

PRIEST LAKE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008

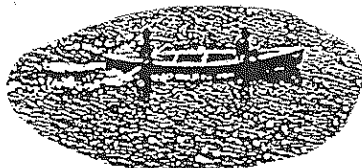
WE APPRECIATE - - The Priest Lake Ranger Station and its personnel who continue to support Priest Lake Museum and Visitor Center. They provide pamphlets with educational information and recreational opportunities in the Priest Lake region, manpower assistance with maintenance of buildings and grounds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



THIS SEASON: OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MAY 24, 25 AND 26. CLOSED MAY 27 THROUGH 30. OPEN FOR THE SEASON ON SATURDAY, MAY 31, CLOSED MONDAYS EXCEPT MONDAYS THAT FALL ON HOLIDAYS.



2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS...Linda Anderson, Michelle Barnes, Jo Ann Becker, Marcella Cooper, Kay Coykendall, Lois Hill, Scott Hill, Charlotte Jones, Elenor Link, Pam Martin, Pat Nilson, Mary Tontonghi, Jeanne Tomlin 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.



This issue - - co-editors, Regina Manser and Jeanne Tomlin. Please advise us if you prefer NOT to receive future PLMA mailings.

“Greetings, Museum Friends! The Priest Lake Museum had an exciting and busy 2007 with the publication of our book entitled ‘Pioneer Voices of Priest Lake’, edited by Kris Runberg Smith. The book was available by late July and sales were brisk for the remainder of the year. Our DVD, entitled ‘Priest Lake- -See the Changes’, produced by Hill Films, also continued to be popular throughout the year. The Priest Lake Story Chains, created in partnership with the Priest Lake Elementary School, make wonderful gifts (and there are only a few remaining). The 5th and 6th graders enjoyed the project and their field trip to the Museum!

Audiotapes of historical interviews have been converted to CD format and are available for listening at Priest Lake Library’s new Resource Center. Our collections continue to grow.

A new display of Priest Lake and various historical and present-day “points of interest” is under development as a focal exhibit for 2008 - - we hope you will stop by the Museum to see it! Looking ahead, we will be involved with the Forest Service on a multi-year Priest Lake heritage project and in 2010 we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Museum.

A tremendous “Thank You” to all of our volunteers and members - - without your time, creativity and contributions, the Museum would not exist. If you or a friend would like to get more involved, please contact me or another member of the Board - - or fill in the form on the back of this newsletter.”

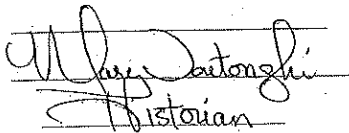
John Becker, President

➤ “CREATURE FEATURES” - - - newly taxidermied furry friends are waiting to meet you in our wildlife corner again this season. Look closely and you will see a perched Pileated Woodpecker and a sweet baby Golden-eye Duck. You’ll agree they add greatly to the forest scene.

GET READY TO LOOK AND LISTEN - - - Watch for new and exciting additions to the Oral History Center in our Priest Lake Library this summer! Not only will visitors have the opportunity to listen to voices of Priest Lake's Pioneers – interviews preserved on compact disks – but also to enjoy viewing photographs, (many recently taken) of these folks and, in some cases, their treasured possessions: old cabins, unusual furnishings, tools, sports equipment, trophies and all manner of interesting memorabilia.

The listening experience is truly enhanced by browsing through this special collection. Next time you visit the library, look for the "Old Timers' Photo Album", located in the same nook as the CD collection. Please do contact the Priest Lake Museum if you feel you may have photos that might be a welcome addition to this on-going project.

Interviews of Priest Lake's pioneers remains an on-going project as well. Your suggestions provide a valuable source of information, so don't hesitate to alert the Museum or the Librarian with ideas. Forms are available at both locations.



BIG TIME SUCCESS - - - "Pioneer Voices of Priest Lake" has exceeded all expectations and has been selling steadily since its release late last July, according to Amie Wolf of Keokee Press. Even on a cold January night in Spokane, an overflow crowd of 50 people gathered at Auntie's Bookstore to hear editor Kris Runberg-Smith tell about the Museum's oral history project which provided captivating stories of the lake's early settlers.

Sponsored by The Priest Lake Museum through individual donations, the book features nearly 150 black and white photographs, in addition to recollections of early residents, such as Leonard Paul, Harriet (Klein) Allen, Ike Elkins and others. The Museum is eager to identify additional collections of photos, tapes, journals and letters for use in future publications.

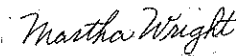
"Voices" will be featured at the Museum throughout the summer or can be ordered for \$18 from Priest Lake Museum, PO Box 41, Coolin, ID 83821. If you purchase directly from The Museum, all proceeds benefit our educational projects. The book is also available in bookstores throughout the Northwest and on Amazon.com.

VOLUNTEER HOSTS MAKE IT POSSIBLE - - - The Museum's Volunteer Hosts are in the process of returning their requests. I am excited to receive responses from past Hosts and especially gratified that so far, nine "newbies" have expressed an interest in hosting this year. Last year, 43 people volunteered time to share their love of Priest Lake and its history with the public.

A Host never knows what the day will bring at The Museum. If it is a slow day, it can be a good time to catch up on some reading or correspondence and maybe do a little "sprucing up". If it is raining, it will likely be busy. Last year, the biggest day saw a whopping 144 visitors (a record high), with many waiting on the porch to get into the crowded rooms.

Orientation for new Hosts and others wishing to join us will be held at the Museum on June 2, 9, 16, 23, July 14 and August 4. The orientation process really helps the Hosts feel comfortable with their responsibilities. Because The Museum is also a Visitors' Center, Hosts are frequently asked for directions and advice on what to do and where to go. Orientation will help with these questions too. We always need more Hosts. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please call Martha Wright at 208-443-3502.

Muchas Gracias to our dedicated Hosts!



DIG THESE FOREST SERVICE GRANTS - - - Our new Forest Service Archeologist, Steve Matz, is working hard on two projects that will benefit the Forest Service, The Museum and the community of Priest Lake.

The Forest Service has been awarded \$19,500 under a Heritage Stewardship Enhancement Project Grant for the first phase of a multiyear archaeological project. This project involves historic research and archaeological inventory of the Priest Lake and Upper Priest Lake shorelines within Federal ownership, including the submerged lands that have been under water since the Outlet Dam was constructed.

This winter we will be visiting local museums and state and national archives to collect written histories and photographs of the area. In September, archaeologists, students and volunteers will use visual inspection, metal detector surveys and archaeological excavation to locate and document the American Indian and historic Euro-American archaeological sites along the shoreline. This project will benefit the Forest Service, local historical associations, local universities, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office; and the findings will be interpreted for public benefit. The entire project is planned to occur in phases through 2011.

This is an exciting project and nothing of this magnitude has ever been done to interpret the archeology of the Priest Lake area. If you want to be involved or have historical or archaeological materials you would like included, contact Steve at 208-765-7306 or stop by the Priest Lake Ranger District or Priest Lake Museum for more information.

The second project involves the Preserve America Program. This is a program that provides matching grants to communities to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education and historic preservation planning. We will be learning more about this program and, hopefully, submit a grant application during 2008. To learn more about this program, please visit the website at: www.preserveamerica.gov.

I want to express my thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers who contribute to the operations of The Museum. There are many of you and we couldn't do it without you!



Debbie Butler, USFS Liaison to the Board



EARLY DIARIES RESCUED - - - Fortunately, some of Hilma Sherman's diaries were rescued when her abandoned house burned in the 1960s. They provide a fascinating window into the daily lives of early Priest Lake pioneers who formed strong bonds of friendship, shared whatever fish, venison and produce they had, and enjoyed an occasional dance or school program.

In the early 1900s, Hilma Sherman lived with her husband in a tiny weathered cabin located a block north of the Leonard Paul Store in Coolin. The primary breadwinner during hard times, Hilma often baby sat for friends and also served as cleaning lady and cook for area resorts. "Dad" Sherman sometimes worked in the local mill and sharpened saws for \$1 each. Below are excerpts from Hilma's diaries:

1927:

3-2: *Was over to visit Mrs. (Ida) Handy (owned Bungalow restaurant). Got phone call at Hodge's to cook at Kaniksu mine. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Markham was over.*

3-27: *Very nice day, lake like glass. Went to Luby Bay with Jim Low's boat. No one at home. Stopped at Woodrat (mine) but Hobson's were in Spokane. Art (Marston) was over for me to clean at Northern Inn tomorrow.*

4-26: *Dad and I left for camp. Lyle Sutliff and Winslow took us on tug. Marshall met us at Reeder Creek and stopped at his house for dinner. Took us to pole road, we walked rest of the way. Found camp clean, only Bill Cook was here.*

10-16: *Roland (son) went to stake a trap line on Lost Creek. I went fishing, got one trout. We rowed up creek a way, saw some white fish and old stakes where Indians had camped last year.*

1945

4-3: *I went to Varney's for wheelbarrow and Dad wheeled spuds to store. We heard Roosevelt died yesterday at 3:30. That's all we hear on the radio.*

6-13: *Took lilacs and tulips to June Paul at the store. Sent letter to OPA in Sandpoint asking about canning sugar. Sent letter to Kerr for cookbook and jar labels. Letter from Elkin's Resort. I can get work there.*

8-4: *Dad went across by mill to pick blackberries. Heard about a powerful bomb made at Hanford, Wash. It hit Japan for first time.*

8-14: *Working at Thelma's. We got news over radio late afternoon Japs had surrendered. We all jumped around at Thelma's restaurant.. Rest of Coolin were real quiet.*

9-7: *Went home on bus. Cost \$1.73 to Coolin from Priest River.*

12-24: *Mary and Bill Hodge were here this evening and brought us four fresh eggs for Xmas present.*

1949

1-24: *Terrible cold but not windy like yesterday. Windows are froze hard at Coolin, it was 20 below. Coldest January since 1937.*

2-10: *Snowed 6 inches. Buster brought meat and groceries from Clintzman's store in Priest River. We had to carry it from Paul's store in packsack and sank to our knees in the snow.*

5-8: *Dad split wood, dug ground for garden. Heard Rosenberry had sold out at Paul Jones Beach.*

7-6: *Went to Paul Jones Beach to work for Patterson (new owners). Cleaned 4 cabins, got in 8 hours. Gave me \$5.60.*

7-12: *(in Spokane) Offel warm day. Went to dentist for my lower set of teeth done. Got new summer dress, cost over \$4 at Penney's. Went to Bandbox show, was not so good. Gene Autry and a lot of cattle herding.*

8-3: *Went to see Mary Hodge to congratulate her on her 74th birthday. Thelma Butigan and Jack Gilroy went out to get married today. Bad thunderstorm set lots of fires, one across lake close to Art's (Marston) old mill site.*

9-26: *Heard Harry Handy died in Spokane yesterday. June Paul came to get money for flowers for the funeral. Everyone gave 50 cents.*

12-23: *Snowed all night and day, sure is getting deep. June Paul came with oranges and cookies - - Xmas present from her boys. Vera Paul sent a box of candy and Marjorie (Paul) a chicken and a card.*

Excerpted for newsletter by Jeanne Tomlin.



PRIEST LAKE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 44 COOLIN, ID 83821

Please accept my: _____ Renewal _____ New Membership

_____ Gold Club.....	\$500 or more
_____ 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 Exhibit Fund (For a future outdoor exhibit around the Woodrat Mine boiler and the ore car.)

This gift is: In memory of _____
In honor of _____

Please acknowledge my gift to:

Name _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All gifts to PLMA are tax-deductible to the extent of law. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our 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 volunteer.

YES, I'D LIKE TO VOLUTEER!!

(For use by new volunteers)

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

Please circle: ♥ Hosting (1 day in June, July & Aug.) ♥ Nature Garden & Facilities
 ♥ Board Membership ♥ Newsletter ♥ Display ♥ Other

Return to: Martha Wright - 521 Shady Pines Loop - Priest Lake, ID 83856

