



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

Inside this issue:

- Spring Is Coming . . . and So Is the Smithsonian*
- Electronic Museum Newsletters*
- The Gingerbread Village*
- A Night at the Museum*
- ICF Grant Updates Museum*
- What's New at the Museum*
- From the Curator*
- Membership Renewals Due*



**Membership
Renewals Due**

Memberships in the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum provide a significant and necessary source of funding for our museum, as well as showing support for your museum. Memberships in 2011 set a record at 169. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you. If not, please consider doing so by filling out the form to the right and returning it to the museum in person or by mail. Only members receive this quarterly newsletter as well as a 10% discount on purchases at the White Caribou Gift Shop. Memberships also make great gifts for relatives who have moved elsewhere.

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 1 Winter/Spring 2012

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Spring Is Coming . . . and So Is the Smithsonian



The Boundary County Historical Society has once again been given the opportunity to host a Smithsonian exhibit. The theme for the upcoming exhibit is "The Way We Worked". In addition to the Smithsonian prepared exhibit, local programs covering Boundary County history

Electronic Museum Newsletters

Printing and mailing each newsletter costs an estimated \$1.50. The electronic mailing of our quarterly newsletters would result in savings that could be used for other museum programs. If you want to receive future newsletter via email instead of snail mail, please give the museum a call at 267-7720 with your addy.

and development will be presented. The exhibit and most of the locally prepared programs will be held at the museum. The exhibit will open on May 12th and run through June 23rd. The museum will have displays set up for the various work activities that provided jobs in our community over the last 100 plus years. Mining, logging, agriculture, and the importance of railroads will be the main focus showing the progress and technology changes over the years.

Antique farm equipment will be displayed on the old bridge, along with early power sources used by the community. In addition to the Pelton Wheel, an early diesel generator will also be on display. Speakers are being lined up to cover diverse topics ranging from mining to railroading to early medicine. A song fest about the old west will be presented at

The Pearl featuring Gary Eller and Bill Rossiter.

This is a great opportunity to show off our museum, not only to out-of-area visitors but more importantly to the local citizenry of Boundary County. Look for more details as we move closer to the opening. Tell all of your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the fun, and to see firsthand what a treasure the museum is.

This exhibit will require additional volunteers, particularly for docents (exhibit guides and monitors). Docent training will be held prior to the opening of the exhibit. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the museum at 267-7720 or via email to bcmuseum@meadowcrk.com.

Mike Sloan

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The Gingerbread Village



The Museum Portrait Gallery came alive during the Christmas holiday with a display of houses, cabins, a barn, grist mill, and even the first Kootenai River ferry. All were handmade with gingerbread or other edible munchies as part of the downtown Bonners Ferry Christmas celebration.

The gingerbread village contest was organized by Karen Standal, Eldora Gatchell, Lillie Blackwell, and the Tattered Hats as a means of generating interest in the downtown Christmas festivities. Space for the display was provided by the Museum. A total of fourteen creations were submitted for judging and public viewing from December 14 through 17.

Due to the quality of the submissions, the judges found that deciding first and second place was a most difficult task. After much deliberation, the gals at Jill's Café were awarded the first place prize of \$75 for their rendition of an

old fashioned church. The \$50 second prize was awarded to David Ackley for his resettlement barn and farm scene. A log cabin in a forest setting won the People's Choice award with a cash prize of \$25. This prize was determined by the viewing public. Voting was through a penny drop. Whichever creation collected the most money was the winner. Second place for People's Choice went to the Kootenai River Brewing Company and third place to Austin Kemmis. The

Tattered Hats and Dr. Marty and Teresa Becker provided the cash awards.

The event was designated as a fund raising event for the BoCo (Boundary County) Backpack program. Viewed by over 300 people, the event raised \$716 for the BoCo program through the penny drop and silent auction of the display pieces.

Dr. Chuck Newhouse videotaped the exhibit and has posted it on the internet. If you were unable to attend, you can view the exhibit by going to "boundary county live" and then click on "boundary county video revue".

A Night for the Museum

Last spring, the museum held a fund raising dinner in the Portrait Gallery. The event, an all volunteer effort, sold out and raised nearly \$6,000 for a fire alarm system at the museum. The balance of the proceeds assisted with the replacement of the furnace in the Portrait Gallery.

Several building issues require attention, but museum revenue covers no more than basic operational needs. Grants from government entities or and private foundations offer opportunities for special project funding, but require a local match.

The Board of Trustees has decided to hold another fund raising dinner this spring in order to generate additional funding that would serve as seed money for project grants. Dinner information will be available in early March. We look forward to seeing you there.

Schedule of Events

May 12 Opening day for the Smithsonian Exhibit

Board of Trustees meet at the museum at 5:30pm on February 7 (Special Meeting), February 28, March 13, March 27, April 10 and April 24

Museum Hours

The Museum is now open to the public from 10am-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays. The shortened winter hours will remain in place until May 1.

ICF Grant Updates Museum

The Idaho Community Foundation's Board of Directors announced the awarding of a \$1,000 grant to the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum on May 17, 2011. The grant, which does not require a local match, was provided through the Steel-Reese Foundation Special Project Fund for the purpose of upgrading the chairs and tables used for museum and related public events. The funding has been used to purchase 25 new folding chairs, 2 tables, and a chair storage cart.

The museum has already used the new tables and chairs for Historical Society gatherings, the Cub Scout Merit Badge night, and the volunteer recognition dinner

sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Upcoming events such as the Smithsonian exhibit and the museum's fund raising dinner will also be reasons to appreciate this upgrade in chairs and tables.

The Idaho Community Foundation assists hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Idaho in their crucial work of supporting families and seniors, advancing the arts, protecting animals, preserving the environment and much more. The Boundary County Historical Society and Museum greatly appreciate the generosity of both the Idaho Community Foundation and the Steele-Reese Foundation for this grant.

Dottie Gray

What's New at the Museum

Several construction projects have been recently completed or are near completion. The "Hole in the Wall Two" is nearly done, thanks to the efforts of Don Morice. Don has cut and framed a double door entry between the annex and the "Portrait Gallery" (previously occupied by Shelman's Furniture). Two doors which had previously been in the Northside Elementary School will be installed by Bonners Ferry Glass and Door. This new entry will allow direct access to the Portrait Gallery from the main museum.

Andrews Labor and Contracting submitted the low bid for repairing the roof drainage system at the rear of the Portrait Gallery structure. A grant from the Idaho Heritage Trust provided a 50% match for this completed project.

Fulton Construction submitted the low bid to reinforce the second floor roof structure of the main museum building through an addition of posts and beams.



The current support system is inadequate to meet snow load requirements and for structural integrity. The project should be completed by January 20, and is partially funded by a 50% grant match from the Idaho Heritage Trust.

Thanks go out to Paul and Charlene Wells for donating three oak display cabinets to the museum. The three cabinets, two eight footers and one six footer, were originally used in Kruegel's Men's Store and are an excellent and much needed addition to our museum.

Mike Sloan has stepped down as President of the Board of Trustees and has been replaced by Jill Nystrom. Mike wanted to devote more time to the upcoming Smithsonian exhibit, particularly fund raising. He will remain on the Board.

Correction

Our fall newsletter contained an article covering the October chili feed and history walk. The article failed to recognize the entertainment provided by Kathy Sheffler and Kathy O'Leary. Thanks go out to both for their valued contribution to the event.

From the Curator

With the Smithsonian exhibit, *The Way We Worked*, coming to the museum, we want to involve the youth of the community to help preserve the history of Boundary County.

The museum Education Committee will visit the 4th grade classes at Naples, Mt. Hall, and Valley View during March with the story of Edward L. Bonner. Bonner and his companions, Richard Eddy and John Walton, ventured north to the Kootenai River and saw the need to start a ferry service at a little spot which eventually would carry his name. We will discuss with the students the work that was involved in starting the ferry service and building a trading post to do business with the many individuals traveling the Wild Horse Trail to the gold fields in Canada.

We will encourage the students to research their families personal work histories in this beautiful place that we call home, and create interesting projects that will be displayed for public viewing while the Smithsonian exhibit is at the museum.

With the help of many volunteers, the exhibit will be a great way to share the many stories about Boundary County residents. Help us research Boundary County history and share in all the fun.

Sue Kemmis

Current Board Members

Jill Nystrom, *President*
John Standal, *Vice President*
Cal Russell, *Secretary*
Kathy Konek, *Treasurer*

LeAlan Pinkerton LaMar Olsen
Don Morice Mike Sloan

Dottie Gray

Sue Kemmis, *Curator*