

Museum Outreach to County Schools

History is defined as “a branch of knowledge that records and explains past events.” When it comes to local history, the Education Committee enjoys telling and retelling the many stories of people and places of Boundary County. One of these is the Edward L. Bonner story, the source of our wonderful city’s name.

Dottie Gray, Howard and Donna Kent, Audrey Schenck, Marj Pinkerton and Sue Kemmis, members of the Museum Education Committee, visited eight of the local schools, Valley View, Naples and Mt. Hall fourth graders, Home School Co-op, Cornerstone School, McCormick School, Mountain View Mennonite School and Classical Conversations, bringing artifacts and photographs from the Museum’s collection to bring to life the story of 22 year old Edward L. Bonner and his life story. Among the artifacts chosen were a gold pan, a “used” spoon and an “authentic” 1863 map of the inland northwest. To the excitement of the young people, they learn the history behind the town’s name and that not all history is written down correctly. Upon leaving the schools, the Committee gave each of the 272 students, a copy of *The Faces of History*, a small book containing images of the portraits

painted by Bette Myers that hang in Portrait Hall at the Museum.

With the aid of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, who graciously provided funds for educational programs, the Museum was able to provide busing for the Boundary County School District 4th Graders to visit the Museum during the month of May. Dottie and Dave Gray, Howard Kent, Audrey Schenck, Buelah Patterson, David Koon and Sue Kemmis toured the young people through the Museum telling interesting tales about the White Caribou, Dr. Ezra Esher Fry, the Kootenai Tribe and the Kootenai Kid. This year the students were the first to view the firearm collection that recently went on display; and with the

construction of the railroad courtyard, Jack McElroy placed on loan with the Museum a fine train set, depicting the local railroads from Boundary County’s history. Jack also made himself available during the field trips to answer any questions the students had about local railroading. In all, 114 fourth graders enjoyed the exhibits and recited “Hickory Dickory Dock” and searched for the elusive white mouse.

The Committee hopes that in learning the many different historical stories of Boundary County, the young people appreciate this beautiful place we call home.

by Sue Kemmis



New Board of Trustees Members Added

Two new members have been selected to fill vacancies on the Historical Society Board of Trustees. The Board recently appointed Marj Pinkerton and David Koon to fill terms previously occupied by Don Morice and John Standal. Congratulations to both Marj and David, and thank you for your work on behalf of the Museum.

NRA Grant Completed

The Boundary County Historical Society, thanks to the efforts of Kathy Konek and Dottie Gray, received a \$600 grant from the National Rifle Association Foundation and the Idaho Friends of the NRA State Fund to be used to construct a display cabinet for the Museum’s firearm collection.

The cabinet was constructed by Selkirk Craftsman Furniture (Brad Hanson), stained by Museum volunteers, and the display is now available for public viewing.

Our thanks to the NRA for funding this project and to Brad Hanson for his professional workmanship.