



P. O. Box 808  
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

**Current Board Members**

The Boundary County Museum is operated by the Boundary County Historical Society, Inc., a 501c(3) non-profit organization. The current Board of Trustees is composed of:

- Cal Russell, President
- Dave Gray, Vice President
- Stephanie Tucker, Treasurer
- Dottie Gray, Secretary
- David Koon, Trustee
- Marj Pinkerton, Trustee
- Vic White, Trustee

Sue Kemmis, Curator

The Board of Trustees meets at 5:30pm at the Museum on the second Tuesday of each month. The public is invited to attend.

The Museum is now open to the public from 10am to 4pm on Tuesday through Saturday and will continue through September 30. Come winter, we'll again be open 10am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday only. Stop by and see the changes in your Museum.

**Membership Drive Updated**

Memberships and sponsors are extremely important for the continued growth of our Museum. They not only serve as a major source of revenue, but are also an excellent measure of public support for our facility, which also strengthens our grant applications. Our membership roster for 2015 currently stands at 139.

Our recent membership drive also encouraged Museum supporters to assist through sponsorships, with a variety of levels offered: Fisher Peak is at the \$1,000 level, Roman Nose at \$500, Burton Peak at \$250, Mount Clifty at \$100, and Queen Mountain at \$50. Sponsorship donations are 100% dedicated to Museum improvements and operations and are tax deductible.

We thank the following businesses and individuals for their recent sponsorships:

Fisher Peak (\$1,000) - Terry & Sue Howe and David & Eileen Maxfield

Burton Peak (\$250) - J.B.'s Tire & Automotive

Mount Clifty (\$100) - Rege & Carolyn McNeill, John & Ardith Pierce, Brion & Glenda Poston, John & Shane Sater, Don Schied, John & Karen Standal, Pizza Factory

Queen Mountain (\$50) - Bonners Ferry Veterinary Clinic, Dixie Miller, and Bob & Ida Pluid

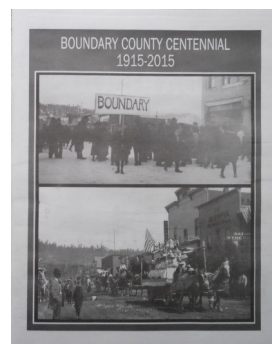
If you haven't become a 2015 member of the Boundary County Historical Society & Museum, or would like to become a sponsoring member, see Sue Kemmis at the Museum or visit with a member of the Board of Trustees.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

July 11, 2015 (Kootenai River Days)

1:00 ~ Indoor Virtual History Walk with Howard Kent and the Class of 1975

Have you gotten your copy of the Boundary County Centennial Booklet? Pick one up at the Museum.



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Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

**Time Capsule**

Volume VII Issue II 2015

**BOUNDARY COUNTY INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Boundary County came into existence on January 23, 1915. At the time of statehood, the northern Panhandle of Idaho was incorporated as part of Kootenai County with the county seat in Rathdrum. In 1907, the northern portion split off and became Bonner County. Population growth and transportation needs led to a two year effort by area residents to split Bonner County further. With the passage of House Bill 1 and the signature of Governor Alexander on January 23, 1915, Boundary County was finally established as a separate governmental entity. Two days later, an impromptu celebration was held. A large crowd gathered at the corner of Kootenai and Main Streets to celebrate the occasion. Spirits ran high on this cold and breezy day. Marshall Worley served as master of ceremonies and Major W.S. Walker delivered the main speech. Clowns, the Bonners Ferry band, Company E of the Idaho National Guard, and representatives from the Knights of Pythias in full regalia added to the event.

Elementary school children sang an updated version of "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary" titled "It's a Long, Long Way to Bonners Ferry". Fast forward to January 23, 2015. A crowd in excess of 150 gathered again at the corner of Kootenai and Main to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boundary County. Sheriff Greg Sprungl played the role of Marshal Worley and Cal Russell reprised that of Major W.S. Walker. Boundary County Commissioners LeAlan Pinkerton and Walt Kirby read key sections of the original House Bill 1 and Commissioner Dan Dinning read a proclamation declaring January 23, 2015 as the official start of the Boundary County centennial celebrations. Tribal Chair Gary Aitken, Jr. represented the Kootenai Tribe. Elementary school children under the direction of David Carpenter performed the ballad "A Long, Long Way

to Bonners Ferry" as was done 100 years ago. Following the conclusion of the program, the crowd moved to the Boundary County Museum for birthday cake and refreshments. Entertainment was provided by the Boundary County High School Jazz band. The event was organized by the Boundary County Museum with the assistance of the Boundary County Commission and the City of Bonners Ferry. Special thanks go out to Dottie Gray and Sue Kemmis who put in many long hours organizing the event, the Bonners Ferry Police Department for traffic control, and to all the volunteers who assisted. Planning for the County Sesquicentennial is already under way.



Color photo courtesy of: Aaron Bohachek, Bonners Ferry Herald



## Kootenai Tribal Exhibit Expanded

The Museum recently acquired a variety of artifacts and photographs relating to the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Included were a number of beaded items such as toy sized cradle boards and children's moccasins. Included also were over 120 photographs related to the Kootenai Tribe. The collection had been acquired by Annie Patterson, cook at the Mission School from the late 1920's through 1935, and donated to the Museum by Doug and Polly Lisle of Camp Sherman, Oregon. Mr. Lisle is the nephew of Annie Patterson. Leonard and Margie Brant of Post Falls also loaned a full sized beaded Kootenai cradle board for the Museum display. The cradle board, ca. 1920, is attributed to the work of Catherine Abraham Francis, wife of Simon Francis. The new artifacts were unveiled during a program at the Museum on February 21. The program,

## Summer Hours at the Museum

Not only does May bring on signs of the coming summer season, but also a change in hours for the Museum. Beginning on May 1, the Museum is open to the public from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday. The summer schedule will continue through September 30. On May 9, The Museum held a "Grand Opening" to recognize the expanded hours. Museum volunteers presented a wide variety of demonstrations and presentations throughout the day. Dave Gause showed off the blacksmith shop at the Museum and discussed the various tools and procedures used by early blacksmiths in Boundary County. Jim Hubbell brought the Museum's metal lathe and metal working tools back to life. The century old loom, also part of the Museum's collection, was operated by Debbie Ackley. Debbie showed attendees the fine art of rug making in the old fashioned way. Early homemaker skills were demonstrated by Joan Myers working a spinning wheel and Kathy Konek showing the art of tatting. A fly tying exhibition was conducted by Tom Emond. Youngsters in attendance were able to tie a fly to take home. A hands on art program by Doreen Beck was also available for children in attendance. George Sibley's movie, "The Fish Between The Falls", was shown. Sue Kemmis and Howard Kent presented a history of early Boundary County with stories related to logging, mining, transportation such as steamboats and railroads, and the development of the various towns and villages in the County. The fun filled and entertaining day of activities closed with traditional Kootenai Tribal stories as told by Museum volunteers.

And to show that a free lunch is not a thing of the past, Chefs Dave Gray and Vic White prepared a lunch of hot dogs on the grill, as well as chips, and drinks.



Helen Cutsack with two of her nine children.

enjoyed by an audience of 60, was introduced by Tribal Chair Gary Aitken, Jr. and opened with a performance by the Kootenai Singers Drum group, followed by a slide show and oral history of the new artifacts. Our thanks to the Lisle and Brant families for these excellent additions to the Museum collection. Stop by the Museum from 10a-4p, Tuesday through Saturday and view the new additions.

## ERRATA

The following donors to the Museum fundraising dinner were inadvertently omitted from the winter/spring newsletter: The Gift Gallery, Lynn Self Jewelry, Idaho Granite Works, Accurate Collision Services, Boardwalk Boutique, Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce, Ron & Evelyn Smith, and Don Morice. Our apologies, and thanks to all.

## Coloring Contest

With the excitement of Boundary County's 100th birthday, the Boundary County Commissioners and the Boundary County Historical Society partnered with the Boundary County School District 101 Fourth Grade classes in a coloring contest. Students in the fourth grade study Idaho history, and were please to be a part of this centennial year. The coloring contest consisted of the student's choice of one of the three bas relief sculptures on the face of the courthouse.

The colored entries were judged by the staff in the County Clerk's office, and will be hung in the Museum during Kootenai River Days for the public to enjoy. One winner was chosen from each of the 5 fourth grade classes. Winners received a limited edition "1 Troy Ounce" Silver Coin commemorating the 100th Year Anniversary of Boundary County, Idaho, minted by the Sunshine Mines. Winners are: Mt. Hall-Mrs. Dillin's class-Greta Callison; Naples-Mr. Alvarez's class-Tami Rigney; Valley View-Mr. Shryock's class-Skylar Bradley; Mrs. Perez's class-Alyne Fischer; Mrs. Funkhouser's class-Brooklynn Jolley. Congratulations to the five winners.



Valley View



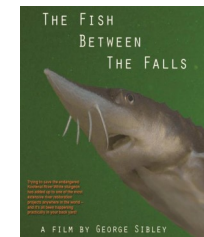
Naples

Mt. Hall

## Idaho Day at the Museum

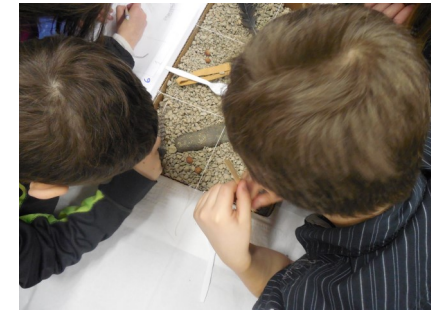
The 2014 session of the Idaho State Legislature passed a resolution designating March 4 as Idaho Day, a day to celebrate the history, culture, and wonders of our state. The March 4 date was chosen as it coincides with the date in 1864 that Abraham Lincoln signed the Act creating the Idaho Territory, the first step toward statehood.

The Boundary County Museum celebrated this day by hosting all the Boundary County School District 101 fourth grade classes for a special program. The fourth grade was selected as this is the grade that focuses on Idaho history. 109 fourth graders from Valley View, Naples, and Mt. Hall Elementary Schools along with teachers and aides participated. Museum staff and volunteers presented a history lesson covering significant events related to Idaho history. Following the



## "The Fish Between The Falls" Premieres at the Museum

The premier showing of the movie "The Fish Between The Falls" was held at the Museum on March 20 before a standing room only crowd of 135. The movie was filmed and produced by George Sibley and follows the history and role of the Kootenai River white sturgeon. The Kootenai River white sturgeon, a unique subspecies inhabiting the Kootenai River from Kootenai Falls in Montana through Kootenay Lake in British Columbia, is one of the largest and oldest fish in North America. Once plentiful, the numbers have decreased significantly due to overfishing and habitat changes resulting from Libby Dam. The fish was placed on the Endangered Species list in 1994. The sturgeon has been a staple for members of the Kootenai Tribe throughout their history. Now the tribe is leading the fight to protect the species.



presentation, students participated in a hands-on archaeological "dig", discovering artifacts from the Museum that related to local history. A number of boxes had been filled with sand, gravel, and artifacts of the time. The students set up a grid system and proceeded to recover the treasures, logging location and description of items found on a grid map.

Our thanks to the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho for funding the busing expenses for the students, and to the Museum staff and volunteers for providing an interesting and educational program.

The tribal aquaculture program began in 1989 with the building of a hatchery dedicated to sturgeon preservation. The effort has increased significantly over the years with a variety of partners, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Bonneville Power Administration, University of Idaho, and the British Columbia Minister of Environment, as well as researchers ranging from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst to the University of California-Davis. Emphasis has recently shifted to habitat and nutrition restoration including major projects throughout the Boundary County segment of the river.

Mr. Sibley has taken a strong interest in area history with earlier films including "Shadows of David Thompson", "Ordeal by Fire" telling the story of the 1910 forest fire which devastated much of the

## Curator's Corner

For the past seven years, it has been a pleasure taking history to the students of Boundary County. This year, the Education Committee was pleased to take a "trunk story" with photos and artifacts from the Museum's collection; a history lesson on the creation of Boundary County. The story was told to 315 school children! We spoke to 4th grades at Valley View, Naples and Mt. Hall; students at Mt. View Mennonite, Kootenai Valley Mennonite; Home School Co-Operative and Classical Conversations; Cornerstone; and McCormick Schools. We also did the program for the Women in Business Day for the Chamber and for the Museum's Opening Day program. Thank you for letting us come see you!

The response to the Museum's Facebook page has been fantastic! People have really enjoyed it. We are pleased to share the county's history in this format. As always, the staff and volunteers of the Historical Society have been busy with many projects: the creation of the railroad courtyard, programs, field trips, accessioning artifacts and photos, and inventorying the archives. Thank you to all those volunteers who spend their "free time" working in the Museum. Thank you all for your continued support!

central Idaho Panhandle, and "The River of the West Driving Tour" highlighting the Selkirk Loop. "The Fish Between the Falls" provides an hour long visual tour of the Kootenai River valley from the Falls through Kootenay Lake, interviews with scientists and observers, and excellent underwater film of the white sturgeon.

The Boundary County Historical Society & Museum supported the project by providing photographs and historical background information for the production, and also served as the organizational sponsor for a successful \$2,000 grant from the Idaho Humanities Council which helped fund the film production. Several of Mr. Sibley's DVDs, as well as numerous other productions and books on local history are available through the Museum Gift Shop. Stop by and take a look!!