



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

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New Additions to the Museum

Thanks to Lamar Olsen, two railroad handcars donated by Larry and Judy Swing are now on display outside the east entrance to the museum. These artifacts of a long past era in railroading are a magnificent sight.

The first motorized fire engine used in Bonners Ferry is now housed in the Museum Events Center thanks to a long term loan agreement with the Smoke Eaters Club (Bonners Ferry volunteer firemen). The 1923 REO Speed Wagon (not the band) will be incorporated in a display with other early firefighting

equipment which will be open to the public later this fall.

Thanks to Sharon's County Store for the donation of a picnic table now in use in the Railroad Courtyard.

WANTED *Railroad Signage*

Do you have any older railroad related signage collecting dust in the garage or barn? Consider donating them to the museum for display in the railroad courtyard. Give Sue Kemmis a call at 267-7720 or John Standal at 267-9677.

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

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

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

Museum Hours

Through the summer months, the museum will be open from 10-4 Tuesday through Saturday. Stop by and see what's happening.



Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

Volume III Issue 3 Summer 2011

Museum Fundraising Dinner a Success

An area wide power failure didn't dampen the spirits of a sold-out fundraising dinner held at the Museum Event Center on May 14. Battery powered candles and fading sunlight provided a special ambience at the start of the event. Without power for her keyboard, Jeannie Robinson responded as a true trooper, entertaining the audience "a cappella" during the social hour. Power returned just as dinner was served, and the remainder of the evening progressed as scheduled.

Raffles and a silent auction were conducted throughout the evening. Two lap quilts, produced by local quilters as a museum fundraiser during the David Thompson Bicentennial, were raffled first. The lucky recipients were Kathy Konek and John Standal. The dinner raffle items were won by Kris Schnuerle, Elsie Hollenbeck, and Charlotte Chrisman (twice).

Proceeds from the dinner, silent auction, raffles, sales of advertisements in the dinner program, and donations netted the museum nearly \$6,000. The Board of Trustees is currently reviewing bids for a museum fire

alarm system with installation anticipated before fall. Any funds remaining, after a bid is accepted, will be used for other needed museum improvement projects.

This was an all volunteer event, and our thanks go out to all who donated their time and effort to make it happen. Special thanks go out to Jill Nystrom for preparing and serving the excellent meal; to Lillie Blackwell for soliciting merchandise and donations; to Jeannie Robinson, Sara Owinyo, Markayle Acord, and Jesse Tobin for sharing their musical talents; to Howard Kent for his presentation about J. F. Cook, a black pioneer pharmacist in Bonners Ferry; and to Mary Ann Kruger for graphics related to this event.

Special thanks also go out to the following individuals and businesses who donated merchandise or cash in support of this event:

Platinum Sponsor (\$1,500)

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Gold Sponsors (\$500)

Foust, Inc (Tom & Anita Foust),

Anonymous

Silver Sponsor (\$250)

Idaho Forest Group

Bronze Sponsors (\$50-\$249)

Panhandle State Bank, Silverwood Theme Park, Jill's Café, Boundary Tractor, Beck's Furniture, The Odom Corporation, Ponderay Walmart, Bonners Ferry Nursery, Haircuts, Dr. Marty & Teresa Becker, Kootenai River Inn, Bonners Ferry Log Inn, Larson's Clothing, Idaho Granite Works, North Idaho Ironworks, Timothy B. Wilson, Huckleberry Variety, Dennis & Donna Dirks, Don Jordan & Kathy Konek, Bill & Lillie Blackwell, Jerry & Judy Everhart, John & Karen Standal, Moose Valley Farms

Sponsors (under \$50)

Lynn Self, Oriental Garden, Mugsy's, Bear Auto Service, Mario's Mexican Restaurant, Carolyn & Regis McNeill, Moyie Springs Store, Badger's Den, Sharon's Country Store, Papa Byrd's Bistro, Three Mile Café, Safeway, Top Secret, Donna Marie McCandless, Far North Deli, Mountain Mike's, Joyce Jenkins, Shirley Facha, Tattered Hats, Sandie's Candy Creations, Mike & Jan Sloan, Elene Rock, LaMar Olsen, Billie Krause



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The Smithsonian Is Coming . . .

Yes, and I will keep reminding everyone that the Smithsonian is happening again in May/June of 2012. I really want to keep this wonderful event on people's minds until it springs into full blown reality next year. Each issue of the Historical Society's newsletter will highlight a particular event and give a few tantalizing details. Hopefully, it will be intriguing enough for you to store a small memory seed that says, "Oh, I want to see that."

Currently, groups and individuals have committed to about 14 events which include demonstrations, field trips to various locations, presentation, panel discussions; and performances. They are not all totally planned at this time but the details are being worked out and promise to provide education, history, humor and entertainment. The schedule of events should be completed by late fall so folks can decide which events they want to attend. There will be several not-to-be-missed events, so stay tuned.

The Historical/Hysterical Fashion Show, "What We Wore to Work," will be one of the events produced entirely by the community. It will showcase apparel, props, and tools historically used by people in Boundary County. For those of you who have studied the Faces of History portraits in either the old Safeway (where they hung for many years) or in the Events Center side of the Museum (where they currently hang), some of the characters will be familiar. Other characters may be fictitious so we can create a range of what different people wore to work for specific jobs.

We owe a debt of gratitude to many individuals and groups who are contributing already to make this show a reality.

- The "Write Stuff," a local writers group, is writing narratives based on history, humor and research for each character. They will use several types of writing styles such as Haiku, poetry, metaphor and maybe a little allegory here and there. In addition to the writing, some members of the group have offered to help with the narration of



Smithsonian Institution

the show. I will also approach some of our history buffs to participate in some fashion – no pun intended.

- Paul Rawlings and the Community Theatre have kindly offered us the use of their costumes that have been collected and used over many years. A few of us actually got to see this collection and – WOW! – what a treasure of items.
- Dottie Gray has taken on the monumental task of gathering young talent to actually do the modeling. She will look to Jr. Miss (DYA), FFA, the BCHS drama class, 4-H, home-schooled kids and other groups for young talent.
- To add a touch of professionalism, Mary-Esther Wilson will assist with

the production details. Mary-Esther graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Costume Design.

- Finally, Rona Hall has just come on board. She has recently been the stage director for the children's choir in the first production at the new Pearl Theatre. She also directed fashion shows for a professional woman's group for five years when she lived in Lewiston.

We are so lucky to have such a talented group to help with this event. Before this particular event takes place, I'm sure we will have yet another list of "Thank You's." I appreciate each of you, from the bottom of my heart, for the time and effort you put into this performance.

by Colet Allen

Fourth Graders Review the Museum

Each spring, Sue Kemmis and a loyal band of museum volunteers bring a historically-related program to county fourth grade classes, then host class visits to the museum. The bulletin board at the museum currently displays a wide variety of thank you notes from the students. Stop by and read the reviews. Here are a few for your consideration:

"Thank you for teaching the class about educational facts about your museum. I learned a lot and enjoyed being there."

"That was the first time I have ever been there. It was great."

"Thank you for giving us an amazing day at the museum."

"Thanks for the booklets. I already finished it. At my house I've been trying to make a model of a sturgeon nosed canoe."

"The train signal tower was big. If I say big, I mean huge. If I say huge, I mean enormous."

Curator's Corner

The goal of the Boundary County Museum is to preserve history. This is done through the preservation of people's stories, photos, and belongings. For five and a half years, the volunteers and I have been inventorying the Museum's collection.

Through a grant from the Idaho State Historical Society and technical help from Meadow Creek Computers and Chris Boeckman, we have purchased and installed three new computers to expedite this inventory task. Using Past Perfect, a museum collections program, we will have four computer work stations networked together for data entry of the collection. Having four stations available will mean that we can have several volunteers entering data at the same time, as well as having information readily available for visiting researchers or the public.

Over 15,000 items have been photographed and entered into the data program since the beginning of the inventory process, and the end is not in sight. It is a privilege to help preserve these items to honor and respect those who have passed here before us.

Come be a volunteer and help us preserve Boundary County history and share in the fun.

Sue Kemmis, *Curator*

It's History and It's Yours

History comes in all shapes and sizes. One size does not fit all. What is your size and where can you try it on? The Boundary County Historical Society and Museum can help you answer these questions and many more that you haven't thought of yet. Most of the residents of Boundary County are not aware of the museum and many of those that are aware do not know what kind of "stuff" is inside.

Everyone that has lived in the county for 10 years or more will find something in

the museum that will be meaningful to them – something or someone that they can rediscover. There are photographs of people that they have heard of but maybe never seen. Stories that they have heard over the years and can now read about in an old newspaper only to find that the truth is greater than fiction. There are relatives that may not be with you today but provide some great memories – school-mates or playmates that you can look back and see how their hairdo looked like way back when.

This article is also an invitation to stop in and witness your history first hand. If you haven't taken the opportunity to stop in and see the museum in the last couple of years, you will be pleasantly surprised by what you see. It has been completely redone with some outstanding displays from the major industries in the area. Want to find out what your father did way back when – go through the archives and get "the rest of the story".

The museum staff invites you to review the work that has been done on your behalf, then tell or bring a friend. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm for your convenience. Be sure to bring in stories that you might have.

Mike Sloan
President, Board of Trustees

From the Board of Trustees

As members of the Boundary County Historical Society, we visit the museum on a regular basis. We are aware of the vast collection of knowledge about the county that is stored there. We have seen the white caribou, the Porthill post office boxes, Dr. Fry's medical equipment, rugs being made on the loom, and the vast treasures that are part of what helped make this county what it is today.

I invite you to share the museum with your friends, neighbors, and visitors this summer. We often hear "I have not been to the museum since it was in the basement of the library", or "We have a museum?".

Did you know that we are the only museum in Idaho that is located on the Main Street of the town in which it resides? We are supporters of one of the best kept secrets of this wonderful county we live in. Why not share it? Bring in your neighbors to look up family history in the reference books. Bring in friends to show them the display on trains. Bring in young family members to use an actual typewriter or have their weight and fortune told for only two cents! Now that is inexpensive entertainment.

Again, I invite you to share the museum, which you support, with others in the community. Let's not stay the best kept secret in Boundary County. We look forward to seeing you and your neighbors soon.

By Kathy Konek

Current Board Members

Mike Sloan, *President*
Jill Nystrom, *Vice President*
Cal Russell, *Secretary*
Kathy Konek, *Treasurer*

Carolyn McNeill LaMar Olsen
Don Morice John Standal
Dottie Gray

Sue Kemmis, *Curator*

Museum Notices

Board of Trustee business meetings second and fourth Tuesday every month at 5:30pm at the Museum – 8/9, 8/23, 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22.

