



Sammamish Remembers its Roots...

By Claradell Shedd - Arts Commissioner

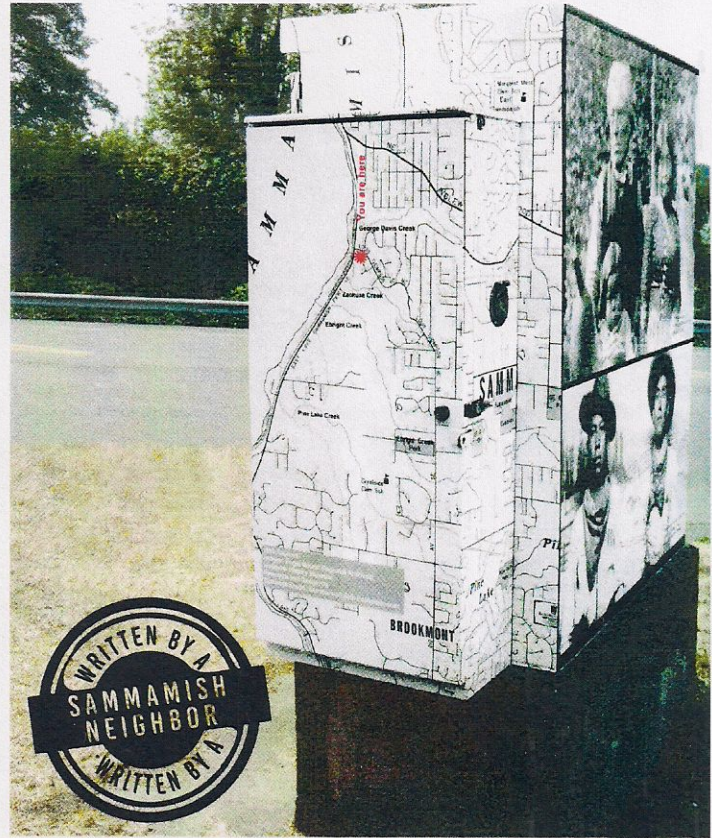


Several years ago, I proposed to the Sammamish City Council that a project be entertained to "artistically wrap" local traffic signal utility boxes. The idea was thought then to be a bit premature, so the prospect was shelved, but not forgotten. When other local jurisdictions began artistically wrapping their respective utility boxes, the Sammamish City Council requested that the Sammamish Arts Commission revisit the project, and produce representative samples.

As a Sammamish resident of over 33 years, I observed historic remnants of the Sammamish past were being demolished at an unbridled pace. I pondered, "Why not utilize the location of the Sammamish utility boxes to artistically portray what had historically occurred at that precise physical Sammamish location?" With this goal propelling the pursuit, many hours of visits to research archival files, photos, and conversations with long-time Sammamish residents or their descendants, were combined to amass material from which one could selectively and technologically transfer those memories onto DuPont Tedlar film, thus embracing our local Sammamish traffic signal utility boxes.

The first installation is located at the corner of East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE and Louis Thompson Road. The images include:

- **Mary Whullah Grahm Louie , the local Snoqualmie Tribal Medicine Woman, who, various texts indicate, often pulled her canoe up to that approximate location.**
- **James Zackuse, his wife, Amelia Brown Zackuse, and son, Lolota (Snoqualmie).**
- **Edward and Louisa Johnny Davis family with daughters Elizabeth and Hazel (Snoqualmie).**
- **Kelly Louis Louie and James Louie, grandsons of Mary Whullah Grahm Louie (Snoqualmie).**
- **Davis residence (U.S. Dept of Interior Bureau of Land Management records indicate George Davis, February 7, 1893)**
- **Kroll Street Base Map on which I've typed in locations for George Davis Creek, Zackuse Creek, Ebright Creek, and Pine Lake Creek. On each box I will indicate "You are here".**



• **Top of box (which is not easily viewed because of the height): Kroll 1958 Township map showing parcel ownership**

Technically, the process is quite interesting. You first measure the utility boxes up to ¼" precision. Then each is photographed from all elevations. Next research is done to discover "what happened here or who lived here" and then to pursue images of those people and events. Then, utilizing image editing software, the very often damaged images are improved and "fit" into the elevation desired. All elevations are submitted to the contractor who transfers the research, design, and layout to the final film product. Lastly, the printed final film product is installed by professional installers.

After each installation is completed, my plan is to generate a QR code to incorporate GPS, this QR code being affixed to a box at each location.

Pedestrians utilizing a smart phone can scan the QR code with the resultant hyperlink taking one to an online page on the Sammamish Heritage Society's website or to YouTube to produce sound, such as the rooster "crowing". One can then receive a much more detailed history of that location. In 2018, four locations, or ten boxes, have been installed. Additional units are proposed for 2019 installation.

My intent is to create, through these traffic signal wraps, a historic walking and driving tour of Sammamish. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or other historical images or stories of interest.

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East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE and Louis Thompson Road NE

Cabinets:

Large cabinet is a P cabinet.

Extension to P cabinet is a Tesco extension.

2018 Resources:

Puget Sound Regional Archives; Issaquah History Museum; Kroll Map Company;
Research, Design, and Layout by Claradell Shedd, Sammamish Arts Commissioner