



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

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.

2017 HISTORICAL CALENDAR

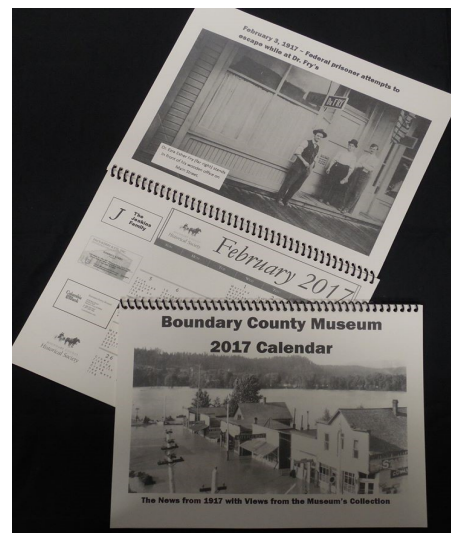
By Dave Gray

Have you seen the 2017 Boundary County Museum Calendar yet? They are available at the Museum and at Boundary Tractor. You really don't want to miss out. Pick one or more up today for just \$10.00 each!

The first calendar, in 2014, was created in-house using Valley View's spiral binding machine. Labor intensive! Spinning off an idea from Bonner County Museum, the staff began looking at seeking sponsorships to cover the cost of printing and replacing the hand crank method. All it took was to make contact with individuals and businesses asking if they would like to advertise on the calendar, and since 2015, the calendar has been fully sponsored. This year there are 4 sponsors per page, many of them continuing from previous years. We think this translates as positive support from our community.

The Museum calendars have 365 bits of historical information dating back 100 years to the year 1917. Sue and Howard search old Bonners Ferry Heralds to find sometimes humorous, sometimes serious, but always historical facts for each and every day of the year. The photos come from the Museum's collection and are chosen to illustrate one date for each month.

The calendars have been well received by the community. We have "regular customers" who look forward to the new year's edition. What better way to get a daily dose of local history? Thanks to all for supporting the Museum through this calendar project.



Boundary County Historical Society, Inc.
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Like Us on Facebook

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 24**—Annual Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- February 11**—Spin-In 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- March 4**—Idaho Day
- May 2**—Summer Hours Begin
- May 6**—Opening Program
- July 22**—Museum Main Hall Building turns 100 years old

THANK YOU

- to the sponsors of the "Free Saturdays" in 2016.
- Dan and Ann Hartman
 - The Kootenai Kid
 - Vic and Donna White
 - Cal and Barbara
 - Russell
 - Dave and Dottie Gray
 - Marj Pinkerton

TIME CAPSULE

Volume IX Issue 1 Winter 2017

Porthill Cemetery Walk

By Howard Kent & Dottie Gray

Perched on a hill above what was once called Ockonook ("a grassy hillside with rocks") at the very top of Boundary County, lies a small cemetery with an incredible history dating back to 1898. Familiar historical names such as Klockmann, Sloop, McLoughlin, Baker, and King can be found here.

On Sept. 24, 2016, the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum held an event under the direction of Sue Kemmis, Curator; Howard Kent, Historian; and Terry Howe, Field Researcher, gathering with 61 others for the annual Museum Cemetery Walk. Sue had done her homework weeks in advance, mapping the route and researching the families that told her story. Family histories, engravings, and symbols on stones kept the group engaged as her labyrinth unfolded. Howard, Terry, and many attendees added additional tidbits throughout the tour.

The history of the cemetery is a story in and of itself. In 1901, the International Order of Odd Fellows opened Boundary Lodge #63 at Porthill. Land for the lodge was owned by Zachariah Montgomery who sold the piece of property to the lodge in 1906. John Jacob Stich acquired a portion of the homestead belonging to John and Louisa Sloop in 1907, selling one acre to Boundary Lodge #63, IOOF in 1908. This acre became the IOOF Cemetery. Later on, J.J. Stich sold one-half acre to the Roman Catholic Church so the cemetery would have a Catholic section, which enlarged the cemetery to one and one-half acres. Due to the IOOF Lodge closure in 1972, the cemetery ownership was transferred to the Porthill Community Cemetery Association, which now operates and maintains the grounds.

The oldest burial site, dating back to 1898, belongs to Louisa Sloop. Albert and Martha Klockmann are familiar names



associated with the Continental Mine and The Klockmann Diary. David McLoughlin, also known as "Kiskayooka" by the Kootenai people, and his wife, Annie Grizzly can be found not far away. More recently, former Boundary County Commissioner Chester Baker's final resting place is in this cemetery. There are records of burials with no grave markers: Katie Pries and Hugh English lie somewhere on this piece of land.

The crowning event of the day was the sound of "Three cheers for the King!" "Hip-hip-hooray!" "Long Live the King!"



Hartley King, that is. Hartley and his wife, Janice, participated in the two-hour tour with colorful anecdotes about people and events that were part of the early days in Porthill. Standing before his own headstone, Hartley recounted several amusing stories of his family living in this area

since 1904. Just shy of his 100th birthday, Hartley and Janice traversed the path that crisscrossed the cemetery, with surprisingly few rest stops.

The Museum appreciates the partnership with the Porthill Community Cemetery Association for this walk. Members of the Association had a work party prior to the event and were part of the walk itself. A minimal donation was requested by the Museum, which was split with the Association who then donated its half back to the Museum. Thanks to all who joined in for a beautiful fall day full of stories and a bit of "oral" history.

Please Recycle!

To be environmentally correct, the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum has a recycle program. We not only recycle at the Boundary County Landfill, but we also recycle ink and printer cartridges through Staples, earning reward credits for purchases. We support our County's recycle program, and Mother Nature is very proud!



A Word from the Board Treasurer

By Stephanie Tucker

Oh the angst I felt when I was “voluntold” to write an article for our newsletter. Similar to the angst I felt when our previous board President, Jill Nystrom, asked if I’d like to join the board as Treasurer. She said, “Oh it’s easy and it’ll be fun. Come to a meeting once a month and write a few checks.” That was 2012.

Initially, I thought I’d write about what our board does, our duties, and how elections take place. However, the audience that will be reading this typically knows all those details. If you don’t, then I encourage you to come down to the Museum the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm; we will be more than happy to show you.

I’d like to focus on the following people and how I see them. I’ll start with President Cal Russell, a man who I only knew as the local tractor guy and who rented stuff out. Always business. As time has gone on, I see him as someone who is dedicated to his family, the community, and the Museum, and someone who cracks jokes. He stays focused on the goals of the Museum and is financially responsible. A good thing for a President of a non-profit organization.

Vice-President Dave Gray was my high school government teacher. I don’t think Dave or myself ever thought we’d end up on the same board 25 plus years later. It is an interesting thing getting to know a previous teacher outside of school. Dave is a straight shooter...likes to get to the point and get things done! No messing around for “Shady Gray.” He adds humor to our board.

Secretary Dottie Gray was my fifth grade teacher. I remember her very clearly as my teacher. Compassionate, detailed, task oriented, smart, and committed. The best attributes for a Secretary. To see Dottie in action is amazing---from writing grants to note taking, to serving food at our annual fundraising dinner; she does it all and makes it look easy.

Trustee David Koon---who doesn’t know and love David? I don’t recall a time not knowing David. He is patriotic, a Badger through and through, and knows the meaning of being a volunteer. David is a talker; however, on the board he does a lot of listening and provides input when necessary. His opinion is valued. I recall my son, who wrestled, describing Coach Dave: “The Koon...we love that guy.”

Trustee Marj Pinkerton---prior to being on the board, I didn’t know Marj. I am lucky to know her now. She comes from a time that I wish our current generation could experience. She is strong, knowledgeable and committed to preserving our local history.

Trustee Vic White--a witty guy who adds expertise and insight. Nothing seems to rile Vic. I enjoy his knowledge, stories, humor, and the beer bread he brings to our meetings.

Finally---Sue Kemmis, who is our Curator. I had never known a curator until I met Sue. The amount of information Sue holds in her brain is truly astounding. She is an expert on Boundary County history. She loves what she does and it shows. Just walk into the Museum and see for yourself. To describe Sue’s duties would take pages and pages. In the dictionary, after the word curator should be a picture of Sue. Have a question about Boundary County history? Ask Sue!

I feel very fortunate to serve on the board with this group of wonderful people. They care about the history of our community and are committed to preserving it. They have taught me so much, and for that I am thankful.

2016 Reflections of The Kootenai Kid

All I can say is that I’m glad this year is coming to an end. I’ve been a nervous wreck with all the construction going on in Portrait Hall this year. However, it was worth it, because the remodel looks grand! I really appreciated the new addition of the mint condition motor boat. I enjoyed giving up my “buckaroo persona” and becoming

ing a “pirate on the Kootenai” for awhile. AR-R-R-R-R!

I was so happy to have the annual fundraiser dinner and auction back on schedule. I licked those plates so clean that they’re ready for the next gathering.

I was looking forward to helping decorate for Christmas, and Sue said if I could unsnarl the lights, I could put them on the tree. Well, I unsnarled them alright, but they snarled me! I called for help, but Marj thought they looked better on me than on the tree. So, here I am all strung up in the front window of the Museum. I’m hoping to get unstrung at the start of the New Year!



May you all stay mellow and healthy in 2017. I’ll see you when you come to the Museum, and maybe you will see me somewhere there too!

Signed, The Kootenai Kid

David M. Koon & Howard Kent, Scribes

Christmas Craft Fair

By Vic White, Board of Trustees

The Boundary County Historical Society and Museum would like to thank all who stopped by our booth and purchased items at the American Legion Christmas Craft Fair on December 2-3, 2016. Items available for purchase included rugs woven on the Museum’s one-hundred-year-old loom, various books, including the Boundary County History Book, and hand-made potholders, all made by Museum volunteers. Proceeds from the Craft Fair are used to support activities throughout the year, such as school programs, tours of historic sites in the county, and many other projects.

The Museum Board and volunteers look forward to seeing you at the American Legion Craft Fair in 2017!

A Night for the Museum

By Cal Russell

Due to the reconstruction of Portrait Hall, we had to suspend the annual fund raising dinner in 2015. As October 2016 approached, the Historical Society and eager volunteers gladly jumped in to recreate this memorable event. For several years, the dinner event was planned and organized by John Standal, former Board of Trustee for the Society. Little did we know, it would take ten times that number of people to fill John’s shoes and pull off an event that would compare to previous dinners.

Notices were sent to the membership that the event would be taking place, and within minutes the doors of the Museum were swinging with ticket sales. Once



again, local businesses were solicited for support of the dinner event. Numerous baskets were filled with items donated for both silent and live auctioning. Many other stand alone items were donated from businesses as well as individuals. Several very generous donations came in the form of cash.

The room was abuzz with lively conversations and boisterous laughter, which turned toward historical discussions when everyone embarked on a scavenger hunt throughout the Museum looking for answers to questions using the clues Sue and Dottie devised. Each table held one of the Museum’s artifacts, and part of the hunt was to determine what the object was and what it was used for. The table with the most points on the scavenger “test” earned the right to go through the buffet line first. The competition was fierce but friendly!

As in past dinners, over 100 people enjoyed the delicious prime rib and chicken cordon bleu dinner catered by Jill and Dan Nystrom of The Rusty Moose. Volunteers assisted in serving, while others shuffled through the table area keeping coffee and tea cups and water glasses filled.



Enthusiastically, Dave Gause assumed his auctioneer persona and engaged the eager bidders in a lively bidding war. “I’m going home with that,” echoed off the walls at one point during the evening. Winning bidders went home happily with their treasures, knowing they had benefited the Museum, and had an evening of fun and good will.

Proceeds from this event will be used to put the finishing touches on the repairs to the Museum building. Thanks to all who gave of their time and money in support of the Boundary County Museum. It has been said that some volunteers are already planning for a repeat performance in the fall of 2017.

Why Be a Volunteer?

By Marj Pinkerton

When I was in school, history did not interest me. I didn’t care to learn of ancient people and times. Now I find the history of our county and state fascinating. Where can I learn about the past of the area in which I live? THE MUSEUM!!

I didn’t realize how interesting the development of our own little corner of the world was until I decided to volunteer at the Boundary County Museum. Each hour I spend opens another door to interesting past happenings right here in

Curator’s Corner

The past year has been another busy one for the Museum. With construction, clean-up, rebuilding of exhibits along with those tasks that happen all year long – new items to be inventoried, greeting guests, working on the archives and keeping the building clean – we sometimes find we get behind! Behind or not, we look forward to doing it again this year. It is a privilege to care for artifacts that depict the history of our county.

The Museum could not operate without all the volunteers who spend so many hours keeping history alive. I personally would like to thank each one of them.

Our winter hours are Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come on down to the Museum to visit or volunteer. Help us research Boundary County history and share in all the fun.

Boundary County. People come in with many questions about building sites or family members who once lived here, etc.

This leads the volunteers on a research trail to find the answers to those questions. We learn, and in turn they learn, and most of the time we find more information than they had ever expected.

As a volunteer, I help research and record pieces of history so we have easy access to the information for others. The history is there; we just need to find it, record it, and file it where it can be easily located. This is the job of a volunteer.

The dictionary tells us a “volunteer” is one who offers himself or herself for a service of his or her own free will. At the Museum, we are in need of more volunteers.

The Museum and you can both be winners! As a volunteer, you are learning while at the same time helping preserve the history of our community. Please step forward, we need you!

