

POST FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER / FALL 2021

Consider Post Falls Museum a safe spot to escape life's craziness

What a year it's been! Though there seemed to be early indications in spring that things were "getting back to normal," so much has certainly changed since then.

In the greater U.S. population, we're seeing unusual conflicts: everyone wants reliable medical information to protect themselves and their families, while at the same time many have an increasing mistrust of the government, medical officials, and the media.

In Idaho and many states, some citizens want the freedom to make choices about how best to protect others. At the same time, other citizens say that the only way to beat this pandemic is for everyone to take certain actions, like them or not.

Because our historical society is composed of Post Falls residents like yourselves, we all have similar ranges of opinions, experiences, and beliefs.

Fortunately, we have been able to put aside political or personal differences and seek common ground in our mission of preserving the community's past while looking toward the future.

In past newsletters, we've talked about how the Inland Northwest was hit hard by the Spanish Flu, from about 1918 to 1921. While some people were quite active in promoting good hygiene, there were also those with a familiar-sounding approach of "Don't tell me what to do."

News stories from then talked about the frustration public health officials experienced trying to get people to wear masks or avoid crowded indoor events. There were even



reports of mass arrests at places like theaters. Social clubs were formed to flaunt these health directives.

At the same time, there were also reports of hard-working medical personnel as well as families who reached out to friends and neighbors, especially if families were having difficulties or suffering losses.

That says a lot about how neighborly Post Falls has always been, and how we'd still like it to still be. Even with such a growing population, we all still crave this kind of connection.

If you're new to town or have been around here for years, or in between, the Post Falls Historical Society welcomes you!

Our meetings are friendly and cordial, and we have no shortage of activities for people who want to help, from scooping ice cream in the summer to scanning photos in the winter.

We can find volunteer opportunities for any skill or background (any retirees out there?)

We also hope the museum can be seen as a quiet and peaceful place you can duck into to take your mind off the present-day noise and chaos.

As you can see in this issue, we're always looking for ways to better preserve our history and to further the special sense of community we have, no matter our size.

Stay safe!

—Joe Butler, Board President

We always enjoy visitors from near and far, and we receive many comments of how so many guests enjoyed our museum. Learn more about us online at postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/

Join us for a Spaghetti Dinner!



Saturday, September 18

3 p.m.- 6 p.m.

\$10 Adults, \$5 12 & under

Tilly's Restaurant,

212 E 7th Ave, Post Falls

(1 block south of

Les Schwab Tires)

Come and enjoy great food with
your friends, neighbors, and
historical society members.

- * Win a cake in one of
several cake walks.
- Enter to win raffle baskets and
bid on auction items.
- * Learn about the historical society and
how you can get involved!

Proceeds benefit the Post Falls Museum
and the Post Falls Historical Society.

For more info, email:

pfhistorical@roadrunner.com

*Anyone who signs up for a new
individual or family membership at
this event gets their dinner free!*

Post Falls Historical Society Board of Directors

Officers

President: Joe Butler

Vice President: Judith Cowan

Secretary: Kim Brown

Treasurer: Joe Doellefeld

Board Members:

Ed Adamchak

Crystal DeCell

Cindy Mead

Ted Fredekind (Emeritus)

Angie Conrow

Catherine McClintick

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 third Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

Treaty Rock Elementary students learn history at Rendezvous



Guests at the Treaty Rock Elementary Rendezvous included longtime historical society members Ted Fredekind, right, who talked about the different schools in Post Falls, and Judith Cowan, above, who talked about Edgar Seiter and shared samples of apple butter made from his recipe.

Treaty Rock Elementary, the newest school in the Post Falls School District, ended its 2021 school year by putting together a Rendezvous for its fourth and fifth grade students.

A rendezvous is a historic Western gathering where people used to come together to buy and trade goods.

Sara Pence, a Treaty Rock teacher, invited area historic and cultural groups to visit the school during this fair, including the Post Falls Historical Society.

Volunteer coordinator Catherine McClintick, who is also Idaho's regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution, recruited historical society members and DAR members to share information with students as they visited different stations.

One station included Ted Fredekind, who talked about going to



school in the Post Falls area in the 1940s and 1950s. Liz Jones talked about early 20th century clothing, and brought along her hand-cranked sewing machine.

Catherine and others talked about the actual Treaty Rock, plus shared details about Edgar Seiter, who ran the city's first cannery. They offered samples of apple butter made by using his recipe. She said the children enjoyed the presentations.

Edgar Seiter also owned the land where Treaty Rock was located but donated that property to the city for a park.

Kim Brown, one of the founders of the Post Falls Historical Society, said there's something special about our group visiting a new school named after a significant part of our culture and community. The society and other civic groups worked with the City of Post Falls in 1989 to secure and preserve Treaty Rock Park.

On behalf of the society, Kim presented Sara Pence with a variety of Treaty Rock items for the school, including an overview of the rock and its official National Register of Historic Places reference; art made by fourth-grade students Christina Finney and Heather Fultz in 1989 as part of Archeology Field Day; and a laminated poster of Post and Solstice, which included Treaty Rock on it.

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.

Besides our Spaghetti Feed on Sept. 18, here are some upcoming opportunities to mark on your calendars.

Saturday, Oct. 30. Come by the museum to celebrate the last day for this season and also get free candy!

Winterfest.

At press time, the City is still planning its annual Winterfest holiday gather-

ing on December 3. If it does happen the museum expects to be open for caroling and fun!

Annual meeting.

The date hasn't been set yet or the format (Zoom or IRL) but plan on attending the society's annual meeting in January.

This is always a fun opportunity to talk to other members, hear the society's progress and goals, and vote for board members and officers for 2022.

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!

Thanks for recent membership renewals!

Ed & Julie Adamchak	Marvin Patzer
Bonnie Babcock	Rathdrum/Westwood Historical Society
Bob & Dorene Berard	Debra Raymer
Lew & Kim Brown	Georgia Reinert
Angie Conrow	Jane Robertson
Steve & Monica Copp	Shelley Ruff
Judy Cowan	Louise Shepherd
Margret Evenson	Gene Soper
Ed & Nancy Frazey	Kaiti Tesar
Annie Mader	Sonja Uihlein
Catherine McClintick	Ultra-Lawn
Cindy Mead	Elton Weeks
Warren & Dana Merritt	Rhonda Wilks
Gary & Jo Miller	Susie Williams
John & Nancy Nation	Carol Yost
Charlotte Newman	
Chris Pappas & Leland Johnson	

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

Support from our members allows us to keep the Post Falls Museum open and educate the community. Renew today!

Grants continue to help society efforts and operations

Although museum visits have been up considerably compared to the low attendance in 2020, the Post Falls Historic Society isn't bringing as much money as it has in the past.

Memberships and renewals are holding steady but we also haven't been able to hold many fund-raisers, including spring and fall events.

This isn't a unique situation; many museums, historical groups or non-profit humanities-focused organizations are facing similar challenges.

Because of this, the Idaho Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities have been able to offer grants for general operations and specific programs to museums and similar groups. These funds are part of the American Rescue Act of 2021.

Our museum recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Idaho Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This continuing support will be used for ongoing projects, repairs and other improvements.

The society also received two Idaho Humanities grants in 2020.



We love our volunteers!

Thanks to the following superstar volunteers and alternates who have given their time to keep the museum open this season and greet visitors. We appreciate all of you!

Jane Robertson

Ted Fredekind

Bonnie Babcock

Pam Rodkey

Louise Paulson

John Robertson

Catherine McClintick

Judy Cowan

Cindy Mead

Carol Yost

Post family descendent visits museum, roots



In keeping with our society's mission to preserve local history as well as connect historic families to the present day, the Post Falls Historical Society was proud to welcome Monte Martin, the great-great grandson of city founder Frederick Post and the great-grandson of businessman A.M. Martin, Frederick Post's son-in-law.

Monte Martin and his wife Marisol Martin spent an afternoon in August touring the museum and the Jacklin Arts and Culture Center. They ended their journey with a stop at Post Falls Brewing and a nearby bakery.

The Martins, who live in Nevada, have visited North Idaho before, and were the special guests at an Oktoberfest celebration a few years ago, an event that used to be hosted by the society and the Post Falls Community Volunteers.

August also saw a museum visit by Frederick Post's great-great-great niece and her family.

Historical society volunteer Kim Brown tries to stay in regular contact with the Martins and other descendants of longtime families, even if they may no longer live in the area.

Longtime historical society members Cindy Mead, far left, and Carol Yost, next to her, welcome Marisol and Monte Martin.

What does society membership come with? Free museum admission!

Several years ago, the Post Falls Historical Society stopped charging admission to the museum, although donations are always welcome and appreciated.

However, some other museums and historical attractions in the state rely on guest admissions for expenses and continuing programs.

Now, thanks to a reciprocal membership created this year by the Idaho State Historical Society, members of the Post Falls Historical Society can receive free admission and other benefits at participating museums and cultural centers around the state.

The goal of this program is to encourage interest in all of the state's cultural history facilities and make it easy for people to visit and learn

when they're on vacation – or even staycationing in their own regions.

Along with free admission at these locations, society members can receive discounts on youth and family activities at Idaho State Historical Society attractions and a 10 percent discount at Idaho State Historical Society stores, plus a free subscription to Histor-E, the ISHS monthly e-newsletter.

Participating organizations include:

- Idaho State Museum
- Old Idaho Penitentiary
- Latah County Historical Society
- Bannock County Historical Museum

- Museum of North Idaho
- Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum
- White Spring Ranch Museum
- Hagerman Valley Historical Society

In addition, we have also added a spot in our museum's logbook to indicate if a visitor is a member of any other historical society/museum in the state. This gives us and ISHS officials an idea of who is visiting what locations around the state.

If you do visit one of these participating locations, be sure to tell them you're a member! The project is still in the pilot phase, but we're excited to be part of it!

Museum volunteers continue to be involved



A favorite summer event for the Post Falls community as well as the Post Falls Historical Society is our ice cream social.

The popular event returned as part of this year's Post Falls Festival activities, with volunteers serving free bowls of ice cream outside the museum following the parade.

This year, all the ice cream was given away, which was an accomplishment that hasn't always hap-

pened. This works out to more than 300 bowls.

Many visitors also combined their ice cream with a visit to the museum, which saw high attendance that day.

Big thanks to the Post Falls chapter of Royal Neighbors and Debra Raymer, which provided funds to purchase the ice cream.

Cool Ice cream scoopers included, from left, Cindy Mead, Joe Butler, Ed Adamchak, and Carol Yost. (Julie Adamchak photo)

Camp Kameelin kids enjoy museum visit

Plenty of kids – and plenty of grown-up kids – have great memories of Kamp Kameelin, a popular summer day camp program organized by the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Each year, children and teens take part in all sorts of adventures, games and field trips, making memories and friendships as well as providing affordable holiday childcare for their parents.

This year, the Post Falls Historical Society was invited to be part of the fun and share local history during one day of "Frontier Week."

Campers came to the museum in different groups throughout the day and enjoyed all the interesting attractions.

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 family, 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 or postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/