



Behind the Scenes at the Keller Heritage Center

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Stevens County Historical Society

Rambles from the Curator

by Becca Gordon

It has been a rather quiet summer in my department since we opened in May. Accessioning new collections has been the main focus over the last few months. This summer, the museum received a few large collections that will greatly enhance current and future displays. One of these collections came from a family whose late father was a land surveyor for the Department of Natural Resources in the 1920s. It consists of a large selection of land surveying equipment and resources. We now have enough items to create a larger display around the land surveying practices of the past.

Another collection was brought in by Mary Brandt, one of our wonderful tour guides. This collection contained a

number of hats, many of which were worn by her mother up into the 1950s, and four antique dresses. Two appear to have never been worn and dated from 1889. One was a lovely taffeta dress from the 1910s in very good condition, and the final dress was a multi-colored velvet from 1925 that was used as a wedding dress. Many of the pieces will be displayed next year for all to see.

For the upcoming Christmas Tour, the museum will once again be decorated for the season. This year we are hoping for more gingerbread houses to display along with the other decorations. In addition, keep an eye out for more informational signs explaining how certain Christmas traditions came to be.

I had two slideshows of two

displays added to the museum's website, www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org. A big thank you goes to Grady Knight for all of his hard work on this! The first shows the canning display in the Keller House Kitchen. The second shows the work we did in Mr. Keller's room this year, from start to finish. These slideshows will be on the website for the rest of the year, so please check them out and give me some feedback-good or bad. I may put more of these on the website for the 2009 season.

You can email me with comments, suggestions or display ideas at one of these two addresses: curator@stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org or NorwishArchy@hotmail.com. Until next time . . .

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General Membership Meeting

The annual meeting of the general membership is scheduled for October 23 at 6P.M.

NOTICE- this is a departure from the usual third Wednesday. It is the **fourth** Thursday.

There will be a financial report of the last year, election of officers, update of activities for the past year and a program.

The program should prove to be fun. We are convening a Council of Elders. These are Elders who are at least 70 years old and were raised in the area. We will ask them to talk about going to school. They will discuss issues such as, where did you go to school, how did you get to school (and we know they didn't walk up hill



both ways), what did you do to torment the other students/teachers, what activities did you have at school, what did you eat for lunch, etc? We hope they will bring pictures of the school and their friends and teachers also.

If we get the Council set and pictures collected ahead of time we will find a way to make them available for the membership to view at the meeting.

We hope to see a lot of you there!! Remember, it's THURSDAY, October 23rd at 6:00 PM.

The Prestini Project

by Glendine Leonard

The 69 paintings by Leno Prestini in our collection are a major part of The Heritage Network's project to publicize and recognize this outstanding painter and glazed Terra Cotta modeler for Washington Brick, Lime, and Sewer Pipe Co. of Spokane.

Grady Knight and G2 productions will be producing a video production and DVD of the Life and Works of Leno Prestini. It will include the paintings, cartoons, and glazed Terra Cotta buildings that Leno worked on. There is a good chance it will be used by PBS and supported by The Spokesman Review.

De Pelan is gathering material for a full color book that will tell of the work of Leno and will be used as a catalog at the exhibits in August 2010. Wally Parker has been interviewing and writing about Leno in the publications of the Clayton Deer Park Society.

Glendine Leonard, of SCHS, Lorinda Travis of Loon Lake Historical Society, and Bill Sebright of Clayton Deer Park Historical Society are researching and planning the exhibits of August 2010. Two or three weekend showings are planned at the three sites. Colville SCHS will be showing the paintings, cartoons, sculptures, and other items in our collection. The location will be downtown Colville. LLHS will show the paintings they have and items such as the diving helmet that relate to the life of Leno. CDPHS will show the paintings and items they have and items relating to the WBL&SP Company. The location will be the Grange Hall in Clayton, an outstanding example of the use of glazed Terra Cotta.

Research is ongoing and has revealed several paintings and many fireplaces of Leno Prestini. The buildings using bricks and glazed Terra Cotta from

Clayton are many throughout the Northwest. Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Pullman, Medical Lake, have buildings using these products. Many other Courthouses and Schools throughout Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and even California are mentioned in the glaze book of Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company of Spokane.

An Attic Showing of our collection will be held on October 25th. This is to make the collection familiar to Artists, Art Critics, Historians, Educators, and WWII historians and provide comments and evaluations to be used in the productions and exhibits planned. It will be held in the attic storeroom of the SCHS museum. The attic show is by invitation only but if you or someone you know has such credentials, notify the museum and an invitation will be sent to them.

Cookies Cookies Cookies !!

Last year we sold cookie recipes during the Christmas Tour. To our delight and surprise, they were a BIG hit!!

We are asking for volunteers to share their favorite cookie recipes again this year. However, we are going to do things a little differently. We are asking that those who donate a recipe also donate a large batch of the cookies that we can display the finished cookie (under wraps!) and then cut up the rest for a taste sample. If you are really ambitious, you can make some more for the general cookie service as well. You don't need to make copies



of the recipe—we will do that.

We do serve a LOT of cookies and will need LOTS of volunteers to make and donate them for the Tour guests. Our cookies are a very, very popular part of the Christmas Tour.

Leftover cookies are given to different organizations that help at the museum without charging us for their services.

Cookies must be delivered to the Museum prior to 4:00 PM on December 5th (opening day of the Tour). Recipes are due by November 19th. Call or mail your recipe to the Museum office.



Thanks !!

Kitty Johnston recognized all our volunteers at our potluck on September 28th, giving each a certificate of recognition. However, she forgot one important volunteer: herself! We are so grateful to Kitty for all her work organizing the tour guides and other volunteers. We could not have been as successful as we were without her dedication and service.



So Kitty, here's the big **THANK YOU** that you forgot to give yourself!!

Around the Grounds

by Marvin Ray

Jontana Jensen, a local Boy Scout, contacted the museum a number of weeks ago to offer his services in painting the Carriage House. Jontana is hoping to complete his qualifications for an Eagle Scout award. He has completed the painting job with help from eleven other Scouts, his sister Jillianne and his Scoutmaster father, Jaron. Jontana's mother even made cinnamon rolls for the comple-

tion of a job well done.

During the last 30 years, two other projects by Scouts lead to qualifications for Eagle rank. Richard Ray built the large log railing on the south side of the driveway and Peter Phillips built a rail fence on the south side of the museum grounds for their Eagles. Hooray for Scouts!

A 1940 International farm tractor

used in farming by the Dick Connelly family during the past years has been donated by the family and added to the Lower grounds. The tractor has been repainted its original red color. The site selection and ground preparation for the tractor will be completed during the spring of 2009. Many thanks to the Connellys for their generous gift.

President's Message

by Janet Thomas

During May we were worried... not very many visitors. We were very worried that the price of gas was going to keep everybody home. Thankfully, June took an upturn. We have been busy since then.

We have been doing a brisk business in the sale of historical books at Mill Creek Collectibles. We have also done a lot of research this summer and more is scheduled.

It would be nice to schedule our visitors – one day there would be lots of people in and the next day, nobody. We are thrilled to have people visiting regardless of when they come.

The deer family that lives in the neighborhood has provided lots of fun for staff and visitors. They have the run of the grounds and don't seem to be bothered much by people. It takes quite a bit of noise or motion to make them take

notice.

Again, the volunteers here are the backbone of the organization. Again and again we get compliments about the museum, grounds, library, etc and it is all due to the volunteers. Nobody gets paid and yet they are so capable and loyal. It is a wonderful service that they provide to their community.

★ ★ Christmas Tour—Mark your calendars! ★ ★

Committee work has begun on the Christmas Tour. It will be the first weekend in December, the 5th through the 8th. Look on our Website for pictures of last year. This year we will expand our hours to include Friday evening. We will also include the Keller House in the Tour of Homes the following weekend. Between the two weekends we will schedule tours if people would like to come in and can't get in during the weekend.

This year we are excited to have Larry Newman taking charge of the out-

side lights. You might have seen his lighting work at his home on main street in Colville across from Safeway. The lights will be on in the evening from Thanksgiving through the Tour of Homes. Marlene Fredricks will lead the decorations inside the house again. We can expect the same outstanding and elegant work again this year. Some new volunteers have come forward and offered to help making the burden on everyone lighter. .

The theme this year is "The Col-

ors of Christmas." It will be fun to see how the theme gets interpreted.

Since the hours are longer, we will need a few more musicians and some have come forward already.

Last year a group of residents from Pinewood Terrace came for a tour. They had their own helpers and it was wonderful to hear them sit and chat and share their memories from Christmases past. Hopefully they will come again this year and perhaps other facilities will also join in.

Gingerbread House Contest by Shannon Hensley

We are very excited to announce the Gingerbread House contest this year. The contest is open to anyone that would like to make a gingerbread house. The rules are simple: the house must be made from edible components, with the exception of the foil-covered tray the house rests upon. No hot glue, no plastic decorations, no electric lights, etc., are allowed. We want to see what people can do with edible elements available to anyone.



We are going to be inviting the home economics classes from the high schools in the county to participate. We are trying to get the word out early so that participants have a chance to really do a bang-up job.

We hope to have many gingerbread houses on display throughout the Keller House and the Museum. The gingerbread houses make the Keller House smell so wonderful!

Volunteer News By Kitty Johnston

To all our volunteers, thanks so much for your service in keeping the museum open to the public. Our thank-you potluck on September 28th was wonderful. We decided to have a potluck instead of the usual volunteer recognition gathering and it seemed that everyone really enjoyed it.



Summer Event Report & Thank-You

Our Summer Event was a big success. Lots of people brought their antiques to be appraised by **Jeannie Acorn**, to whom we owe a BIG thank-you. The event would not have been a success without her generous participation. We had everything from old cars to family mementoes. We also had a water-

witching demonstration that was just fascinating. Everyone had a great time seeing all the different items and reminiscing about days gone by. We hope to be able to plan a similar event next summer too.

Thanks to everyone that helped to make it a success!

We want everyone to know what a great job our faithful volunteers are doing, keeping the museum open. We have several new volunteers that not everyone has met yet, but we hope that we will all get to know each other in the near future.

Thanks again to you all!! We could never run the Keller House and Museum without you!

Stevens County Historical Society
P. O. Box 25
Colville, WA 99114

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership Application & Renewal

- New Membership
- Renewal (membership expires on date on label)

Choose One:

- Senior/Student/Disabled.....\$10.00
- Single Membership.....\$20.00
- Family Membership.....\$25.00
- Business Membership.....\$35.00
- Sustaining Membership.....\$100.00
- Patron Membership.....\$500.00
- Life Membership.....\$2,500.00

Payment Enclosed: \$_____

Name:_____

Address:_____

Cut out, enclose payment and send to:

Stevens County Historical Society
P. O. Box 25
Colville, WA 99114

How to Reach Us

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 AM to 1 PM

Phone/Message Number: (509) 684-5968

Email: schs@ultraplix.com

Website: www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org

Address: P. O. Box 25
700 N. Wynne St., Colville, WA 99114

Museum Hours:

May & September: 1 PM to 4 PM
June, July, August: 10 AM to 4 PM (Mon.-Thurs.)
1 PM to 4 PM (Fri.-Sun.)

October through April: Museum & Keller House Tours
By Appointment.

Research Library Hours:

Wednesday: 10 AM to 1 PM
Thursday: 1 PM to 4 PM (limited services)

If you need other hours, please call the museum to arrange a different time.