



**PRIEST LAKE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 44 Coolin, ID 83821-0044**

**NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007**

WE APPRECIATE - - The Priest Lake Ranger Station and its personnel who continue to support Priest Lake Museum and visitor Center by providing pamphlets full of educational information and recreational opportunities in the Priest Lake Region, manpower assistance with maintenance of buildings and grounds and of course a willingness to make the whole facility operate smoothly. It is truly a cooperative venture.

**THIS SEASON: OPEN MEMORIAL DAY  
MAY 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> AND 28<sup>th</sup>. CLOSED MAY 29<sup>th</sup>  
THROUGH JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>. OPEN FOR SEASON ON  
SATURDAY, JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>. CLOSED MONDAYS - -  
EXCEPT HOLIDAY MONDAYS.**

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS...Linda Anderson, Jo Ann Becker, Marcella Cooper, Kay Coykendall, Bill Ellis, Carol Ellis, Lois Hill, Scott Hill, Elenor Link, Pat Nilson, Mary Toutonghi, Shirley Williamson and Martha Wright are available if you have questions, comments or suggestions. Debbie Butler continues in her valuable role as USFS liaison to the Board of Directors. Regina Manser remains in an ex-officio position.



Museum Funding?? Priest Lake Museum Association is a 501(c-3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are deductible to the extent of the law. Our financial support comes from memberships, monetary and in-kind donations and the sale of books, DVDs and other Museum-related items. There is no paid staff. The Museum is maintained and operated by a dedicated corps of volunteers.

*“Greetings Museum Friends! My name is JoAnn Becker. As your new President, I look forward to working with The Board of Directors and meeting many of you!*

*Priest Lake Museum volunteers have been very busy! Particularly exciting items are the new 28-minute DVD entitled “Priest Lake-See the Changes” developed for The Museum by Scott Hill, The Museum’s special exhibit planned for this summer to commemorate Priest Lake’s past 100 years, in conjunction with Bonner County’s celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and our first book, entitled ‘Pioneer Voices of Priest Lake’, which will feature oral histories of some early settlers and is due out late this summer. These are wonderful reasons to visit The Museum this summer! We are also developing new Priest Lake Story Chains in a joint project with The Priest Lake Elementary School. Our audiotapes of historical interviews have been converted to CD format. Read further in this newsletter to learn more about these and other innovations in-the-making at The Museum.*

*A tremendous ‘thank you’ to Regina Manser for her fantastic leadership of The Priest Lake Museum Association’s Board of Directors for numerous years. She has stepped down as President, but will remain on the Board for at least one transitional year and will continue to actively support Museum projects.*

*Thank you for visiting and supporting Priest Lake Museum! If you don’t already contribute; we welcome your memberships, donations of time, money and/or historical facts, memorabilia and artifacts.”*

*John Becker, President*

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This issue - - Editor, Regina Manser; story contributors - - Scott Hill, Marita McDonough, Jeanie Melvin, Jeanne Tomlin. Please advise us if you prefer NOT to receive future PLMA mailings.  
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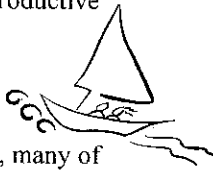
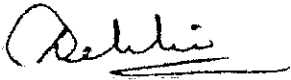
“CREATURE FEATURES”- - - newly taxidermied furry friends are waiting to meet you in our wildlife corner. Look closely and you will see a perched Pileated Woodpecker, a dainty little Snowshoe Hare, a mischievous-looking Pine Marten and a sweet baby Golden-eye Duck. You’ll agree that they add greatly to the forest scene.

**UPDATE FROM DEBBIE BUTLER** --- "Well, Spring is on its way. The recent warm weather and sunshine have really sped up the snowmelt and I doubt there will be any more ice fishing this season!

I'm still looking for some grant and other funding opportunities for upgrades to The Museum buildings. Unfortunately, the previously sought funding options did not pan out, so now it is on to searching for other funding methods.

The planned projects include repairs to the main building foundation, replacing the porch pillar logs, applying more linseed oil to the outside of the main building and some foundation work. The proposal also includes more upgrades to the garage so this space can be converted to a video/movie/display viewing area. These upgrades would assist with keeping the building in its historic condition as well as adding space for more of the history of the area to be shared with visitors. With the need to search for different funding sources, I'm not sure when proposed work might take place. I will be keeping everyone posted.

I know I say it every year, but it is always true: Priest Lake Museum would not be possible without the many dedicated volunteers and the support of the community. I'm looking forward to working with everyone involved for another fun, productive year."

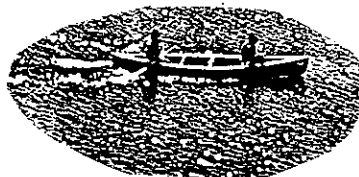


**A WINNING COMBINATION** --- Over the years, many of you have purchased one of The Museum's 'Story Chains', which were made for us by artist, Kay Longtain. Sadly, Kay passed away last year. Happily, however, the chains will continue to be available, because of a unique project instigated by Museum Board Member, Kay Coykendall. During the winter months, Kay, Jeanie Melvin, Mabel McInerney and several other adults have been helping the Priest Lake Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students create the charming clay characatures that hang on the chains. Figures such as teepees, priests, fish, mushrooms, huckleberries, canoes, bears and other items which depict pioneer days in the area are molded in clay and then fired in a kiln.

To prepare for this project, teacher Stephanie Rogers had the students research and write about early Priest Lake history. Complementing this research was viewing of the DVD, "Priest Lake -- See the Changes", produced for The Museum by Scott Hill. Here is what 6<sup>th</sup> grader Kelsey Bradbury writes about the experience: "During winter semester, we watched a very interesting video on the history of Priest Lake, Idaho. It was about how and when miners came. It told us about the Continental Mine and about loggers and when they did the log drives. The movie told us how they made the highway and how settlers made their way up here. The movie helped us understand more of why we were making the story chain and what the sculptures mean that we are making. It was a very interesting movie to watch."

And Jeanie Melvin made this comment: "I have to admit that at first I thought it might be too hard. I was wrong. The kids have really been into the whole experience. Their research has taught them so much. They have shared some of what they have learned when they come to art. And the pieces of clay art are truly amazing. Being able to incorporate art, history and community involvement has been very rewarding to everyone involved."

Surely a project that benefits our youngsters; enriching their learning and expanding their knowledge of history and art, resulting in a product of creative handiwork to be collected and appreciated by the community. Hopefully, the project will

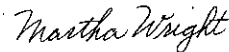


become a part of the Priest Lake Elementary curriculum. A vote of thanks to the school administration from Priest Lake Museum Board of Directors for their cooperation and support!

### **VOLUNTEER HOSTS -- THAT CRUCIAL INGREDIENT**

--- Our Hosts are crucial to the on-going operation and success of Priest Lake Museum. Without our volunteers, there would not be anyone to open the doors to the public. So much of our funding depends on public use. A resounding "Thank You, Hosts" for helping to keep The Museum doors open! Last summer about 30 regular volunteers welcomed over 3,000 visitors. Hosts are usually very busy answering questions, giving directions, explaining the exhibits and sharing Priest Lake History and stories. It is a fun opportunity that benefits all.

The Museum is open from 10 to 4 each day, Tuesday through Sunday and National Holidays that fall on Mondays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Most Hosts volunteer three days during the season and some spend as many as six or eight! More Hosts are very much needed. The more we have, the lighter the load! New Hosts receive orientation before they begin. If you are interested in participating in this vitally important activity, please fill out and return the attached form or call Martha at 206-937-6357 or 208-443-3502.



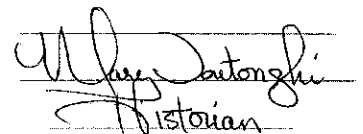
Board Member, Volunteer Coordinator



**ORAL HISTORIES NOW EASILY ACCESSED** --- "Since the inception of The Priest Lake Museum, one of its missions has been to accumulate and preserve oral interviews conducted with our area's unique Old Timers -- and to make them available to scholars and the general public alike. It has been an especial joy to follow in the footsteps of previous historians in researching, discovering and interviewing these pioneers -- our treasures -- who have the capacity to bring history alive. Their stories must never be lost!

The Museum's Oral History Library has been available for many years, but its resources seldom plumbed. Because of the irreplaceability of the obsolete tapes and the lack of space in The Museum for an adequate listening corner, a protective attitude has prevailed. Fortunately, the tapes survived. Unfortunately, their educational raison d'etre -- until this time! -- has suffered. Thanks to David Becker, we have adapted to the 21<sup>st</sup> century! At long last these precious tapes have been transferred onto compact disks.

Michelle Barnes, Executive Librarian, deserves enormous appreciation for establishing and organizing a new Oral History Listening Center in the Regional Section of The Priest Lake Library. We all look forward to its opening late in May. To be able to actually listen to the voices of our pioneers will be an opportunity not to be missed!"



Board Member, Historian



**CENTENNIAL DISPLAY** - - - Because 2007 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bonner County, The Priest Lake Museum Display Team has been busy working on a 100-year Priest Lake timeline. With the help of energetic Board Members and various enthusiasts of local history, we have been fortunate in building a history for Nordman. It has been our experience that when we find data for one area of the lake, we learn much about the entire Priest Lake Region. It is so gratifying to see all of these threads being woven into one rich tapestry and we hope to present a comprehensive picture of our history from the time the first settlers arrived at Priest Lake to the present.

**“PRIEST LAKE – SEE THE CHANGES”**- - - Many of you have watched our 11-minute video, “The Early Days of Priest Lake”, which has been showing in The Museum kitchen the last several summers. This video has been received with great enthusiasm. Many encouraged us to produce a longer version which would cover a broader spectrum of subjects. Priest Lake Museum Association is happy to announce the offering of a half-hour film titled “Priest Lake – See the Changes”, produced by local filmmaker Scott Hill. It tells a story about Native American residents, silent film stars, catastrophic fires, dangerous log drives, hardy miners and settlers, early transportation and much more. Hill describes the evolution of the project as a process of acquisition. “We began collecting old photos and bits of film as people cleaned out attics and basements. The cornerstone of the film footage is the Priest River log drives, filmed by Ed Bond in the late 1940’s. We paired this footage with personal recollections of David Bryant, long-time resident, who was present on these log drives.” Many hours were spent interviewing other old-timers; ‘picking their brains’, which were filled with vivid memories of the past. Each year, some of these old-timers die, making this documentary film even more special.

The project, funded by Priest Lake Museum Association, Priest Lake People Helping People, The Idaho Humanities Council and generous contributions from individuals, was completed just before Christmas in DVD format. Since then, it has enjoyed brisk sales, just through word of mouth. You will be able to purchase your DVD of “Priest Lake – See the Changes” this summer when you visit The Museum.



**OUT OF THE ARCHIVES AND INTO THE LIGHT** - - -

This summer will herald an ambitious new project; a book entitled “Pioneer Voices of Priest Lake”, which will be co-published by Priest Lake Museum and Keokee Books of Sandpoint, Idaho. Oral histories, photographs, manuscripts and letters of early-day pioneers will come out of museum archives, where they have been “hiding” for many years; to be compiled into book form by History Professor Kris Runberg Smith, PhD.

The book will tell the story of early settlements like Coolin, the arduous day-long trip from Priest River, how people like Leonard Paul, Cougar Gus and Dad Moulton carved out a living in the wilderness and of the government’s role in the area’s development - - all in the words of those who actually lived it.

It will be illustrated with rare historic photographs collected from museums and households throughout the northwest.

Funding for the project is being raised through donations, grants and pre-sales. Available this summer, the printing will correspond with The Bonner County Centennial Celebration.



**PRIEST LAKE MUSEUM - WHEN, WHY, HOW, WHERE** - - - With all the energetic and challenging projects being undertaken this year by a multitude of enthusiastic Museum supporters, it seems appropriate that we take a look back at how this “museum dream” was imagined and conceived. The following is an excerpt from our 1998 “Museum Revue”(newsletter), written by GG Fisher:

**When:** In 1979, Doug Urquhart, long time friend of the lake, now deceased, gave Lois Hill \$300 to initiate an effort to organize a group motivated to collect and preserve the lake’s history. It is the result of the tenacious effort of a small group of volunteers who wanted visitors and residents to be aware of the area’s past.

**Why:** Time brings inevitable changes that tend to obscure the past. Rugged living conditions and limited access to the outside world were every-day fare for early homesteaders, loggers, trappers and business people. Due to their pioneering efforts, we are able to enjoy, and hopefully appreciate, our experiences at the lake. Displays about the lake’s past prompt awareness between the “then” and the “now” that can result in environmental conservation to preserve the wonderful qualities Priest Lake offers.

**How:** As rank amateurs with no museum experience, it was quickly realized that there was a need to tap professional expertise. Seminars were attended, massive correspondence conducted, consultants from Idaho State Museum and Idaho State Historical Association assisted and guided. By-laws were adopted, officers elected, artifacts collected, a membership drive mounted; a tax-exempt status acquired - - The Museum was off the launching pad!!

Professional wisdom suggested photographs be the nucleus for our collection. A 1983 grant from the Association for the Arts in Idaho allowed The Museum Association to hire a graduate museologist to properly lead the way through a massive photo collection campaign, build two large traveling exhibits and work with Museum Members on developing a long-range plan for preservation of historical material.

**Where:** In 1989, after exploring several other options, an opportunity occurred to join hands with The Panhandle National Forest in an effort called the ‘Luby Bay Project’, providing a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and The Museum Association. They provide the site; we provide the show. The happy culmination of years of waiting and working came in June 1990, when The Priest Lake Museum and Visitor Center opened its doors to the public. Since then it has steadily grown and thrived, thanks to a supporting community who protects the past and cares for the future.

**PRIEST LAKE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 44 COOLIN, ID 83821-0044**

Please accept my: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership

___ Gold Club.....	\$500+
___ Silver Club.....	\$400 - 499
___ Baritoe Island.....	\$300 - 399
___ Kalispell Island.....	\$200 - 299
___ Eight Mile Island.....	\$100 - 199
___ Four Mile Island.....	\$ 50 -- 99
___ Twin Islands.....	\$ 25 -- 49
___ Papoose Island.....	\$ 1 -- 24

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am also enclosing an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:  
(any amount)

- \_\_\_ Area of greatest need (general)
- \_\_\_ Mining Fund
- \_\_\_ "Pioneer Voices" – Historical Book

This gift is: In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge this gift to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

All gifts to PLMA are tax-deductible and deeply appreciated. Thank you! Please clip and mail with your check to : Priest Lake Museum Association - P.O. Box 44 – Coolin, ID – 83821-0044

**YES, I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER!**

(For use by new volunteers)

**Name:**  
**Address:**  
**Phone(s):**  
**E-mail:**

Please circle: ♥ Hosting (we need you!) ♥ Nature Garden

♥ Board Membership ♥ Newsletter ♥ Other

Return to : Martha Wright – 2115 California Ave. S.W. - #403 – Seattle, WA -98116