



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

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Annual Dues Past Due

Grants go a long way to improve the quality of the museum, but unfortunately do not pay for the operating expenses necessary to keep our doors open. You can help by keeping your annual dues current or through donations. These can be collected at the museum.

Summer Museum Hours

Summer hours began May 1. The museum is now open 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday-Saturday, continuing through October 30. Note also that the museum will be open seven days a week during the Smithsonian Exhibit, 10:00 am – 7:00 pm, Monday-Saturday and Noon to 4:00 pm, Sunday.

2012 Annual Membership Levels (Based on calendar year)

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

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 \$ _____

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



Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

Volume IV Issue 2 Spring/Summer 2012

Shifting into High Gear

The Smithsonian traveling exhibit, *The Way We Worked*, is almost here. This is a wonderful and exciting theme. Americans identify with their work and love to talk, or complain, about it. The exhibit opens at the Boundary County Museum on May 12th and runs through June 23rd. We will once again have a great learning, educational and entertainment opportunity. We can showcase our Boundary County history, explore who we are and how we define ourselves. In addition to the traveling exhibit, many local individuals, groups and organizations will be taking part. Mark your calendar for May 12th from 2:00-5:00 pm for the grand opening festivities at the Museum.

What is the Smithsonian?

The Smithsonian, based in Washington, D.C., is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums, 9 research centers and more than 140 affiliate museums around the world. The Smithsonian serves as the repository for all that is American, representing our many peoples and individuals who make up this country and their contributions. Our history, inventions, fads, icons, progress and our culture are on display for all to see.



The Smithsonian originated the traveling exhibit concept in 1991 as the Museum on Main Street (MoMS), a program designed to bring our history and culture to small museums and rural American communities. MoMS is a partnership between the Smithsonian, state historical societies and state humanities councils, along with local historical groups that serve as hosts for the exhibits. MoMS combines cultural resources at the federal, state, and local levels that will provide high-quality educational events to underserved rural citizens, and to spark lasting professional improvement for small town museums. The goals of the program are to share

Smithsonian collections, research, and exhibitions with rural Americans; broaden public interest in American history and develop a heightened awareness of local heritage; inspire community revitalization, pride, and cooperation; and motivate small, rural museums to make lasting institutional advancements.

The exhibit host organization is expected to develop and present local programs which amplify the exhibit theme. The Boundary County Historical Society and Museum has engaged many of our friends and neighbors in a collaborative effort to bring wonderful and imaginative programs about how we worked in the past, the present, and the future. The planned activities are ambitious and resourceful.

Locally developed events and exhibits will explore Boundary County mining, geology, agriculture and railroading. Special events include a range of activities such as music with Gary Eller, Aviation at the airport, a day with the U.S. Forest Service at the old Snyder Ranger Station, and beer brewing in Idaho. We will learn about or civic organizations, see cool tools that the Border Patrol uses in their daily work, see how our high school robotics team developed their award winning project. There will also be a

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Clock Collection Added to Museum

Did you ever want to visit the magnificent cathedrals of Europe? Relive the fun times at an old fashioned carnival? All you need to do is come down to the Boundary County Museum and take in our new exhibit located in the Portrait Hall.

The Museum recently accepted over 50 pieces of hand crafted works of art created by former Boundary County resident Ned Dyer. The collection consists of a variety of clocks set into finely detailed wooden replicas of medieval European cathedrals and other familiar edifices, as well as a variety of familiar carnival rides.

Each creation consists of numerous pieces of wood individually cut out with a scroll saw and assembled to replicate well known structures. The size and complexity of the structures are amazing. Several of

the larger cathedrals are three feet in height and consist of up to 1,000 individually fashioned pieces. Not only is a working clock incorporated in each structure, but several have animated features which truly bring the structure to life. Mr. Dyer was also a talented



stain glass artist, and a number of his pieces are included with the display.

Mr. Dyer retired to Boundary County following a career in the airplane construction industry, dividing his time between a small farm on the North Bench and winters in Arizona. With retirement came a need to stay active, and he found his outlet in scroll saw art and stain glass. He maintained a complete studio both here and in Arizona, and worked on his projects year around.

Mr. Dyer offered his collection to the Boundary County Museum during the summer of 2011. Sadly, Mr. Dyer passed away on September 9, 2011 at the age of 86. Although he did not live to see his collection on display, he did know that his art would be enjoyed and appreciated by future generations.

What's Happening at the Museum

Due to the efforts of Dottie Gray, the Museum has been awarded several grants that will enhance Museum displays and programs.

The Museum received a \$2,500 grant from the Union Pacific Foundation dedicated to the installation of the new furnace in Portrait Hall. This grant, along with proceeds from the Eveline Ruhberg estate auction and last spring's fund raising dinner, covered the bulk of the cost of the new furnace.

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded the Museum a grant of \$1,500 for exhibit development, educational materials, and public relations for the upcoming Smithsonian traveling exhibit *The Way We Worked*.

The Boundary County Community Foundation and our local Rotary Club awarded a \$500 grant to fund 4th grade

student transportation for field trips to the Museum.

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded \$2,000 for the development of two displays titled *Fire and Flame*. This grant requires a 50% match which will be met with in-kind volunteer time. The museum recently acquired historic equipment and tools from the Bonners Ferry Fire Department and the Smoke Eaters Club. The display will include the first motorized fire engine used in town, a 1923 REO Speedwagon, an early hand drawn hose cart, the fire chief's roll top desk, and a variety of firefighting equipment. The second exhibit will feature the blacksmith shop that had been used by Marion Bradley, a long time Bonners Ferry resident. Donated to the Museum by Bobby Bradley, the display will include the forge, blower, anvil, tinkerbox and tools used by Marion to keep our loggers and farmers in business. Nancy

Renk of Sandpoint will serve as project scholar for the exhibits. Sue Kemmis, Don Morice, Terry Howe, Howard Kent and our crew of volunteers have been working to get the new exhibits ready. Although some work has to yet be done, the exhibits are located toward the rear of the Portrait Hall and are open to the public. Stop by and have a look.

Next time that you go by, check out the new blade sign on the front of the museum. In the spirit of historic accuracy, note that the sign bracket was originally outside of Howard "Tuffy" Kent, Sr.'s real estate office.

Many thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation, the Idaho Humanities Council, the Boundary County Community Foundation, and the Rotary Club for their financial assistance. Only through their help can we continue to grow and to improve your museum.

Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting of the Boundary County Historical Society, Inc. was held at the museum on April 24th.

Following a review of the annual report and financial statement, members in attendance considered and approved four changes to the Society by-laws. A section relating to membership requirements was deleted making only the payment of dues the sole qualification for membership. The annual meeting was moved from April to November to more closely coincide with the end of the Society's fiscal year. Another change requires the Board of Trustees to meet immediately following the annual meeting for the purpose of electing officers. The last change alters the member notification requirements for proposed by-law changes from "at least 30 days" to "at least 10 days but not more than 30 days".

The final order of business was the election of three trustee positions whose terms expired with the meeting. Dottie Gray and Cal Russell were re-elected

to new three year terms and Dave Gray was elected to fill the position previously held by John Standal.

The Board of Trustees met following the annual meeting. Re-elected were Jill Nystrom as president, Cal Russell as secretary, and Kathy Konek as treasurer. Don Morice was elected as vice president. Diana Ellis, manager of the Wildlife Refuge, was selected to replace LaMar Olsen who resigned from his trustee position.

Current Board Members

Jill Nystrom, *President*
Don Morice, *Vice President*
Cal Russell, *Secretary*
Kathy Konek, *Treasurer*
Diana Ellis Dottie Gray
Dave Gray LeAlan Pinkerton
Mike Sloan
Sue Kemmis, *Curator*

Shifting into High Gear

Continued from Front

fashion show highlighting what we wore to work. All events are free of charge.

The Museum staff has already started the educational programs for the

tion Committee visited all the 4th grades in Boundary County and five of the private schools bringing not only the Edward L. Bonner story, but also a trunk story about work, explaining some of the different tools used by the Kootenai Tribe, miners, loggers, farmers, and railroad men.

Once again during the Smithsonian Exhibit, the 4th grades will display for the viewing public projects showing their families' personal work histories in this beautiful place we call home; thus helping to preserve the history of Boundary County.

fourth graders at all of the Boundary County schools. Each year they gear their program to be fresh and new. This year it fits *The Way We Worked* theme. On good authority, I heard that the Idaho State Museum conference was very impressed with Dottie Gray's presentation on our Museum's educational program. We are the only small museum with such a program and the folks at the conference wanted to know more.

The complete schedule of events is included as a supplement to this newsletter and will also be on the Boundary County Historical Society's webpage at <http://www.bonnersferrymuseum.org>. Several events will be held outside of the museum and sponsored by a particular organization. These community partnerships will be conducted by professionals in their field and will be entertaining, fun, and educational.

This is a huge undertaking. The Board and staff at the museum will require additional volunteer help. The major volunteer effort will be the need for docents. Training for docents will be held in early May. If you are interested in helping, please contact the museum at 267-7720 or e-mail bcmuseum@meadowcrk.com "attention volunteering".

Colet Allen

From the Curator

Your Museum is in the care of many volunteers who have worked throughout the winter and now the spring months to prepare for the Smithsonian Exhibit *The Way We Worked*. The Museum has new exhibits and many programs are being planned. Without the dedication of these volunteers, this would not be possible. Thank you to all of you volunteers.

One of the fun aspects of the spring is always the visits to schools. The Educa-

Come see your Museum and join the many volunteers by sharing the story of Boundary County. Become a volunteer and help us research Boundary County history and share in all the fun.

Sue Kemmis

