th Street and NE 30th Place on both sides of 244th Avenue NE. Bengston subsequently transferred 80 acres of his homestead to his brother-in-law, Charles Isackson, when Isackson arrived on the Plateau in 1893. Part of the 80 acres that Bengston kept is today's Broadmoore Estates.

It is believed the Bengstons built their cabin in the winter of 1888, and it still stands at its original location at 3019 244th Avenue NE, the oldest surviving pioneer structure in Sammamish. Johanna Bengston lived in the cabin until shortly before her death in July 1946.

Isackson's Hill: Isackson's Hill was the unofficial name for the hill above Isackson's Mill, just south and west of 244th Avenue NE and Redmond-Fall City Road. Henry Isackson (1895-1981), the son of Charles Isackson (1865-1954), started Isackson's Mill in 1936, and it remains in use today, operated by his son, Duane; it is only one of two remaining operating lumber mills (the other is in Issaquah) on or immediately adjacent to the Sammamish Plateau. While the mill is located just north of the Sammamish city limits, Henry Isackson's property stretched up the hill into Sammamish as far south as today's Broadmoore Estates, making the higher part of Isackson's Hill in today's Sammamish. 244th Avenue NE was informally known as Isackson Hill Road, and for decades was the only way onto the Plateau from the north in the area (Sahalee Way was not built until the 1970s.)

Issaquah-Pine Lake Road: This road is identified as "Gobel Road" on a 1936 area map.

Louis Thompson Road: The road is identified as "Thompson Road" in the 1920 U.S. Census for the Inglewood precinct, and Louis Thompson is also shown as living (as a boarder in the home of John Pochath) in the Inglewood precinct in 1920. (However, he does not appear in the 1910 or 1930 censuses for Inglewood.) The 1920 census shows that Thompson was born in Denmark (curiously, his age is deliberately omitted from the census) and immigrated to America in 1902. As of 1920 he had not obtained U.S. citizenship. According to the census, Thompson was a "deck man" for a "shingle mill," perhaps Weber's mill to the north.

Mint Grove: Mint Grove is located in the 1200-1400 block of East Lake Sammamish Parkway SE. By the mid-1920s there was a picnic ground and swimming beach there, run by a family named Mundorf (possibly E.G. Mundorf), who lived about half a mile south of Mint Grove at Sulphur Springs

Point). In the 1930s and 1940s George Hauser owned a large chicken cannery which was located just north of Mint Grove.

Parr's Park: Parr's Park was located along the lakefront in the cove just north of what was then known as Sutter's Point (and also by its formal name, Sulphur Springs Point), or just north of what is today's View Point Park. View Point Park is located near the intersection of East Lake Sammamish Parkway SE and SE 22nd Place. Parr's Park was a recreation area that existed from at least the late 1930s (and possibly earlier) until the late 1950s. The park was originally owned and managed by John C. Parr, but around 1940 Jack and Lillian Alma began managing the park, though the property (and park) remained in Parr's name. In 1951 the park was purchased by the Maggard family and became Maggard's Resort (though it is still typically remembered as Parr's Park). According to a Maggard family member, the resort had 13 cabins, 13 boats, 13 picnic tables, 13 outhouses, a store, and a large fishing dock with a boathouse.

Pine Lake: Located just west of 228th Avenue SE and just south of SE 20th Street, Pine Lake has been a favored recreation spot for most of the past century. But the origins of its name are a little curious. Pine trees are not native to Pine Lake and weren't native when the lake was named in the late nineteenth century. Perhaps one of the early settlers confused the western red cedar trees at the lake with pine trees.

Sahalee: This neighborhood (and world famous 27-hole golf course) is located in north-central Sammamish. The golf course opened in 1969, with the housing development slowly built around it during the 1970s. The name *Sahalee* is a Chinook name which means "high heavenly ground."

Sammamish: Sammamish is a Native American name, but it does not, contrary to some published reports, mean "hunter people." According to Hitchman, the name *Sammamish* is derived from *samma*, meaning "the sound of the blue crane" and *mish*, meaning "river." The name may have originated with the Snoqualmie Tribe -- some tribal members once lived along the lake near the bottom of Inglewood Hill -- but this has not been verified.

Shady Rest: Located on the east side of what is today roughly the 700 block of East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE, Shady Rest sported a store, gas station and a few cabins between the 1930s and 1950s. There was a very small motel -- described by a resident from the late 1940s as a few "connected cabins"-- on a knoll just above and to the left of the store (toilet at the end of the row) and a few more cabins to the right of the store, just off of East Lake Sammamish / Redmond-Issaquah Road.

Sulphur Springs Point: This tip of land that juts into Lake Sammamish was located near today's East Lake Sammamish Place NE and SE 190th Place. Many locals in the first half of the twentieth century also referred to the point as Sutter's Point, so named after Fritz Sutter, who owned land at the point. Sulphur Springs Point and the immediate surrounding area was -- at least officially -- named View Point Park by 1950. Sulphur Springs Point got its name from springs on the site which sported that infamous sulfur smell. (One local historian says that years ago the springs were disturbed and no longer follow their original course, and are now diverted into an underground piping system.)

Weber's Point: Weber's Point, on the northeastern shore of Lake Sammamish, was originally named Mercer's Point. But during the early twentieth century it became unofficially known as Weber's Point and by 1950 was officially named Weber's Point. Weber's Point was named after Joseph Weber (abt. 1865-1937), who opened his first shingle mill on the point in September 1901. By 1907 he had opened a second mill just south of the first one, which operated for about ten years. Weber closed the remaining mill in December 1930. The community of Sammamish was at Weber's Point between the 1900s and the early 1930s, but by the mid-1930s both Sammamish and Weber were gone.

212th SE: The southern part of 212th SE was officially named J.J. Huvinen Road through at least 1950, but most who lived there at the time didn't call it that. Instead it was called Sunderhauf Hill Road after John Sunderhauf, whose home was on the south side of the road just above Alexander's Resort. Sunderhauf (b.1872) was a German immigrant who moved to Monohon in March 1895, only six months after he became a naturalized American citizen. He is particularly remembered as being one of the owners of the Monohon Canvas Boat and Canoe Manufacturing Company between 1908 and 1925. North of SE 24th Street (then known as Pine Lake Road), Sunderhauf Hill / J.J. Huvinen Road became Thompson Road.
-Phil Dougherty, January 28, 2008

Sources: Robert Hitchman, *Place Names of Washington* (Tacoma, WA: Washington State Historical Society, 1985), 154; "Local And General," *The Issaquah Press*, March 11, 1927, p.3; Angelo Bruscas, "Development is the 'high heavenly ground' of golf," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, August 8, 1998, Seattle P-I website archives, website accessed December 7, 2007 (<http://192.251.222.21/neighbors/sahalee/>); *HistoryLink.org Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History*, "Alexander's Beach Resort (Sammamish)," "Monohon - Thumbnail History," "Pine Lake area voters vote to establish a water district on November 6, 1945," "Sammamish

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