



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

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2014

Boundary County Museum Calendar

Plant an idea seed, and it will grow. Sue and Howard have been madly gathering itsy bitsy pieces of history and designing a 2014/1914 calendar of Boundary County trivia and photos. This is a must-have calendar for anyone interested in learning far more than you ever thought you wanted to know about our town and county 100 years ago. If you are a trivia fan, this is just your thing! There's some little byte for every day of the year!

The calendars are now available at the Museum or The Rusty Moose for \$10.00. The calendars cost \$10 with all profits going to the Museum.



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

Railroad Round Table

On Wednesday, Dec. 12th a group of railroad experts, past and present, met with Sue, Terry, Howard, John, and Dottie to sit around the table and offer knowledge, ideas, and history of the railroads that came through Boundary County, and the two that still do. In preparation for the completion of the railroad courtyard, this venue was chosen to gather stories, compile ideas for displays, and perhaps some avenues to collect artifacts that can become part of this new exhibit area. Men from as far away as Post Falls jumped on board with this opportunity to meet, greet, and share. Many thanks go out to all who came to sip coffee, munch on cookies, and have a great afternoon.

Museum Hours

The Boundary County Museum is open from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays through April 30. Beginning on May 1, the Museum will be open from 10:00am to 4:00pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Current Board Members

Cal Russell, President
Dave Gray, Vice President
Stephanie Tucker, Treasurer
Dottie Gray, Secretary
Jill Nystrom, Trustee
Vacant
Vacant
Sue Kemmis, Curator

The Board of Trustees meets at 5:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Meetings are at the Museum, and the public is invited.



Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

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BNSF Foundation Grant

Notification came this fall of a \$16,000 grant from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation for the continued development of the railroad courtyard which has been in planning stages for several years. The funds will provide for a new asphalt surface, perimeter fencing, construction of a pavilion, additional interpretive boards, and landscaping. The Historical Society appreciates BNSF's role as an active partner in this project. In addition, the Class of 1963 became a partner through a donation made during the all-school reunion this past summer. Funds from the dinner held in October were also designated for this project.

Even though the railroads had a relatively short history in this area, they were a very important part of Boundary County's story. The project plan is to complete the exhibit area which began with an endowment from

the Mary Ellen Thomason estate and a 2009 grant from the Idaho Humanities Council.

Boundary County Historical Society's mission is to bring together persons interested in the history of Boundary County; to promote further interest in the heritage of this area; to gather information, objects and materials relative to its history and

development; and to carry on educational programs relative to this region.

In keeping with the Society's mission statement, and as a means to bring people together and gather information and direction, a round table discussion was planned during the time when actual construction could not happen. Who better to get ideas from than working and retired railroad people who are willing to spend an afternoon talking trains?



Burlington Northern Engines

Idaho Forest Group Donates Lumber for Gazebo

Idaho Forest Group, a continuing partner with the museum, has generously offered to donate all the lumber needed for construction of the gazebo/depot which will

be constructed on the cement slab in the courtyard area. Design plans for this depot-like gazebo are in the works. Iron fencing resembling that which surrounded the old Bonners Ferry Depot is also being considered. The walls under the back awning will be filled with interpretive boards, maps, and pictures.

Anyone having railroad memorabilia that you may wish to donate to this project, please contact Sue (267-7720). Once the snow melts this spring, you will be seeing major changes taking place in the courtyard. Many volunteer hours will be logged on this project, and anyone wishing to lend a strong back is encouraged to volunteer.

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Third Annual Night for the Museum a Success

The Boundary County Museum hosted the third annual "Night for the Museum" on the evening of October 26. The sold-out event consisted of a buffet dinner, entertainment, raffles, a live auction of donated merchandise, and an opportunity for attendees to tour the Museum. This event has become the major fund raiser for the Museum and past dinners have funded a fire alarm system, new main street entry doors, and a replacement furnace for the Portrait Hall.

Through a combination of dinner proceeds, a raffle, live auction, and sponsorships for the event, a total of \$5,150 was raised for the Museum. Proceeds from this year's event will go toward repairing or replacing the garage door on the east end of Portrait Hall with a more energy efficient entryway, with the remaining funds going toward the completion of the proposed railroad courtyard.

The "Night for the Museum" event is entirely a volunteer effort and is made possible through the volunteer support of numerous individuals and businesses, for whom we are very grateful. Jill Nystrom and The Rusty Moose again prepared and catered a delicious buffet dinner of prime rib and chicken marsala. Thank you, Jill. Your support has been critical!! Thanks also go out to Jeannie Robinson who entertained during the dinner, and also to Dave Gause for auctioneering. And we can't forget the many museum volunteers who donated their time to make this event a success. Thank you so very much for your support.

Special recognition goes out to all of the local businesses and individual Museum



Photos by Laura Roady



supporters who contributed merchandise

and sponsorships for this event. Community support shown for the Museum made this event a success. Thank you to the following for your contributions.

2013 Donor List by Sponsor Level

Gold Sponsor (\$500 or more)
Foust's Inc./Tom & Anita Foust

Silver Sponsor (\$250-\$499)
Beck's Furniture
Idaho Forest Group
The Rusty Moose
Bonners Ferry Rotary Club
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Dr. Mark Barker

Bronze Sponsor (\$50-\$249)
Tim Wilson Law Firm
Bonners Ferry Herald Haircuts
KBFI Radio - Jo Jo Baker
Bonners Ferry Nursery
Kootenai River Inn
Mugsy's Tavern & Grill
North Idaho Iron Works
Larson's Department Store
Bonners Ferry Log Inn
Sharon's Country Store
Panhandle State Bank
Silverwood Theme Park

Walmart
Mountain Mike's
Boundary Tractor
Far-North Outfitters
Pace-Kerby Safeway
Gone Country
Bonners Ferry Glass & Door
Bill & Lillie Blackwell
Pizza Factory
Ned Dyer Family
Judy & Jerry Everhart
Karen & John Standal
Mountain West Bank
Super 1 Foods
Donna & Howard Kent

Sponsor (Under \$50)
Lynn Self
Oriental Garden
Moyie Springs Store
Badger's Den
Moose Valley Farms
Tattered Hats
Kootenai River Brewing Company
Idaho Granite Works
Regis & Carolyn McNeill
Dottie & Dave Gray
Odom Corporation
Bonners Books
Subway
Mario's Mexican Restaurant
Pro-X
Accurate Collision Services
Kathy Behrman
Bill Morris
Leonard Brant
Marj Pinkerton
Robert Clairmont
Under The Sun
Don Morice

Fair Food Booth

August found the Museum represented at the Boundary County Fair with a special fundraising food booth. In addition to the usual offerings of Italian sausage sandwiches, tacos, and haystacks, the Fair food concessions included a baked potato bar sponsored by the Museum. Included with the baked potatoes were a wide variety of toppings, as well as chili for the discriminating gourmets. The booth was staffed by volunteers for the four days of the Fair, not only as a fund raiser for the Museum but also to promote our facility.

The booth netted just over \$500 which will be used to meet out general fund obligations.

Several businesses deserve special recognition. Jill Nystrom and The Rusty Moose and Danielle Reasoner and Mugsy's Tavern & Grill donated staff and oven time to prepare the baked potatoes during the event. Baking potatoes were donated by Super 1 Foods and a banner for the booth was provided by 7-Up Bottlers. Thank you for your help, and a big "thank you" to the many Museum volunteers who donated their time manning the booth and keeping it supplied.

Where Are the Volunteers?

The Historical Society and Museum operate with one paid part-time employee. All of the board matters, research, projects, fund raisers, and grant writing are accomplished with **Sue and volunteers** assisting. We have a **membership base** of 124 from which many **dedicated people** contribute their time to **various projects** when called upon. Some of **these folks** can be seen on a regular basis, **others come** when asked to do something **specific**. We can be stronger and accomplish **more with your help**. Please consider **scheduling** some time at the docent counter, **filming**, **researching**, **cleaning**, **organizing** . . . there is something here for everyone. Just offer your time and talents and Sue will sign you up!

The Boundary County Historical Society & Museum is governed by a Board consisting of 7 trustees, each serving a three year

term. The Board of Trustees determines the policies and direction for the Museum. There are currently two vacant positions and we are actively seeking volunteers. If you are interested in serving or wish additional information, contact Dottie Gray at 267-2576 or Cal Russell at 267-5571.

Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting

On Nov. 12th, the annual meeting was held in Portrait Hall. Attendance was extremely light. Six Board of Trustees and three other members were present, representative of more than 120 members. What can we do to get more out for one meeting a year? We need the direction of the membership!

Highlights of the meeting:

Bylaw changes were approved. The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven (7), a reduction from nine (9). Three (3) of the Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at any meeting of the board.

Treasurer's Reports were accepted.

Election of Trustees: Jill Nystrom was elected to a 3-year term. Currently we have 5 trustees, and the bylaws calls for 7.

John Standal reported on the fund raising dinner, which was a huge success.

Dottie Gray reported on the NRA Grant for a weapons display case which will be built.

A Burlington Northern Santa Fe Grant has been received in the amount of \$16,000 for development of the railroad courtyard at the back entrance to the museum. The class of 1963 has donated approximately \$1,600. for construction of the pavilion, and funds from the dinner will also be added to the pool of money for this project. Idaho Forest Group has offered to donate the lumber for the gazebo.

Election of Trustee officers:
Cal Russell - President; Dave Gray - Vice President; Stephanie Tucker- Treasurer; Dottie Gray - Secretary

Curator's Corner

One day, almost eight years ago, LaMar Olsen, the then President of the Historical Society, came into the Museum with a new computer and an archiving program called Past Perfect 4. He asked who would like to do inventory of all the items in the Museum. I raised my hand and said, "Sure, I will, that shouldn't take too long". I laugh about that now.

The job has been much bigger than I thought it would be, but we continue to press forward. We have inventoried over 23,000 pieces of Boundary County history. The goal of this winter is to archive the files full of papers, maps and miscellaneous tidbits of history.

Terry Howe, Howard Kent, Darlene Young and I have been processing many pieces of history in the archive files. We have completed two of the sixteen file cabinet drawers entering 900 items thus far into the system; with many more to go.

Each person that comes into the Museum has different interests, whether it is logging, railroads, schools, nursing, textiles or paintings. Who's to say which is more important? It is the responsibility of the Museum to manage, care for and protect the historical collection; to provide without prejudice a secure place for all Boundary County history.

Arthur G. Doughty wrote, "Of all our national assets, archives are the most precious; they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization."

As 2013 draws to an end, I want to thank all the individuals who have donated to the museum artifacts, photos, funds, and volunteer hours. Without you, the museum could not function. I can only hope that we are living up to our responsibility and helping to preserve our Boundary County history.

by Sue Kemmis

