

Headwaters Interpreter

A periodic publication of the
Three Forks Area Historical Society and the Headwaters Heritage Museum Aug. 2013
PO Box 116 · Three Forks, MT 59752 · www.tfhistory.org

A GRAND ENDEAVOR

The Depot Defender SHAKE IT UP fundraising event held during the annual Headwaters Car Show was a grand success. Milkshake sales, t-shirts sales and donations to see the depot interior and the N-TRAK layout totaled over \$1,000 contributed to the Depot Defender fund.

The Wilcoxon's ice cream donated by Stageline Pizza and Pat and Gene Townsend was served by a number of volunteers, including Gene Townsend, Ray Townsend, and Mike Lane

WE HAVE (ANOTHER) WINNER

The Three Forks Area Historical has another ribbon on its wall thanks to a car-sized cowboy hat. This year's theme for the annual Three Forks Chamber of Commerce Rodeo Parade was the American Cowboy and the Society went big. Patrick Finnegan, who has the default parade committee chairman, designed a cardboard hat to fit on his purple PT Cruiser. He proposed the concept at the July 11 meeting of the Society and, with the help of several volunteers, executed the plan the Thursday and Friday before the parade.

the PT Cruiser late Friday evening, everyone was surprised by well it fit and looked like a cowboy hat.

The "Cruising Cowboy" won the Best Non-Profit category during this year's judging stage. The Society has taken home six ribbons in the last eleven years.

Thanks to Imerys for the cardboard supplied to the Society, Beverly Finnegan for paper and other supplies and to all the volunteers, including Paul and Gayle Clifford, Richard Townsend, Becky Townsend, Pat O'Brien Townsend, Bonnie Sauvageau, and Megan Higgins.

After all the hard work of putting it together, Patrick drove to the recycle bins immediately after the parade and made a large deposit.



Volunteers put the final touches on the "Cruising Cowboy."



Cruising Main Street during the 2013 Rodeo Parade.

Photo Courtesy of Three Forks Chamber of Commerce

In the early stages of the plan, there were doubts as to how the final product would look. It was a surprise to all when the volunteers lifted the hat onto

Another float to advertise the last minute scheduling of an Open House at the Depot was hastily put together by Larry Wilcox, and other volunteers Saturday morning.



Our web-site: www.tfhistory.org

RAISING THE ROOF

Mark your calendars! Thursday, September 12th is the date for the Three Forks Area Historical Society's 3rd annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL. Starting at 5 o'clock, homemade ice cream, hot dogs, chips, tea and lemonade will be served at the Trident Depot in Milwaukee Park, all for a donation to the Depot Defender Fund. All donations will go towards a new roof on the 100 year old depot, soon to become the Railroad and Trident Heritage Center. The Blue Moon Band will provide entertainment. Children will have the opportunity of making their own ice cream. Be sure to bring lawn chairs!

With recent fundraising events, grants and matching fund donations, Depot Defender Construction Manager Larry Wilcox has been given the go-ahead to re-shingle the depot roof and restore the original dormers. Larry estimated the cost of materials as \$10,000, using all volunteer labor to renovate the roof.

The Gallatin County Historic Preservation Board approved a grant application submitted by the Depot Defender project for \$2,000 and Gene and Pat Townsend generously matched the grant dollar for dollar. Local veteran Ray Lau dropped by the August 1st meeting and presented a \$1,500 from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ollney Douglas Hackers Post #7621. At a recent Society Board meeting, Richard Townsend, Patrick Finnegan and Robin Cadby-Sorenson combined to contribute another \$4500!

These contributions along with the successful Shake-It-Up fundraiser give the Depot Defender project sufficient funds to purchase materials and begin the roof renovation.

COLLECTION MANAGER NEWS

What do Jean Farnam, Terre Langdon, Cheryl and Jerry Lehr, Don Pickering, Kathy Satake, Alice Southworth, Bonnie Steingruber and Vicki Veltkamp, have in common? Well, besides being members of the Society, all have been trained in the use of the new Collection Manager software /database program developed by Patrick Finnegan. All of them have run through the two-hour "basics" course, while Jean has taken the "level two" course.

Jean has been taking stock of the items in the Gilmore Room (the middle "school" room), and finding quite a number of books that were not in the original acquisition documents. During training sessions, Patrick and various trainees have also been looking

at items in the Gilmore room, adding their "location" and unique, interesting details to their descriptions in the database. Patrick has also been "cataloging" in the vault. Between the classes, Jean and Patrick, over 700 items have been added to the 6,900 items in the list back in May.

The founders stated that the mission of the Society and museum to "preserve and make available for study and research the history and culture of the area through the gathering, study and organizing of available information." According to Patrick, the Collection Manager is the just a tool to assist the Society in fulfilling the mission. "Locating items, getting more details and making it searchable are steps in making the collection available to a broader and younger audience."

CAVERN COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The community of Cavern and the pioneers who founded it were one topic of a presentation given by Patrick Finnegan at the August 2nd Campfire Talk at the Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park visitor center. Cavern was a school and Post Office located about two miles north of the entrance to the Lewis and Clark Caverns and about a half a mile south of I-90.

About 20 people attended the event, including locals Tom Kanta, Beverly Finnegan, Kathy and Jim Satake. The hour long presentation entitled "1 North 2 West: Pioneering the Cavern Township" covered the railroad, mining, farming and tourism history of the 36 square miles around the Lewis and Clark Caverns. Patrick will soon make presentation available for download from the Society's web-site, tfhistory.org.

CURATOR'S CORNER

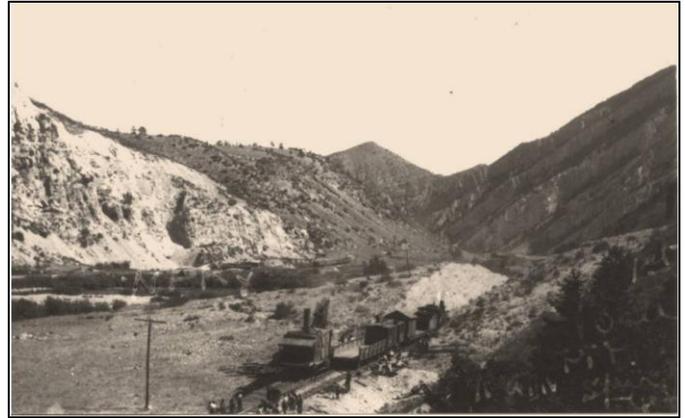
The number of visitors to the museum has increased this year, evidently due to the recovering economy. Many locals bring their visiting company, and quite a few newcomers to Three Forks have stopped in as well. But, people from all over the world find our museum, too. So far this summer we have had visitors from England, France, Germany, Canada, South Africa, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Scotland and South Korea. Forty volunteers have worked many hours this summer. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Robin at 285-3644.

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

- Bench donated in memory of Leah Jean McPhail Kuzara by her family

- "KRAK-R-JAK BISCUITS" metal container from Leah Kuzara estate
- Paymaster keyboard ribbon writer; notary seal; Lions Club banner; and "The Three Forks of the Missouri River" booklet from Three Forks City Office
- Railroad indicator "birdhouse" light, Milwaukee Road tags, letterhead and business card from W. A. Neuhauser of Arlington Hts, IL
- Cement and coal dealers' licenses (1930-1944) licensed to Andrew Plett donated by Chuck Lein
- The Story of D-Day, June 6, 1944 from Ray Lau
- Wool bathing suit with skirt and pant legs from Joan Dorsey & Mallory ?
- The Official Rules of Card Games-Hoyle Up-to-Date, 1926; "Manual of First Aid Instruction," 1930; postcard photo of Martin Vetleson Law Office; miscellaneous medicines and hair items from Vicki Pyfer Veltkamp
- Register of first members of Willow Creek Methodist Church and The Curlew's Cry, 1955, from Don & Mary Lou Pickering of Willow Creek
- Parachute Rigger Kit, WAVE uniforms; WWII "Be the Woman" poster; Willow Creek school letter; cameras, hats, & miscellaneous items of Iris Huller Snyder of Willow Creek donated by daughters Bev Euston and Pam Snyder
- Fred's Place key chain tab opener from Frank Hart
- Norman's Conoco Service coin purse from Boots Myers
- Joe DiMaggio's Grotto menu from Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, from Toby Sorensen...no date but a beer cost 20 cents!
- Trident Red Devil Cement cloth bag from Susan Storey of Sheridan, WY
- Willow Creek High School 1945 letters and 1962 yearbook and a wall hanging of seals of the first 13 states from Jeanette Hetu
- Framed NP North Coast Limited railroad poster; Yosemite Valley Railroad Company poster (unframed) from Leonard Breen of Huntsville, TX

Mystery Photo



The Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound being built through the Jefferson River Canyon in about 1907. Can you tell what is wrong with this picture?

Photo courtesy of Headwaters Heritage Museum

SHEDDING MORE LIGHT!

After the success of the lighting project in the Tool Room, Toby and Robin Sorensen have stepped forward to purchase additional track lighting for the upstairs hallway. Purchased from Distinctive Lighting at a good discount, members of the Society will soon be installing the lights to replace the fluorescent light at the east end of the hall.

Got Gifts? We do!

Books, souvenirs, CDs, greeting cards, postcards, walking sticks, jewelry, stamps, and did we mention books?

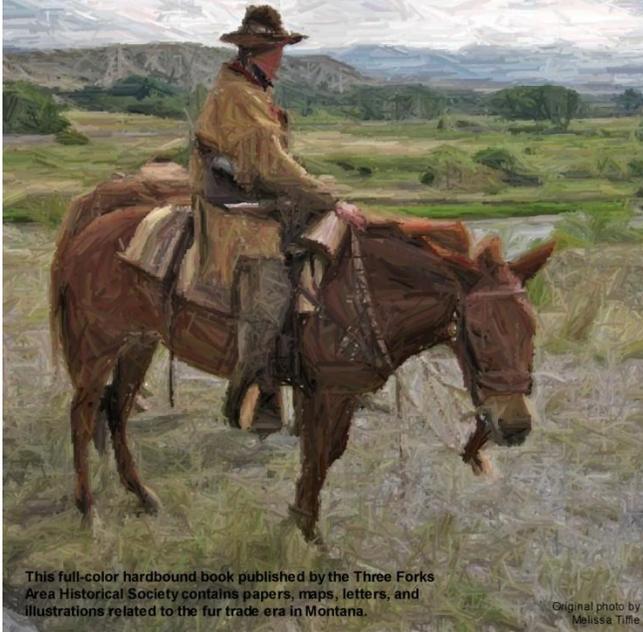
The Gift Shop
Headwaters Heritage Museum

The shop offers a good selection of books about Lewis and Clark, the fur trade and Native Americans. There are also books by local authors, such as Patrick Finnegan, Walter Steingruber, and the late Dave Miller and beautiful handcrafted jewelry by Cheryl Lehr. A huge success this summer has been the handcrafted pot holders donated by the Three Forks Quilt-4-Fun group. They have sold like "hot cakes"! Thank you, quilters!!

Missed the Rendezvous?

There is still time to get a copy of
*Selected Papers of the 2010 Fur Trade
Symposium at the Three Forks.*

Call 406-285-3644 or e-mail museumthreeforks@aol.com
\$40 + S&H Sorry we can't take credit cards.



This full-color hardbound book published by the Three Forks Area Historical Society contains papers, maps, letters, and illustrations related to the fur trade era in Montana.

Events Calendar

Sept. 5 (Thursday) - Meeting of the Society 7 PM, Methodist Church Annex.

Sept. 12 – (Thursday) **Ice Cream Social / Raising the Roof**

Sept 30 (Monday) - Last day of the museum season.

Oct. 3 (Thursday) - Meeting of the Society 7 PM, Methodist Church Annex.

Dec. 5 (Thursday) – Stuffing of Christmas stockings, Methodist Church Annex, 10 am

Dec. 6 (Friday) - Annual Christmas Stroll, Museum open.

Dec. 12 (Thursday) - Historical Society Christmas party, Methodist Church Annex, 6 pm, Potluck dinner, please bring three “White Elephant” wrapped gifts and a Food Bank donation.

HEADWATERS HERITAGE MUSEUM

A 501 (c)(3) non-profit

Open Daily June 1 to September 30

Hours: 9 to 5 Mon. – Sat., & 11 to 3 Sun.

Free Admission – Donations Accepted

RAFFLE TICKETS are available for the hand-made quilt and two sets of Raggedy Andy & Ann dolls will be on sale until the Christmas Stroll. Buy six tickets for \$5 or one dollar each.

CTEP GRANT APPROVED BY COUNTY

Gallatin County Commissioners approved another grant application for the Depot Defender project this summer, funding the project for another \$90,278. This is likely to be the last federally funded Community Transportation Enhancement Program money, as the U.S. Congress has declined to continue the CTEP programs.

The details of the grant application will need to be firmed up before the sending it to the state for the next level of approval. This grant differs from the previously approved CTEP grant for \$50,000, in that enhancements can be made to the interior of the building. Lighting, insulation, HVAC, window repair / renovation and many other interior costs will likely be included in the grant application.

The Depot Defenders will have to match the \$90,278 with about \$12,000 of its own once the grant is approved at the federal level, but will have three years to raise the match. Much of the grant will go toward administrative overhead and most of the work will be done by contractors.

Project Manager Larry Wilcox, who considers the restoration of the depot a labor of love, will be overseeing the project end-to-end. He and other volunteers were already working on the roof, and as of Monday, August 26, had restored the roofline on the south end cut out by Montana Rail link for a garage door. And thanks to the efforts of Tom Hart, the window that was taken out on that end was returned by a gentleman in Whitehall and is in excellent shape.

Volunteers are still needed at the Museum. Call Robin at 285-3644 or e-mail museumthreeforks@aol.com.

Go Depot Defenders!