

Post Falls Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2022

President's Message



Dear Society Members, Museum Volunteers, PFHS Alumni, the Post Falls Chamber, Businesses, City of Post Falls employees, Community Members and Students:

Thank you for being a part of our Post Falls historic preservation efforts for 2022. In addition, we have collaborated with the Idaho Historical Society, the Museum of North Idaho, the Kootenai County Historic Preservation Commission, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum in a variety of efforts.

Here are some of the activities we have undertaken:

- ◆ Place Name Project to Identify and give historic reference to Post Falls Streets and Roads
- ◆ Work to Improve tourism access to visit historic sites from I-90 (in progress)
- ◆ Research to complete paperwork needed to list the Post Falls Museum-Chapin Building on the National Register of Historic Places
- ◆ Prep Work for 100th Anniversary of Chapin Drug Building for 2023 (May 2023) and awning replacement project
- ◆ Photo and artifact preservation (see 1890 Bible inscription from Post Family on page 2)
- ◆ Post Falls Days Parade and Ice Cream Social in July
- ◆ Museum Tours for local school groups, Camp Kameelin, River City Leadership Academy, and hundreds of visitors from around the world. We have some of the best Museum volunteers around!
- ◆ Idaho State Historical Society Community Enhancement Grant, "Historic Trunk-Living History" Project to supplement study of Idaho history for Post Falls area schools.
- ◆ Fall Fundraiser and Silent Auction (see page 6)
- ◆ Winterfest Planning for Museum involvement celebrating the holiday season

We have outstanding support from various groups and organizations around town as we collect and preserve Post Falls area history, including the Chamber, Post Falls Kiwanis, the City of Post Falls, and long-time members like Marv Patzer.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Board of Directors and our Museum Volunteers in our Mission "to collect, preserve and share" Post Falls area history! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Kim Brown, President

Post Falls Historical Society

Our Society Mission

WE **collect** photographs, stories, memories, oral video histories, veterans' information, and artifacts.

WE **preserve** our information in files, in our Past Perfect museum software (a work in progress), in historic signage, and in our newsletter publications.

WE **share** our history at the Post Falls Museum with students, visitors, and newcomers.

WE **share** history with online researchers, in historic presentations, and in writing.

Our **VOLUNTEERS** work to achieve all of the above.

You are cordially invited to join us in this important work.

Learn more about our activities at postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/ or on our Facebook page!

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1890 Artifact Comes Back to Post Falls This Summer

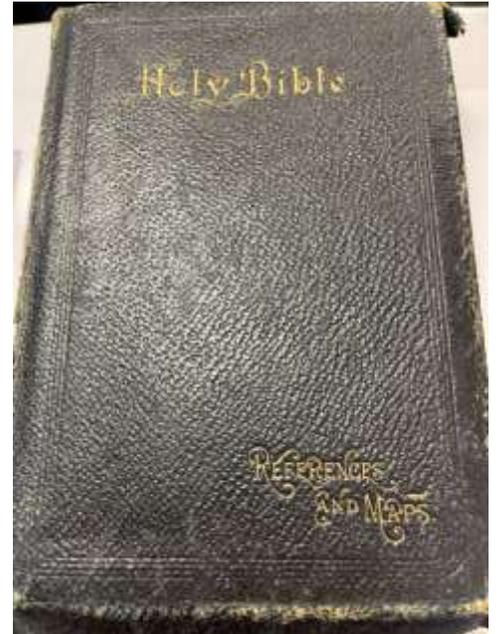
The Post Falls Historical Society received a very special Bible that documents the gift of Frederick and Margaret Post to Lula Leonardy, a local school teacher who married Leon Bump, a Spokane builder and son of one of Post Falls' earliest homesteaders, Lorenzo and Caroline Bump. They were married in the A.M. Martin and Frederick and Margaret Post home in December, 1890. (The Silver Blade, Rathdrum., Dec. 22, 1890)

Lula Leonardy Bump's grand nieces, Susan Strong and Nancy

Peterson Claussen delivered the Holy Bible to the Society. It is one of the oldest artifacts that we have. The calligraphy inscription is quite beautiful. The family has shared bits and pieces of family history with the Society.

Lula lived with the Post Family. Leon, whose family was active in the Methodist Episcopal Church was instrumental in moving the Methodist Episcopal Church on 6th Avenue and the Presbyterian Church on 2nd Avenue to 4th Avenue, uniting them in 1921. The National Register site is the cur-

rent Jacklin Arts and Culture Center. Lula and Leon after marriage lived in nearby Spokane, Washington, having one daughter, Vera.



The Holy Bible gift from Mrs. Post. The Leonardy-Bump wedding was at the Martin and Post home, December, 1890.



Would you like to join? It's easy!

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

Post Falls Historical Society Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Kim Brown
Vice President: Judith Cowan
Secretary: Joe Butler
Treasurer: Cindy Mead

Board Members:

Ed Adamchak
Joe Doellefeld
Catherine McClintick

Pam Rodkey
Carol Yost
Ted Fredekind (Emeritus)

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 and attendance is also available by Zoom meeting.

Thank you for these 2022 membership renewals!

Ed & Julie Adamchak
Sally Barnett
Bob & Dorene Berard
Donna Rae Bradley
Lew & Kim Brown
Kathy Camyn
Fay Carpenter
Judy Cowan
Joe & Cindy Doellefeld
Wayne, Sherri & Billie Dust
Margret Evenson
Bob Frazey
Ed & Nancy Frazey
Ted Fredekind
Jim Guy
Kristy Reed Johnson
Roxanna Johnson
Ken Koentopp
Monte & Marisol Martin
Kevin & Linda McGrath
Cindy Mead
Warren & Dana Merritt
Charley & Phillis Mixon
Richard Nordstrom
Fred & Mary Ostermeyer
Marvin Patzer
Lisa Peterson *
Christina Petit
John & Teresa Reynolds
Jane Robertson
George & Dorothy Rodkey
Pam Rodkey & John Robertson
Royal Neighbors of America,
Post Falls Chapter *
David & April Rudy
Shelley Ruff
Suzanne Schmidt
Elwin Schutt
Chuck Smith
Pete & Maureen St Pierre *
Super 1 Foods
Kathryn Tesar
Bert & Kerri Thoreson
Sonja Uihlein
Rhonda Wilks
Susie Mead Williams
Carol Yost

**Welcome new members!*



Thank you for the donations made in memory of members and volunteers John Robertson and Donna Rae Sweeney.

Remembering Our Military Veterans



My-John By Pam Rodkey

I'd like to introduce you to a man, a veteran you'll never know.

William John Robertson was born into a military family; his father, an immigrant from Canada, proudly joined the Army and proudly served in the pre-CIA division, moving from assignment to assignment worldwide.

John joined the Army at age 18, working in various capacities until training to be a Huey helicopter pilot. In 1968 he was sent to Vietnam. His duty/job: Smoke Ship Pilot.

After an area was "softened" with artillery, John would fly his helicopter diffusing an oil smoke into an area at less than treetop level to create a smoke screen in which the troop carrier behind him could drop infantry. If there was wounded, he'd pick them up and return to base. Over and over, over three years he went into harms way.

Years after discharge we went to a helicopter pilot's reunion. A man suddenly got into John's face, "I've been looking for you for 40years!"

Startled, John said "I'm sure you must be mistaken...."

"No," the guy said, "I was shot down and you rescued me!" Then he was gone. John shook his head in disbelief,

I had goose bumps.

I said, "Do you not think that man had the entire return trip to burn your silhouette in his mind, for just this moment?"

Years later, John was having a skin cancer

removed from his nose. Suddenly diaphoretic and shaking, I said "where are you John?"

"I have an aircraft full of burned bodies. I have to get back to base."

The smell of the electrocautery had triggered a flashback.

This gentle giant was devoted and patriotic, even if he disagreed with some policies; adapting to the situation presented before him.

He would stand and salute the American flag every time one passed by in a parade.

Battling a sudden reoccurrence of tongue cancer, my-John passed away in April 2022. He maintained the gentleness and quiet acceptance to the end of life.

He was a member of this historical society and volunteered at the museum.

He was proud to be an American.



John Robertson and Pam Rodkey, at the Post Falls Museum Dec 2021 (Liz Jones photo)



Donna Rae Sweeney

June 19, 1926 — November 24, 2021

Donna Rae Sweeney passed away at 95 years, and served two terms as President of the Society. She was an absolute spark plug for anything the Society did, including our annual banquets and the Q'emiln Quest program for area 4thgraders. She networked throughout many organizations and brought people together. In particular, she and I worked to develop the Veteran Data books and she scoured the PF Advance and Tribune for veteran information.

She volunteered at our various Post Falls Museum temporary museum locations, and brought along others to join her long before we had our current location at 101 E. 4th Avenue.

She was an inclusive Post Falls native that shared multi-generations of her Post Falls family. The Society and Post Falls Museum walk in her footsteps and hope to continue her efforts and activism always.

RIP, Donna Rae!

Kim Brown, current Society President

Donna Rae's full obituary can be viewed at <https://cdapress.com/>. Here is an excerpt:

Donna Rae Sweeney, 95, passed away on Nov. 24, 2021, at the Renaissance Assisted Living facility in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in the company of her daughter Vickie. Donna Rae had fought an eighteen year battle with dementia. Our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother and friend was born June 19, 1926, at the home of her parents, Roy and Sibyl Webster, on Fourth Street in Post Falls, Idaho. She attended Post Falls High School.

Donna Rae became an important member of the Post Falls community. She was a member of the Rebekah Carnation Lodge #95 and Post Falls Odd Fellow Lodge. She was active in the Post Falls Historical Society becoming a president and worked on the committee to create a Post Falls Museum.

She was a member of the Royal Neighbors and Colonial Dames. She was actively involved in the Old Church Restoration committee and the creation of the Mrs "E" Kitchen. Donna Rae cooked thousands of hamburgers for the Rebekah Lodge as a lodge fund raiser and scholarship fund for college students. She was a member of the Post Falls Days and Miss Post Falls Committee working on the pageant and float for the Spokane Lilac Parade. She was also involved in the P.E.O. Foundation. She loved being part of the Post Falls Fire Department's Christmas events, wrapping hundreds of presents as well as donating gifts herself. Donna Rae was the recipient of the Women of Distinction Award for achievements and dedication to community service.

(Right) From the Historical Society photo collection, Donna Rae (*far right*) and other members of the Society pose with Rocky Watson and his Leata car.



(Left) Don Beck (*far right*) and family receive the Centennial Farm Award from Idaho State Historical Society's Don Pischner (*middle in the blue shirt*) at the Grand Opening Ceremony of the 2022 North Idaho State Fair, August 19, 2022. (*Phyllis Brown photo*)

(Left) Mary Marr, Pam Rodkey and Ted Fredekind shared the Walter Chapin Display on the Post Falls Museum opening on May 21st. (Kim Brown photo)



(Below) Museum Volunteers, Mary Marr and Carol Yost at the Idaho Veneer saw blade display on the May 21st Museum opening in Post Falls. (Kim Brown photo)



Doug King and son Lucian marching with the Ice Cream Social Banner in the 2022 Post Falls Festival Parade. Ted Fredekind rides in a shiny blue pickup in the parade. (Pam Rodkey photos)



Fall Fundraiser

Come join us
at the Museum

Saturday, October 22nd

11 am - 2 pm

\$5, includes bottled water

(Corner of Spokane St and 4th Ave.)

Hand Held
Frito Pie



Enjoy the Museum!

Silent Auction

Cake Walk

Games

Post Falls Historical Society

Society President Kim Brown recently applied and received a Community Enhancement grant from the Idaho Historical Society.

She will be working with Post Falls educator, Sara Pence, on a historic trunk as a supplement for Post Falls area educators to enhance their study of Idaho history.

This historic trunk will supplement and include a living history approach with personal Post Falls stories, artifacts, special memories, even recipes to make history come



Sara Pence and Joe Butler share ideas for the Post Falls "Historic Trunk" living history project. (Kim Brown photo)

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

Renewal - Thank you!

New Member - Welcome!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Level: (Check one)

_____ Individual \$20

_____ Family \$30

_____ Business/Contributor \$100

I'm interested in helping!

_____ Board Member

_____ Education

_____ Events and Activities

_____ Museum Host

_____ Other:

Visit the Post Falls Historical Society Museum at 101 E 4th Ave, Post Falls

Contact Information: Museum: (208) 262-9642

pfhistorical@roadrunner.com or postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/