

February Palus Museum Tours Bring New Volunteers

The Palus Museum hosted three special tours in February. On the 26th we were happy to share the Palus story with delightful residents from Wheatland Village (Walla Walla). The public tours on February 17th and 20th were fun for all and also served as a refresher course for docents and to orient new museum volunteers.

We are pleased to welcome April King, Linda Clarys, and Al Young to our volunteer museum staff for the 2010 season!

Returning volunteers are Juanita Hoffman, Therese Falkner, Maybelle Culbertson, Jacque Sonderman, Karen Thronson- Stephens, Elizabeth Thorn,

Rose Engelbrite, Owen Agenbroad and Don and Beth Campbell. We'd like to open the Palus Museum another day during the week. Please let us know if



History teacher Jon Boggs brought members of his family to tour the Palus. Daughters Hallyn and Morgan, along with their cousin Jack Steele and aunt Karla Boggs, watch as Elizabeth Thorn demonstrates how Lewis and Clark started a campfire. Jon and Jack then had great success striking sparks!

you'd like to be a museum volunteer. It's fun to meet visitors—and a notebook

at the front desk contains everything you need to know.

To volunteer—or to arrange a museum tour—call Elizabeth Thorn at 382-4820.



Saturday Work Parties at the Palus

Although the Palus Museum was closed during January and February, there was still a lot of activity going on at your museum.

On Saturday mornings this winter, volunteers gathered at the museum to catalog donated

Rose Engelbrite and David Stark carefully remove old finish from salvaged flooring.

artifacts and archival material, prepare new exhibits, and recycle beautiful maple flooring. The old Prescott gym floor is being readied for Blue Mountain Heritage Society projects such as a new building to house the Palus Museum—some day!

Our work parties continue. Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am until noon.

We appreciate our volunteers!

Ground “Hog” Sausage Fest a Success

We appreciate all who attended our fundraising dinner on January 30th at the Youth Building in Dayton. Over 100 people enjoyed the good sausage, wonderful entertainment, great fellowship and delicious homemade rolls and pies!

Money from this year's fundraiser will go toward the projects of the Blue Mountain Heritage Society with an emphasis this year on moving the Smith

Hollow School to our city lot on the corner of North Front Street and East Commercial Street in Dayton.

A special “thank you” goes out to Dingles, The General Store, Palus Museum, Jacque Sonderman, and Paula Moisio for the fabulous raffle baskets.

To our crew of volunteers who worked so hard and made this 3rd Annual Ground “Hog” Fest a success, THANKS!



Ben Weatherford is thrilled with the “Kid Basket” won by his family. Other winners were Jon McFarland, “Wine Basket”; Owen Agenbroad, “Guy Basket”; and Bob Budig, “Kitchen Basket.”

COME WIN! 2nd Annual SPRING BINGO

Saturday, March 20th
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Multi-Purpose Room
Dayton Elementary
302 E. Park St., Dayton

Patterned after the Kiwanis Turkey Bingo fall fundraiser, Spring Bingo is sponsored by the Blue Mountain Heritage Society, American Legion Post #42, and VFW Post #5549. Instead of a turkey, Spring BINGO winners receive a ham and other fabulous prizes at this family fun night.

Doors open at 3 pm. Play starts at 4:00 pm. Participants donate \$1.00 per hard card or fifty cents for a flimsy to play black-out. Bonus! Bring a canned food item for the Food Bank and receive one flimsy: limit three per person.

Proceeds will be divided between the Blue Mountain Heritage Society (for the Palus Museum and Smith Hollow School Project) and the Veterans Memorial Committee (to maintain the Columbia County Veterans Memorial).

Child care is available at the high school gym. Though no food may be brought onto the premises, hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and desserts are available and very reasonably priced.



Veteran Chuck Loomis sets up the “Bingo Pig” at 3rd and Main in Dayton.

Want to Help?

- Bring your friends and neighbors.
- Send a donation to BMHS, PO Box 163, Dayton, WA 99328 to purchase hams.
- Donate Frequent Flier Miles.
- Questions? Please contact: Rose Engelbrite, 509-337-8875 or Brian Black, 509-382-2497.

New Geology Exhibit at the Palus Museum

Remember when you were a kid fascinated with rocks? Perhaps you liked to skip stones across the water or search for agates and other gemstones. With a nod to the humble rock, we are pleased to add a permanent Geology exhibit at the Palus Museum. This display is geared for young people, yet everyone is sure to enjoy it.

Thanks to Sue Rittenhouse for sharing her expertise developing the exhibit and to Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) for donating the display boards.

WWCC and Whitman College generously

supplied an incredible array of rock samples to compare, scratch, fizz, and magnify for some fun and intriguing hands-on experiences.

Lava flows, ancient Ice Age Floods, and windblown soil created some remarkable land formations—including nearby Palouse Falls—here in southeastern Washington. These geological features attract visitors from all over the world. So, bring your family and friends to the Palus Museum to see this fun geology exhibit and learn how, long ago, the Palus Indians adapted to their unique environment.

2010 BMHS Officers

President:
Karen Thronson-Stephens

Vice President:
Karla Boggs

Secretary:
Jacque Sonderman

Treasurer:
Paula Moisio

Directors:
Brian Black
Rose Engelbrite
Juanita Hoffman
Elizabeth Thorn

Newsletter Production Crew:
Jacque Sonderman, Elizabeth Thorn,
Diane Longanecker

The Palus
Artifact Museum

Fridays 1 pm to 4 pm
Saturdays 1 pm to 4 pm
March – December

Or Year Round By Appointment Call:
Elizabeth Thorn
(509)382-4820



426 East Main Street
Dayton, Washington

Blue Mountain Heritage Society

• **Meets Monthly**
(except August)

• **2nd Tuesday – 1:00 pm**

• **Delany Building, Dayton**

Everyone is Welcome!

Class Challenge Report: First Quarter \$423.12!

What a wonderful response to the Class Challenge Report Card that was mailed with the Winter 2010 Issue of the BMHS Newsletter! To the following who have contributed so far in 2010, thank you:

- William Dick **in memory of Dale Courtney, Class of 1937**
- Nellie O’Connor **in memory of Charles O’Connor, Class of 1941**
- Bill Nelson, Class of 1954
- Preston Johnson, Class of 1954
- Warren Talbott, Class of 1956
- Vern Coverdale, Class of 1956

Thank You Volunteers!

A group of faithful volunteers spends Saturday mornings doing whatever is needed at the Palus Museum. Other volunteers work to make fundraisers a success, prepare/mail publications, assist with tours, clean, bake, write grants, and much more. When you see these folks, tell them that their efforts are appreciated: Owen and Jan Agenbroad, Brian and

Diana Black, Rose Engelbrite and David Stark, Juanita Hoffman, Elizabeth and Eric Thorn, Karla Boggs, Paula Moisio, Zella Powers, Jacque Sonderman, Karen Thronson-Stephens and Neil Stephens, Al Young, Kevin Floyd, Roland Schirman, Wes Leid, Anne Strode, Ginny Butler, Jim and Laura Peterson, Claudia Nysoe, Diane Longanecker.



Everyone enjoyed the great entertainment that Brenda Chapman and her daughter, Abby, arranged for our Ground “Hog” Sausage Fest. Seated in back is Mistress of Ceremonies, Ally Chapman. Singing, left to right, are Molly Weppler, Mike Ferrians, Abby Chapman. Other entertainers: Tammy Weppler, Jonathan Petri, Nic Castoldi, Tony Nichols, Cougar Henderson.

HELP WANTED

• **Do you love Gift Shops?** BMHS is looking for a volunteer to manage the museum store at the Palus Museum and our booth at the Village Shoppes. This involves planning, ordering merchandise, tracking inventory, and creating attractive

displays and signage.
• **Are you a Scrapbooker?** We are also looking for someone to keep a record of our projects using articles, memorabilia and photographs of our activities.
Both positions have volunteers to help where you creatively lead. Please call Elizabeth Thorn (509) 382-4820.

In Memoriam

When the Blue Mountain Heritage Society receives a memorial donation, the name of the loved one is inscribed in a *Memorial Book* along with the names of those who gave in his or her memory. The *Memorial Book* and the *Class Challenge Book* are on display at the Palus Museum, 426 East Main, Dayton, WA. We gratefully acknowledge the generous gifts recently given in memory of:

David Archer
Jacque Sonderman
Eric and Elizabeth Thorn

Bill Carlton
Eric and Elizabeth Thorn

Evelyn Donohue
Jacque Sonderman

Trude Donovan
Jim and Donna Kime

Jerry Dunlap
Jim Stansberry

Lester Eaton, Jr.
Eric and Elizabeth Thorn

Roy and Betty Eslick
Mary Lou and James Harri

Joe Hopkins
Jim Stansberry

Gerald Randolph
Ruth Dull

Charlie Rising Sun
Brian Black
Juanita Hoffman
Paula Moisio
Village Shoppes
Jacque Sonderman
Elizabeth Thorn

Jayne Schirmer
Eric and Elizabeth Thorn

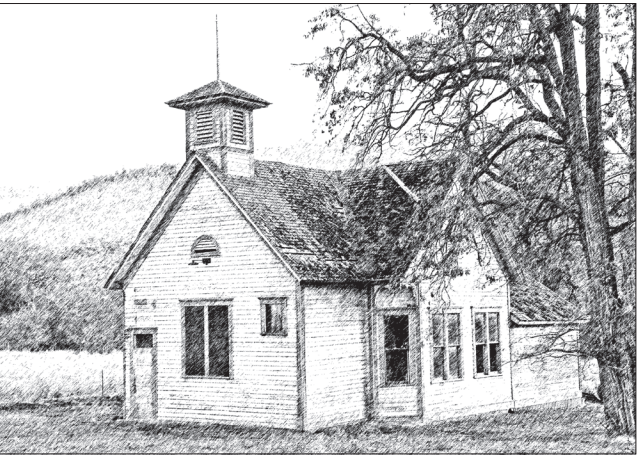
Correction

On page two of the Winter 2010 Issue of the BMHS Newsletter, the donor of the vintage school desks to the Blue Mountain Heritage Society was incorrectly listed as Joe Miller. The desks were donated by Joe Thomas. We are sorry for this error.

Smith Hollow School Project Update

It looks pretty messy out on Smith Hollow. But, this mess signals progress! Some deconstruction is necessary while we prepare the Smith Hollow School for its move to town this spring. John Houston and his wife Linda removed the non-original chimney from the east wall and the bricks are being salvaged for use as landscaping at the school’s new site in Dayton.

Gene Crothers and crew have carefully removed the siding from the stage addition. The entire back section must be taken off piece by piece and then rebuilt in town. Even after the school itself closed its doors to students, the



Smith Hollow School

stage room was such an integral part of the building’s function as a community center, that it will be retrofitted as a new community space for rotating exhibits.

The front section with the cupola must

also be moved separately from the main body of the school. But separating and moving it in one load will be left to the moving professionals. Then the school room itself will comprise a second load.
A call for bids will be announced soon.

— School Wish List —

We have a “hot” lead for a pot bellied stove! Other items still needed to recreate the Smith Hollow School classroom are:

- recitation bench
- pens and nibs, ink bottles
- teacher’s chair
- individual slates
- large slate blackboards
- coal shuttle
- a water bucket with dipper
- antique hanging map case with maps

School Memories

We are so pleased that Jacque (Alexander) Workman of New York returned our Columbia County School Survey. She attended Smith Hollow School and fondly remembers her teacher and her classmates from the Crider family. Here’s a slightly condensed version of what she wrote:

I was a “Great Depression” baby, born in 1928. My father’s background was ranching in Colorado. We began to move

to find work, so by the time I was in fourth grade we had lived in four states before coming to Washington. I began first grade in Utah at age 5. In Washington we lived in Walla Walla, Starbuck, Dayton, and finally settled in Waitsburg where I graduated from high school in 1946. So many schools were attended for short periods of time.

I *do* remember going to Smith Hollow School. It had to be in 1935 or 1936. The pot bellied stove and water pump were there—I was beginning fourth grade, I think. I had real trouble with arithmetic, as it was called then. I learned my Times tables because the man who taught there stood me at the blackboard daily until

I had them down pat! It was a miracle! But, I don’t remember his name.
I remember playing baseball in a yard that slanted downhill—we ran a lot to get balls! The outhouse the girls used was on the window side, so everyone got to watch as you trudged out to use it, which was mortifying, of course!
My mother had to drive me to school as we lived up in the hills but, yes, kids did walk or ride a horse.
I think I only went to Smith Hollow for part of a year, but it was a real privilege. It was a peaceful leveling- off experience of individual instruction and I will always be glad I had that chance.
Jacque (Alexander) Workman

New! ...and Expanded at The Palus Museum

The Palus Museum has expanded its exhibit area into the building immediately next door (424 E Main). The stage curtain from Star School provides a stunning backdrop for the new country school and homestead exhibits. Ernestine Peabody of Dayton’s Peabody Hill fame painted the dramatic curtain scene which was also used in the Star

Clubhouse after the school itself closed. Thanks to Dallas Dickinson for donating the teacher’s desk formerly used at the Marengo School.
Many rural teachers lived with families near the schools where they taught. So, the Museum Annex displays include artifacts for both the Smith Hollow School project and the homestead log

cabin project (including a fainting couch!) Sneak peeks at other aspects of early settlement life in Columbia County are included. Thank you Darlene Lambert for the wood cook stove and Bob McCauley, Dot Mead, Audrey Sturdevant and others for the antique butter-making equipment, cookware and utensils.