

# Women at Work — New Exhibit at the Palus

An exhibit featuring the many roles women held in the First People's culture will be on display at the Palus Museum through December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Early 1900 photogravures by Edward S. Curtis capture traditional roles.

Contemporary watercolors by Carl Gawboy

portray ways women transitioned to a newer, more confined home setting.

Palus women performed tasks essential to the survival of their

families; many women became renowned weavers, beaders, basket makers and healers.

Early homes, made of peeled poles

and woven reed mats, were constructed by women. As families moved with



the seasons, women were in charge of packing, moving, and setting up camp.

The Palus lived on fish and game, wild berries,

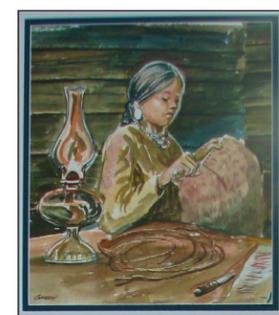
roots and herbs. Women assisted in the hunt, gathered other foods, then preserved it all. Food and medicinal herbs were dried, powdered and stored in flat bags woven by women from grass and

split roots. Women stretched, scraped, tanned and sewed hides into garments for everyday and ceremonial use.

During war, some women accompanied warriors to cook, treat the injured and scavenge battlefields for useable goods and weapons. Women also helped prepare and bury the dead.

Centuries of experience in the fine arts of basketry, weaving, leatherwork, and herbology was meticulously passed on to the next generation.

As tribes were settled onto reservations, women continued being home builders and home makers. Some became



independent homesteaders. They adapted to living in log or plank cabins, raising animals for food, tending gardens, and

teaching children new skills while keeping the legends and old craft knowledge alive.



Are you a Hummel fan? Berta Hummel's twinkling Bavarian Christmas scene, *Hawthorne Village*, is valued at \$900-\$1,200. But it can be yours to **Buy Now** at \$599 or to purchase with the highest silent auction bid over \$599. In pristine condition, each of the 17 lighted buildings comes with a certificate of authenticity. Accent figurines, snowy trees, and a skating pond are included. What a great tradition to add to your holiday celebration! It will be on display at the Smith Hollow School beginning November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Three More Ways to Help Meet the Grant Match**

*Pronghorn Bonnet*, an intricately detailed bronze by Keith McMasters, is on consignment at the Palus. It will enhance your home or business for a very reasonable price of \$3,900 plus tax. Or, here's another idea. How about going together with friends, purchasing the bronze, and then donating it to the Palus Museum? You would each get a tax break and help build the museum's collection of local art, too. Keith, an award winning sculptor, lived in Dayton for many years and the image powerfully enhances our exhibits.



Headdresses like this bonnet represented a brave's special connection to nature discovered during a "vision quest."

This year's BMHS *Quilt Drawing* for a lap robe/bed overlay was designed and machine quilted by Elizabeth Erler (Ed and Pat Harri's daughter). "Lavender and Sage" in contemporary colors and



a versatile 58-x-69-inch size will complement your home or make a lovely gift. The quilt is on display at AmericanWest Bank. Donation tickets are available at the bank, Village Shoppes, or from any BMHS board member. The quilt drawing will be held December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Information on how to support all the BMHS fundraisers, plus a handy return form, are enclosed with this edition of the newsletter.

**2013 BMHS Officers**

**President:**  
Elizabeth Thorn

**Secretary:**  
Tara Brenner

**Treasurer:**  
Randy Barton

**Directors:**  
Brian Black  
Genie Crowe  
Shellie McLeod  
Karen Thronson

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**Newsletter Production Crew:**  
Elizabeth Thorn  
Diane Longanecker

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**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



Photo by Nick Page  
Smith Hollow School Night View

You are cordially invited to the Grand Opening of the restored Smith Hollow Country School!  
Friday, November 29, 2013 — Open: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Grand Opening Ceremony & Entertainment: 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
Reception following in the school's Exhibit Hall  
113 North Front Street, Dayton, Washington

**Thank You to the Don and Virginia Sherwood Trust**  
A generous grant award of \$60,000 from Sherwood Trust funded the interior floor-to-ceiling classroom restoration, installation of the Front Street sidewalk, and basic landscaping.  
*Smith Hollow School is standing proud and ready for another 100 years!*



BMHS accepting Sherwood Trust grant. Seated: Karen Thronson and Elizabeth Thorn. Standing: Genie Crowe, Owen Agenbroad, Brian Black, Juanita Hoffman, Anne Strode.

# Smith Hollow School Classroom Transformed!



Two false ceilings, tattered wall paper, and unusable wainscoting were removed. The ceiling was raised to its original height and then sheet rocked along with the walls. *Jim McCary* custom milled replica wainscoting and replacement moldings. The original fir flooring was refinished and everything else was freshly painted.

## News Briefs **A heartfelt Thank You to our volunteers!**

*Duane Dunlap* has just completed a painting marathon. First, he top-coated the exterior of the school. Then he primed and painted the inside of both the exhibit hall and the classroom.

*Larry Fairchild* beautifully refinished five interior doors, helped Duane paint, and modernized the guts of all the old school lights.

*We appreciate every donated minute!*

**BMHS Board of Directors** – We will miss three recently-resigned volunteer directors.

*Owen Agenbroad*, with us since the beginning, has retired. His 15 years of ideas and service helped open the Palus Museum, form a recognized non-profit organization, and steer a clear course toward completing the school project and our long-term goal of an agriculture museum. Owen cultivates camas bulbs, was a monthly docent, and pitched in for countless fundraising events.

*Juanita Hoffman* recently moved to the San Francisco Bay area. She tirelessly tackled gritty projects (like stripping flooring), was a Palus docent, and helped with many special tours and events. Juanita is especially engaging with children and has a great artistic eye for displays.

## THANK YOU!

### — 2013 Palus Museum Docents —

Brian Black	Juanita Hoffman	Elizabeth Thorn
Tara Brenner	Susan Little	Karen Thronson
Rose Engelbrite	David Stark	Al Young

**BMHS welcomes volunteers! 509-382-4820**

She very generously donated and loaned treasured artifacts to the Palus Museum.

*Al Young* has also recently moved—back to his family stomping grounds in Missouri. Al was BMHS vice president, a museum docent, and “Mr. Fix-it.” He saw what needed doing and tools in hand—from a hammer to a front-end loader—he got things done. He generously shared his historic knowledge and his personal library. We always counted on Al to keep our walks clear and our facts straight.

*We wish all three well and hope Juanita and Al return often to visit Dayton.*

**Welcome Aboard** – In October, *Genie Crowe* graciously volunteered to be a director and was unanimously welcomed to the board. An invaluable member, she formatted the onerous financial documents for the Sherwood Trust grant application. Genie is also active in the Red Cross, Columbia County Fair, and the Dayton Theater/ Touchet Valley Arts Council.

**New Grant Awards** – *The Washington Chapter of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA)* awarded BMHS \$4,500 to repair the Star School stage curtain and purchase portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln plus archival materials to preserve school documents and memorabilia. Thank you!

The *Dayton/Columbia County Washington Fund* granted \$1,400 to install a security system at the Palus Museum. With our expanding collections, this is a welcome gift.

**Like to Volunteer?** – BMHS will open the Smith Hollow School museum on Fridays and

Saturdays, March–December, 1-4 pm (same hours as the Palus Museum). The school will also be available by appointment for tours. We’d love to have you join us as hosts at the Palus and/or the school. It’s a fun, meaningful way to contribute to your community, meet new people, and enjoy our historic treasures. We also need a volunteer to care for the school grounds and clear walks of ice and snow at both museums. Want to help? Call 509-382-4820



**Shop the Museum Store!** – Local history books make lasting gifts. New titles: *An Organic Childhood* by Wes Hoskins is a rollicking read about growing up on the Whetstone. *An Illustrated History of Fort Walla Walla* is a striking military photo essay. Books are available at the Palus Museum and at the BMHS booth in the Village Shoppes.

## Coming BMHS Events

**Nov 29, 2013 - Thurs, 11 am - 4 pm**  
*Grand Opening! Smith Hollow Country School*  
113 North Front Street, Dayton, WA

**Dec 5, 2013 - Thurs, 5:30 pm**  
*Soup Supper Annual Meeting*  
Legion Hall, 211 East Clay Street, Dayton, WA

**Feb 1, 2014 - Sat - Ground Hog Dinner**

**Apr 12, 2014 - Sat - Spring Bingo!**

# A New Challenge: Matching Funds

When awarding a grant, such as the one we received to restore the classroom of the Smith Hollow School, Sherwood Trust wisely emphasizes project sustainability. Consequently, to assure that funds are available in the future to maintain the school, the trust challenged Blue Mountain Heritage Society to establish a building and replacement reserve fund.

In response, BMHS developed a 30-year maintenance and replacement plan for the Smith Hollow School. Sherwood Trust evaluated and approved that plan. They then put \$30,000 in escrow to establish the reserve fund—contingent upon BMHS contributing a \$20,000 match by the end of 2014.

This is a wonderful opportunity to establish a way to keep the Smith Hollow School in tip-top shape for posterity.

So, to help us meet our required dollar match, **the DHS Class Challenge continues!** As of mid-October, we have received \$6,310. To reach our 2013 goal of \$12,500, we must double our fundraising efforts. Currently leading the

2013 challenge is DHS Class of 1956, closely followed by the Class of 1940 and the Class of 1969.

Please consider making a generous special donation specifically for the Smith Hollow School Building Maintenance and Replacement Reserve Fund, or to the Class Challenge.

Thank you for your donation of any amount—*your continued support is inspiring!*

## Update: 2012 DHS Class Challenge

*Wow!* By raising \$11,633.35 for the Smith Hollow School restoration, the 2012 DHS Class Challenge exceeded our goal of \$10,000. It was nip and tuck, but DHS **Class of 1956** pulled out a second win in the class division. **Warren Talbott, Class of 1956**, was the top individual donor. *Congratulations!*

*Correction: On the 2012 Class Challenge Report Card, gifts from Wes Hoskins for LaVerne Hoskins and from Susan Ankeny Little for Betsy Ankeny Lyle should have been listed in the “In Honor of...” section of the card. We regret our error.*

# Popular Murder Mystery Weekends Are Back!

The Blue Mountain Heritage Society is once again participating in the local Murder Mystery Weekends. Introduced this past January by The Weinhard Hotel as a way to bring people to Dayton in the tourism off season, “Murder at The Juice Joint” was a hit that repeated on special weekends through spring. We met some very interesting characters who participated in these Roaring Twenties, speakeasy soirees.

This season’s theme is a Wild West gambling tournament set in 1874. While the events revolve around an evening

dinner murder mystery, earlier in the day guests are sent out with a map and are instructed to gather clues and “cash” from around town to prepare for the dinner.

Some of the local treasures on the map include BMHS projects: the *Sacagawea Arduous*

*Journey* bronze sculpture, the Smith Hollow School, and the Palus Museum. By visiting each location, guests find a particular password, earn “money” (which



Photo by Nick Page

BMHS members Jim and Donna Kime participated in “Murder at the Juice Joint” last spring. The 1931 Studebaker was brought by other guests.

comes in handy for extortion and bribery), and gather clues that may help solve a crime that is sure to take place during dinner!

We have had great feedback from the participants, who come from all over the region. Many said they had driven through Dayton, but never stopped. All expressed surprise at what we offer and praise for the care our community has taken to preserve our heritage.

The Weinhard Hotel has scheduled “Murder at the Deadwood Saloon” events on select Saturdays into February of 2014. BMHS has received great exposure thus far. We look forward to meeting more guests as the series continues over the next few months.



Weinhard Hotel Murder Mystery Weekend hosts Shellie and Gary McLeod (right) with guests at the “Deadwood Saloon Poker Tournament.” Shellie is a member of the BMHS board.