



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

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Upcoming Events at the Museum

September 24 Ordeal by Fire – rescheduled with filmmaker George Sibley who will introduce the film and answer questions following. \$10/person, \$20/ family donation requested at the museum events center, 7:00pm.

September 22 – October 2 Art – A Boundary County Perspective – Exhibit only of the current works of 30 local artists in a large variety of mediums at the museum events center. During regular museum hours.

October 2 3rd Annual History Walk and Chili Feed with Howard Kent. Meet at the museum. Chili, cornbread, pie, and beverages served from 11-2. \$10/person donation for walking tour and food. 10:00am and 1:00pm

Early November (date to be announced) – **Funky Fall Fundraiser Sale** to raise money for bathrooms in the Events Center...seeking donations of good usable items..no clothes or junk please.

Support the preservation of local heritage by becoming a member and/or donating cash, materials, equipment, or your time.

Winter museum hours are Fridays and Saturdays 10:00am to 4:00pm.

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

7229 Main Street P. O. Box 808 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Membership Levels

- Individual** \$ 15.00
- Family** 25.00
(1-2 adults and all children to age 17 in one household)
- Senior Individual** (65 and +) 10.00
- Senior Couple** (65 and +) 15.00

The benefits of membership include free admission to the museum, a 10% discount at the White Caribou Gift Shop and the quarterly newsletter.

Society Friend Levels

- Donor** \$ 100.00
- Sponsor** 500.00
- Patron** 1,000.00
- Additional gift** \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email _____
Telephone _____

- Check enclosed payable to Boundary County Historical Society \$ _____



Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

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The Pelton Wheel

A new member of the BCHS board of trustees, Cal Russell, recently embarked on an ambitious project with fellow Lion's Club volunteers to renovate and exhibit the original power generator for the Village of Bonners Ferry. The Pelton wheel now on display at the south end of the bridge was a pile of nearly unrecognizable but interesting rust in the city yard until these courageous Lions took on the task of reassembling the massive iron wheel.

The Pelton wheel, a high head turbine and fly-wheel drove a 125 KVA generator that provided the first electrical power to Bonners Ferry from 1907-1921. Bonner Power and Light owned and operated the utility with a generator and plant in the building in the photo, located at the base of the Myrtle Creek Drainage, west of town near the wildlife refuge. If one looks closely today, the original foundation

for the Pelton Wheel is on the right at the edge of Myrtle Creek, just past the bridge at the wildlife refuge on the West Side Road. Harry Gale supervised the construction of the power plant owned by Featherstone.

More information is in *The History of Boundary County* and at the museum. Thanks to the Lions Club, the City of Bonners Ferry, and North Idaho Granite a piece of Boundary County history is remembered.



Gift Shop

The White Caribou Museum Gift Shop has been moved from the Events Center to the front of the museum for the winter months. As you are looking for unique holiday gifts remember the custom embroidered hats, shirts, and sweatshirts. New are the retro black with white caribou coffee mugs \$7.50 each or 2 for \$14. The gift shop is well stocked with the historical society cookbook (\$12), history book (\$65) and various CDs and DVDs. Best of all, remember that historical society members qualify for a 10% discount in the gift shop

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Kudos to Volunteers!

This summer museum visitors to the Smithsonian Journey Stories Exhibit were greeted by a contingency of 55 volunteers who donated nearly 1,200 hours to make the exhibit and related programming a memorable experience for the entire community and visitors from other places. Whether baking cookies, greeting visitors, researching and recording archives, moving chairs, dusting displays, or answering the phone, each volunteer serves our community by giving their time and skills to preserve and present local history. Volunteers account for approximately 75% of the labor hours recorded to make the museum visitors' experiences relevant and memorable.

Thank you, Team Museum!

Winter Hours

Beginning October 1 the Boundary County Museum switches to winter hours, Friday-Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm. During these dormant months, just like little mice under the snow, the curator and volunteers continue their work: researching, archiving, repairing and building exhibits to prepare for summer hours which will begin in May 2011. Be sure to watch for special programs and events during the winter months.

Grants and Awards

The winter months will be busy catching up and working on several grant funded projects:

Drainage and Building Structural Issues partially funded by Idaho Heritage Trust Timber exhibit, partially funded by Boundary County Community Foundation.

Oral History Project partially funded by Idaho Humanities Council, includes digitizing 250 cassette tapes collected in the 1980s and collecting new oral interviews from people who moved to Boundary County in the 1970s.



Welcome

When the Harvest Foods store opens downtown at the end of September there will be a variety of photo reproductions of old Bonners Ferry from the Boundary County Historical Society Collection on display. Thank you to the owner for a generous contribution to the historical society and for providing a place to show some of our rich community heritage.

Wish List

Items used continuously: toilet paper, paper towels, copy paper, sheet protectors, new white three ring binders, coffee, tea. **Special needs new or in good condition:** folding chairs, canister vacuum, legal size file cabinet

Raffles

Rich and Sherri Beck of Beck's Furniture donated a stylish comfortable green sofa to the historical society for a fundraiser. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The drawing will be held at the holiday craft fair at the fairgrounds. Thank you Beck's Furniture for your generous donation!

The David Thompson Lap Quilt Raffle continues. Four lap quilts are being raffled. Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

First winner gets first pick. The problem is only 2 of the quilts are completed. Two unfinished lap quilts and the unfinished companion David Thompson quilt for the museum collection are in need of completion. Anyone interested in stitching after the holidays? Call Gini 267-5638.

Tidbits and Trivia

"Late to bed and early to rise, prepares a man for his home in the skies. But early to bed and a LITTLE EARLY RISE, the pill that makes life longer and better and wiser"
- J.F. Cook.

Howard Kent came across this ad in the January 14, 1899 Bonners Ferry Herald. To learn more about pharmacist J.F. Cook and other early Bonners Ferry businesses be sure to attend the Museum History Walk on Saturday, October 2.

Current Board Members

Gini Woodward, *President*
Mike Sloan, *Vice President*
Cal Russell, *Secretary*
Kathy Konek, *Treasurer*
Carolyn McNeill, LaMar Olsen
Don Morice, John Standal
Jill Nystrom

From the Curator

Boundary County is a place many people have been drawn to over the years. They came with their personal stories and possessions to begin a new life. Hardships and blessings have been their experience. Many people's stories, photos, and belongings have found their way to the Boundary County Museum, a place where preservation is the goal.

The volunteers and I continue the task of inventorying the museum collections. Unexpected treasures are found or donated every day. We are currently digitizing 250 cassette taped interviews conducted by Karen Hubbard and her crew of dedicated volunteers in the 1980s. Hearing their stories and seeing their photos and belongings makes me realize it is a privilege to help preserve these items to honor and respect those who have passed here before us.

Sue Kemmis, *Curator*

From the President

Putting the finishing touches on the text for this newsletter, I am quite overwhelmed with the snowball effect that has occurred in the museum in a very short time. The Smithsonian "Journey Stories" exhibit was indeed a catalyst for growth which was made possible with the efforts of a huge cohort of volunteers. Toward the end of the exhibit, enthusiasm continued with a frequently voiced question "What now?" So, I ask you 60 members, "What now?" Sit back and rest on our laurels, or increase our active engagement with our community. Our joint efforts are being seen and heard beyond the walls of the museum with an annual history walk, school visits and field trips, the new Pelton Wheel exhibit, historic photos in Harvest Foods.

The Historical Society is extremely fortunate to be located on Main Street frontage, one of only two museums in the state on Main Street and the only

adjacent to the Gateway Visitor Center. Over the next several months the historical society board of trustees will engage in a long term strategic planning process. Please visit with any one of the board member and share your visions for the facility and programs. This is your historical society, your museum. What now?

Gini Woodward, *President*

From Mike Sloan

What's in a museum? What does it do for you and why should you care? Regardless of where you live this is a question you might ask yourself. A museum is more than just a collection of "old stuff." The staff at the Boundary County Museum created a complete transformation over the last couple of years. It is no longer a dusty place crammed with things from the past.

You can also research county events and family members and view a large collection of photos dating back to the 1800s. Frequent programs provide entertainment and education for the entire family. Those folk that were born and raised in Boundary County will appreciate the living history that has been created in the various displays and relive memories of family and friends. For the late arrivals the museum is a great place to learn about your new community and what makes it an outstanding place to live and raise a family. Whether you are an old timer or relatively new to the area, you can be very proud of your museum. Stop by and check it out. It isn't just a bunch of "old stuff" anymore.

Mike Sloan, *Vice President*

From Colet Allen

"Volunteering" is defined by Wikipedia as "the practice of people working on behalf of others without being motivated by financial or material gain." I would expand that definition by saying it is the best way we can give back for the many blessings that we have received throughout our own lives. It provides a safety net for those who need

help. It teaches youth by mentoring and example, creates opportunities to meet and work with others, and above all else helps to create a thriving community. Volunteering provides much needed services that are not fulfilled by business, government, or academia.

We thank all of you and are asking for continued volunteering. When the Smithsonian exhibit closed, many people said "So what is next? Let's keep the momentum going." Yes, let's keep the momentum going and to do that we need more folks to say "YES" to volunteering. The needs are varied from administration, office, research, greeting the public, to maintenance and exhibit building. If you have skills and some hours to spare, we can use your help. Come join us. Please contact Colet Allen at 267-8130 or Sue at the museum 267-7720

From John Standal

Our Museum serves as a repository for a wide variety of artifacts, records, books, papers, photographs, and various types of machines and equipment, all related to telling the story of our county's history and culture. All items in the Museum are donations from individuals who are interested in preserving the story of our county. Your Collection Committee has had a busy summer, reviewing between 12 and 17 lots each month ranging from hand forged horse shoes, to a container advertised to contain "mosquito repelling" talcum powder, as well as 31 boxes of local newspapers. One of the more fascinating donations accepted into the collection was a set of 18 replicas of different types of horse drawn wagons which had been hand crafted by Darrell L. Lannigan.

