



## Newsletter, Volume 4

September 9, 2015

As you can see from our Fall Newsletter, the Bonneville County Heritage Association has had a busy and enjoyable Spring and Summer! We are all looking forward to our Treasures Tour on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 am and hope to see you there! As always, we welcome feedback concerning what you would like to see in future issues of the Newsletter, or of any programs or activity ideas you might have. Please e-mail comments to [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org)

Linda Beckstead, Editor

### TOUCH THE PAST AND ENGAGE THE FUTURE

#### **TOUCH THE PAST AND ENGAGE THE FUTURE – Sept. 2015 Newsletter**

By Ann Rydalch, Chair  
Bonneville County Heritage Association (BCHA)

Welcome to each of you reading this newsletter. Let me encourage all of you to join with us in our monthly BCHA board meetings. These meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month, 11:30 am, at Rusios on 17<sup>th</sup> St., where we discuss and plan for our activities. I want to also encourage you to become a member of BCHA for only \$10 per year. The membership money is used towards our activities and our student contests. You can go on our website and join with us.

We've had a busy year to date. BCHA sponsored our first Idaho Day celebration. "The Making of Idaho and Bonneville County", was held Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7 p.m., at the Colonial Theater in Idaho Falls. This annual celebration happened because of legislation passed by Representative Linden Bateman establishing March 4 as Idaho Day with celebrations throughout Idaho.

This 2015 program included narrators Stephen Yates and Kelly Beckstead, telling the story of how Idaho was formed and then into a little of the history of how Bonneville County has contributed to the making of Idaho. Entertainment, during the narration, included a special choir of elementary students from School Dist. #91 singing "Here We Have Idaho" and was coordinated by Dist. #91 Music Specialist, Jennifer Korenke-Sargent. Rob Farnam sang "How Great Thou Art", and Miss Pre-Teen Idaho, Ashlyn Allen, sang "God Bless the USA". The presentation of the colors was by the Idaho Falls Fire Department Pipes and Drums with the Bonneville County Sheriff's Department providing the Color Guard. The Idaho Old Time Fiddlers provided the prelude and postlude entertainment.

Another highlight of this event was the winners of the student contests. BCHA is working hard to encourage young people to be interested in their heritage by sponsoring programs specifically for them, such as the student contests. Todd Brown, Dist. #91 Curriculum Coordinator and BCHA board member chairs the student contest program and announced the winners of the student contests and giving cash prizes, with several of those winners giving their presentations during the Idaho Day event.

We are already working on Idaho Day 2016. The theme for this event will be "Idaho Heroes" and will feature stories, music, and entertainment pertaining to men and women who left a legacy in Idaho and Bonneville County.

Our next big activity was the building of a float for our July 4 parade. All of this was done under the direction of our board member, RoseMarie Peterson, with financial help coming from Richard Groberg. The theme of our float was "If These Walls Could Talk". This theme leads up to our next activity which is our annual Treasures Tour.

This tour, being chaired by board member Davidjohn Stosich, "Historic Structures in Bonneville County", will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015 beginning at 10 am to 4 pm, and will begin at the Presbyterian Church and then proceed to the O. E. Bell building where Roy Reynolds has agreed to provide narrative about his paintings of historic Idaho Falls which are featured in the O. E. Bell Building. A program guide will be available with information about other "Historic Structures" so that people can continue with their self-guided tour of the other structures in our county. Visit our website, [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org) and join with us on this journey.

By Ann Rydalch, Chair  
Bonneville County Heritage Association

The Bonneville County Heritage Association (BCHA) had their first float entry in the July 4th Idaho Falls Parade this year. The theme was, "If these walls could talk." This was to promote the upcoming Bonneville County Treasures Tour on Saturday, September 12, 2015. This tour will feature some of the historic structures in the county. Can you imagine the stories that these historic structures have experienced in their existence? It would be so interesting if we could know of all that has happened within their walls.



The float honored the 150th Birthday of Idaho Falls with presents, a Birthday card, and Birthday balloons. The float featured four large photos of historic buildings (G. G. Wright Home built in 1909 in Idaho Falls; William F. Owen Home built in the 1890s in Ammon; the Lincoln School Building built in 1904; and the Iona Merchantile built in 1897). There were two young women and two BCHA Board members holding the photos. The float was decorated in a patriotic theme and colors. The parade attendees showed great interest and some took pictures of the float while others applauded, spoke thanks, and praised the BCHA and for what we do and what we promote. The Parade Committee Chair was very pleased with the reception and recognition that our first float received.



## **All aboard for the annual Heritage Tour of County Treasures!**

This year we will visit historic homes and other structures, submitted by members and friends of Bonneville County Heritage Association in response to our search for some of the oldest surviving buildings in the county. Schedule the date for Saturday, September 12 beginning at 10 a.m. Bring your family and friends.

1. We will meet at the First Presbyterian Church, 325 Elm Street. Linden Bateman will tell us of its history. We will be given a map and illustrated handout for the self-guided tour.
2. Then we will walk to the O.E. Bell Building, where artist Roy Reynolds will talk about his paintings of old Idaho Falls, displayed in the halls of the former Jr. High School renovated by Bill Rigby. These halls are filled with many student memories.
3. Just across the street, 315 Walnut, is a well-kept pioneer home owned by Katherine Vlassek, and open for our visit.
4. From there we will drive to the new Iona Historical Museum (5293 East Rockwood). Formerly a tithing house built in 1895 for the Bingham LDS Stake, it now houses Iona pioneer memorabilia. Notice the beautiful unfinished sculpture by Davidjohn Stosich portraying the Mormon pioneer leaders. Historic Bonneville County books by Mary Jane Fritzen and BCHA members will be on sale to benefit the museum.
5. Close by, the Stanger Memorial Building (3670 No. Main Steet), a renovated pioneer church and school, built in 1887, is now home to the Bonneville Art Association. A guide will show its functional interior.
6. Drive 2 miles on North Yellowstone Highway to #8487, a pioneer home and granary built in 1901-1903. It has been home to four generations, including Richard and Catherine Barton, the present owners, who will show us about.

The next three buildings are in New Sweden.

7. The New Sweden Irrigation District (2350 W. 1700 South), the first formed in the Idaho, is a quick stop, where we may see an old scraper, by which the early canals were built. Although closed on Saturdays, the office is open weekdays and displays historic photos of how irrigation was developed. The adjoining white house was actually built in 1891-94 as Great Western Canal Company headquarters and residence for the manager.
8. A beautifully remodeled and decorated pioneer home, 4967 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> South, was originally built in 1905 by homesteader Charles Anderson, whose grandson Lowell C Jensen became its longtime owner. Present owners, Paul and Evelyne Dixon, bought the home in 1992, and Evelyne Dixon will show us her home and grounds.
9. Sealander Park has new owners, N. Brad and Rebecca Adams, who welcome you to see their old homes and then enjoy the park developed by Clause and Edith Sealander of Swedish heritage.

Nancy Moir, Davidjohn Stosich, Susan Mardis, Mary Jane Fritzen and others helped plan the search and tour. To learn more and to download copies of the illustrated guide and map by David Nipper, go to [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org).



Bonneville County Heritage Association has a lot of fun projects planned in the future. Get involved in our history. The Membership Invitation below lists our plans. It's proving to be an exciting year!

Also learn more at [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org)

#### Membership Invitation for 2015

The Bonneville County Heritage Association (BCHA) is pleased to announce the expanded levels for membership. The following levels are offered:

1. **Corporate and Business Sponsors**
  - A. **GOLD** - This level will include your logo on the BCHA web site, recognition in our bi-annual newsletters, recognition at all our events, and a framed certificate. This level is offered for \$1,000.00 for the calendar year.
  - B. **SILVER** - This level will include your logo on the BCHA web site, recognition in our bi-annual newsletters, and a framed certificate. This level is offered for \$500.00 for the calendar year.
  - C. **BRONZE** - This level will include your logo on the BCHA web site and a framed certificate. This level is offered for \$250.00 for the calendar year.
2. **Family membership** will be offered for \$25.00 for the calendar year. You will receive e-mails announcing events, information and the bi-annual newsletters.
3. **Individual membership** will be offered for \$10.00 for the calendar year. You will receive e-mails announcing events, information and the bi-annual newsletters.

BCHA has been designated as a not-for profit 501 C3 tax-exempt organization by the IRS. We are planning great things for 2015: A student program for Districts 91 and 93 for grades 4 through 12 will be initiated and BCHA will host the first "Idaho Day" celebration on March 4, 2015, at the Colonial Theatre in Idaho Falls. There will be celebrations throughout Idaho because of the legislation passed by Representative Linden Bateman creating the Idaho Day. In addition, we are engaged in locating the oldest home and building in Bonneville County. The oldest home and building will be featured in our Centennial Treasures Tour on September 12, 2015. We are also making plans to have a great event that will give the history of the stagecoach era in our county and it will be entitled, "Dusty Roads."

We would really appreciate your support by becoming a member. You can assist the BCHA to enlarge the student program and provide events so everyone can learn and enjoy the history of this great Bonneville County where we have the privilege of living and the lasting legacy we want to share.

Please make your check payable to BCHA and mail to: RoseMarie Peterson, 1670 Sviskon Way, Idaho Falls, ID 83402. You may also call RoseMarie (529-0536) if you have any questions. Be sure to visit our web page at [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org).

Help us learn about our past as we prepare for our future. Thank you so much!



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**SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW BONNEVILLE COUNTY?**

**Here's a Quick Quiz**

**By David Nipper, BCHA Webmaster**

1. What do the "Accursed Mad River" and the "Lewis River" have in common?
2. The town of Eagle Rock (now Idaho Falls) got the name indirectly from a rock where eagles nested. Where was the rock located?
3. The area known as "Poverty Flats" in the northern part of our county was later called by what name?
4. What was the population of Eagle Rock in 1870?
5. The original Iona townsite land (160 acres) was purchased for how much money?
6. What was the first movie theater in Idaho Falls and when was it opened?
7. When were herds of wild caribou last sighted near Caribou Mountain?
8. The Bonneville County Fairgrounds are located next to the Tautphaus Park Zoo. What sort of farm was located there previously?
9. Dinosaur fossils have been discovered in Bonneville County. Where was the discovery made, in the eastern of western portion of the county?
10. The original Bone Store in Bone, Idaho, was in a building moved to Bone for the purpose. What was the original use of the building?

(Answers are found on page 7)

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**BCHA BOARD MEMBERS**

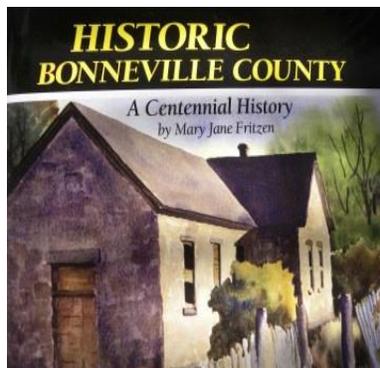
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**HISTORIC BONNEVILL COUNTY**

New book available from BCHA--\$29.95.



Great for your own library, display or valued gift. Help us raise funds! Your purchase donates \$15.00 to BCHA. Contact Mary Jane Fritzen, 522-3185; [mfritzen@ida.net](mailto:mfritzen@ida.net) or any BCHA board member.

> Answers to Quiz on Page 6:

1. The "Accursed Mad River" and the "Lewis River" were both early names for the South Fork of the Snake River.
2. It was located near the Eagle Rock Ferry about 9 miles north of the town.
3. It was later called Coltman.
4. There were 75 persons identified in the census.
5. It was purchased for \$200.
6. The Dime Theater opened in 1908.
7. Never. The area was named for Jesse "Carriboo Jack" Fairchild.
8. A fox farm.
9. Dinosaur fossils were discovered in the eastern portion of the county.
10. It was a schoolhouse.

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**Family Heritage Treasure Hunt**  
**Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.**

**Tour of old homes and museums presented by Bonneville County Heritage Association**

Public invited. Meet at Presbyterian Church, where Linden Bateman will point out its features.

Next stop is O.E. Bell Bldg., where Roy Reynolds will show his paintings of old Idaho Falls. You will be given a map and printed guide for the remainder of the self-guided tour. Visit any or all sites before 4 p.m. Stop 3 is an historic home just across the street from O.E. Bell at 315 Walnut. Stops 4, 5, and 6 are in Iona area; stops 7, 8 and 9 are in New Sweden, ending with the beautiful Sealander Park, where you are invited to picnic on your own. No charge. For more information, see [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org).

This is a tour of homes and buildings arranged from submissions in response to BCHA's request for old structures to tour this year. Owners will provide guidance.

