



BOUNDARY COUNTY

Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
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Beginning October 1, the Museum will only be open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00am – 4:00pm.

The Way We Worked Wrap-Up

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what this county is made of. Not a single group or individual requested said “NO” or turned me down when I asked. I am still working on the total number hours accumulated by these folks who put on events. So far it is well over 3000 hours.

Last but not least we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Gini Woodward. During her tenure at the Museum, Gini helped bring the first Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Journey Stories, to Boundary County. She, the Board, and museum staff created the road map for us to follow.

I personally want to thank the Board for trusting me to organize the programs. It was an honor and mostly a great pleasure (not to say I did not sigh right along with the rest of the volunteers on June 23rd) to put all of the events in place. Working with the many people who stepped up was a joy, and meeting

so many new folks was a real pleasure. Thanks for the opportunity.

Finally, we reflect back and ask ourselves what we learned, what is the show's legacy, and how can we be better than before The Way We Worked came? This is the real message and purpose that the Smithsonian and IHC want us to get. To take these shows as learning experiences and stepping stones to continue producing new programs that teach, entertain and bring people together in a fun and positive social way.

Thanks everyone for all your hard work.
by Colet Allen

Ed. Note: *And a special thanks to Colet Allen. The Smithsonian requires that the host organization develop and produce programs which tell the local history as it relates to the topic. Through Colet's efforts, 28 separate programs were prepared and present to the public during the time that the Smithsonian was here. Thank you for your long hours, perseverance, and dedication. You made it happen!!!!*

The Smithsonian Exhibit and related local programs were also made possible through the donation of cash, supplies or services. Our thanks go out to:

Avista Foundation	Wells Fargo
Frontier Communications	Idaho Humanities Council
Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce	Kootenai River Inn
Super 1 Foods	Accurate Collision
Safeway	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Pace-Kerby	Panhandle State Bank
Tactical Innovations	Far North Logo Shop
Bonners Ferry Rotary Club	Huckleberry Variety
Chris Clark	Bret Klaus
Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge	Bonners Ferry Glass
Mountain West Bank	Bonner Books
Kootenai River Brewing Company	City of Bonners Ferry



Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

Volume IV Issue 3 Fall 2012

The Way We Worked Wrap-Up

On June 23rd, as the last of The Way We Worked exhibit components were loaded in their large shipping trunks, I am sure you could hear a huge sigh of relief clear across Boundary County. It was a great show, providing education, entertainment, history and socializing all rolled into the mix. There was even food during some occasions. In addition to the Smithsonian Exhibit, there were 28 locally produced events ranging from Forest Service demonstrations at the Snyder Ranger Station, local geology and mining, early medicine in Boundary County, to a fashion show with work related period clothing. Museum staff and volunteers also presented related programs at all of our county elementary schools and museum tours for all the fourth graders in Boundary County. This happened in the mere six weeks that the show was on display at our own “Museum on Main Street”. Approximately 3000 people attended the Exhibit and related events.

None of this could have happened without the huge effort put forth by a whole string of generous people. First, we have to thank the Idaho Humanities Council for working so hard to bring these wonderful traveling exhibits to Idaho.



IHC works in conjunction with MoMS-Museums on Main Street, a subsidiary of the Smithsonian, to create these awesome exhibits which share ideas, history and knowhow with rural communities across the US. These two entities working together, along with other partnerships, bring forth these new and wonderful possibilities for small museums across Idaho.

Next there are all of the fabulous volunteers who make a community a community by donating so completely and generously to the cause of their choice and passion. We have a gang of volunteers who logged a whopping 792 hours during The Way

We Worked. I bet they felt like they would wear those chairs out putting them up and taking them down for each event. They also made brochures and programs, copied and computed, did interviews for events, participated in and enhanced events and of course manned the front desks as docents. They were some of the loyal attendees of the many programs.

Mike Sloan assumed a number of major roles essential to the success of this event. Mike organized and help train the small army of volunteer docents, developed the advertising campaign for the program, and raised the necessary funds to make it all happen. Thanks, Mike, for your dedication and hard work. Also thanks to Mary Ann Kruger for lending her talents producing the advertising materials for the events.

The locally produced events were organized by individuals, businesses and organizations from Boundary County. Keep in mind that each event was sponsored and paid for by the people who took them on. I want to thank each of these groups and individuals for stepping up to create an event. Every event was a wonderful presentation and showed

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Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 13th. Museum staff and volunteers are again planning a "Night for the Museum" fund raising dinner. The inaugural event, held in May, 2011, proved to be not only an enjoyable evening for all in attendance, but a highly successful fundraiser for the Museum. All dinner seats were sold, and the event produced net receipts for the Museum of nearly \$6,000. The proceeds from the dinner allowed the Museum to acquire and install a fully automated fire alarm system that now protects our facility and collection, with the remaining balance serving as a down payment for a new furnace when the one in the Portrait Hall died.

The dinner is an all-volunteer effort. Chef Jill Nystrom will again donate her talents and the kitchen at Jill's Café to prepare another excellent buffet dinner. Expect to see prime rib and chicken, with all the fixin's. Museum Board members and volunteers will take care of everything from setting up to washing dishes, all for the benefit of the Museum. An entertaining program is in the planning stage, and

A NIGHT FOR THE MUSEUM



count on seeing some great silent auction and raffle items. Bring your check book (No credit cards this year).

Tickets are \$20 each and can be ordered by returning the form enclosed in this newsletter. Tickets are also available at the Museum and Jill's Café. Advance tickets only and the deadline to purchase is October 6. Last year's dinner was sold out, so get your tickets early!!

YCC Assists the Museum

The Youth Conservation Corp is a program administered through the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior and is designed to provide summer employment for local youths between the ages of 15 and 19. Employment with the Corp is a "learn and earn" type program that benefits our environment and heritage.

Under the direction of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, projects included trail building, repairing fences, weed control, basic construction, maintaining facilities and assisting with public events at the refuge. Each summer, the Corp team also selects and completes a "community pride project", a project designed to benefit the local community.

The courtyard on the east side of the Museum was selected as this year's community project. The team, consisting of Adult Crew Leader Stacey Goad

and youth crew members Lorena LaBarbera, Rebekah Smith, Zack Sabin, and Carl Svec, cleared out all of the weeds in the courtyard, brought in and spread new rock, and planted flowers in the garden barrels.

Our thanks to Refuge personnel and the YCC crew for greatly improving the exterior appearance of the Museum grounds.

Current Board Members

Jill Nystrom, *President*
 Don Morice, *Vice President*
 Cal Russell, *Secretary*
 Stephanie Tucker, *Treasurer*

Dianna Ellis Dave Gray
 Marj Pinkerton Dottie Gray

Sue Kemmis, *Curator*

The major sources of funding for the Museum are an annual appropriation from the County, memberships, and donations in lieu of admissions by Museum visitors. Our income barely covers operating expenses, with no margin for exhibit improvement or building repairs. Successful grant applications, usually requiring a local match, have been responsible for much of the recent progress at our Museum.

Proceeds from this year's dinner will be dedicated to replacing the main street entry doors and further weatherizing the buildings. The double doors currently in use are far from airtight, and due to age, cannot be repaired. As funding allows, the doors to the main Museum building and the Portrait Hall will be replaced with energy efficient single doors and the entry to the Annex will be sealed. The proposed projects will make our Museum more energy efficient and provide long term savings for heating and air conditioning.

Please support your Museum by attending this dinner and/or through donations.

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

On Saturday, August 4, a BBQ potluck was held at the Museum to give a huge "thank you" to all who volunteered their time for the Smithsonian Exhibit. The Board of Trustees provided the grilled burgers and smoked sausages, and everyone provided the "fixins". About 40 of our cadre of volunteers attended the event, and everyone enjoyed the time to relax and visit.

We all know how important volunteers are to an organization, and certainly the Museum staff and the Board recognize this. There are many things in the planning stages, so please join in and be part of the activity. The Museum is always in need of volunteers and your time and talents can always be used.

by Dottie Gray

Fire and Flames

This is the newest of our exhibits. However, let it be known that the creative ideas are flowing for yet another to follow.

Fire and Flames is the result of a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit features the art of blacksmithing, the village blacksmiths in Bonners Ferry highlighting Meekers Machine Shop and Marion Bradley, and the growth and development of the Bonners Ferry Fire Department.

The new exhibits represent the cumulative work of numerous volunteers. Sue Kemmis, Howard Kent and Terry Howe spent long hours gathering research and writing text for the interpretative boards. Humanities scholar Nancy Renk of Flume Creek Historical Services served as consulting historian on the project with John O'Connor as editor and proofreader. Graphics, including photographs, texts, and overall layout, was through the efforts of Mary Ann Kruger. Stanchions, stands for the REO fire truck banner, and the fire department interpretative board were constructed by Don Jordan. Kathy Konek integrated photos with text for a

town installed a water system including nine fire hydrants.

Thanks to Howard Kent, our local historian and pontificator of all past happenings in Boundary County, for the following brief history of our city fire department.

"Homesteading, mining, logging and railroading were all part of the mix that caused the rapid growth of businesses and residences in Bonners Ferry. Unfortunately, early structures were not only made of wood, but built close together. Wood stoves and kerosene lamps provided heat and light, but also proved to be fire hazards. When fires started, they often burned groups of structures. Bucket brigades failed to remedy the problem.

In 1892, the first organized attempt to control fires was undertaken by the Bonners Ferry Hook and Ladder Company. It was a weak beginning, but by 1904 a Waterous engine and hose cart had been purchased. The next big advancement occurred in 1907 when the

Around 1910, most new business establishments were constructed of brick and tile block. The volunteer fire department continued to acquire newer equipment, an alarm system, and additional volunteers. In 1911, an ordinance was passed establishing building and fire codes, an action which also reduced fire insurance rates.

In 1923, the fire department occupied two bays in the new city hall, and two years later acquired the REO fire truck which now is on display at our Museum. Over the ensuing years, equipment was continuously upgraded with volunteers receiving specialized training. In 1978, the fire department moved into its present quarters.

Our community is fortunate to have such a professional organization of volunteers who continue to protect our structures and lives."

new digital picture frame. Don Morice, our "jack of all trades", contributed endless hours moving walls, hanging displays, and building the ramp into Portrait Hall. Thanks also to Jeanne Diel who gathered information on the city fire department, and to Cliff

Kroeger for the loan of his vastly important scrapbook.

There will be a dedication for the completed exhibit during the fund raising dinner on October 13. Stay tuned.

by Dottie Gray

Curator's Corner

It is said, "Time flies when you are having fun". It is hard to believe that 6 1/2 years ago, a new system of inventory happened upon the Museum and every object, photograph, map, and piece of paper in the collection once again came under inspection. The process is hardly complete, with a number of items still to be entered into the system and new items coming in



daily; but those entered into Past Perfect now number in excess of 18,000.

Each item has its own story to tell, and each has been a treasure to the family who donated it. Many requests are received to see "Grandma's vase or quilt" or "Grandpa's emery wheel". These items hold great meaning to the families and bring back stories, images and feelings which we all have when reminded of our loved ones.

The Museum library grows daily with photos, articles, stories and obituaries, becoming a valuable research facility for individuals to "get to know" their family members, find homesteads, places of work and areas of the county in which loved ones grew up or lived.

Bonners Ferry High School graduates come back each year and reminisce about the days gone by.

What a treasure we have here in the Museum. We as a community should take pride when we hear visitors praise the work done here by so many individuals. It really does take a great group of dedicated individuals who see the need to preserve the history of this beautiful place we call home; Boundary County, Idaho, My Home.

I personally want to thank the many who help keep our history alive. Hope you're having fun. I know I am. Thank you.

Sue Kemmis