
The Nugget

Summer 2014

Ferry County Historical Society

Mission statement

The purpose of the FCHS is to preserve, exhibit, interpret, and promote public interest in objects, documents, photographs, and all other materials related to the history and prehistory of the geographical area known as Ferry County.

It is time to celebrate the progress that FCHS has made this season and express appreciation to the FCHS members and community members whose generous participation by volunteering time, talents, and resources has made this progress possible.

National Register Home Open

The JW and Elizabeth Slagle House on 9th and Keller has had a successful season with the exhibit in place and open to the public for viewing on a limited basis. Well received by the public, we hosted 85 visitors this season. The display shows the simple way of life of a family from the 1910's through the early 1940's, with the original objects of the house and yard that were used by the family.

Thanks and appreciation to Joe Abraham and his crew members: Don Starr, David Ciarfella, and Rick Baum for

their contribution of work and resources on the grounds of the JW and Elizabeth Slagle House. They replaced a lattice fence section; replaced a corner post; leveled, secured, and stabilized the fence as well as stretching the wire on the fence around the yard. They cut out saplings, laid bricks around the front porch, and replaced and stabilized the front-porch gutter. The work brings these outdoor structures into a much better state of repair that will enable them to last into future years. Many thanks from FCHS!

The reconstructed wash-house that was built with a grant from Inland Northwest Community foundation would not have been possible without the architectural drawings donated by FCHS member and architect, Milt Chambers. Thanks and appreciation to Milt for the architectural drawings as well as the advice and participation in the project. The modern-accessible restroom and replica wash room are a significant addition to the exhibit site.

Many thanks to FCHS member Sue Walker for her work and enthusiasm, helping to bring the Westerner's group to Republic. Twenty-five members of the Spokane history group toured the JW and Elizabeth Slagle House on July 31st as a part of a county-wide history tour. It was an enjoyable and celebratory event for all involved. With the JW and Elizabeth Slagle house being open this season, the

efforts of FCHS volunteers have been important and very much appreciated in the preparation of the exhibits, grounds, and narratives as well as with participation at the time of tours. Recognition and thanks goes to: Alana Strauch, Ken Muggli, Linda Wirth, Pat, Reagan, Fred Bremner, Madilane Perry, Ray Bilderback, John Hooper, Dick Slagle, Jack Slagle, and Jean Delaney. Thanks to Jack Bacon for his assistance turning on the water in the new restroom facility.

Ranald MacDonald Mural

The beautifully done mural panels telling the story of Ranald MacDonald will soon be in place, again, along Highway 501 which runs along the Kettle River between Highway 21 at Curlew and the Midway border crossing.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to artist and FCHS member Charlene Payton-Holt for repairing and restoring her original work and bringing it back to its former beauty. The mural had weathered badly, and painstaking-repair steps were required before the actual restoration could begin.

Thanks to Madilane Perry and Ulrich Semrau for hours of work assisting Charlene with the panels, and thanks and appreciation as well to the Betschart family who have generously lent a large indoor workspace to accommodate the project over the summer.

Republic Historical Center

Thanks to Stonerose Director, Katherine Meade and the Stonerose staff: Travis Wellman, Trenton Wellman, Andy Brockett, and Cole Chamberlin for opening the Museum and Kauffman Cabin each day, taking care of the grounds, and directing people this season. We very much appreciate their professionalism and cheerful attitude.

Thanks and appreciation goes to Pat Reagan for arranging for and sponsoring the tree trimming of the large spruce tree that is next to the Kauffman Cabin.

Appreciation to FCHS member Judith Moses and the Colville Confederated Tribes library for the beautifully mounted exhibit of plants, traditionally used by Native Americans of our area, that is displayed again this summer in the Native American room of the Museum.

Thanks to Lenore and Doug Chambers for their donation of the large laminated map of the early claims in the Republic and Eureka Gulch areas. The map is now located above the display of equipment from the Trevitt assay office. Lenore's mother was Mary Trevitt Robinson.

Thanks to Greg Rice for his donation of time to install a new sump pump in the basement of the Republic Historical Center, and thanks to FCHS member Michael Sternberg of Stonerose for his emergency installation of a sump pump during the spring thaw.