

POST FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

Getting used to life in the 'normal' normal

What a year it's been – and we still have one more quarter to go!

In our Spring newsletter, we discussed how it's important for us to come together in the 'new normal,' a phrase that now feels a bit clichéd, more than six months in. The 'new' is gone, so it's really the 'normal' normal now, right?

We've all collectively learned to try to adapt to changing forces, and now may even just roll our eyes when something strange comes our way. Fires? Floods? Early snow? No Post Falls Festival? No North Idaho State Fair?

Our historical society has also done its best to adapt – we've been having monthly board meetings via Zoom since spring and we've cheered every time a board member successfully configures their phone or computer to be seen and heard by everyone else.

As an organization dedicated to historical preservation and future interpretation, we've been working hard to find bright spots in all of this disruption.

Our museum opened in June, a month later than usual. Thanks to a great group of dedicated volunteers, it was able to remain open all summer and part of fall.

We were, however, forced to cancel our popular summer ice cream social in July and unable to put together a traditional



Our Post Falls Museum remained open all summer, serving nearly 400 visitors from around the country, including many Idahoans. We honor the perseverance of our ancestors!

fall fund-raiser.

Our overall attendance numbers have been down, but looking at our guestbook, visitors are still coming in daily, whether they are passing through town or current or former Post Falls residents enjoying a staycation to learn local history.

We've had almost 400 visitors this season plus we've continued to receive artifact donations and research questions.

We especially enjoyed visits from this year's River City Leadership Academy class and are looking forward to future collaboration.

Even with the chaos, we've received membership renewals.

We have received two grants this year from the Idaho Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act economic stabilization plan, or CARES Act.

These have helped us offset our museum building costs, pay for cleaning supplies, and as well as allow us to continue to collect, preserve and share our preservation efforts with our museum software and improved displays.

This year has been a period of time that will be talked about for decades.

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Look inside to learn about activities taking place at the museum and how you can be a part! (Special thanks to the Idaho Humanities Council for providing two CARES Act grants).

NORMAL

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First, there has been the impacts of the public health pandemic that has led to changes in businesses practices, education, sanitation/hygiene and general interpersonal communication.

Throw in the political tension from the upcoming state and presidential election that could shape the future of this country.

Don't forget that we're also seeing a great increase in population and infrastructure growth for the city, county and state.

It's been an unusual time for the local economy as well, with some businesses doing well and others barely hanging on. Some are requiring staff and patrons to wear masks, others seem to make it optional.

The local business landscape could potentially look different in even a year, with some businesses needing to shut their doors and some of them deciding to send their staff to work exclusively from home.

All of this chaos has all sorts of side effects which have been making many people anxious, scared, even angry.

During this time, the Post Falls Historical Society encourages all of you to record what you're feeling and experiencing, whether it's writing things down, collecting mementoes, taking photos, maybe making a blog or a video journal.



some day creating a "COVID-19 Pandemic" exhibit at the museum if life continues to play out in such strange directions.

Right now, it's a purely theoretical question, but what would you include if you were in charge of creating this exhibit? What would you want future museum visitors to see and learn from this time?

Speaking of planning for the future, we'll have open positions on the museum/society board in January. If you've always wanted to get involved and learn more about your local community, this is a perfect opportunity! Contact a board member for more info or stop by the museum.

Everything you and your friends and family are dealing with will be useful for your descendants and future historians. It may be interesting for you to revisit your thoughts and observations in a few years and see how far society has changed.

It's also a good time to reflect on the role of a pandemic in local, U.S. and world history.

Looking at present and past health crises, including the 1918 flu, how do cultures survive adversity? Once the crisis ends, what can people take away from these events as their world changes so dramatically?

Some may draw inspiration from the arts and humanities, personal stories, or a sense of community and a local history.

A few of us have already joked about

Even if you're not able to serve at this time, we also invite all of you to begin or continue your support which is as easy as paying annual dues. You'll find more info how to do so in this newsletter, along with a summary of other activities that we've been working on.

Remember, we draw strength from our ancestors, their actions and stories. They survived the Pandemic of 1918, wars and depressions.

History is a great teacher. Thank you for your continued and new support!

Remember, the museum is open until Oct. 31, and then will be closed until spring 2021, so if you haven't made it in yet this year, there's still time to come by!

Enjoy the fall!

— Joe Butler, Society President

Post Falls Historical Society Board Members/Officers

President: Joe Butler
Vice President: Judith Cowan
Secretary: Crystal DeCell
Treasurer: Jane Robertson

Board Members:

Ed Adamchak
Kim Brown
Joe Doellefeld
Ted Fredekind
Angie Conrow

The Post Falls Historical Society is a 501(c)3 volunteer non-profit organization sharing and preserving local history since 1988.

The board meets at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

We appreciate all of our museum volunteers



We have plenty of great members but we really like it when they ask how they can help.

One of the best ways to get involved is to volunteer at the Post Falls Museum. During the opening season or special events, we always need people to provide tours, greet guests, accept donations and scan photos. Volunteers can provide information, sell books, answer questions, even give directions.

You don't even have to know much about local history, especially if you're new to the area. Volunteers can access a helpful 'cheat sheet' guide to the museum and its rooms and exhibits that can be a handy reference.

This summer we have been blessed with great volunteer support from **Bea Hancock, Darlene and Neil Sorenson** who joined board members and longtime supporters **Judy Cowan, Jane Robertson, Catherine McClintick, Bonnie Babcock, Carol Yost and Ted Fredekind** in keeping the museum open four days a week.

We certainly appreciate all their support especially with a delayed opening, lower attendance and more concern about pandemic.

Because of this help, and that of our outstanding volunteers we were able to share our museum with nearly 400 people throughout the summer.

There's still a little time to help this year, or put your name on the list for 2021.

Of special concern to many is the pending retirement of **Ted Fredekind** – though he plans to continue being an active member, he would like to step down from his museum role and his board position at the end of this year.

If you'd like a chance to learn some great history directly from Ted – including great stories growing up in Post Falls over the last 80 years -- please stop by or talk to a board member!



Many thanks to Post Falls museum volunteers who were eager to spend time helping visitors this spring, summer and fall. Some of these included, top left, Bea Hancock and Darlene Sorensen; top right, Ted Fredekind and Carol Yost; and bottom, left, from left, Catherine McClintick, Judy Cowan, and Bonnie Babcock.

Templin family remembered for society support

Bob and Mary Templin both played vital roles in preserving city's past

Mary Templin passed away Aug. 1 at age 89. She and her husband Bob were deeply involved in promoting tourism in Post Falls for decades as well as emphasizing the importance of preserving the past. Post Falls Historical Society charter member and past president Kim Brown reflected on their contributions and community involvement.

By Kim Brown

Mr. Templin had an interest and a keen eye for history. He naturally promoted and marketed his businesses and had displayed the steamboat artistic renderings of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Post Falls. Shortly after I submitted the name "Q'emiln" to the City of Post Falls in 1986, I visited Templin's Resort Hotel with some historic ideas for his consideration.

The Templins displayed some of my calligraphy, plus artwork of Alice Martin Williams, Frederick Post's granddaughter, at the hotel. My historical calligraphy was displayed near Mrs. T's Boutique, which was part of the hotel's original lobby.

In the fall of 1988, Bob and Mary Templin, their children and grandchildren became Charter members of the Society. Mr. Templin was interested in working history into a regeneration of Post Falls. Sitting with them in the Eagle's Nest of Templin's restaurant area, they shared their lawyer with us to work up the non-profit 501c3 paperwork for the Society.

Some of my other memories of Bob and Mary Templin involve being invited to sit at



Mary and Bob Templin stand by the life-sized figures of both of them created by the Post Falls Historical Society in 2007.

their table at the 1989 Post Falls Chamber of Commerce banquet held at Templin's Resort on the River. At that time, the Society was in its infancy with 100 Charter members. The Society later reached out to its membership and the community with its first banquet in 1994.

Because the Society did not have a local museum facility, historic preservation took on many activities and events to help preserve the history of the town. It got off to a good start with the celebrations of the Centennials (State and City) with events shared at Templin's Resort Hotel with the community and the City of Post Falls.

As to historic preservation, the Templin's developed the Centennial Poster for Post Falls (1891-1991) with the art done by Judy Huddleston, research by Kim Brown. Mr. Templin supported the naming of Q'emiln

Riverside Park (1989), and blessing by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The Templins hosted the City's public ceremony celebrating the City Centennial in 1991.

I can't imagine not having the support of the Mr. Templin and the Templin family, particularly during the early years. The hotel housed local history, and shared a large sense of community with our meetings and our banquets.

The Post Falls Historical Society banquets were held in January for several years rain or snow and brought out 160 in attendance for several years. With the sale of the hotel property, the life of the building seemed to no longer provide a conduit for community groups and organizations.

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We always enjoy having visitors from near and far, and we receive many comments of how they enjoyed their visit to our Museum. Invite friends and family and plan a visit yourself!

Things to look forward to

Though COVID has cut down on some public gatherings, the society is still trying to find ways to connect with our community. Here are some upcoming opportunities:

Friday, Oct. 30. Visit Post Falls City Hall to get free candy from city staff, historical society volunteers and other community members. The Drive-Thru Trick or Treat event runs from 2-4:30 p.m. Just stay in your car and visit the different "Spooktacular Stations," where candy will be brought right to your car door.

Saturday, Oct. 31. Come by the museum to celebrate the last day for this season and also get free candy!

Winterfest.

At press time, the status of the city's annual holiday event in early December is "unknown." But if it does happen the museum will be open for caroling and fun!

Annual meeting.

The date hasn't been set yet or the format (Zoom or real) but plan on attending the society's annual meeting sometime in January. This is an opportunity to talk to other members, hear the society's progress and goals, and vote for board members and officers.

There are board positions available for those who want an enjoyable first-hand view of how the historical society operates. It's a great way to get involved!

Please share your winter memories!

Post Falls residents have been enjoying the winter for more than 100 years. That means many wonderful memories of sledding, celebrating the holidays, and getting together with friends and families. Some years probably weren't all that cheery, such as during the Spanish Flu pandemic or wartime. But everyone did their best to make Post Falls a little more lively.

To bring a bit of holiday cheer to our world, we're inviting our members to share their wintertime memories and favorite holiday traditions.

We'll publish some in our Winter newsletter and let everyone enjoy the different traditions that have taken place in the River City. We hope this will be fun for everyone, from someone who has only been here a few years and is looking for fun activities, to people who remember sledding down favorite sled hills long before there were neighborhoods at the bottom.

Please try to keep them brief (300-400 words) so we have room for many!

They can be emailed to pfhis-torical@roadrunner.net or mailed to the museum.

Hacking attempt leads to a new computer for museum

In May, one of our volunteers discovered that the museum computer was a victim of ransomware, a type of cyber-crime where the hacker locks a machine electronically unless you pay thousands of dollars or cryptofunds to be given the 'key.'

Ransomware is a growing type of cyber-activity that is hitting computers around the world, including the Post Falls Police Department earlier this year.

The volunteer reported that when she went to operate the computer, nothing was working. Then a threatening note popped up demanding about \$6,000 to unlock everything.

After discussing with the Post Falls Police Department and the historical society board, we opted to not pay the hackers and instead stop using that computer.

We also allowed a forensics expert from the PFPD to evaluate the old machine along with any thumb drives that could have been contaminated.

Because our office functions better with a computer, the board voted to approve the funding to purchase a new one. The old computer was several years old and becoming difficult to work with. The new machine will allow faster performance and will also be more secure.

Cybersecurity experts warn that everyone should take steps to protect themselves from theft or ransomware. It's not just big companies that are targets anymore; smaller organizations may be more vulnerable because they don't always take suitable precautions.

Though we did lose some old membership lists, some archived emails, and old meeting minutes, we didn't lose anything critical like financial information or personal information from members.

Thanks for recent renewals!

*Marion and Bill Bunting
(in memoriam)
Dorothy Satchwell
Wayne Dust
Katherine Heslep*

*Nancy Nation
Gus Johnson
John Reynolds
Bea Hancock*

Would you like to join them? It's fun and it's easy!

Your support allows us to keep the Post Falls Museum open and continue to educate the community. Send us your dues today!

Special
thanks
to:



Being of German ancestry, Bob Templin picked up on the birthplace of Frederick Post, Herborn, Germany. This project was developed and nurtured by Bob and Mary Templin, who traveled to Germany, and promoted the “associate city concept” which was later adopted by the City of Post Falls.

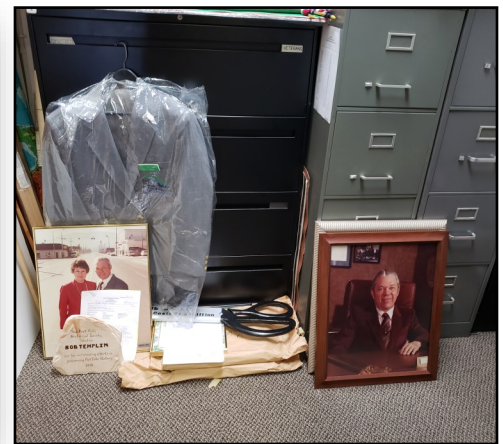
A plaque at Falls Park, the name Herborn at City Hall, in displays and also naming a street keep the name as a new piece of immigrant history. The Herborn Big Band’s visitation became a part of city tourism through the years. These projects connected the Society, the City, and foreign visitors.

The Templins included local historical information for their restaurant menus and the naming of the Milltown Center. At the time, Post Falls’ oldest business was the lumber mill at Post’s original site. After the naming of the Milltown Center, the mill closed, preserved only by photographs and memories.

Through the years, the Templins provided the Society a display



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Left, Mary Templin was a flight attendant for American Airlines for a number of years. Top right, members of the Templin family recently donated some items for a future museum exhibit.

area in the Milltown Center to share local history. Later the Society set up temporary locations in a trailer, later the Malloy office near the Post Falls Police Department.

The Templin’s envisioned use of the old City Hall to house a variety of museum activities. Unfortunately, the old City Hall was torn down. It was located just north of the current Post Falls Museum. (original Chapin Drug)

When the hotel closed, I conducted an oral video history with the Templins at the hotel for the historical Society’s collection. I visited their home to share history

terward. It was there that I enjoyed watching Mary Templin watching over her great-grandchildren.

When signage for Treaty Rock was completed, Bob and Mary Templin walked to the site to see it unveiled. When I worked on an historical walking tour, Bob Templin served on our committee and supported the concept at over 90 years of age.

After Mr. Templin’s death, Mary Templin and I talked a few times concerning Mr. Templin’s archives. He preserved a large portion of economic history for the

area.

One of their daughters, Blythe Templin-Mosher, has already donated artifacts and memorabilia to the museum which likely will be used in a future display showing the period of change from 1983 to 2013. We hope to work on this throughout winter and would welcome anyone’s help!

At the 30th anniversary of the Post Falls Historical Society, Mary Templin and Blythe Templin-Mosher and children and grandchildren attended.

The Templin family support of the Society and Post Falls will never be forgotten. RIP.

Join the Post Falls Historical Society Today!

Membership in our society allows us to keep our museum open and available to the community.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join as well!

Together we can preserve our past for the future.

Make membership/renewal checks payable to

Post Falls Historical Society

Mail to:

Post Falls Historical Society

PO Box 57
Post Falls ID 83877

Name:

Address:

Phone

Email:

Membership Level: (Check one)

☐ **Individual \$20**

☐ **Family \$30**

☐ **Business \$75**

☐ **Contributor \$100**

Contact Information: Museum: (208) 262-9642

pfhistorical@roadrunner.com