



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
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Volunteer members manned a table for the museum at the December craft fair at the fairgrounds. On display were many items from the museum gift shop, as well as one of the digital frames displaying photos from our newest exhibit, "Fire and Flames". Memberships, as well as gift certificates, were also promoted during the two day fair. Three items were also raffled: a rag rug loomed by Debby Ackley at the museum was won by Sue Winey; a lap quilt donated by Marj Pinkerton was won by Mary Dirks and a Mikasa cookware set also donated by Marj Pinkerton was won by Alice Hinthorn. Many people stopped by the table to socialize, ask questions, and tell stories.

by Dottie Gray

Museum Fund-Raising Dinner a Success

Bronze Sponsors continued from front

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Tattered Hats

Bonners Ferry Rotary Club

Mountain West Bank

Bear Mechanical

Safeway

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Sponsor (under \$50)

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Pro-X

Under The Sun

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Badger's Den

Bonners Ferry Veterinary Clinic

Kootenai River Brewing Company

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Bonners Ferry Herald

Bill & Fay Morris

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E.T. Wireless

Dianna Ellis

Heartstrest

Pearl Theatre

KBFI Radio 1450

Akins Harvest Foods

Current Board Members

Jill Nystrom, *President*

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Stephanie Tucker, *Treasurer*

Dave Gray

Dottie Gray

Dianna Ellis



Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

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Museum Fund-Raising Dinner a Success

The Museum hosted a fund raising dinner October 13. All seats for the dinner were sold, and the attendees enjoyed a prime rib and chicken buffet prepared and served by Jill Nystrom and Jill's Cafe. A.J. Williams, a student at Boundary County High School, and Tom and Laura Kitchen entertained the audience with songs and guitar following the dinner. A silent auction with over twenty items donated by local merchants and a raffle were held during the dinner.



The dinner was an all volunteer effort on the part of the Historical Society's Board of Trustees and our excellent group of Museum volunteers. The dinner, raffle, silent auction, and donations netted slightly over \$5,000 for the Museum, with the funds dedicated to replacing the main street entry doors.

Our thanks go out to the many volunteers, the Board of Trustees, Jill Nystrom, A. J. Williams, and Tom and Laura Kitchen, whose efforts made possible a very successful Museum program.

Our thanks also go out to the many businesses and individuals listed that donated merchandise and funds for the event.

Gold Sponsor - 1/2 Page
(\$500 or over)
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Foust's Inc./Sugar Plum Floral

Silver Sponsor - 1/4 Page
(\$250-\$499)
Idaho Forest Group
Dr. Marty & Teresa Becker
Super 1 Foods

Bronze Sponsor - Business Card
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Kootenai River Inn
Mugsy's

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Pace-Kerby
Beck's Furniture
Larson's Department Store
Bonners Ferry Log Inn
Sharon's Country Store
Moose Valley Farms
Panhandle State Bank
Boundary Tractor
Tedde Kiilsgaard Healey
Zip Trip
Regis & Carolyn McNeill
John & Karen Standal
Boundary County Historical Society
James & Helen Marx

Continued on back

What's New at the Museum

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Boundary County Historical Society are pleased to announce the expansion of the Kootenai Tribal exhibit at the museum. Recently, a number of artifacts have been received in the care of the museum for preservation and display. Many of the items came from collections belonging to Freddie Florea, Paul Flinn and Nellie Ruckey, and include articles of regalia and other clothing, tools, photographs and beaded items. A generous donation has also been received to provide new display cases for the articles and a mannequin which will display clothing belonging to Chief Moses Joseph. Jennifer Porter, Tribal Chair, and the Tribal Council have also made a very generous donation toward future museum projects.

The Historical Society appreciates the relationship and partnership that is shared

with the Kootenai Tribe. Preservation of the Tribe's culture and history is paramount to the museum's purpose. Once the expanded display is complete, a special dedication will be held for the Tribal Council and the community.

by Dottie Gray

Sturgeon Film Grant

The Boundary County Historical Society successfully partnered with film director George Sibley resulting in a \$2,000 grant from the Idaho Humanities Council. The grant will be used to produce a documentary film on the Kootenai River's

white sturgeon and the role that the fish played in the geology, history, and culture to the Kootenai Tribe.

Sibley is a well known area filmmaker whose previous works included documentaries on David Thompson and the 1910 fire, both of which have been shown at the Boundary County Museum.

The Boundary County Historical Society served as the organizational sponsor for this grant. No Society or Museum funds were expended or will be obligated for this project, though we expect to host a premier showing of the film when completed in the spring of 2014.

The White Caribou Returns Home

The iconic white caribou, long a resident of the Boundary County Museum, will soon return home. Thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Idaho Humanities Council and the effort of numerous volunteers, the original White Caribou Bar has been recreated in the museum.

Fred Fisher and his wife, Kate, opened a saloon in Porthill during the fall of 1895. The Fishers decorated the bar with a wide range of stuffed animals and birds, including our full-mount white caribou which allegedly was killed by two members of the Kootenai Tribe. In 1905, he moved the bar, taxidermy and all, to Bonners Ferry. The new establishment, located at the present site of the Bonners Ferry Herald office, was named The White Caribou and displayed our white caribou mount in the front window for all to see. The caribou traveled the area following the bar's closure in 1909, finding temporary homes in a library, a garbage dump, and finally the museum in Newport, WA. Charlie "Tot" Smith and Paul Flinn eventually retrieved the caribou from Newport and returned it to the Boundary County Museum.

Thanks to the volunteer construction work by Gene Andrews, Rod LePoidevin and Terry Howe, and

with lumber donated by Idaho Forest Group, The White Caribou Bar has been rebuilt in the Museum much as it looked in 1905. The interior will house a bar, a variety of taxidermy products as it once did, as well as artifacts of the period. Once the interior decorating is complete, the white caribou will again assume its rightful position in the front window of the bar.

The exhibit, conceived and developed by our curator, Sue Kemmis, was made possible through a \$2,000 grant from the Idaho Humanities Council/National Endowment for the Humanities and the efforts of numerous museum volunteers and donation of building supplies. In addition to those listed above, Howard Kent, Mary Ann Kruger, Sue Kemmis and project director Dottie Gray have logged numerous hours developing the interpretative materials which bring this exhibit to life.

by John Standal

TR Visits Bonners Ferry

With the recent presidential election over, it was thought appropriate to reflect on a U.S. President who briefly passed through our neck of the woods.

In September of 1888, a then 28 year old Theodore Roosevelt and two companions were camped on the west side of Kootenay Lake. His plan was to hike into the Selkirk Mountains and shoot a caribou.

Weeks earlier, Roosevelt traveled to Idaho territory by way of the Northern Pacific Railroad. They arrived at Kootenai Station, planning to spend the night. They soon discovered that the rustic little community lacked available sleeping quarters. While his friend did find a spot, Teddy was not so lucky. Finally a rooming house proprietor rented a cabin to Teddy that belonged to a friend who was out of town at the time. Later that night, the cabin owner unexpectedly returned. Not wishing to awaken his friend to get the key, he instead crawled through a cabin window. What took place in that dark room can only be humorously imagined. No injuries were reported.

The next day they boarded Sam Smith's stagecoach for the 32 mile ride to Fry, also known as Bonners Ferry. Roosevelt didn't

make mention of the trip in his book, *The Wilderness Hunter*, but I'm sure he and his partner were thankful when it ended. The road followed much of the old Wildhorse Trail and it was rough as a cob. Sam's reputation as a "hell bent for leather" stage driver probably did little to improve their situation.

At Fry, they acquired their supplies and a boat and headed down river. Somewhere along the way, a member of the Kootenai Tribe joined the hunting expedition. In his book, Roosevelt described the Kootenai Valley and its meandering river. Upon reaching Kootenay Lake, they established their camp along the shore. After several days of hunting in the high mountains, TR managed to shoot his caribou. On his return trip, he stopped at the Canadian Customs office manned by J.C. Rykert, to whom he gave his caribou head.

His trip back to Bonners Ferry was aboard the steamer Galena, which was carrying sacks of ore bound for the smelter. According to Canadian sources, Teddy had earlier helped the crew load the sacks of ore aboard the Galena.

Many years later, Roosevelt's caribou head was given to the Canadian



Legion Post in Creston. In 1959, they in turn donated it to the Bonners Ferry Legion Post #55, where it continues to greet visitors to the American Legion building.

by Howard Kent

Museum Hours

The museum is open from 10am – 4pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Please stop by and see how your museum has changed..

From the Curator

Boundary County. We hear all the time that we live in a beautiful place; the scenery and seasons making this so. We talk about what a "rich history" we have; but when you think about it, history is made by people, colorful individuals who moved here and established towns, some that are now ghost towns.

We laugh and cry when we speak of these people knowing that they have plowed the way for our being here. We wonder how some things were made possible; surviving harsh cold winters trying to stay fed and warm, trips to that frozen out-house. Men working in the woods, fields

and mines with women taking care of the homestead and raising the children. A trip to "town" took the entire day, sometimes two days.

We smile when we hear about Sam Smith chasing deer with his stage coach; are amazed when we hear Oliver Pape could outwork all of his men at the mill at Meadow Creek with only one leg; we crinkle our noses when we talk about Peter Moe making his own cheese in his small cabin; and we are awed when we think of Peter Chiqui, the bear wrestler.

Many of the stories are preserved in written records, but on occasion someone tells a tale about one of these people and you

wonder – will anyone ever hear this again? That is why it is so important to get these stories on paper or recorded. The people at the Museum make collecting these stories a priority. Yes, we preserve artifacts, but the Museum is also a storehouse of written histories. Help preserve the history of this beautiful place we call home.

Sue Kemmis

