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**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  
Beulah Patterson, 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.

If you have enjoyed the Boundary County Museum Calendars, you are in luck! The 2018 edition is on sale now for \$10.00 each. Every date has a bit of historical trivia, from 100 years ago. Thank you to the many sponsors for this project, it has been a success for the Museum, and has had a good return.

**NEW DISPLAYS**

It all began when Tim Jantz showed up with a large copper container that he found down on Cedar Creek near the old AC White Logging Camp 7. An exhibit was immediately created illustrating a back-woods still operation, complete with jars of “white lightnin’.” The exhibit was nearly shut down by the Mayor when he learned of it. While crawling through an attic space above Memorial Hall at the Fairgrounds, two old slot machines were discovered and brought to the Museum. Soon a gambling den was constructed complete with slots, card table, and the multi-use spittoon. With the still and the slot machines, only one thing was needed to round out Boundary County’s colorful history – A “Red Light District.” Most early day communities had them at one time or another. They were tolerated, because the fines for vagrancy added funds to the usual meager village coffers. The cozy “crib” at the Museum is discreet and secluded.

Howard Kent and Carolyn McNeill, while on one of their frequent research digs, came across a number of Grace Bauman’s newspaper articles: “Tappings From an Ancient Desk.” After sharing several bits of humor from her writings, they decided to gather all of them together into browsing books for future reference. Grace, or Laura Grace as she was also known, was persuaded to write a weekly column from her home at the Restorium for the Herald. Having been left blind as the result of a brain tumor, she used her typewriter and learned Braille. When her finger tips lost sensitivity, she was forced to discontinue her writings. She remained, however, always cheerful and positive, and became a fan of books on tape as she was an avid reader as well as writer. Grace always concluded her column with: “Something to Laugh At.” Here is a good one from her collection: A minister was talking to an elderly neighbor in his congregation and he said, “At your age, you should be thinking about your hereafter.” “Oh, I do,” she hastened to say, “when I go to the kitchen, the dining room, the basement and even the grocery store, I think, ‘now what am I here after?’”

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 13 ~ Spin-In 10:00-2:00  
January 23 ~ Annual Meeting 6:00pm  
May 1 ~ Summer Hours Begin  
May 5 ~ Opening Program  
The Museum is on Winter Hours: 10am to 4pm Fridays and Saturdays. Stop by and see the changes in your Museum.

**Thank You**

to the sponsors of the “Free Saturdays” in 2017  
Vic and Donna White  
Cal and Barbara Russell  
Dave and Dottie Gray  
Marj Pinkerton  
Howard and Donna Kent  
Don Jordan and Kathy Konek

# Time Capsule

Volume IX Issue 2 Winter 2017

**A NIGHT FOR THE MUSEUM**

“A Little Taste of Italy” was chosen as the theme for this year’s A Night for the Museum Fund Raising Dinner and Auction. Portrait Hall looked very festive all decked out in red and white tablecloths, wine bottles, and placemats of Historic Italy. Our personal caterer, Jill Nystrom of The Rusty Moose, prepared a dinner that any Italian would be proud of, and Melissa and Bryant of Goat Mountain Pizzeria along with Museum volunteers served tangy lasagna, chicken alfredo, salad, and breadsticks to more than 100 hungry attendees. Spumoni ice cream and shortbread cookies (donated by Safeway) rounded out a delicious meal.

The program, presented by Howard Kent, Sue Kemmis, Terry Howe, Dave Gray, and Dottie Gray, followed the theme, telling some lively stories of several “characters” of Boundary County who had Italian roots: Gene Maggi, Tony Talarico, and of course Joe Mazoot. Interestingly enough both Gene Maggi and Tony Talarico were involved in law enforcement, either City Police or County Sheriff. Hearty laughter erupted a number of times in the telling of some of the amusing events that were part of these men’s lives. But we didn’t



stop here! A number of natural wonders in Boundary County have Italian roots as well: Roman Nose, Italian Peak, and the City of Naples were also fun stories to be told. Then of course, there are the Italian railroad workers who were here to build rail lines and Italian ovens built for their daily bread baking, all making for some very interesting stories as well.

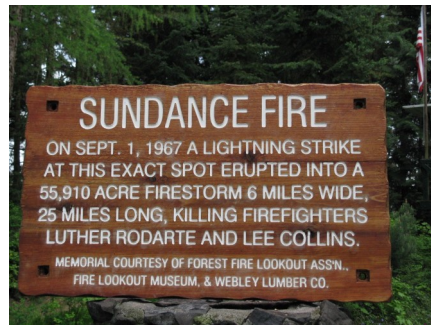
After a lively game of “Name that Artifact” ... each table hosting one of the Museum’s collection of rather unusual objects... and Cal’s famous 50/50 standup activity, Auctioneer John Stater took center stage and began the evening’s auction of everything from baskets filled with goodies to iron work critters, and much in between. The bidding got a little heavy at times, but John was the man of the hour, and all items were claimed.

The Historical Society greatly

appreciates the enthusiastic support of our community in providing an evening of this nature to boost our treasury and make improvements in your Museum. The Museum’s Volunteers spend many long hours in preparation, as well as making this evening run smoothly. Our dedicated members of the Society and community who attend the evening and participate so actively make it a complete success. But without the support of scores of local business men and women and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, who donated very generously, none of this would happen. When you see these folks, please give them a huge thanks for their participation. This year proceeds will used to purchase a new (and much improved!) sound system to be used for programs and presentations, as well as upgrading the track lighting in the Main Hall. As Howard always says, “And a good time was had by all.”

*Commemoration of the Sundance/  
Trapper Peak Fires*

A number of events commemorating the 50th year of the Sundance and Trapper Peak Fires were held during August and early September in both Bonner and Boundary Counties. A multi-agency committee was formed by Idaho Department of Lands, US Forest Service, the Evergreen Foundation, Society of American Foresters, Idaho Forest Owners Association, and the Priest Lake, Bonner County, and Boundary County Museums to help plan programs in various communities to recognize these two unforgettable fires. Special honors were planned for the families of two firefighters who lost their lives in the Sundance Fire on September 1, 1967: Luther Rodarte and Lee Collins. Priest Lake Museum held a program on August 23rd at the Priest Lake Elementary School; Boundary County Museum's program was on August 26th once in the afternoon and again that evening. On September 1st, a potluck cookout was held in Sandpoint for the families of Rodarte and Collins along with the members of the Fire Program Committee. Dedication of a new trail head interpretive sign and memorial placque was held on September 2nd at the Pack River Bridge. All events were very well attended. A feature of the Boundary County Museum's program was the video presentation of interviews with local citizens who



worked one or both fires, those who recalled memories, and those who were affected by the effects of these two fires. Come in and ask about the video if you would like a couple hours of great local history stories.

*Gary Eller, Idaho Songwriter*



Gary Eller sings early Idaho Bluegrass songs while playing guitar, five-string banjo, and bass. One of his latest programs entitled, "Bad Asses and Disasters of Early Idaho," songs about colorful and sometimes unfortunate people and happenings, was performed on October 5th in Portrait Hall. Gary's Idaho Songs Project is sponsored by the Idaho Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. He has collected, interpreted, and preserved over 200 songs written before 1923 about the people, places and events of early Idaho. These songs provide a unique glimpse of the culture created by early Idaho's colorful working men and women. The performance was concluded with everyone joining in singing, "Long Way From Bonners Ferry," which is the only song written about the residents of Boundary County. This was followed by a jam session with the audience and several local musicians joining in the evening's fun.

*Welcome to Bonners Ferry Sign*

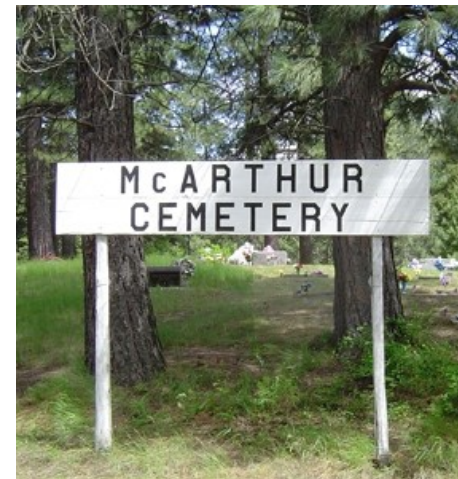
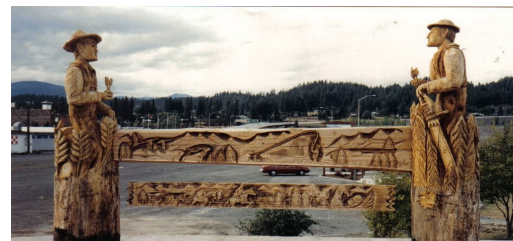
For four sunny days in August 1988, the exciting buzz of chainsaws could be heard on Kootenai Street's entrance into downtown Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The Boundary County Resource Council, with generous donations from the community, had commissioned a well-known chainsaw artist, Dave Clark of Eureka, Montana, to carve a sculpture on site. The newly carved structure would greet the public as they turned into town by the Visitor's Center. A 16-foot log from an uprooted yellow pine tree off Katka Mountain arrived on a logging truck, was cut in half and partially buried in the ground. Amazed onlookers watched as Clark began to carve a figure of a logger and one of a farmer. The men faced each other and held in their hands seedlings that represented the renewable resources of Boundary County.

Between the logger and the farmer, Clark carved two cedar slabs with scenes that represented the beauty and heritage of the community and welcomed people to Boundary County.

The sculpture welcomed visitors for 14 years, but the effects of time and weather took its toll. With a concern for safety, the city had it removed in 2002. The two figures were auctioned off, while the cedar slab portions went into storage, and in 2010 they were donated to the Museum.

Gini Woodward, President of the Historical Society at the time, offered the idea of having the slabs converted into benches. Many ideas for displaying the long heavy pieces were discussed.

Finally, in June 2017, with funding available, The Boundary County Historical Society commissioned North Idaho Ironworks to construct benches using the two cedar slabs. The beautifully carved wood pieces again "Welcome" visitors to Boundary County, and provide folks a place to rest while they visit the Museum Railroad Courtyard.



*McArthur Cemetery Walk*

Though once a thriving village, McArthur didn't last long. It had grown up quickly around William McArthur's homestead and lumber mill at the turn of the last century. Before the disastrous fire of 1922, there sat along the north side of the Great Northern Railway, a post office, a 2-story I.O.O.F Northern Lodge #81 building with a dance hall, a grocery store, a schoolhouse, and 17 saloons! All that remains now of the town is the small Odd Fellows cemetery nestled in the shade of the woods.

For what has become an annual outing, the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum held its fourth walk in the cemetery on Saturday, October 7th, 2017. These tours teach us about

its history. Sue Kemmis, the curator at the Museum, spent the summer walking and mapping the cemetery. Then with the help of Dorine Doyle and society volunteers, she researched, gathered information, and pieced together the story of the McArthur Cemetery.

Sue and Dave Gray led the way through the rustic tangle of grave-stones, relating the history of the town and cemetery and telling tales of the people of our past. Many were drawn to the event by the fact that they are family or friends of those that rest in McArthur. All attendees were encouraged to share stories; everyone became part of the tour as the narrative reminded them of memories of neighbors and loved ones.

There are some sad stories, some happy and some quite funny, each of them adding a layer. The Historical Society wishes to thank the McArthur Cemetery Association for partnering with us on this tour. As we have in the past, a minimal donation was requested by the Museum, which was split with the Association. If you missed out on this day of county history, or even those who were able to come, stop by the Museum, as all of the cemetery walks are preserved in book form in the research room.

*Megquier Building's 100th Birthday*

If you can remember Charles Megquier's brick building going up on Main Street, you have a remarkable memory! The building, which now houses the main part of the Museum, became 100 years old on July 21, 2017. Megquier operated a growing auto business in the building, and added a seven room second story which served as living quarters for his family. Complete with indoor plumbing! On July 22nd, the Historical Society held a 100th birthday party, commemorating the building which was acquired by the Society in 2006. A timeline of the building's life story was conducted by Sue with attendees relating their own stories and memories of businesses that came and went through the years. Everyone enjoyed birthday cake. The program concluded with an original song which told the story of the life and times of Charles Megquier! The volunteers at the Museum are always ready for a party!

*Akins Historic Photo Ovals*

*Can you recall the large, well presented oval photos that Akins Harvest Foods had on the walls of their store downtown? This was an effort by their corporation to bring a local touch to their business here. Photos from the Museum's collection were scanned, and then they were enlarged and beautifully designed for viewing from afar. When the store was in the process of closing, Sue contacted their corporate office and asked what the plan was for these photos. It wasn't long until they were gifted to the Museum, removed hangars and all, and brought over for storage. The Board of Trustees decided to place them on a loan basis to businesses around town, for display of historic events, places, and people of our community. All 8 ovals have found a "home" for the time being at Boundary Tractor, Les Schwab Tire Center, The Plaza, The Kootenai River Brewing Company, the City of Bonners Ferry, the County Courthouse, and one resides at the Museum in Portrait Hall. Cal's vision is to rotate the ovals at least once a year, so each one will be on display at the various locations. Watch for them when you are at one of these places of business. We thank Akins Harvest Foods for making this happen.*



*Idaho Humanities Council Grant - "Agriculture in Boundary County"*

The Kootenai River was once referred to as "The Nile of the North," since the annual flooding of the river provided rich soil to the Purcell Trench. And so began the writing of a grant to tell the Kootenai Valley's agricultural story. Word was received on November 1, 2017 from the Idaho Humanities Council, and the National Endowment of the Humanities, that the Boundary County Historical Society's grant application was approved. The funds from this award will be used by the Historical Society and Museum to capture the stories of the geology and geography, the Kootenai People who inhabited this land, segueing into the period of homesteading and settling, and the eventual taming of the Kootenai River by reclamation and resettlement into the farming industry as we know it today.

In mid-April of this year, a "Round Table" was convened, consisting of approximately 25 members of the agriculture community in Boundary County. Ideas were bounced around the table, and stories were told of why these ranchers, farmers, and nurserymen do what they do, how they got started in farming, and what their goals for the future are. Great interaction and a whole lot of laughter and fun was had. Main topics to be considered for the 4 panels were identified, along with plans for an enlargement map of the Districts was discussed. During the winter months, the text committee will be pulling together photos, articles, and documented dates and places to be included on the panels. There have been some rumblings of reconvening the "Round Table" to continue the discussion began in April. The grant committee greatly appreciates the involvement of the Ag Community and their time away from fields and farms to give input into this process.

Formal Dedication of this Grant will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 as part of the Summer Hours Opening Day of the Museum. Come join us!