

Save the Date for the Annual IAM Conference
Inside and Outside the Museum
April 13 to 14
Hosted by the Wallace District Mining Museum.

Currently in the planning stages, *Inside and Outside the Museum* will explore two subjects. The first will be on issues of collections management, such as developing policies for accepting, declining, and deaccessioning donations. The second will involve local teachers and educators in discussion about how to create partnerships between schools and museums. This will involve methods for developing programs and projects that are applicable to curriculums and informing schools and teachers about museum resources.

The conference will be held at the museum-rich town of Wallace, population about 800. Over the past 127 years the region has produced 1.2 billion ounces of silver which is reflected in its historic architecture, museum collections, historic sites, trails and mine tours. With all these attractions you may decide to stay an extra day or two to explore why Wallace is No.5 on a list of America's Small Towns (Oct 2009 *Budget Travel* magazine).



**Smithsonian Exhibit
Tours Idaho**

From reports in the *Spokesman Review*, an article in the *Washington Post*, to the Museum on Main Street website, the tiny town of Priest River is glowing in the limelight after hosting the premier opening of Smithsonian's newest traveling exhibit.



Volunteers gather at the Priest River grand opening

On September 8 representatives of all six exhibit sites met in the restored Beardmore Block for the installation followed by a reception. The Smithsonian exhibit was

enhanced by larger than life photo panels depicting Priest River's rich logging history along with an exhibit provided by the Bonner County Museum.

Photos, stories, videos and interactive displays give visitors an opportunity to explore the who, what, where, when, and how of American work. The exhibit also offers an opportunity for community members to share stories of their own work which will be archived at the Smithsonian. The Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibits are a partnership between the Smithsonian, Idaho Humanities Council, and local museums, libraries, and art centers. With the vast resources of the Smithsonian and help from state and local partners, MoMS is able to bring historic and educational program opportunities to rural communities.

The Way We Worked is now at the McCall Arts and Humanities Council through December 10. Other state sites include Coeur d'Alene Public Library December 17-January 28, Burley Public Library February 4-March 17, Twin Falls Center for the Arts March 24-May 5, Boundary County Museum May 12- June 23, 2012.

Contact Jennifer Holley at the Idaho Humanities Council for information about future exhibit possibilities for your museum or community. You can email her at: jennifer@idahohumanities.org.



News from the State Historical Society—Esto Perpetua Awards

This year the Idaho State Historical Society recognized eight individuals and groups at its annual meeting in Boise on October 7. The following is a summary from the official program.

Fred W. Dykes is a retired chemist who has been active in the Oregon-California Trails Association. He co-edited the journal of Winfield Scott Ebey and served as President of the Bannock County Historical Society for five years. He also contributed reminiscences of Seoul Korea as part of a special exhibition by the Seoul Museum of History.

Steven D. Branting is a widely-published historian and educator who has been honored for his research and field work by many organizations, including the History Channel and the American Association for State and Local History. From 2001-2010, he was the lead investigator for the Fifth Street Cemetery Necrogeographical Study that discovered scores of burials still remaining in Lewiston’s pioneer cemetery. He designed outdoor historical kiosks for Lewiston and organized the lecture series commemorating its 2011 sesquicentennial. He is the author of *A Confluence of Circumstance*, and *On The Leading Edge*.

Richard F. (Dick) Wisdom has been active in the Long Valley Preservation Society and the Valley County History Project. This has included hands-on construction/remodeling projects. He is currently assisting with publication of *Mining in Valley County*. Dick has also participated in the reconciliation seminars series in relation to the Nez Perce and has given seminars on “Lewis and Clark in Idaho.”

Richard (Dick) Southern of Craigmont, Idaho, has organized historical displays for various events, extracted homestead entries for Lewis County and from Land Office records, organized the Lewis County Centennial Farm awards, and digitized the 1903 *History of North Idaho* for Rootsweb. Dick also participates in historical reenactments and has portrayed Colonel William Craig, Idaho’s first permanent white settler.

Harold Sanford Forbush’s work with the Eastern Idaho Oral History project resulted in over 400 interviews. He has written a number of books and articles on the history of the Upper Snake River Valley. After the Teton Dam flood, he was instrumental in saving and restoring the Rexburg LDS Tabernacle building and establishing the Teton Flood Museum. He accomplished all this despite becoming blind at age six.

Patty A. Miller, a Boise native and third generation Basque, served as a founding board member of the Basque Museum from 1985 to 1993 when she became its executive director. She has been involved over many years with groups promoting elements of Basque culture and conducts many educational programs and presentations for the Museum. She is a leader in the development of the Basque Block and has recently served as President of the Boise Museum Association and the Idaho Association of Museums and is currently a representative to the North American Basque Organizations.



Patty: As with all things there's much more to do and more room for improvement. I hope that one day our collections, website, facility, etc. will be at the highest standards so that we can be one of the leading museum's in the state. We'll keep working on it. Photo shows Patty Miller and Curator Michael Vogt at the opening of the Ellis Island exhibit, *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Basques*.

M. Gary Bettis, a native Idahoan, served as archivist for the Idaho State Historical Society for 11 years. Throughout his career and in retirement, Gary has been active in local and national professional organizations relating to libraries, archives, and history, giving numerous presentations and writing many articles. He is currently engaged in historical research related to photographs and photographers in Idaho, 1935-1944, from the Resettlement Administration/Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information.

Volunteers of Long Valley Preservation Society. It is next to impossible to come up with a "standard" biography of these individuals. They range from the local fourth grade youngsters planting flowers around the schoolhouse this year. What they all share in common is a love of history and a penchant for hard work. When they can no longer wield a hammer or hold a paint brush, they fold newsletters, donate money, or whatever they can do to further the dream begun by Ella Eld and her son Frank, back in 1973.



The recipients are from left to right: Harvey Jackman, accepting for Harold Forbush; Patty Miller, Fred Dykes, Dick Wisdom, Gerry Wisdom, Phyllis Bulgin, and Dick Southern. Gary Bettis was unable to attend.

Recipients of the Idaho State Historical Society Community Grants for 2011-2012

Latah County Historical Society, Moscow, \$1,000

For a series of traveling exhibits that illuminate the rich agricultural history of Latah County, beginning with the Territorial period. The exhibits will be in banks, grange halls, stores, and other locations.

Teton Valley Museum, Driggs, \$1,800

For an oversize fire-resistant filing cabinet for storage of oral history CDs. This Museum has done impressive work preserving photographic and archival materials.

Gooding County Historical Society, Gooding, \$2,000

For a track system to exhibit photographs, for exhibit modules to assist in the development of interpretive exhibits, and for funds to conserve a 13-foot photograph of the construction of Magic Dam.

Twin Falls County Historical Society,

Filer, \$1,080. To install an alarm system, maintain its website, and copy and exhibit historic photographs.

Idaho Association of Museums, Statewide, \$2,000

For travel stipends for representatives from at least 5 museums to travel to the 2012 annual conference of the IAM in Wallace. The stipends will help people become professionally trained by making it possible for some to attend who could not otherwise afford to travel there. .

Ketchum Community Library, Ketchum, \$2,000

To scan, catalog and make available online 3,000 images of Union Pacific Railroad color photographs that were donated to the Library some years ago. Because the Kodachrome transparencies deteriorate each time the originals are removed from the vault for research use, this project will make them more accessible and help preserve the originals.

Nez Perce County Historical Society, \$2,000

In the spring of 2011, ISHS along with Idaho Heritage Trust provided funds to the Society to assist in the transfer of the Henry Talkington collection from Lewis-Clark State College. The collection is what remains from what was probably the second oldest museum in the state, and is a valuable collection of artifacts relating to Idaho and Northwest history. This project seeks funding to inventory and help preserve the collection.

Burley Public Library, Burley, \$990

To purchase microfilm copies of area newspapers from 1993-2000 for local research use. The microfilms are heavily used by local residents, and this project will make this valuable resource available in the local area.

Cassia County Historical Society, Burley, \$1,000

To continue upgrading its permanent exhibit, a project supported in the past by ISHS.

Eagle Historic Preservation Commission, Eagle, \$2,500.

To assist in the development, fabrication and installation of seven interpretive signs on the exteriors of seven historic structures in Eagle. This project will help educate the public about preserving the city's few remaining historic structures.

Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Boise, \$950.

To purchase two additional computers for administrative and curatorial use. This will help the organization continue with its outstanding preservation efforts.

Idaho City Historical Foundation, \$2,500

To digitally record, archive, and make available for public use oral history interviews to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the city. The project seeks to gain



Thomas A. Edison gave this photo and the phonograph to Ira Perrine. It is, now at the Twin Falls Historical Society.

perspectives on all eras of Idaho City's past.

Lewis-Clark State College Foundation, \$2,500

Specialized labor is required to safely disassemble Lewiston's Chinese Beuk Aie Temple alter and artifacts in one gallery of the Center for Arts and History and reassemble it in another gallery. The Temple had been removed for conservation and cleaning following a 2009 fire and decreased gallery space.

Malad Valley Welsh Foundation, Malad, \$600

To develop a temporary exhibit of pedigree charts, photos, census records, artifacts and other materials relating to Malad Valley Welsh settlers for the annual Welsh Festival.

Wallace District Mining Museum, Wallace, \$2,000

To digitize and make locally available records of the Idaho Geological Survey pertaining to the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Making these records available in digital format will assist in their preservation and greatly increase access.

Hootewoota County Museum Musings

Mr. Miller's Legacy

by Gini Woodward



It was barely a week after the funeral when the Miller family pulled up in front of the Hootewoota County Museum. The family members had reunited at Grandpa Miller's

farm from many places far and wide. In addition to funeral preparations, the family took a little extra time to settle the estate, empty the house, and put the farm up for sale.

Mr. Miller had loved local history, taking great pride in his third generation position in Hootewoota County. At one time he sat on the Hootewoota County Historical Society Board, but left feeling the meetings were too long and would better be conducted over a cup of coffee at the corner café. For the past year until a week prior to his death, he visited the museum weekly, bragging that he had a better churn, or an older typewriter, a more complete military uniform, etc.

Earlier, the volunteers at the museum had noticed Mr. Miller spending time just sitting and gazing toward the ceiling, presumably in deep thought. Occasionally he pulled out a tiny spiral notebook from his shirt pocket, drawing lines and writing numbers. As Mr. Miller was nearly a living artifact in the museum, none of the volunteers asked any questions because they knew once started, he would go on and on, frequently repeating the

same old story. Once in awhile he would drop hints that he had a special plan for the museum upon his death.

So the arrival of the pick-up and covered trailer was not a total surprise. The volunteers looked to each other with a glimmer of anticipation as the grieving relatives huddled together in the foyer. Then Bill, their spokesman, stepped forth, asking to speak to the person in charge. The volunteers pointed at each other, laughing and finally admitted that no one was in charge; they were all just volunteers. Bill announced they were in a hurry, had planes to catch, and asked if they could leave the things Mr. Miller wanted the museum to have, plus a bit more. Quick as a wink, the grieving relatives came to life and toted in cardboard boxes of kitchen stuff, tied up dirty newspapers, a trunk the mice had been into, unidentifiable automobile and tractor parts, a cracked crock, and a plaster life-size seated collie with a missing rear foot.

As the volunteers stood in shock and awe, Bill proudly said, "We saved the best 'til last." They all gasped as two young men carried in a washing-machine-sized cardboard box, dropping it onto the remaining clear floor space. Bill, now quite animated, invited the volunteers to come and take a look as he uncovered the box. Tears came to everyone's eyes as Bill crooned, "It's Daddy's baseball cap collection. He wanted the museum to have it. There are 545 caps collected from every place he visited during his snowbird years. Look, here's Disneyland, the Statue of Liberty, Niagara Falls, Baltimore Oriels! Oh you'll get a real thrill out of lookin' at them, imaginin' a little old farmer from Hootewoota County visitin' all those places. But you know my daddy, he was always thinkin' and plannin' ahead. Oh, and here's a check for \$150 to buy pine boards and shaker pegs to mount on the walls near the ceiling. It should be enough to take it around the whole perimeter of the museum. Won't that be nice, and when any of our family comes back to visit Hootewoota they'll come to the museum and remember how nice it was for Daddy to think up this idea. If there's a little left over, just buy yourself a donut for doin' all the work. Gotta go now, catch a plane, ya know."

Quick as a fly on a pie, the grieving relatives loaded into their cars, but before the volunteers could take a breath, the family spokesman was back. "Oh, I almost forgot. You folks are a 501(c)3 aren't ya? Will you give us a receipt for our donation? \$5000 should do it. That's a bit low, based on the fact that Daddy paid at least \$10 per cap, but he wore each one at least once...DNA, more value...oohaa!"

The volunteers at the Hootawoota County Museum may need some help. What would you suggest? Hint: A Collections Policy would be a good start.



Keith Petersen, State Historian, and Phyllis Bulgin, one of the Esto Perpetua winning volunteers at the Long Valley Preservation Society, last March. One of Keith's tasks is to work with organizations in developing collection policies and procedures.

AASLH Annual Meeting



The 2012 AASLH Annual meeting will be held in Salt Lake, October 3-6, 2012. It has been a long time since the annual meeting has been this close to Idaho and is an opportunity worth planning for. Check out the

website, www.aaslh.org for information on the conference plus other services and benefits offered to museums and local historical societies.

New exhibit opens in Wallace

On June 27, 2011 the Wallace District Mining Museum and Silver Opportunity Partners held an open house and exhibit opening for the Sunshine Mine Model exhibit, the newest edition to the Museum collection. The Sunshine Mine Model is one of the best ways to view the structure of a mine giving us a "God's eye" perspective with Superman's x-ray vision. The exhibit has helped us in transforming the museum into a dynamic mining education center.

The event was an occasion to thank the Opportunity Partners and to many other organizations and individuals who contributed to our four-year collection Automation Project. This laid the foundation for the Sunshine Mine Model exhibit which is now the center piece of our collection and primary platform for telling our mining stories. The organizations that provided funding include the Inland Northwest Community Foundation, the

National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho State Historical Society, the Frank A. Morbeck Community Foundation, the Idaho Community Foundation, ALS Computers, the Hecla Mining Company, and the Idaho Association of Museums.



Jim McReynolds, Museum Director, and Robert Higdem, Operations Manager. Sunshine Mine, Silver Opportunities Partners LLC



We're waiting to hear from you! Please send news—include a photo if you can— and any corrections to our two editors:

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And—don't forget to plan ahead for the 2012 Conference in Wallace. There will be limited number of travel stipends and lots to do, learn, and enjoy during the two day session, April 13 and 14. We hope to see you there!

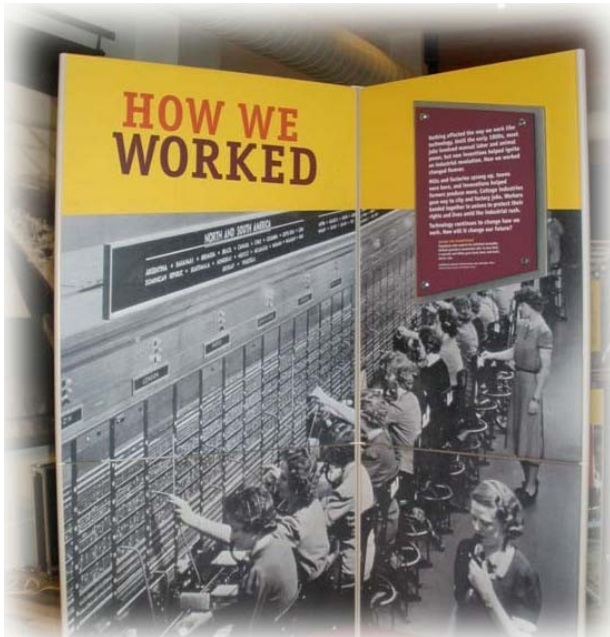


**Idaho Association of Museums
c/o Laurie Baker, Treasurer
Eagle Historical Museum
67 East State Street
Eagle, ID 83616**

Address Service Requested



**Please visit our website for a list of officers
and representatives, events, membership information and more at:
www.idahomuseums.org**



The Way We Worked Road Schedule



**McCall Arts and Humanities
Council now through Dec. 10**

**Coeur d'Alene Public Library
December 17 to January 28**

**Burley Public Library February 4 to
March 17**

**Twin Falls Center for the Arts,
March 24 to May 5**

**Boundary County Museum May 12
to June 23**

*Plan to visit the exhibit
at a site near you!*

