



P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

Current Board Members

The Boundary County Museum is operated by the Boundary County Historical Society, Inc., a 501c(3) non-profit organization. The current Board of Trustees is composed of:

- Cal Russell, President
- Dave Gray, Vice President
- Stephanie Tucker, Treasurer
- Dottie Gray, Secretary
- David Koon, Trustee
- Marj Pinkerton, Trustee
- Vic White, Trustee

Sue Kemmis, Curator

The Board of Trustees meets at 5:30pm at the Museum on the second Tuesday of each month. The public is invited to attend.

The Museum is now open to the public from 10am to 4pm on Fridays and Saturdays and will continue through May 1, 2016, at which time summer hours will resume. Stop by and see the changes in your Museum.

American Legion's Craft Fair Weekend

Member Ray Harris contacted the Society in late summer regarding a table at the Legion's Craft Fair at the Fairgrounds on Nov. 13th & 14th. There was such a positive response after last year's participation, the Board decided to plan on continuing this year.



The table boasted Boundary County History Books, CDs, (History according to Howard Kent!), DVDs, historical photo potholders, (no, the potholders weren't historical, but the photos were!), rag rugs woven on our 100 year old loom by Deb Ackley, 2016 Calendars (have you gotten yours yet?), flash drives of Bonners Ferry High School Badger Tales (75 years' worth!), and various other items. Everyone helping at the table agrees that this is not just about selling and making money; it is really an opportunity to visit with others, share some of our Boundary County history, but also to listen and learn from their stories and tales, and to let people know the Boundary County Museum is alive and well! We picked up a few new memberships, and made many new friends of the Museum. As Howard always says, "And a good time was had by all."

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 16, 2016 ~ Spin-In
- January 23, 2016 ~ 100th Birthday End of Year Celebration
- January 26, 2016 ~ Annual Membership Meeting

Free Saturdays

Kathy Konek proposed a novel and fun activity to encourage public interest and attendance at our Museum this summer through fall. The idea was to offer a Free Saturday admission to all visitors, sponsored by various members and friends of the Museum. Kathy Konek and Don Jordan kicked off the program in June, and it caught on and was carried through the month of October being sponsored by Cal and Barb Russell, Dave and Dottie Gray, Howard and Donna Kent and Dan Hartman. During that time there were over 900 visitors to the Museum, and while we can't claim the Free Saturday program was incentive for all those, we will positively say that it sure didn't hurt attendance!



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Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

Volume VII Issue III Winter 2015

THE HOUCK BUILDING

In the fall of 1916, Charles W. Megquier began construction on a two story brick building on Main Street. This was to be used as the new Crescent Garage & Plumbing Company. As the Ford touring car dealer and distributor of Fisk tires, Megquier had already pre-sold touring cars in anticipation of the new site. Due to harsh weather, construction was postponed to the following spring.

In 1917, construction resumed on the building with modern amenities; a seven room residence consumed the entire second floor complete with indoor plumbing which pleased Megquier's wife, Annie. The street front allowed for automobiles to pull up for gasoline, tires and tune ups. The Crescent Garage became a booming business. Megquier sold many Ford cars; during the winter of 1919-20 he had unloaded three railroad cars of new 1920 Ford autos, 21 in all. By February, Megquier became the dealer of the Overland touring car also. In April of 1920, Megquier stated he was to begin construction on an addition to the Crescent Gar-

age at a cost of \$10,000. The new one story brick building would have 50 feet of frontage on Main Street and be 120 feet deep. A concrete basement would be constructed under the front half of the building to house a steam heating plant to heat both the main building and the new ad-



dition. Construction began, but was then delayed as Megquier was unable to acquire brick and cement. The first week of November, Megquier received sufficient brick and enough concrete for the entire floor. From 1920 to the present, many businesses have occupied the space of the two brick buildings, including the Crescent Garage, Traver's Garage, Bonners Battery & Ignition, Blackburn's Electric, H. E. Clack, Co., Cook's Battery & Electric, SS&H, BG Auto, South Hill Furniture Annex, Gini Knits, Boundary Computer and the Boundary County Museum.

The two buildings have seen many changes over the years: a lean-to addition at the back; bays opened in front; upstairs made into three apartments; gasoline tanks removed; the store front re-enclosed; new concrete floors poured over



top of the original floors; an interior wall to create additional store spaces; original doors bricked up between buildings, only to be reopened again; two run-away truck crashes through the north wall; roof supports installed in 1996 and 2012; just to name a few! In 2006, the Historical Society, through a bequest from the Thomason Estate, purchased the two buildings to house the Museum. Over the last nine years, the Society has made improvements and the Museum has been able to expand its exhibits and conduct programs and events in the buildings. In the spring of 2014, the 100 year old clay sewer pipe collapsed and it became evident that the Museum

continued inside

Bequest

Michael Ross McCall, a 20 year resident of Boundary County, passed away on September 26, 2014 following a long battle with cancer. Mr. McCall (1947-2014) was passionately interested in history and spent his life collecting a wide range of antique and vintage relics of times past. Although never “flush” with money, he spent much of his time at garage sales, flea markets, and auctions seeking out the unusual for his collection. He was always looking for a good trade to enhance his collection. His eclectic collection of Americana ranged from and included model trains, books, militaria, Native American relics, and tableware, as well as over 100 antique and vintage firearms. Mr. McCall’s final wish was that his estate benefit the Boundary County community and the historic preservation of our area. To further this end, he willed his entire estate to the Boundary County Museum to be used to benefit Museum programs and development. Following the probate of Mr. McCall’s will, Museum staff inventoried the collection and personal effects. Those artifacts relevant to local history, or that enhance existing displays, have been added to the Museum collection and are on public display. Included are a number of classic firearms which will be



part of a new display to open in 2016. The balance of the estate was consigned to Sater’s Auction for sale, a process that spread over thirteen weeks of Thursday auctions. The funds received will be used to benefit future Museum improvements and development. The estate entailed a considerable amount of work on the part of our volunteers, including moving the estate to the Museum, sorting and cleaning, and transporting to the auction house. Our thanks to Sue Kemmis and our able volunteers who tackled this project with enthusiasm, Denise Woodbury for preparing the legal documentation related to probating the will, John Standal for shepherding the probate process to its completion, John and Jeff Sater for invaluable assistance with the auctioning process, and most of all to Ross McCall for his generous consideration and thoughtfulness which will greatly benefit our community for the future. The Museum has benefitted from three estates since 2006. In addition to the McCall collection, the estates of Mary Ellen Thomason and Eveline Ruhberg also included the Museum in their wills. Estate planning that includes the Museum as a beneficiary is an excellent means of supporting our community and preserving our history for posterity.

Stories in Stone

“Mosquito Flats” was the site of the second “Stories in Stone” Historical Cemetery Tour. We gathered on Saturday, October 3, 2015 on the land which in 1903 Otis Collins donated for a church and a cemetery. Familiar family names such as Collins, Rosebaugh, Atkins, Hart, and Doust all helped to build the church and clear the land for the cemetery. Today, we call this place Paradise Valley, renamed as such by William T. Wright. The first burial in the Paradise Valley Cemetery was in 1904 when Samuel Rosebaugh passed away in December of that year. In addition to his site, the tour wound its way around and through many early pioneers of the Valley. Sue Kemmis, Museum Curator, told intriguing stories of people, places, and times. Speaking about carvings, sculptures, engravings, and epitaphs, she shared names, dates, symbolisms, and human interest stories. Several of those in attendance chimed in from time to time with additional stories of family members laid to rest at this location. Dave Gray, standing in for Historian Howard Kent, shared tidbits Howard had gleaned from newspaper articles and history books, as well as some personal recollections. It proved to be another outstanding program sponsored by the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum. The Paradise Valley community maintained the cemetery grounds for many years, and presently the Paradise Valley Cemetery Association is in charge of grounds keeping and upkeep. Joining us was Shelby Cowley, a member of the Association, who gave a tour of the “Little White Church” and its restoration project. This is history in the making! The Museum appreciates the cooperation of the Association in preparing this program. What Cemetery will be featured next year? McArthur? Porthill? Copeland? Moravia? The possibilities are endless! Stay tuned.



Reunions & Swedes

Besides the regular visitors to the Museum this summer, we also entertained some groups. The Class of 1960 had a luncheon in the Railroad Courtyard followed by a tour of the Museum. The classes of 1965 and 1975 were given a virtual historic tour of downtown Bonners in Portrait Hall with a slide show. This was done instead of the usual walking tour, because of competition from other events taking place, plus Howard was out of commission with a gimpy knee. The Museum is most grateful for the generous donations made by the classes.

The Bonners Ferry Rotary hosted a gaggle of Swedish Rotarians with a tour of the County. While they had coffee and cookies at the Museum, they were given a brief history lesson about Idaho and Boundary County. Afterwards they spent time viewing the Museum. Howard was made an honorary Swede and all he could say was “Uff-da.”

cont. ‘The Houck Building’

was in need of an upgrade. The clay pipe laid at an angle underneath the two layers of concrete floors. A new sewer line was dug along the north side of the 120 foot building. In order to connect to the city line, the City extended the main line 50 feet along the east side of the building. During this process, it was discovered the main line, also a clay pipe, was in the same condition and needed to be replaced. Construction continued through the summer and fall, and winter arrived. Spring 2015 brought excessive water causing the ground to settle, undermining the structural support of the 95 year old Museum building. The brick wall, adorned with a mural painted by a Boulder Academy class, sank into the ditch causing damage to the wall and roof. After months of assessments and meetings with engineers, contractors and insurance adjusters, the Society was informed of solutions with pros and cons. The decision was made to construct a new exterior wall at the point of an existing truss, thus giving new support to the building’s roof and creating a firm foundation. Construction by Bonners Ferry Builders has begun. The process has been slow, as when dealing with an old building, many unexpected things occur. The Society wishes to thank everyone for their patience during this process. Portrait Hall has been closed to exhibit viewing, and the annual fundraising dinner has been postponed. When



New block wall

construction is completed, exhibits are fit for viewing, and the event space reopened, the Society will enjoy hosting the dinner and other events in the ‘new’ 95 and 98 year old Houck Building.

Round Prairie Creek Bridge

The Federal Highway Administration and the Idaho Transportation Department are preparing for the replacement of the Round Prairie Bridge, a property determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This plan prompted a Memorandum of Agreement between those two agencies, the International Selkirk Loop, the Boundary County Historical Society, and the City of Bonners Ferry to oversee the production and delivery of interpretive signs. These interpretive signs are to be based on text and photos provided by the Boundary County Historical Society that describe the historic US 95 Kootenai River Bridge, and the Bonners Ferry historical generator. Society Member and Field Researcher, Terry Howe, entered into the agreement on the Society’s behalf, and work was begun with Stephanie Sims of the International Selkirk Loop. The text committee began working on the various bridges that cross the river at Bonners Ferry, but quickly decided that this business of crossing the river began many years before construction of any bridge. It began with the Kootenai Tribe traversing the river using their sturgeon-nosed canoes. Construction of a bridge was begun by the Spokane International Railroad in 1905. A. J. Kent and Louis Boyker teamed up to push for construction of a low water bridge which could be used for approximately 8 months of the year. In 1910, a high wooden bridge with steel and timber frame was built, and in 1933 it was replaced by a steel and concrete bridge containing 5 spans. Construction of the current concrete bridge was completed in 1984.

The second half of this project is interpretive signs about the Fairbanks-Morris Diesel Generator which supplied power to the City of Bonners Ferry prior to the establishment of the modern-day electrical grid. This generator can be viewed through newly installed windows of the building behind City Hall. The Fairbanks-Morris generator arrived by railroad flatcar in October 1931 from Wisconsin, was set on a concrete slab, and the building was constructed around it. The generator was used in unison with the Moyie power plant until 1950.

All text and photos have been submitted to Stephanie Sims of the International Selkirk Loop. Stephanie will be working with the Idaho Transportation Department to complete production of the signs, and then the City of Bonners Ferry will place them in appropriate places. This has been an exciting project for the Historical Society to become involved in.

Curator’s Corner

The Museum has been a busy place this year. We had many visitors throughout the summer: with Kootenai River Days, class reunions and our free Saturdays. Many exciting items have been added to the collection, including Clyde Stone’s 1966 Crestliner with dual Johnson outboard motors which he purchased new while working at Lindsay-Helmer Hardware. This will make for a fine exhibit when we are able to get back to using Portrait Hall after the construction is completed.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support!



Boundary County, Idaho 1915~2015

As we near the end of the County's Centennial year, we want to acknowledge the men and one woman who have shaped Boundary County, Idaho. The names of the County Commissioners, and the years of their terms for the past 100 years, are engraved on a plaque which hangs in the hall of the courthouse. Thank you for your service!

The end of the County's Centennial year will be celebrated with an event scheduled for January 23, 2016 at the Boundary County Museum. Watch for more details as we near that date.



- * Henry L. Shivley 1915-1918
- * Lars Erick Lunden 1917-1918
- * Fred Chambers 1919-1920
- * Jacob J. Kindschuch 1923-1924
- * Frank A. Davis 1925-1926
- * Oliver H. Campbell 1929-1930
- * John J. Conway, Sr. 1931-1934
- * George F. McGlocklin 1933-1934
- * J. F. Scherupp 1935-1936
- * Charles H. Schauer 1939-1946
- * Walter O. Brockway 1943-1948
- * Murl C. Ashbaugh 1949-1950
- * Jason Leon VanEtten 1950-1958
- * John B. Thompson 1954-1954
- * William F. Maas 1955-1960
- * Howard M. Jenkins 1965-1970
- * Joseph G. Marsh 1969-1970
- * Roy A. Grove 1971-1980
- * Harold Ray Stueve 1981-1982
- * Robert Neumeyer 1982-1984
- * Richard N. Blake 1985-1986
- * Merle Dinning 1989-2001
- * Murreleen Skeen 1997-2003
- * Ronald R. Smith 2003-2013
- * James Deyoe 1915-1916
- * James Fitzpatrick 1917-1918
- * George S. Collins 1919-1922
- * Thomas Fred Lipp 1923-1928
- * Joseph L. Meddock 1927-1928
- * William E. Rath 1929-1930
- * Emil Frank, Sr. 1931-1932
- * Ray H. Sims 1935-1940
- * Ray L. Wombacher 1937-1938
- * Robert R. Hartling 1939-1942
- * Arthur W. Nystrom 1947-1950
- * Roy I. Oxford 1949-1950
- * Howard A. Kent, Sr. 1951-1954
- * Roy W. Glauner 1957-1966
- * William H. Cordes 1961-1962
- * Leo W. Fulgham 1963-1968
- * Nick Plato 1970-1978
- * G. E. Butch Hagen 1979-1981
- * Dennis Ponsness 1981-1982
- * Clyde D. Stone 1983-1988
- * Chris Clark 1987-1990
- * Orrin R. Everhart 1991-1997
- * Kevin Lederhos 1997-2003
- * Walt Kirby 2003-present
- * Donald C. McColl 1915-1916
- * James A. Welch 1919-1922
- * William E. Rath 1921-1922
- * Martin Peterson 1923-1926
- * Charles L. Heinz 1927-1928
- * John S. Bond 1929-1930
- * Charles J. Daufau 1931-1934
- * Henry L. Shivley 1935-1936
- * Leslie R. Wyman 1937-1938
- * Joseph Anderson 1941-1946
- * Peter DeBoer 1947-1948
- * John J. Conway, Jr. 1951-1952
- * C C. "Ted" Bruhn 1953-1956
- * Chester R. Baker 1959-1964
- * Frank T. Struble 1967-1968
- * John M. Leonard 1969-1970
- * Walter R. Worley 1971-1978
- * Herman A. Mesenbrink 1979-1980
- * William Currie 1981-1984
- * Chester R. Baker 1985-1988
- * Ronald R. Smith 1989-1995
- * Robert Graham 1995-1997
- * Dan R. Dinning 2001-present
- * LeAlan L. Pinkerton 2013-present



The Boundary County Historical Society is grateful to those who support the Museum and programs. One way is by yearly membership donations. Thus far, support for the 2016 year has come from the following businesses and individuals. Thank you for your continued support!

2016 Friends of the Museum * Mountain High Levels

*Fisher Peak (\$1,000) ~

*Roman Nose (\$500) ~ Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

*Burton Peak (\$250) ~ Mountain West Bank * Jack & Shelly Yount

*Mount Clifty (\$100) ~ Dave & Laura Anderson * Dave & Dottie Gray * Idaho Forest Group * Pace-Kerby * John & Ardith Pierce * Brion & Glenda Poston * Cal & Barb Russell * John and Shane Sater * Don Schied * James & Gloria Smith * John & Karen Standal * Katherine Vogel

*Queen Mountain (\$50) ~ Irma F. Clark * Fulton Quality Construction * Dennis & Donna Jo Dirks * Norma Estep * Orrin & Jolen Everhart * Beck's Furniture * Tedde Healey * Wink, Inc. * Jim & Helen Marx * Tom & Shirley Mayo * Dixie Lee Miller * Bill & Fay Morris * Jeff Brubaker & Pro-X * Larry & Alice VanGundy

*2016 Annual Memberships ~ Rick & Jeannie Alonzo * John & Doreen Beck * Leonard & Margie Brant * Dave & Joanne Clovis * Kathy Konek & Don Jordan * Moose Valley Farms * Gary Fujino * David & Eldora Gatchell * Fred & Alice Hendrickson * Stephen & GerryAnn Howlett * Ty & Lisa Iverson * Darrell & Patty Kerby * Jan & Lee Klopfenstein * Sue Larson * Pat Marek * Sarah Richardson & Jerry Jimenez * Susan Stagliano & Mike Starnes * Diana Tombleson & Steve Jamsa * Dave & Jean Wattenbarger * Tim Wilson * John O'Connor & Jennifer Durbin * Janet & Shane Peterson * LeAlan & Missy Pinkerton * Mark Brackebusch & Teresa Shattuck * John & Stephanie Tucker * Patty Burlingame * Denise Crichton * Gary Hicks * Isabell Huff * Emma Ivins * Susan Kemmis * David Koon * Marjorie Pinkerton * Doyle & Dora Brown * Ray & Dawn Danly * Jerry & Judy Everhart * Jack & Violet Flinn * Tom & Cathy Florea * Greg & Kathy Garrison * Bob & Bev Hokanson * Elsie & Richard Hollenbeck * Craig & Carol Jean Hubbard * Shinji & Laura Imoto * Ken & Donna Irons * Georgia & Pete Jimenez * Howard & Donna Kent * Janice & Hartley King * Pete & Kathy Leonard * Don & Veryl Lindsay * Darrell & Marla Mayer * Rege & Carolyn McNeill * Larry & Barb Nelson * Wayne & Marj Nishek * Glen & Beulah Patterson * Richard & Sally Raine * Paul & Barb Rawlings * Jim & Kathie Richardson * Allen & Jan Rose * Hod & Virginia Sanborn * Evelyn & Ron Smith * Bob & Ione Spalding * Jim Thompson & Lila Robinson * Vic & Donna White * Bert & Sandra Wolff * Mel & Deb Wood * Darlene & Bob Young * Valdie Burkholder * Phyllis Collyer * Reba Darling * Jackie Gale * Jerry Garten * Joyce Jenkins * Billie Krause * Grace Leidt * Sharon Manning * Ada McArthur * Beverly Plato * Elene Rock * Janet Sapp * Kathy Sheffler * Dorothy Smith * Robert Clairmont * Merlin Tiede * Tom Weitz

Memberships in the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum provide a significant and necessary source of funding, as well as showing support, for your Museum.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please consider doing so by filling out the form and returning it to the Museum in person or by mail.

Members receive free admission to the Museum, a 10% discount on purchases at the White Caribou Gift Shop and the Museum newsletter. Memberships also make great gifts for relatives and friends.



2016 Friends of the Museum ~ Mountain High Levels

___ Fisher Peak (7,585')	\$1,000.00
___ Roman Nose (7,260')	\$ 500.00
___ Burton Peak (6,844')	\$ 250.00
___ Mount Clifty (6,705')	\$ 100.00
___ Queen Mountain (6,112')	\$ 50.00

2016 Annual Membership Levels (Based on calendar year)

___ Individual	\$ 15.00
___ Basic Family	\$ 25.00
___ Senior Individual (65 and+)	\$ 10.00
___ Senior Couple (65 and+)	\$ 15.00

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____ Telephone _____

Make checks payable to Boundary County Historical Society, Inc. & Museum
 P. O. Box 808 7229 Main Street Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805 208-267-7720

The Boundary County Historical Society, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 organization.

Thank you for your membership donation.

If you have not renewed your membership or would like to become a member, please use this form.