

New at the Palus: 10,000 Years of "Branding" Columbia County

Since the beginning of time, humans have been marking their land and possessions. And the people connected with Columbia County were, and continue to be, no different.



Big Horn Sheep: petroglyph pastel by Monica Stobie

A special exhibit—now at the Palus through December 22, 2012—illustrates their story.

Palus Indians, for example, created rock art along the rivers and streams of their homeland. They painted their horses and made unique leather, woven, and beaded household and animal gear. Floral images and the color blue were favored for their beading and basketry designs.

Palus petroglyphs often incorporated abstract symbols, human and animal

imagery. After being visible for thousands of years, most of these personal expressions are now submerged behind the Snake and Columbia River dams.

European explorers and settlers brought the practice of hot-iron branding to the plateau: Lewis & Clark branded trees along their transcontinental route; trappers and trading companies marked their furs and trade goods; and settlers branded their

livestock.

Brands for cattle and horses were typically home-forged, with the image made in reverse so it would "read" correctly once burned into the hide. Today, branding-iron design and brand reading are becoming lost skills. Most ranchers



Apple box label

have converted to tattooing and/or ear tags, which only contain numbers. Electronic tags, like those for pets, are on the horizon.

As area towns grew, advertising "brands" were created to market local products. Brand labels often



Main Street, Dayton, mid-20th Century

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Consigned Items Offer Exciting Fundraising Opportunities

A sculpture by Keith McMasters has been consigned to the Palus Museum and is now available for purchase. Entitled the *Pronghorn Bonnet*, this bust of an Indian brave is one of Keith's earlier bronzes and helped establish his credentials as an award-winning western sculptor.



Keith, who lived and worked in Dayton for many years, now resides in Montana. The powerful presence of this exceptionally detailed bronze will enhance your home or business. It is affordably priced at \$3,900 (plus tax). This is a tremendous opportunity to own a valuable, fine-art sculpture.

Are you a Hummel fan? A silent auction is being held through December 15, 2012, for Berta Hummel's delightful porcelain Christmas village scene. *Hawthorne Village* includes 17 lighted

buildings—homes, churches, a bakery shoppe, toy store, railroad depot, and school—plus many exquisite accent figurines, snowy trees, and a small skating pond. This collector set has a value of \$750 to \$900. Purchasing the pieces separately—if you can find them—would total much more. BMHS is offering the complete set of buildings

and accessories for sale to the highest bidder, with a reserve set at \$625.00. Proceeds will benefit the Smith Hollow School restoration project. Collected over several years, all the pieces are in excellent condition. Each building comes with a certificate of authenticity. A display board and a map for setting up the display are also included. Take a look at the Village

Shoppes, where 10 of the buildings are displayed in the store's front window. To place your bid, inquire at the Village Shoppes (245 E. Main, Dayton) or contact Elizabeth Thorn 509-382-4820.

BMHS is also selling Berta Hummel Christmas ornaments at the Palus Museum and at our booth in the Village Shoppes. The Ashton-Drake Studio



Hummel collector ornaments are available individually or in boxed sets of three. Though not new, the collection was well loved and cared for—and each item is in pristine condition, most come with a certificate of authenticity. At \$7.99 each or \$24.95 per numbered boxed set, these ornaments are a bargain. What a great tradition to add to your family holiday celebration!

Palus Museum Celebrates 10th Anniversary!

Join Us for Cake and Hot Spiced Cider
November 23 & 24, 2012
During Dayton's Christmas Kickoff

In 1999, the popular and efficiently-run Lewis & Clark Trail State Park, located on Highway 12 between Dayton and Waitsburg, was scheduled for the budget ax. A group of concerned citizens stepped forward and took action. By raising awareness of the importance of the park's role in 1) hosting visitors during the up-coming 2006 bicentennial celebration of the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery 2) providing easily-accessible green space, and 3) preserving a stretch of river environment for future generations, the group helped save the park. Along the way, Dayton's Palus Museum on Main Street was created. Here's how it happened.



Wayne Casseday

Although the park survived, the state was not receptive to a museum there. But a seed had been firmly planted, and that seed grew when the group formally organized as the Blue Mountain Heritage Society (BMHS).

With members from Dayton, Starbuck, Waitsburg, Walla Walla, and Prescott, BMHS continued planning a museum to tell the story of the local Palus Indians. The breakthrough came when Shaun Borth of McDonald Zaring Insurance offered rent-free space for the exhibits.

Wayne recommended using the preferred tribal spelling—*Palus*—for the people who gave their name to the famous Palouse region, the Appaloosa horse, and our museum. Anne Strode and Wilma Fletcher painted a dramatic mural of Palouse falls for the entry area.



Palouse Falls mural by Wilma Fletcher and Anne Strode

During discussions about how to save the park and enhance what it offered, Wayne Casseday voiced his desire to donate his family's extensive collection of local Indian artifacts to the community. He did lay out a few requirements: that a non-profit group would preserve and protect the artifacts, that the artifacts be displayed in a brick, block or metal building for fire protection, and that they would be available for public view for educational purposes.

To create a splash pool at the base of the falls, Dick Ingram hauled in



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Captain Clark dropped by the museum and enjoyed writing his quill pen journal entries at a desk instead of in the field (Bicentennial Corps of Discovery Celebration, 2006).

2012 BMHS Officers

President:
Karen Thronson

Vice President:
Karla Boggs

Secretary:
Tara Brenner

Treasurer (pro tem):
Genie Crowe

Directors:
Brian Black
Rose Engelbrite
Juanita Hoffman
Elizabeth Thorn
Owen Agenbroad

Newsletter Production Crew:
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

ANNUAL MEETING
Soup Supper & Program

• Monday, Dec 3 – 5:30 pm
• Senior Center, Dayton
Details Inside

Smith Hollow School Restoration Update

Over this summer and fall, the Smith Hollow School has been transformed! Hundreds of volunteer hours have been put in prepping and painting the school's exterior. After some tricky ladder work, BMHS rented a lift for two



Volunteer Will Larsen working under the eaves

weeks for volunteer safety and to expedite the job before the weather got too cold. With fresh paint and original detail restored, the hundred-and-twelve-year-old structure really looks sharp!

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to a very dedicated

crew. Contractor Jim McCary finished the soffit, siding, and wood trim repairs. Volunteer Will Larsen, a retired professional painter, sanded, caulked, and primed the entire building—from top to bottom.

Duane Dunlap helped sand and seal; he then applied the bright-white top coating and dark green trim. Claudia Nysoe was his capable, part-time assistant. The school is now protected for many years to come.

After putting in ladder-time at the school, Duane also worked at home stripping old paint off the window sets. Some windows have been re-installed; the others are



being repaired by Jim McCary or are awaiting installation.

With gleaming glass and fresh black and white paint (original colors), the windows add an elegant finishing touch.

BMHS is now focused on restoring the school's interior. Fundraising and grant writing are ongoing. You can help tremendously by donating time, money, and school memorabilia. Thank you one and all!

When the McDonald Zaring building at Second and Main sold in 2009, the Palus moved to its current quarters at 426 E. Main Street. Carl and Mary Rowe are very generous landlords and use of a second building, to house the homestead and school exhibits plus storage, has been wonderful. BMHS continues to collect artifacts and memorabilia about the first people, early settlers, agriculture, and area schools. The museum is once again bursting at the seams, and plans for future expansion are being made.

Wayne loved the Palus and told us it became "more than I ever dreamed." We are honored and inspired by his praise. We are also very, very thankful for everyone's support of BMHS, the Palus, and our other community projects.

The creative minds founding BMHS were: *Wayne Casseday, Shaun Borth, Wilma Fletcher, Muff Donohue, George Touchette, Owen Agenbroad, Vernon Marll, Nadine Gerkey, Olive DeRuwe, Gary Lentz, Elizabeth Thorn, Anne Strode, Rose Engelbrite, Jim Lapinski, and Vance Orchard.*

News Briefs

Thank You to the Clean and Polish Team! – In early October,

Anne Strode, Terry Steinhoff, Loic Carbonnier, Barbara Tate, and Denise Lane cleaned and waxed *Arduous Journey*, the Sacajawea bronze located on the corner of First and Commercial streets. With her toddler son tucked safely into his cradleboard, Sacajawea strides determinedly east along Dayton's Historic Pathway, just as she did over 200 years ago. The sculpture—which is now protected from the elements for another year—looked beautiful for the Dayton on Tour event.

Welcome New Members – Tara Brenner, Bill and Michelle Konz, Karen Strufert, Diane Baird, Bobbie Jo Klingenstein, and Judy Ploussard. We also welcome Bill, Michelle, and Judy to Dayton!

2013 Membership Dues – We'd love to have you renew your membership or join us as a new member. The 2013 membership/donation form is enclosed along with a return envelope. Don't forget to honor someone you love with a memorial or class challenge gift. Thank you! Since memberships support the operation of both the Palus and Smith Hollow School museums, as a member you are an important contributor to our community. And to keep up on all the Blue Mountain Heritage Society projects, you will receive our complimentary newsletter.

THANK YOU!

— 2012 Palus Museum Docents —

Owen Agenbroad	Juanita Hoffman	Jacque Sonderman
Brian Black	Susan Little	David Stark
Karla Boggs	Marilyn Putney	Elizabeth Thorn
Tara Brenner	Nathan Riley	Karen Thronson
Rose Engelbrite		Al Young

BMHS welcomes volunteers!

Join our volunteer ranks, call: 509-382-4820.

Join Us for a Toe-Tapping Program at the Annual Meeting

Local bard Heather Stearns has composed three tunes especially for BMHS. They will be used as theme music for the video-history interviews and with programs we put together for the Palus and school museums. At our **Monday, December 3, 2012** annual meeting, Heather, who plays ten different instruments, will share her original compositions. She will also show how she created and produced the multi-layered pieces. **The Soup Supper begins at 5:30 pm, and the program follows at 6:30 pm.**

The Competition Continues...

DHS Class Challenge Update

Current leaders in the 2012 DHS Class Challenge are the Class of 1954 at \$1,439 and the Class of 1940 at \$1,000. Jockeying for third are the classes of 1956, 1967, 1968. Which one will forge ahead? More than one thousand dollars would be needed to top the leading high individual.

So far this year, BMHS has received \$6,000 toward our 2012 Class Challenge goal of \$10,000. Please be generous this holiday season to make this the year we exceed our goal. Put your name and class on the recognition plaque to be placed in the restored Smith Hollow School.

It's fun to note that the earliest class represented is the Class of 1925. Deb Seney recognized her grandmother **Isabelle D. Banks Douglass**, who graduated that year, and went on to become a teacher in many Columbia County country schools. The 1950s and 1960s have all class years (for their respective decades) represented in the challenge. And the 1940s need only 1947 to complete their decade. After the Smith Hollow School restoration is completed, *the Class Challenge will continue to raise funds for the school's ongoing maintenance and operations.*

10,000 YEARS — *continued from page 4* included both the owner's name and a product image, as beautifully rendered old apple box labels show.

Others used distinctive illustrations, historic photos or local art, as seen on Elk Drug, Dingles, Green Giant Company, and local wine labels.



WWII Green Giant button



Lazy JE and Teacup livestock branding irons

Thank you to all who loaned items for the label and branding exhibit: Lowell Richter, Terry Steinhoff, Shaun Thurston, Marcene and Paul Hendrickson, Dumas Station, Mindy Betzler, Susan Little, Susan Talbott, Elizabeth and Eric Thorn, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Candy Jones, Christine Broughton, Merle Jackson, Wilbur Eaton, Travis Eaton, Zane Patton, James Stearns, and the Columbia County Fair Association.

Note: The Palus Museum Store now carries a line of petroglyph-inspired, hand-built porcelains by Caprice Scott of College Place.

Happy Thanksgiving
and
Merry Christmas

Upcoming BMHS Events

Dec 3, 2012 - Mon, 5:30 pm
Soup Supper Annual Meeting - Dayton Senior Center, North 3rd & Patit Streets

Feb 2, 2013 - Sat - Ground Hog Dinner

Mar 23, 2013 - Sat - Spring Bingo!